

A semi-diplomatic edition of the letters of Anthony Bagot (1558-1622) at the Folger Shakespeare Library

Edited by Kristen Deiter, Rebecca Fall, Meghan Davis Mercer, Miranda Nesler, Elizabeth Rodriguez, Susan Stafinbil, J. Case Tompkins¹

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Introduction

This edition consists of eleven letters from Anthony Bagot to his family between 1576-1594 and one letter to Anthony's father, Richard, from Robert Devereux, 2nd earl of Essex. Beginning with Anthony's letters during his studies at Oxford, the texts span nearly twenty years, spread across two continents, and follow Anthony's involvement as a member of Essex's household. This collection provides invaluable insight into the Bagots' political and daily lives. From studying rhetoric with his tutor (L.a.36), to giving the inside scoop about the magnificent tilt arranged at court for the French ambassador (L.a.37), to overseeing Essex's household when the earl suddenly leaves for Plymouth (L.a.40), to visiting the French king at Attichy (L.a.43), Anthony provides a glimpse into the lives of the friends and members of the Bagot family, one of the oldest in Staffordshire. As the sheriff, deputy lieutenant, and justice of the peace, Anthony's father Richard had personal connections to a number of prominent figures in Blithfield; a number of these letters concern the falling out and reconciliation amongst them as negotiated by Anthony and Essex. This series of letters proves useful not only to Essex scholars looking for details about the earl's interactions with Queen Elizabeth and rise to favor, but also to those interested in the personal and political dealings of a prosperous family involved in local affairs.

Editorial Note

This edition intends to guide beginning students and researchers of paleography or material history through an investigation of sixteenth century manuscript correspondence. Because this text serves as a supplement to reading the original letters held at the Folger Shakespeare Library (Folger MSS L.a.36-46; L.a.473), the editors have made every effort to replicate the texts of these material objects, maintaining original orthography, lineation, and interlinear insertions. However, because we wish to encourage readers to consult facsimile reproductions or the

¹ Participants in Heather Wolfe's 2012 Mellon Summer Institute in English Paleography, Huntington Library. Heather Wolfe has made minor corrections and additions.

manuscripts themselves, this edition does not aim to provide a perfectly diplomatic representation of the materials; moreover, in the interest of presenting a text legible to students who are new to this field of study, the editors have expanded all abbreviations, with the exception of signatures and abbreviations that would be recognizable to a modern audience, such as “Mr” or “Mrs” for “Master” and “Mistress” when they precede a surname.

We have followed the standard conventions of semi-diplomatic transcription. Expanded abbreviations are indicated by italic type, and superscript abbreviations have been silently lowered. Non-italicized type in square brackets denotes letters or words supplied when the manuscript text is obliterated or missing as a result of damage or other material corruption. Editorial interventions and notes are indicated by italicized type in square brackets.

Each letter is identified by its Folger call number and a brief title, to guide readers back to the original and/or digital copy in order to encourage comparison. A headnote provides a brief physical description of the type of letter packet and other details, as well as a link to the digital image (to view the entire series from a single link, go to <http://luna.folger.edu/luna/servlet/s/8xm1j3>). The textual components of the letters have been categorized by the following subheadings: “superscription” indicates the recipient’s address written on the “address leaf,” “letter” indicates the text of the letter itself, and “endorsement” denotes filing notes added to the address leaf by the recipient or other person after the letter has been folded for filing. We were uncertain of two words, highlighted in yellow (see L.a.44).

Further context is available by consulting the Hamnet record for the collection (<http://shakespeare.folger.edu/cgi-bin/Pwebrecon.cgi?BBID=230544>), and by consulting the front matter to the finding aid for the Bagot Family Papers (<http://findingaids.folger.edu/dfobagot.xml>), which also includes links to digital images of each item in the collection.

