

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 27 November 1491 and proved 1 August [1492?], of Thomas Bodley, whose brother, Richard Bodley, was the great-grandfather of Sir John Bodley of Streatham, landlord of the Globe playhouse from 1601-1622. For Sir John Bodley's role as landlord of the Globe, see TNA C 54/1682, mm. 10-11.

The testator's family was from Devon, and bore the same coat of arms as Sir Thomas Bodley, founder of the Bodleian Library, 'Gules, five martlets argent on a chief indented or three crowns azure'. See the coat of arms in BL Add. MS 45131, f. 151 at:

http://searcharchives.bl.uk/primo_library/libweb/action/dlDisplay.do?docId=IAMS040-002017819&vid=IAMS_VU2&indx=1&dym=false&dscnt=1&onCampus=false&group=ALL&institution=BL&ct=search&vl%28freeText0%29=040-002017819.

See also Sutton, Anne F., 'Lady Joan Bradbury (d. 1530)' in Barron, Caroline M. and Anne F. Sutton, eds., *Medieval London Widows 1300-1500*, (London: The Hambledon Press, 1994), pp. 208, 211 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=uc3RLXFANoMC&pg=PA211&lpg=PA211&dq=%22Nicholas+Leveson%22+%22William+Strete%22&source=bl&ots=91-CgadHEH&sig=Z2EpsIAd2E-DdqOcyE5Ta2znd-w&hl=en&sa=X&ei=hSZqVNTMIsevogSemlCQAg&ved=0CB8Q6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=%22Nicholas%20Leveson%22%20%22William%20Strete%22&f=false>.

The testator's brother, Richard Bodley (d.1491) married Joan Warde of Hinxworth, whose brother, John Warde, was Lord Mayor of London in 1485. For the will of Richard Bodley, see TNA PROB 11/9/28.

The testator married Joan Leche (d.1530), daughter of Denis Leche of Wellingborough, Northamptonshire. Her brother, John Leche, was vicar of Saffron Walden from 1489-1521. After the testator's death, Joan Leche married Sir Thomas Bradbury (d.1510), who was Lord Mayor of London in 1509. For his will, see TNA PROB 11/9/374. For Joan Leche, see her will, TNA PROB 11/23/272, and the Wikipedia article edited by the author of this website.

By Joan Leche the testator had two sons and two daughters:

* James Bodley (will dated 27 October 1514), mercer of Saffron Walden, who married Joan Strachey, the daughter of Thomas Strachey of Saffron Walden. See Sutton, *supra*, p. 227.

* John Bodley, a monk at St Albans, who had died by 1522.

* Elizabeth Bodley, who died between 1526-1530, and who married William Tyrrell of South Ockendon, Essex, grandson of Sir Thomas Tyrrell (d. 28 March 1477) of Heron. For the will of Sir Thomas Tyrrell, see TNA PROB 11/6/417.

* Dionyse Bodley (d.1560), who married Nicholas Leveson (d.1539), and was the grandmother of William Leveson (d.1621), one of two trustees employed by William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon and other members of the Lord Chamberlain's Men in the allocation of shares in the ground lease of the Globe Theatre in 1599. For the will of Dionyse Bodley Leveson, see TNA PROB 11/43/645. For the will of William Leveson (d.1621), see TNA PROB 11/137/600. For Dionyse Bodley Leveson's coat of arms, which indicates that she, too, was of the same family as the founder of the Bodleian Library, see 'Nicholas Leveson' in *Proceedings of the Evening Meetings of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society, Session 1871*, (London: J.B. Nichols and Sons, 1872), pp. 46-55 at pp. 46 and 55:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=6hEVAAAAQAAJ&pg=RA1-PA55&lpg=RA1-PA55&dq=%22gules+five+martlets+argent%22+%22Bodley%22&source=bl&ots=-OudjcieN&sig=uZKxMVWSbxq3_kMyILKxf9Vw_7s&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0CCEQ6AEwAWoVChMI3JbEoMjDyAIViy-ICCh3NogZs#v=onepage&q=%22gules%20five%20martlets%20argent%22%20%22Bodley%22&f=false

For the contents of the testator's will, see also Sutton, *supra*, pp. 210-13.

See also the pedigree of Bodley in Bannerman, W. Bruce, ed., *The Visitations of the County of Surrey*, (London: Harleian Society, 1899), Vol. XLIII, p. 147 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationscoun01banngoog#page/n160/mode/2up>.

Christopher Elliott, mentioned in the will below, was a London goldsmith. His wife Philippe, also mentioned in the will below, was the sister of Elizabeth (d. 23 December 1532), wife of the goldsmith Sir Bartholomew Rede (d.1505), Lord Mayor of London in 1502. See Sutton, *supra*, p. 213; the will of Sir Bartholomew Rede, TNA PROB 11/14/789; and:

<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/inquis-post-mortem/abstract/no1/pp60-78#h3-0008>.

