
SUMMARY: The document below is an excerpt from *The Book of Honor and Armes* describing two tournaments in which Oxford participated, the first at Westminster on 1-3 May 1571, the second at Whitehall on 22 January 1581.

The Thomas Bedingfield who was a defender in the tournament of 1-3 May 1571 in which Oxford was a challenger was the Gentleman Pensioner Thomas Bedingfield (d.1613), second son of Sir Henry Bedingfield (d. 22 August 1563). Two years later, in 1573, Thomas Bedingfield dedicated his translation of *Cardanus' Comfort* to Oxford. See STC 4607 on this website, and his will, TNA PROB 11/122/124.

See a note by Oxford's father-in-law, Lord Burghley (CP, xiii, p. 199 (333)):

the Iustes at Westminster where the Erl of Arundel was challanger asisted with Sir William Drury. Erl of Oxford Lord WyndSOR and 14 more defended.

For Brian Annesley (d.1604), another of the defenders against Oxford in the tournament of 1-3 May 1571, see his will, TNA PROB 11/104/286.

For another account of the tournament of 1-3 May 1571 see the letter written to King Charles IX (1550-1574) on 8 May 1571 by the French ambassador to England, Bertrand de Salignac Fenelon, seigneur de la Mothe (1523-1589) in *Correspondance Diplomatique de Bertrand de Salignac, de la Mothe Fenelon, Ambassadeur de France en Angleterre de 1568 a 1575*, 7 vols (Paris and London, 1838-40) at iv, pp. 88-92.

For Oxford's response to the challenge issued by his second cousin, Philip Howard (1557-1595), 13th Earl of Arundel, and his assistant, Sir William Drury (1550-1590), in the tournament held at Whitehall on 22 January 1581, see BL Lansdowne 99, ff. 259a-64b. For the speech spoken by Oxford's page at this tournament in which Oxford took part as the Knight of the Tree of the Sun see STC 19974.6.

The 'Robert Alexander' named as one of the Defenders again Oxford, Howard, Lee and Hatton in the 1571 tournament was also known as Robert Zinzan. Members of the Zinzan family frequently used the surname Alexander. Sir Robert Zinzan *alias* Alexander (d.1607) was the father of Sir Sigismund Zinzan *alias* Alexander, who married Margaret (nee Strelley) after the death of her first husband, Nicholas Brend (d.1601), owner of the land on which the Globe playhouse was built. See the will of Sir Robert Zinzan, TNA PROB 11/111/51, and Berry, Herbert, *Shakespeare's Playhouses*, (New York: AMS Press, 1987), pp. 89-90, 114.

The excerpts below are taken from Segar, William, *The Book of Honor and Armes* (New York: Scholars' Facsimiles & Reprints, 1975) pp. 94-6, 99-100, 195-6.

A royal challenge was also there [=Westminster] proclaimed before her Majesty wherein were challengers the Earl of Oxford, Charles Howard, Sir Henry Lee and Christopher Hatton.

The defenders were the Lord Stafford, the Lord Henry Seymour, Edward Herbert, Sir George Carey, Thomas Cecil, Henry Grey, William Howard, Sir Jerome Bowes, Henry Knollys, Henry Knyvet, William Norris, Richard Bulkeley, Thomas Knyvet, William Knollys, Ralph Lane, George Delves, Robert Colsell, Lancelot Bostock, Brian Annesley, Henry Mackwilliam, Thomas Bedingfield, Thomas More, William Worthington, Richard Blount, Thomas Coningsby, Robert Alexander, Roger Clopton.

This triumph continued three days, the first at tilt, the second at tourney, and the third at the barriers.

On every of the challengers her Majesty bestowed a prize, for the receiving whereof they were particularly led armed by two ladies unto her presence chamber.

The prize at the tilt on the defenders' party was given unto Henry Grey, at the tourney unto the Lord Henry Seymour, at the barriers unto Thomas Cecil. Before them went Clarenceux King of Arms in his rich coat of arms.

This magnificent combat was performed anno 1571.

An honourable challenge was likewise brought before her Majesty by the Earl of Arundel, calling himself Callophissus, who with his assistant, Sir William Drury, challenged all comers anno 1580 [=1581].