Description of hand and scribal habits

Between 1576 and 1591, Anthony Bagot writes in a consistent and fairly standard secretary hand with few idiosyncrasies. Throughout this period of roughly fifteen years, his hand loosens and becomes somewhat more fluid, and he changes several habits: his miniscule *a*’s develop a distinctive (but not unusual) initial flourish; for words beginning in a miniscule *c*, he starts to use a secretary *c* instead of a shortened majuscule *C*; and he decreases his use of a terminal, elaborate epsilon *r* which is more typically used in superscript by other writers of the period. In 1591, following a trip to the continent, Bagot switches to a more italicized hand that retains the right-angle *c*’s and two-stroke *e*’s of a secretary script (see L.a.43). Similar to his secretary hand, this new hand relaxes slightly and becomes more cursive over time, and he begins to lengthen his long *s*’s and *f*’s with a bit of panache. When writing in Latin, Bagot adopts a slightly italic roman hand. He occasionally uses the word “they” instead of “the.”

Folger Shakespeare Library MS L.a.36

Letter from Anthony Bagot, [Oxford], to Mary Bagot (his mother), 1576?

Physical description: Bifolium; sent as tuck-and-seal packet; seal residue. Endorsed on address leaf in a later hand: "Anthony Bagot to His Mother. - from Oxford." Letter and superscription begin with a cross. Link to digital image: <http://luna.folger.edu/luna/servlet/s/j20fk2>

superscription

To the ryght worshipfull
& his singuler good mother
Mistres Bagott at blythfeelde
yeve these. /

ffrom Oxon

letter

I haue receaved yours letters (deare mother) the eight of this instant by ffryerson. the readinge of *which* so mucche delyghted me, that as I haue to thanke you for your loue, my sisters for theyre curtesye, & the rest of our freindes for theyre good remembraunce of vs, so are we no lesse bounde by your gentlenesse to be readye to recompence & answeare your so greate goode Will then nature constreanethe vs to yelde & offer oure sealues towarde our ffather & you lovinge mother, bothe hartye to begge, of god, a longe & luckye contynuaunce of your healthe. & humblye to craue the contynuall vse of youre daylye desyered blessinges. Neyther am I so gladde to receaue your tokens, allthouge the be hartlye welcome, as I reioyse of the care you haue of me, to proceede in studye, their~~by~~bye to proficte my selfe, and answeare the promysse you haue made on my behaulfe, to my ffather, wiche god willinge & lending me, the grace I hope & praye for, shall not be broken; sythe I haue so good a mother in procuringe hit. so lovinge a freinde as *the* right worshippingfull freinde, doctor Bickley² in furtheringe hit. And so willinge a tutor to healpe hit whose paynes I trust shall turne to my profyte. And havinge so good comfortes I promysse you, that as will dothe not want, so labor shall not lacke in me to obtayne the same, [^]but for that you desyer to knowe the charges my ffather & you are at withe vs, & what excersyes we vsse, these are to certyfye you that for our bo^orde you paye iij^s iiij^d a weeke. & our excersyes in the morninge is to studye Rhetoricke, leavinge the after noone to lodgicke & hystories. On saterdayes & sundayes we reade a peace of Mr Nowelles Catechisme, wherein I trust we shall so profyte as shall be to your desyer & our owne furtherance, as god best knowethe, to whome I leave you./

² Thomas Bickley (1518-1596), bishop of Chichester.

By youre most obedyent sonne
Anthony bagott. /

Folger Shakespeare Library MS L.a.37

Letter from Anthony Bagot, London, to Richard Bagot, 1578/9 February 2

Physical description: Single leaf; sent as tuck-and-seal packet; bottom third of leaf missing.
Endorsed in a later hand: "Anthony Bagot to his Father Richard Bagot 1578." Link to digital image: <http://luna.folger.edu/luna/servlet/s/ou08h2>

superscription

To the right Worshippfull
& his singuler good father
Mr Bagott esquier at Blythf[ield]
giue these

letter

As duty Constrayneth me I am to let yow vnderstand as neare as I Can when my *Lord* meayneth to take his iorny towardes Cambridge: the *which* at this *present* he is determyned to take the fourthe of this monethe. The Cause of his tarryinge so longe at the Courte was to see the *comminge* of one Cassamyere³ a ffreanche Imbassator, whome (the Quenes grace) dothe greatly esteeme,/ ffor this first of ffebruary there was suche a shewe of Noble men, & gentlemen in the Tylt yarde at whitte Hall, as the lyke (by euery mans report) hathe not been seene this fferty yeares. ffurther to troble yow herein I thinke it is needlesse for the bearer hearof mr Hocleton can Certyfye you./ And thus in hast, I Committ yow to god whoe euer defend yow & all *yours*./ ffrom London the second of ffebruary 1578.

