

**NA (PRO) SP 63/94/107**

*Certificate of High Commissioners to Grey, 29 August 1582*

**Address**

To the righte honorable  
our very good Lord the Lord Grey  
Barron of Willton, knight  
of the honorable order  
of the Garter, and Lord  
Deputy generall of this  
Realme of Ireland

**Text**

Maie yt please your honorable Lordship That where this bearer Iohn Bird, Regester  
to vs the Queenes high Commyssionners hathe requested our Testymonie  
of his behaviour, in the execution of that Office, in regarde that he doubtethe  
him self to haue ben accused of Corrupte dealinges theren: At his requeste  
for declaracion of a troathe wee can no lesse doe then to yeld this reporte  
and Testymonie of him: He hathe serued that place verie painefully  
carefully\* (and for oughte wee can learne vprightly, and sincerely) which seruice could  
not be tendred withoute mucche displeasure and myslyke of the offendours  
and Culpable whereby in our opynions he hathe very well deserued  
that place (And notwithstanding that anny thing may to the contrary  
happen to haue ben suggested) that your Lordship might stand his good Lord.  
And so we humbly take leave. Dublin the xxix<sup>th</sup> of August 1582

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Mr Waterhouse  
addition /.  
Though the bearer haue ben generally myslyked, and evill  
speaches geaven of him, yet we see no prooffe particularly  
to chardge him hetherto. 15

Your honorable Lordships humbly  
at Commaundement,

The Lord Prymat of all Ireland/. Thomas Armacdh  
and Archbusshop of Armagh/.

Henry Myden the Lord Bishop of meth 20

the chieff baron of her Lucas Dillon

maiesties exchequer/.

the Bisshop of R. Daren kyldare

Nicholas Malby governor of the province of Connaghte

John Garuey the Deane of

Christes church in dublin

the Bisshop of Hugo Fernes Fernes

Edward waterhous esquier one of the pryvy councill 25

Edward Morre Knighte.

copia vera ./.

Ex. Edmund Spenser

Secretary to

the Lord Grey

Lord deputy here/.

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Ambrose forth. . Doctor of Lawes

Richard Thomson

To tende you mighte the better  
knowe the seuerall callinges of these  
persons, I have described them at  
their names /.

threasorer of Saint  
Patrickes

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**Note on hands**

The address and text of this letter are written in an unbecoming secretary hand (not Spenser's). The signatures are all copies in a uniform italic hand, afterwards annotated in the same secretary hand as that used in the body of the letter. Spenser's certification, including 'copia vera' and signature, is in his customary form. That the annotations on the signatures include the certification added by Spenser suggests that the under-secretary who copied the letter handled it both before and after it was certified, before dispatching it to London; this is consistent with the usual process noted in letters prepared by Spenser for Grey, where annotations in the text of the letter in Grey's own hand seem to have been inserted between Spenser's composition and Spenser's endorsement.

\* 7 **carefully]** 'carefully' inserted above the line, with a caret mark.

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