The defenders were the Earl of Oxford, the Lord Windsor, Philip Sidney, Edward Norris, Henry Knollys, Robert Knollys, Fulke Greville, Thomas Knyvet, Thomas Keilway, Ralph Bowes, George Goring, George Gifford, Anthony Cooke, Henry Brouncker, Edward Denny, Richard Ward, Sir Thomas Perrot.

The prize was given to the Earl of Oxford.

After so many royal and stately triumphs it may be thought superfluous to insert the ordinary exercises in arms almost yearly used on the 17 of November in memory of the applause of all subjects at her Majesty's coming to the crown of England, as even this last year was used by the right noble and valorous Earl of Essex, a gentleman of great hope, or rather virtuous proof and singular perfection. In lieu whereof (or rather to avoid iteration of names) we have here set down those lords and gentleman that have been actors in public exercises of arms on horseback sith her Majesty's reign, as chiefly by Master Clarenceux' notes doth appear, by consideration of which persons, as well in quality as number, it may easily be conceived that the magnificence of her Majesty's court is equal or exceeding the courts of other kings her noble predecessors.

They are not here placed in order of their degrees, but according to the time of the actions wherein it pleased them to be, and with such titles as they since had, or now have.

The Duke of Norfolk
The Earl of Sussex
The Earl of Warwick
The Earl of Leicester
The Earl of Ormond
The Lord Hunsdon
The Lord Scrope
The Lord Darcy
The Lord North
The Lord Norris
The Lord Charles Howard
The Lord Grey
The Lord Stafford
The Lord Henry Seymour
The Earl of Oxford
The Earl of Essex
The Earl of Rutland
The Earl of Arundel
The Lord Windsor
The Lord Thomas Howard
The Lord Sheffield
The Lord Burgh
The Earl of Essex
The Lord Willoughby
The Lord Strange
The Earl of Cumberland
The Lord Burgh of Ireland

Knights and Gentlemen
Sir Christopher Hatton, Knight of the Order
Sir George Howard
Edward Fitzgarret [=Fitzgerald]
Sir Robert Constable
Sir Henry Lee
Anthony Digby
Thomas Warcop
Thomas Markham
Sir George Beeston
Sir William Gorges
Henry Harvey
Edward Hungerford
Thomas Cornwallis

John Jernegan [=Jerningham]
Robert Colsell
Robert Wiseman
Francis Harvey
Sir Thomas Leighton
William Howard
Sir Edward Herbert
Sir Henry Cobham
Walter Windsor
Sir Henry Knyvet
Sir George Carey
Henry Knollys
William Norris
Ralph Lane
Sir John Danvers
George Delves
Sir Henry Grey
Lancelot Bostock
Brian Annesley
Sir Jerome Bowes
Sir Thomas Cecil
Henry Mackwilliam
Thomas Bedingfield
Sir Richard Bulkeley
Thomas Knyvet
Sir William Knollys
William Worthington
Edward Carey
Sir Thomas Gorges
Richard Blount
Thomas More
Thomas Coningsby
Robert Alexander
Roger Clopton
William Hyfeld
Thomas Cotton
Sir Walter Raleigh
Sir Philip Sidney
Sir William Russell
Sir Thomas West
Robert Knollys
John Carey
Fulke Greville
Ralph Bowes
John Zouche
Sir William Drury

Thomas Keilway
George Goring
John Ludcot [=Liddicoat?]
Edward Greville
William Tresham
Edward More
John Tyrrell
Henry Brouncker
Sir Thomas Perrot
Thomas Radcliffe
Sir Edward Norris
Anthony Cooke
Sir John Pakington
George Gifford
Richard Ward
Everard Digby
Sir Edward Denny
Sir William Hatton
Thomas Vavasour
Henry Nowell
Sir John Burgh
Sir George Carew
Anthony Mildmay
Thomas Gerard
Edward Winter
Sir Charles Blount
William Gresham
John Wotton
John Parker
Francis Darcy
Robert Carey
Sir Edward Wingfield
John Chidley [=Chudleigh?]
Sir Philip Butler
Richard Skipwith
Pecksall Brocas
William Harvey
Thomas Sidney
Gervase Clifton
Richard Acton