Your humble & obeydent sonne.

Anth: Bagott

[The] assyses begyn at Woolnor Hampton
the xjth of marche.

³ John Casimir, John, duke of Saxe-Coburg (1564-1633).

Folger Shakespeare Library MS L.a.38

Letter from Anthony Bagot, [Cambridge], to Richard Bagot, 1579 April 11

Physical description: Address leaf missing. Remaining leaf folded for locking with a papered seal (now missing); vertical dispatch slits. Endorsed in a later hand: "Anthony Bagot to his Father Richard Bagot 1579." Link to digital image: <http://luna.folger.edu/luna/servlet/s/0c70fz>

letter

Right woorshipfull & good ffather, I receaved *your* letters, wherin I easilye *perceau*e, & gather the ffatherly & daylye Care yow haue vppon me, for thapplinge of my studye, and thimployinge of my sealf, to please my Tutor, whiche bothe heatherto, I trust I haue done, and / by the grace of god/ hereafter (as yow shall *perceau*e) I meane to doe. / Allso at Conuenient tymes, accordinge to *your* pleasure, I weate vppon my *Lord* that is allmost *euery* daye, eyther at after dynner, or els, at after supper, and vppon hollydayes all the daye longe, whiche lykethe his Lordshipp very well. I am allmost *euery* other daye, eyther at Dinner, or supper with his honour, for he will not suffer me to depart from him, vntill neene of the Clocke. / Thus hauinge so fitt a messinger as this, one mr Buckley, a mr of art of magdalen Colledge, a very frend of my Tutores, I Can^{not} (as in *your lettres* yow did Commaunde me) but wryte to my frendes./ And nowe Cravinge *your* daylye blessinge, I Cease to troble you, Committinge yow to the tuicion of allmightye god this xjth of Aprill 1579

Your sonne most willinge to obeaye
your Commaundementes.
Anth. Bagott . /

Folger Shakespeare Library MS L.a.39

Letter from Anthony Bagot, Warwick Inn, to Richard Bagot, 1587 May 6

Physical description: Address leaf missing. Remaining leaf folded for locking with a papered seal (now missing); vertical dispatch slits. Endorsed in a later hand: "Anthony Bagot to his Father *Richard* Bagot 1587." Link to digital image: <http://luna.folger.edu/luna/servlet/s/ug7v2v>

letter

My very good ffather, I purposed before this yow shoulde haue harde from me, but this bearer my fellowe mr James Litleton is the first meassenger I coulde knowe of. my *Lord* his pleasure is I shaull attend for he toulde me with his owne mouth he looketh to be mr of the horse *with* in this x. dayes, It hath been moved to the Queene, and she can be very well content, but shee sayth she hath no higher a place for my *Lord* of *Leicester*⁴ And he telleth my *Lord* he craveth nothings but only lycence he may resyne his place to my *Lord* he hath allso toulde my *Lord* what the offyce is, and what it is worth xv^c [1500] powndes yearly besydes the keepinge of his owne horses, and his Table, thus much vppon maye daye my *Lord* toulde me alone. / Now for her maiesties favor & singular cowntnaunce, & exceedinge good wordes mr Lidleton, at *your* meetinge can satisfye yow. when she is abroade no boddy neere her, but my *Lord* of Essex and at night my *Lord* is at cardes or one game or an other *with* her that he commeth not to his owne Lodginge tyll birdes singe in the morninge. *Sir Walter* Rawleighe he is the hated man of the wourld in court, Cytie, & cowntry, wher the court is now at Non such my *Lord* hath his lodginge, at the next remove I know not howe it wille, and in all thease matters mr Lidleton can at large discourse. / my sute for Wyntons farme can not be for ^{my} master his father in Lawe hath made a great purchase in yorckeshire, and is not fully able to go thorowe so that my *Lord* thinkes Bodnam shalbe on sale, but shortly I will haue somewhat, yet in the meane tyme if yow healpe not, I of necessity shall runne in some debt / mr Trew is hear, and telleth me playnly he will not cease his sute, I know he hath delt *with* my *Lord* thearin, for my *Lord* asked me how it went

