

ON HER MAJESTY'S SERVICE

END

WASC 547





Barco. H. 1000.



Et sendo desideroso di veder la conclusione dela materia proposta e no sapendo del resti-
 ritorno sono sforciato di mandarvi il presente latore no potendo senza gran incomodo
 venirvi io. & avissarvi di quello e successo, havete dunque a sapere che il giorno seguente
 che pariste fui secondo l'ordine datomi a presentar la lettera a m^oistro brunfil, e di poi
 a parlar con il s.^o secretario qual subito th ebbe la informazione da esso m^oistro
 mi fece chiamar et mi diede la biaglia thli havea dato m^oistro brunfil et disse
 che se io volevo contentar secondo li precij notati in essa th lui no mancherebbe di mo-
 la cosa a s.m. e farla subito risolvere, e mi disse th la considerassi e dirli poi il parer
 qual biaglia sia qui inchiusa, acioth. v. s. neaga la discretia, data mia offerta
 a quello th lui vorrebbe che se ben a s.m. e poca, a me e assai, certificandomi s.^o mio
 th la offerta th ho fatto di servire, qual sinaglia huomo non potra servire a piu basso
 precio volendo servir bene come s^o e desidero, et questo ho fatto p^one cause come di
 boca mi disti, l'una p^oti tenag volonta et necessita di ritornar a la patria, e l'altra
 tanto p^o finir il gioelo qual e stato fatto a proposito p^o questo regno, come p^oti no vorrei
 in alcun modo p^o l'onore et onesta mia haver a transagiar p^osona p^o esser mia p^ouna
 p^o cosa di cosi poca importanza, sopra del qual gioelo esso s.^o secretario mi disse th
 sene voleva transagiar, tal th mi fece restar co' baranno assai confuso, p^oti
 se p^omo havessi saputo th no donessi anchor esso gioelo in questo baragagno, no havei
 offerto di fornire s.m. a cosi bassi precij, e se ben il desiderio th ho di ritornar a la
 patria mi fa contentar di p^oder qualcosa, no vorrei p^o metermi tutto il stato mio, ne
 voglio creder th s.m. ne manco il s.^o secretario, vorrebbe la mia rovina, ma
 afine th si conosca th mi voglio contentar de le cose ragionevole, poi th esso s.^o
 secretario no note th p^ora parly di precio del gioelo, mi contento th resti in mano
 di un s.m. nova in custodia, p^o la quarta parte del danari th dimando p^o quella
 motano al mio precio li minimi legni p^o far archi p^o simile archi fage-
 dormire co' de lire de soffare la qual no importa piu th mille eto oventacin-
 hire et p^o informazione del baragagno, sino a tanto th havero estagnato la ma-
 dela sopradeta suma de soffari e archi nel modo offerto piu fa, p^oti p^overo desidero
 assai far questo baragagno senza haver obriag a p^osona th promey p^o me masime
 essendo la suma di cosi poca importanza, th parrebbe th s.m. havessi cosi poca fede
 in me, et allora th esso gioelo sia stimato da duei huomeni indifferenti et p^ovarchi
 l'una elto p^o s.m. o suoi ministri et l'altra p^o me, o mio procuratore et resti

12. 15. 16.

Accordando li doi ch habino autorità di elegier il rege et quello ch faranno li re
o, doi di loro ch sia osservato, dovendomy esser pagato esso gioiello nel modo ch
e dichiarato nella mia offerta, et ch mi sia fatta subito la significatione ovvero nuncio
ch possi ricever giornalmente le sete stregni e pidij, mettendo posimista p quella
suma ch riceverai anco la consignazione de li archi e scellari, ovvero ch mi
sia fatto quareto in li officij di entrata et usita dela custodia di poter passare
p tutta suma de mercantie ribatendo come pagano li stranieri, ovvero datomy
danoy cotany, et quanto al salnitro certamente io no ho commissione di far
marco precio de lire tre e meza p libbra de lire, a conto del qual no dimando
cosa alcuna al presente salvo quando promerero, o faro promerere forma
mente di fornirlo, la quarta parte dela qual daro sinista sino ch sia eseguita
secondo il tempo ch accorderemo et p la quantita pta parura no e dichiarata
con li s.ⁿⁱ mio dichiaratis in sustanzia p l'udeler mio p tornarmi a memoria
quello ch e passato tra noi in questo baragagno, pagani e subicomy de gratia ch
ch no possendo cossi subito ritornar ala corte di voler far tato come de scrivere
al s.^{ro} secretario e desiderando ch mi voglia esser favorevole nella spedizione
di questo negocio ch oltre ch ripro auoj et tui p sumamente obligato, pto ch
mi tronerete satisfatti de li pami et a questo pto mi dar piu redio faro
qui fora fine desiderandoy ogni prospera et felice fine a s. m. e a tutto il Regno
Ath.^o de mzo, 1561, — L.V.5

f. M. Zucato Drigo in Londra

Manda a. v. s.

