

Address and Endorsements

To the right Honorable the **Lords** and others of her Highnes privie Councell

To the **lords** for Mr Russell:-

Lords

{..} September 1581

From **the Lord** Deputy of Irland.

on the behalfe of mr William Russell

Text

May it please your honorable **Lordships** This gentleman the bearer hereof Mr William Russell, retourneth now **with** my lycense, into England for a tyme; partly for dispatche of certein his pryvate affaires and partly to **procure** a supplye of his band of horsemen, being greatly decayed aswell by service in the field, as by visitacion **with** sicknes, throughe the contagiousnes of diseases that have reigned muche here of late: by both **which** he hath lost many of his companie. And as I am to become a sueter vnto your **Lordships** for him in that behalf, that it might please you to geve direction for suche a convenient supplie as he shall declare vnto you to be nedefull for the filling vp of his number: So can I not but recom**end** vnto your honours both his painefull and chargeable travell, and his forwardnes and good endeavour allwayes in service since his arryvall here; having ben very often in action against the enemies, and chiefly these mounteine Rebels, and in every of them so well discharged his parte, not onely in respect of the sufficiencie of his band, but also for his owne **person**, as he hath thereby very well deserved the good, and gracious acceptacion of her Maiestie and your honours. Whereof I thinke it my parte to make reporte. And therefore humbly recom**ending** him and his causes as a gentleman deserving very well for his service vnto your **Lordships** I take my leave. From Dublin the of 1581*

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Your honorable **Lordships** assured to commaund

{Lord}es of the Counsell:

Note on hands

The text of this letter, including the subscription, is written in the regular secretary hand of Lodowick Bryskett. The signature is Grey's own. The address is in Spenser's characteristic secretary hand, and the endorsements – presumably added upon the filing of the letter in London – are in later, distinct hands. The 'addressee note' at the foot of the page is probably also in Bryskett's hand; these notes were appended to the foot or verso of letters to indicate to Spenser to whom the letter should, upon dispatching, be addressed. Similarly, the sentence, "To the lords for Mr Russell:-" is written apart from the address and endorsement; partly because of its position on the manuscript (on the part of the letter that would have been visible after folding), and partly because of its function, it seems to be another addressee note, perhaps to remind Spenser that William Russell was to bear the letter to London.

* 22-23 From Dublin...1581] Bryskett apparently left these gaps for the date on purpose.

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