⁴ Robert Dudley, earl of Leicester (1532-88).

forwarde, *which* I answered, but all I can gather of
my *Lord* his speeches, is he maketh very good accoumpt
of him, and I feare will further him what he can./
Thus cravunge *your* dayly bleassing & my good mothers
I humbly cease to troble yow further Warwicke
Inne this vjth of maye 1587

Your Humble & dutyfull sonne
Anth. Bagot

Folger Shakespeare Library MS L.a.40

Letter from Anthony Bagot, Whitehall, to Richard Bagot, 1589 April 8

Physical description: Bifolium; folded for locking with a papered seal (now missing); vertical dispatch slits. Part of superscription missing due to removal of papered seal. Endorsed in a later hand: "Anthony Bagot to his Father Richard Bagot 1589." Link to digital image:

<http://luna.folger.edu/luna/servlet/s/3p6067>

superscription

[To the] *worshipfull* my very good ffather
[Ri]chard Bagot *Esquire*
[at] Blythfelde with
speede

letter

My very good ffather, because I knowe that ill newes flyethe swyfter then good I am to Certyfye yow the truth of such accyidentes as haue happened; my *Lord* vppon thursdaye night last, with one Reynalls a *gentleman* of his Chamber and an other that kept his huntinge horses, betwixt v. & vj of the clocke tooke horse in St Iames *parke*, my *Lord* desyered my *Lord* Riche⁵ to staye in his Chamber & he woulde come to supper to him. But my *Lord* is gone to Plymoth and I feare away with the fleete to Portingale, for a post came to him that daye from *Plymoth* and from Excetor to *Plimoth* layde his post horses ready, *Sir ffrancis* knowles his vncler, the next daye went post after him, with *Lettres* to staye him, but I feare he coulde not reach him, for my *Lord* was at *Plymoth* before saturdaye morninge when his vncler was not haulf waye; and he toulde his man that kept his horses, and brought them backe agayne, *that* he woulde not staye twoo howres in *Plymoth* howsoeuer the wynde was, for if the wynde weare contrary he would dragge out *the Pynnasse*⁶ that was left for him, and as we can learne the whole fleete went awaye on frydaye morninge; my *Lord* *huntingdon* vppon frydaye night went after him allso and howe they speede wee knowe not yet. But he *that* broughte backe the horses *which* carryed my *Lord* 80 myles & 8. brought my *Lord* Riche a *Lettre* & they keyes of his deske, wherin thear was *Lettres* above forty of my *Lord* his owne hande wrytinge, to the Queene, the Cownsayle, and other of his

⁵ Robert Rich, Robert, first earl of Warwick (1559?-1619).

⁶ A pinnace of the small kind propelled by oars or a small sail used to carry cargo and crew between ships.

fryndes in Courte & his *servauntes* with resolutyon not to be stayed by any Comaundment exceptinge death, for so much I read my sealf in a *Lettre* to *william ffowkes* & *w. Leighton*, to come after him with such speede as maye be to bringe such necessaryes as thearin was contayned; but he neather wrytt nor spake any worde of me; but referred all to my *Lord Ryche* & *Sir Phillip Buttler* and so I am appoynted to wayte & keepe my *Lord* his Lodginge & his table tyll I be comaunded the contrary./ And thus in hast tyll I haue an other meassenger humbly cravinge *your* dayly bleassinge & my good mothers I take my leaue./

Courte whyte hall 8 April 1589

Your most obedyent sonne

Anth Bagot

postscript written vertically down left margin

My Lady Burleighe dyed on frydaye morninge, my *Lord Threasurer*⁷ very sicke of the gowte Secretary Waulsingham not well and *Sir Walter Myldmaye* very sycke.

endorsement

Anthony Bagot Lettres of my *Lord*
his *masters* departure from the
Court towardes plymowthe

⁷ William Cecil, first Baron Burghley (1520/21-1598).

