

TNA: PRO SP 63/91/26*Note of letters to Walsingham, 12 April 1582*

This enclosure to a letter – a fortunate survival – indicates the degree of administrative energy devoted, in the Dublin secretariat, to security. Like most private secretaries of the day, Spenser probably would have kept a letter-book or register of his incoming and outgoing correspondence, and this paper – sent to Walsingham as a sort of check on recent dispatches, would have been extracted from that record. Its existence and survival testify to the seriousness which senior officials in the English and Irish governments attached to the safety of their correspondence. It is also interesting (and dispiriting) to note that only five of the nine letters listed here are now extant: all three of the copies of Edward Butler's letters (SP 63/90/11, 63/90/31, 63/90/46), that of Thomas Arthur to Sir Lucas Dillon (SP 63/90/15), and that of Sir Warham Sentleger to Grey (SP 63/91/17/2); the other four, which were likely more interesting, probably perished precisely because they were read and used so intensively. The body of the list is in Spenser's secretary hand, here somewhat rushed and loose. The heading and endorsement are both in Spenser's mixed hand, the endorsement somewhat more careful than the other.

Endorsement

Note of lettres &
Copies to Mr Se-
cretary sent
xij^o Aprilis
1582 /

Text

A note of lettres & Copies sent to Mr Secretary Walsingham. xij^o Aprilis

Odonelles lettre to the Lord* Deputy.
The Popes lettre to Odonell
The Earle of Desmond's lettre to Odonell
Copy of the Recorder of Limerick's lettre to Sir Lucas Dillon. /
Copy of Sir Warham St Leger's lettre to the Lord Deputy. /
Copy of my Lord of Ormond's lettre
Copy of Edward Butler's to Mr Waterhouse.
Copy of Edward Butler's to John Zowche.
Copy of Edward Butler's to my Lord of Ormond.

Textual Notes

* **Lord]** The 'L' of this word is written over an initial 'll', suggesting that Spenser originally intended to write 'lords'.

Annotations

Odonelles] Sir Hugh O'Donnell, Lord of Tirconnell; see biographies.

Popes] Gregory XIII.

Earle of Desmond] Gerald Fitzjames Fitzgerald, sixteenth Earl of Desmond; see biographies.

Recorder of Limerick] Thomas Arthur, Recorder of Limerick. The recordership was an important legal post in a city, and carried with it certain obligations for the incumbent lawyer.

Sir Warham St Legeres] Sir Warham Sentleger, Provost Marshal of Munster; see biographies.

my Lord of Ormond] Thomas Butler, eleventh Earl of Ormond; see biographies.

Edward Butleres] The brother of the Earl of Ormond; see biographies.

mr Waterhouse] Edward Waterhouse, Receiver General for Ireland; see biographies.

John Zowche] Captain Zouche, Burghley's kinsman, had been left effective governor of Munster after the November 1580 capture of the fort at Smerwick; see biographies.