The first documentary evidence connecting

WALTHAM ABBEY and GUNPOWDER

1561

A letter to JOHN TAMWORTH of Waltham Abbey

from Marco Antonio Erizzo

concerning the supply of gunpowder ingredients

Al molto mag^{co} s^{or} il s^{or} agioan thannion
mio s^{or} ofex G^{mo} A Valtan Abe —



Al molo mag^{co} s^{or} il s^{or} gion thannor
mio s^{or} of ex^{mo} A Valtan Abe —



1860

M. Antonio . d.
ms. Carmont

panel no. WA 1.

P1071

Cover of letter from Marco Antonio
to John Tamworth

1560

The first link between Waltham
Abbey and gunpowder.

NEG No HW 57

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1560

M. Antonio . b
ms. Cammott

Most great and honoured Lord,

Being desirous of seeing the conclusion of my proposition and not knowing whether you have returned I am compelled to send you this bearer, not being able without great trouble to come myself, to inform you of what has happened. You should therefore know that the day after your audience I went as ordered to present the letter to Mr. Brunfil and then to speak with the Lord Secretary who, as soon as he had the information from Mr. Brunfil, sent for me and gave me the schedule which Mr. Brunfil had given to him and said that if I was willing to be satisfied with the prices given in the schedule he would not fail to bring forward the matter to Her Majesty and have it immediately settled; he told me to consider it and then give him my views on that schedule, which is here enclosed, so that your Lordship may see the difference between my offer and that which he would like, which, though small to Her Majesty, is a great deal to me, assuring you, my Lord, that the offer of service which I have made no man can serve at a lower price who wishes to serve well as I do; and this I have done for two reasons, as I told you orally; one being that I have the desire and need to return to my country, the other being to finish the jewel which has been made especially for this Kingdom, as I should not wish in any way for my honour and integrity to have to worry anyone or gnaw my own mind over a matter of such small importance. With regard to that jewel the Lord Secretary said that he wished to mull it over, so that he left me with my mind greatly confused, because if I had known that this jewel was not to be included in the agreement I should not have offered to supply Her Majesty at such a low price, and although the desire which I have to return to my country makes me content to lose something, I should not like to put my situation bluntly to you. I do not wish to believe that Her Majesty nor even the Lord Secretary desires my ruin, but in order for it to be known that I wish to settle the matter reasonably, since the Lord Secretary does not want anyone to speak about the price of the jewel, I am satisfied that it should be put into the hands of someone whom Her Majesty wishes to safeguard it; for the fourth part of the money which I ask for, for that amount of my price the twenty thousand pieces of timber for making

bows, the six thousand strong bows and the two thousand one hundred pounds of sulphur, which does not amount to more than £1141, and for fulfilment of the arrangement, until I have delivered half of the above amounts of sulphur and bows in the manner offered earlier, because in fact I desire very much to make this agreement without being obliged to anyone who promised me the most, since the amount is so small that it would seem that Her Majesty has so little faith in me; and then let that jewel be considered by two free and unprejudiced men, one chosen by Her Majesty or one of her Ministers and the other my myself or my lawyer, and if the two do not agree, let them have authority to choose a third man, and let that which the three, or two of them, agree be put into effect. Since I ought to be paid for that jewel as declared in my offer, let me also either immediately be given the assignment, or else allow me to receive the tin and lead foil, putting as security that sum which is received and adding the consignment of bows and sulphur, or let me be given a guarantee in the Records Office of the manner in which I can obtain such an amount of goods with a rebate, such as foreigners pay, or give me ready money; with regard to the saltpetre I certainly have no authority to set a lower price than £3 10s per hundred pounds, hence I do not ask anything at present, except when I promise, or cause a firm promise to be made, to supply it, the quarter of which I shall give as security until it is despatched in accordance with the time which we shall agree and for the amount because it has not yet been declared. Thus, my Lord, I declare to you in confidence my wish that you should recollect what has passed between us in this agreement. I beg and supplicate you in your mercy that, since I cannot so soon return to Court, you should be so kind as to write to the Lord Secretary and desire him to be so good as to be favourable to the hastening of this business, so that moreover I shall be permanently obliged to you and to him and that you will be satisfied with my matter; and with this, in order not to give you any more trouble, I shall end for now, wishing all prosperity to you and especially to Her Majesty and to all her Kingdom.

Your devoted servant,

Marco Antonio Erizzo

March 1561

in London.