Folger Shakespeare Library MS L.a.41

Letter from Anthony Bagot, London, to Richard Bagot, 1589 November 22

Physical description: Bifolium; sent as tuck-and-seal packet with two seals on seam; seal residue. Endorsed in a later hand: "Anthony Bagot to his Father Richard Bagot 1589." Link to digital image: <http://luna.folger.edu/luna/servlet/s/y67eg1>

superscription

To the worshippfull my very
good ffather mr Richard
Bagot Esquire.

letter

My very good ffather, I receaved *your Lettres* by mr merry, and the next morninge I delyvered *your extractes* into the *exchequers*, Baron Sotherton⁸ sayd they came very late, I delyvered them first to *Sir Edward Lytletons handes* & receaved them agayne, because I was sworne they weare as I receaved them from the *Commyssyoners handes* mr Litleton, & mr Devereux vse me very famylyarly, *which* I must needes requyte, yet I will trust them neuer the more, *Sir Edward Litleton* toulde me thear was neuer any discourtesye went so neere his hart as that he receaved from yow, whome he sayde he allwayes loved so well, *which* he sayde he would not rehearse, because mr *Edward Aston*, at mr *Gryvyls* request, hath vndertaken to end all matters betwixt yow toow, these are ^{his} ~~theare~~ wordes but I knowe my *Lord* is the Origynall for he toulde *Sir Edward Litleton* he would haue no fallinge out betwixt yow, for yow shoulde be frendes. So mr *Aston* spake with me and toulde me mr *Gryvyll* had been very earnest with him to end all matters of discourtesy betwixt yow, *which* he sayde he was most wyllinge to do, if he thought yow weare willinge to it, otherwyse he sayde he woulde not do any thinge to iniure yow, for he sayde his father did bequeave him to yow and he respectes *your fryndshippe* more then all in *staffordshirre*, so I tould him I knewe yow woulde be content that he shoulde rule yow. his only staye at London is to be *Sir Edward* before he comes downe, *which* my *Lord* hath promysed to performe. *Mistress Devereux* would fayne be Ladyed, but my *Lord* is discontented at her comminge vpp, so wheather he shalbe *Sir George* or not Sub iudice lis est. / I haue not yet delyvered *your Lettres* to *Lynnihalls* because he is at *Richmond* with the howshould, and her maiestie at *Somerset* howse but I will do shortly & do not doubt but to perswade him to put the matter to yow./ *Raffe Edges* matter is not yet harde, *Doctor Dayle*⁹ was kylllyvettes great frend and was not at leasure to sytt as yet

⁸ John Sotherton, baron of the exchequer (d. 1605).

⁹ Valentine Dale (ca. 1520-1589).

and mr Pattyn sayes nowe he thinkes he is Subamner¹⁰ in hell, for he dyed sodenly the xvijth of November. / I delyvered your *Lettres* to my vncler Okeover who I am sure will do the best he can to *provvyde* yow of fish, but he sayes the best is gone & it is the worst tyme of the yeare for such *provysyon*; theare was yeasterdaye 6. or 7. howses burnt on fishe streete hill the occasyon, a mayde sittinge vppe in the night to starche her mystresses fyne ruffes agaynst morninge. / Thus for this tyme most humbly cravinge your dayly bleassing & my good mothers with my dutyfull prayers I take my leaue. / My brother Seriant maior¹¹ hath toulde mr Secretary Wallsingham *that* he hath hundrethes of powndes of yow or ells he could not haue shewed his face in the Country, who sayes yf yow neede him or any of *yours*, yow shall knowe what he will do for them s that frend any follower of his. / London 22 November

Your humble & dutyfull sonne. 1589

Anth Bagott

endorsement

Anthony Bagot *Lettres* 1589

¹⁰ Sub-almoner.

¹¹ Serjeant-major.