In dei nomine amen. The 27th day of the month of November the year of Our Lord God 1491 and 7th year of the reign of King Henry the 7th, I, Thomas Bodley, citizen and tailor of London, being in my good and whole mind, thanked be God, make, ordain and dispose this my present testament concerning my last will in manner and form following, that is to wit:

First I bequeath and recommend my soul to Almighty God, my Maker and Saviour, to his Blessed Mother Mary the Virgin, and to all saints, and my body to be buried in the parish church of Saint Botolph beside Billingsgate of London, where I am parishes, in the chapel of the Trinity there;

Item, I bequeath to the works of the Cathedral Church of Saint Paul of London 5s;

Item, I bequeath to the high altar of the said parish church of Saint Botolph for my tithes and oblations forgotten or negligently withholden, in discharging of my soul, 13s 4d;

Item, I will that Joan, my wife, the day of my burying ordain and buy 10 new torches of wax to face(?) and burn about my body the same day and on the morrow after at Mass, and that done, I bequeath 2 torches of them to face(?) at the high altar of the said parish church to the pleasure of God while they will endure;

Item, I bequeath other 2 of the same torches to the high altar of Our Lady in the said parish church;

And the residue of the said 10 torches I will that the said Joan, my wife, distribute them according to my mind as I have showed unto her;

Item, I bequeath to John and James, my sons, to them to be delivered when they shall come to their lawful ages, that is to wit, to either of them £50 sterlings, and either of them of the goods which late were my mother's £4 sterling;

Item, I bequeath to Elizabeth, my eldest daughter, to her to be delivered when she shall come to lawful age or marriage, £50, and £5 in old nobles of my said mother's bequest;

Item, I bequeath to Dionyse, my daughter, to her to be delivered in like wise when she shall come to her lawful age or be married £50 sterling, and £4 of the bequest of my said mother;

And if any of my said children die before they come to their lawful ages or marriages, then I will that the part of him or of her [+who?] so deceaseth remain to the other(?) of them then being on live, and so of every of them;

And if all my said children die before they come to their lawful age or be married, then I bequeath the one half of all the said sums of money to my said children afore by me bequeathen to the foresaid Joan, my wife, therewith to do her free will, and the other half of the said sums of money I will that the said Joan, my wife, distribute and dispose it in deeds of charity and pity for my soul;

Item, I will that Master Thomas Driffild, priest, sing for my soul in such place or places in London or nigh about London by the space of 2 years next suing after my decease, and I bequeath to him for his salary for either of the said 2 years 11 mark, and if the said Master Thomas refuse to sing for my soul, then I will that the said Joan, my wife, ordain

and find an honest priest to sing and pray for my soul in such place or places as the said Joan, my wife, shall assign him by the space of the said 2 years, taking for his salary by year 11 mark;

Item, I bequeath to every of mine apprentice and covenant servant being with me the day of my death, as well mankind as womankind, so that they be diligent and do their services according as they ought to do, 40s;

Item, I bequeath to Master John Leche, priest, my Mass book, vestment, superaltar, candlesticks, altar cloths and all th' apparel of my altar;

Item, I bequeath to every child of Richard Bodley, late my brother, 6s 8d;

Item, I bequeath to every almsman and almswoman within the almshouses of Walden in the county of Essex to pray for my soul 12d;

Item, I bequeath to William Arnold of Southwark my tawny gown single(?), and my doublet of red camlet;

Item, I bequeath to Philippe Elyott, the wife of Christopher Elyot, and to her children 40s;

Item, I bequeath to the said Christopher Elyot my blue gown furred with shanks and my hood to the same, and 20s in money;

Item, I will that the foresaid Joan, my wife, have all my lands and tenements, rents & services with their appurtenances which I have in the borough of Southwark in the foresaid county of Surrey or elsewhere within the realm of England, to have and to hold to the same Joan, my wife, to her heirs and assigns forever more, so that the same Joan, my wife, peaceably suffer Elizabeth Leche, her mother, to have and to hold to her and to her assigns during her life all that my tenement in the parish of Saint Margaret in Southwark aforesaid;

The residue of all my goods, chattels and debts, whatsoever they be, after my debts paid, the costs of my burying done, and this my present testament containing my last will in all things fulfilled, wholly I give and bequeath to the foresaid Joan, my wife, therewith to do, ordain and dispose her free will;

Which said Joan, my wife, of this my present testament containing my last will I make and ordain mine executrice, and her overseers I make and ordain the foresaid Master John Leche and Christopher Elyote;

In witness whereof to this my present testament containing my last will I have set my seal, given the day and year abovesaid.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum test{amentu}m Coram &c apud Lamethith primo Die mensis augusti Anno D{omi}ni [+&?]c Iuramento Will{el}mi Scaldar & Iohannis Gerard scriptoris test{a}m{enti}(?) &c Ac approbatum etc Ac co{m}missa fuit admi{ni}stratio o{mn}i{u}m bonor{um} &c Iohanne

[=The above-written testament was proved before etc., at Lambeth on the first day of the month of August in the year of the Lord etc. by the oath of William Scaldar & John Gerard, writer of the testament etc., and probated etc., and administration was granted of all the goods etc. to Joan.]