

**NA (PRO) SP 63/144/70**

*The answer of Edmund Spenser to the Articles for Undertakers, May 1589*

**Endorsements**

Edmund Spenser his  
answere to the comissionne

null.

**Text**

The answeere of Edmond Spenser gentleman  
to the Articles of Instructions given in charge  
to the Commissioners for examining & inquiring  
of her Maiesties attainted landes past to the vndertakers

- |   |  |    |
|---|--|----|
| 1 | To the first he sayth that he hath vndertaken the peopling<br>of a Segniory of iiiij <sup>m</sup> acres allotted vnto him by a Particular<br>from the vndertakers, in which the Castle & landes of Kilcolman<br>& Rossack were appointed vnto him, the which want much of<br>the sayd whole Proporcion of iiiij <sup>m</sup> acres | 5  |
| 2 | To the second he sayth that he hath not as yett passed<br>his Patent of the sayd landes for that he covenanted with<br>Mr Rheade who had a former particular graunted him of {the}<br>sayd landes, that incase the sayd Mr Read or any for him<br>came before Whitsontyde last to inhabit the same, that                           | 10 |

	then he should disclame & surrender <b>the</b> Premisses; ••* & therefore till that tyme expired he was lothe to passe <b>the</b> sayd Patent. But since the expiration of <b>the</b> said tyme being willing to have passed yt, he hath not bene <b>permitted</b> for that Iustice Smithes who is onely now left of <b>the</b> Quorum hath bene euer absent in England. But so soone as he retourneth he will passe <b>the</b> same.	15 20
3	To the third he sayth that there wanteth of his dew Proporcion m acres as he supposeth at <b>the</b> least	
4/5/6./	To <b>the</b> iiiij <sup>th</sup> •* fife & vi <sup>th</sup> * he knoweth of •••* chargeable landes ••• and* chiefrentes <b>within</b> the compas of his Particular but onely iiiij nobles vpon Ballinegarragh & vi or vij d vpon Ballinfahigh*	25
7/8./	To the vij <sup>th</sup> &* viij <sup>th</sup> he sayth that as yett he hath not made any division of his landes to his tenants, for that his patent is not yett passed vnto him, nor his landes established.	
9/10/11	To the ix <sup>th</sup> x <sup>th</sup> * & xj <sup>th</sup> he sayth that he hath hetherto ••• •••• ••• but vj* householdes of English people vpon his land, for the former causes.	30
12 Edmund Spenser	To the xij <sup>th</sup> he sayth that sondry honest persons in Eng{land} have promised to come ouer to inhabit his land so sone as his pat{ent} {...}*	35

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### Note on hands

The text of the letter is in Spenser's characteristic secretary hand, here faded and somewhat rough (some text has been lost in the right margin and, apparently, at the bottom of the page). The endorsement appears to be Spenser's own italic hand, somewhat more formal and rounded than in other examples. The signature at the bottom left of the document is in the familiar cursive, abbreviated form. The word 'null' below the endorsement has been added in a secretary hand; it is consistent with the subscriptions appended to the other replies from the undertakers (many, like Spenser's, read 'null'; some indicate rents and chargeable lands).

\* 15 ••] 'w<sup>c</sup>' deleted.

\* 24 •] '&' deleted.

\* 24 & vi<sup>th</sup>] '& vi<sup>th</sup>' inserted above the line, with a caret mark.

\* 24 •••] 'noe' deleted

\* 25 •••] 'nor' deleted; 'and' inserted above the line, with a caret mark.

\* 26 **but onely...Ballinfahigh]** this line of text inserted in smaller writing, apparently after the next entry was begun. The sense of this addition explains the revisions described in the preceding two notes.

\* 27 vij<sup>th</sup> &] 'vij<sup>th</sup> &' inserted above the line, with a caret mark.

\* 30 x<sup>th</sup>] 'x<sup>th</sup>' inserted above the line, with a caret mark.

\* 31 •• •••• •••] 'not about vij' deleted; 'but vj' inserted above the line.

\* 33-35 Eng{land}...pat{ent}...] damage to the manuscript has obscured the right margin and the foot of the text here, obscuring the conclusion of Spenser's answer.

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