Folger Shakespeare Library MS L.a.42

Letter from Anthony Bagot, London, to Richard Bagot, 1589/90 February 5

Physical description: Bifolium; sent as a tuck-and-seal packet; seal residue. Endorsed in a later hand: "Ant. Bagot." Link to digital image: <http://luna.folger.edu/luna/servlet/s/o55t37>

superscription

To the worshippfull my very
good ffather Mr Richard
Bagot Esquire at
Blithfeild.

contemporary note on back of packet

The Basket & Topnett Doe
wayghe 89-90¹ - lxxxx¹

letter

My very good ffather, I spake to my brother Wyllson to healpe
me to buye 2 Armors you wrytt for, and he hath
bestowed a cupple of excellent good ones of yow of his
owne store. yow shall receive them by this Carryer
Cotten of Stone, who Roger Skarrett did assure mee
would honestly delyver them. / yow shall receaue 2 payre
of Curattes, 2 payre of powldrone, 2 payre of vambraces,
2 Collors, 2 very good Casques,¹² & 2 gawntlettes for playne
Armors no man can haue better, thone fytted me as if it
had been made for me. / I haue sent yow hearinclosed a *lettre*
which my oulde & sure frend ^{sent} me with xxy shillinges in
moneye, heare is no newes but yesterdaye & Thearle
of Warwick had one of his legges cut offe by the
knee for the disease thearle of Bedford had called the
gangrene. / Thus most humbly cravinge *your* dayly
bleassing & my good mothers all beinge in good helth in
Warwicke lane & Lumbart streete, I humbly take my
leau. London in some hast. vth ffebruary 1589

Your humble & dutyfull sonne

Anth Bagot

¹² Curattes: a cuirass, or armor covering the torso; powldrone: pauldron, or armor covering the shoulder area; vambraces: armor covering the forearm; Casques: a casque, or helmet.

Folger Shakespeare Library MS L.a.43

Letter from Anthony Bagot, Calais, to Richard Bagot, 1591 September 6

Physical description: Bifolium; sent as small packet (pleated) with papered seal (now missing); vertical dispatch slits. Part of superscription obscured by removal of papered seal. Endorsed in a later hand: "Anthony Bagot to his Father Richard Bagot 1591 Camp Callys." Link to digital image: <http://luna.folger.edu/luna/servlet/s/di540p>

superscription

To the Worshippfull my very good
[fa]ther Mr Richard Bagot Esquire

letter

My very good Father, I wryt to you of *our* Iorney my *Lord* tooke to see the *King* which fell out to be at *the* least an hundred englishe myles from Deepe, my *Lord* not purposinge to tarry out above fyue dayes, which caused vs to carry nothings with vs more then of *our* barkes; we founde the *King* in Campe at a litle vyllage called Atychy 3. le^ages beyand Compayne¹³ he vsed my *Lord* most kyndly & all vs *that* followed hym, they weare togeather allmost 2 howers then my *Lord* went a longe leage further to hys quarter to lodge, but before we weare haulf an englishe myle the *King* with haulf a dosen gentlemen overtooke ~~tryn~~ vs & brought my *Lord* to hys lodginge & stayed with hym an howre then my *Lord* returned with hym & brought hym to hys quarter, & *the* next ^{day} dyned with the *King* which was Sondag thys daye fortnight, then the *King* went with my *Lord* to Noion wheare *they* parted, the *King* gone to meete they Garmaynes, & we returned towards Deepe: But Vyleers the governour of Rhone was in *our* waye with a thowsande horsse & fyfteene hundred foote, & we but one troope of horsse so *that* we crost the Ryver of signe at a Towne called vernon and so went to Pont large¹⁴ whear we crost the Ryver agayne & nowe are meat with *our* footemen, and *the* Barron Byron is marchyng towards vs with the *King* hys Cammpe of whose commynge we shall do somewhat; Thys iorney was so hard *that* it hathe discoryged dyvers yonge souldyars: But all *that* you knowe are well & in hea^lth Thus tyll more newes most humbly cravyng *your* dayly blessing & my good mothers I must needes end in hast. my sister Brough[ton] hath many thanks for her haulf crownes At *the* runninge Cammpe at Cally *your* 6 of September 91
betwixt Rhone
& Deepe. *your* humble & dutyfull soonne.

¹³ Compiègne.

¹⁴ Pont-de-l'Arche.

Ant: Bagot

Folger Shakespeare Library MS L.a.44

Letter from Anthony Bagot, [France], to Richard Broughton, 1591? November 1

Physical description: Bifolium; sent as small packet (pleated) with papered seal (now missing); vertical dispatch slits. Part of superscription missing due to removal of papered seal. Endorsed in a later hand: "Anthony Bagot to his Brother from Rouen." Part of the right margin of letter and the outer half of the address leaf are missing. Obliterated or obscured words are indicated by bracketed ellipses. Link to digital image: <http://luna.folger.edu/luna/servlet/s/9814sb>

superscription

[To the wor]shippfull my good Brother
Mr Richard Broughto[n]
[a]t hys howse in warwycke
lane in London

letter

Good Brother, the first of this November 3. [...]
they Enymey looked for vs we fewe englishe came to [...]
which els had been burnt, we are set downe with as greate
honor as ever so fewe men coulde, we contynued feight
from eight in the morninge tyll fyve at night, by to morow
at this tyme we hope to be intrenched, and then hope to abyde
a better reconinge. yf you knowe any in England *that* desyre
to fight *perswade* them heyther, and I will assure you they
shalbe well intertayned for *that* matter, for there are braue
men in the Towne & so shewed them sealues, 2, of *our*
knightes *Sir Francis Allyn* shot through the thygh *Sir Matthew Morgan*
shot in the belly, but no daunger of death of neyther, we
had 4 slayne, & above xx^{ty} shot, howe many of the
Enymye we hurt is not knowne, we kylde 3. or 4 of they
beast leaders we sawe, & dyvers we sawe le[...]
We are lodged within musket shot of the Town [...]
Byron a good englishe myle of, they never tro[...]
he them, they may be frendes for any thyng [...]
We expect the Kynges *comminge* within these [...]
haue been longe in *comminge*, god send vs mor[e ...]
& I trust we shall do well, we are now s[...]
in all, horse & foote able to feight; I praye [...]
lettre to my father, for leasure now wyll n[...]
wryte. Mr Morley & your *Iohn Mallard* kn[...]
where I thynke [^]we (as many as lyve) shall [...]
Chryssmas, (god saue the marke) hard by the Ga[...]
They of the Towne stand vppon the walles & see vs

feight, and we yf we had any spare men maye place
them vppon the Gallhowe hyll & they may looke of vs
the fynest place eyther for Gammsters or standers by
that ever I sawe. / I trust god wyll send me my
health & I doubt not but I ^{shall} see soome of my olde
acquayntaunce in the Towne, Mr Reynoldes & I are
all they offycers my *Lord* hath Mr Meyrick sycke at
Deepe, but 4 of hys gard came with vs & 3 of them
sycke, yt grieves me not to take any paynes because
I am ioyned with so þe honest a man as my cos[...]
Reynolldes secretary who commendes hym h[...]
you & so I praye your partner do I. / I[...]

[ych Brand?] Ant Bagot

endorsement

Anthony Bagotes Lettres
from Roane in Normandy

Folger Shakespeare Library MS L.a.45

Letter from Anthony Bagot, [London], to Richard Bagot, 1592/3 March 1

Physical description: Address leaf missing. Remaining leaf folded for locking with a papered seal (now missing); vertical dispatch slits. Endorsed in a later hand: "Anthony. Bagot." Link to digital image: <http://luna.folger.edu/luna/servlet/s/vns43u>

letter

My very good Father, I am sorry I cannot wryte *that* neweꝛs *which* you & my mother desyre to heare *which* is of my sisters health, for she contynueth styll very weake and sycke by fyttes, with contynuall payne at her hart & stomacke, some dayes houldinge her lyke an extreeme Ague, and some dayes better, keeping no certayne tyme; her weaknesse is such that she never tooke any physick, but plasters to her stomack *which* haue done litle good; she is very sorry *that* my mother takethe it so ill; for she feareth not her sealf./ Mr Meyrick is rydd into the country about my *Lord* hys parkes *that* are graunted hym by her *Maiestie* to make some money for my *Lord* is very desyerous to take order for hys debtes, and now synce shrove sondaye at 4 of *the* clocke (about *which* howre he was swarne a pryvy Counsellor) hys *lordship* is become a newe man cleane forsakinge all hys former youthfull trickes carriinge hym sealf with very honorable gravyty and singularly lyked of boath in *parliament*, and at Counsayle table, both for hys speeches & iudgment./ I cannot yet by any meanes get my brother *Broughton* to *the* Audytor one weecke he promysed me from daye to daye to go *which* caused me to neglect waytinge; An other cause my sister intreated me to tarry with her, for since her sycknesse, she hath found no more kyndnes at her *partners* handes & hys brothers then needes must. / synce *the* Court came from Hampton I haue wayted contynually, and now do at St Iameses./ Thus in hast humbly cravinge yor dayly blessinge & our good Mothers. I end in my sister *Broughtons* chamber first of March 1592.

your humble & dutyfull sonne Ant Bagot

Folger Shakespeare Library MS L.a.46

Letter from Anthony Bagot, Warwick Inn, to Richard Bagot, 1592/3 March 13

Physical description: Bifolium; sent as tuck-and-seal packet; seal residue. Link to digital image:

<http://luna.folger.edu/luna/servlet/s/efm392>

superscription

To the worshippfull my
very good ffather
Mr Richard Bagot
Esquire. /

letter

My very good ffather, I can yet by no meanes get
my *brother* Broughton to fynde leasure to dispache with
the Audytor; He saythe nowe, he must first
heare from you that he maye haue somewhat to shew
for *your* allowance and tyll you send him that he can
do nothinge in it. / My sister (I thanke god)
is now fully recovered./ Many Lordes dyned
this daye with my *Lord* at Leicester howse, my *Lord* of
shrewsbury¹⁵ was one and asked me for you, and
spake the ^{best} wordes of you that ever I hard noble
man speake of a gentleman, betwixt hym & me.
Besydes, for my *parte*, I am moste bownd to Syr Thomas
Gorge, who of hys owne accord spake to my *Lord* &
Master in my behaulfe to be myndfull of hys ould
servantes especyally me by name. My Ladye
Marques hys Wyffe & he boath haue earnestly
requested me to wryte to my Mother *that* she
would bestowe x^{li} in stafford shire cloath and
send it vpp and he wyll presently paye the money
to me, my Lady would not haue any aboute ij^s the
yard, some of xvij^d and some vnder as my
Mother shall thyncke best: eyther of them maye
do ^{me} a farre greater pleasure, and I knowe the
money wyll presently be payde./ *parliament* newes
I leaue to them of the howse, a swynginge subsedy
I know you doubt not of. I am in some hope
to get some money for they 2 poore mens bills
though the Oxen neuer came to the Queenes vse.
I haue taken *your* byll of Impost and sould it

¹⁵ Gilbert Talbot, seventh earl of Shrewsbury (1552-1616).

for xxxv^s de claro. /

continued in left margin

Thus most humb[l]y cravunge *your* dayly bleassing & my good Mothers I humb[l]y crave
pardon with remembraunce of all duty in hast of take my leaue warwick lane 13. March.

92./

Your humble & dutyfull sonne. Ant. Bagot

By this bearer I received tokens

xij^d from my mother. v^s

from sister Okeover./

Folger Shakespeare Library MS L.a.473

Letter from Robert Devereux, earl of Essex, the Court, to Richard Bagot, 1594 May 6

Physical description: Bifolium; sent as tuck-and-seal packet; seal residue. Letter in the hand of an amanuensis; signed and subscribed by Essex. Link to digital image:

<http://luna.folger.edu/luna/servlet/s/646pq3>

superscription

To my assured good
frend Mr Richard
Bagot.

letter

Sir.

Being glad to do any thing that might be for *your* sonnes good & preferment; I did latelye write my *lettres* vnto Mr Weston, & sollicitid a mocion of mariage with *Mistris* Lowe, a kinswoman of his. The gentleman hath verye willinglye hearkened vnto it; and the gentlewoman well accepted of the mocion, & conceyveth well of *your* sonne. Yt remayneth that you deale fatherlye with hym for the better effectinge of this match to his good, *which* is nowe the principall pointe, wherevpon the conclusion resteth. If you shall add any thing to *your* good affection towardes hym the rather for my sake: I will thinke my self exceedinglye beholdinge to yow; And for my part, as I do affect and wissh hym well, for his longe & honest services; so assure *your* self I will be readye to vse all good meanes that may be for his advauncement./ Thus I committ you to *godes* good protection. from the Court the vjth of May 1594.

your louing Neighbour
and most assured frend
Essex

Mr Richard Bagot

endorsement

My *Lord* of Essex *Lettres*
in behalf of Anth Bagot