

# RECORDS OF EARLY ENGLISH DRAMA

## Pre-publication Collections

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### SIR RICHARD PAULET

Sir Richard Paulet was born around 1558, the grandson of another Richard Paulet, younger brother of the William Paulet who was the first Marquis of Winchester and Lord Treasurer to three Tudor monarchs. Richard Paulet's stature initially rested on the estates his grandfather and father had acquired through marriage. Herriard, valued at 200 pounds per annum, came from his grandmother, Elizabeth Cowdrey. Freefolk, valued at another 180 pounds, from his mother, Catherine Andrews.<sup>1</sup> His own marriage in 1587 brought no substantial new estates, but did ally him with his father-in-law, Sir Henry Wallop, long a leader of the Protestant gentry in the county. By the time of his marriage Paulet had served as sheriff of Hampshire in 1583-4, as receiver for debts in Hampshire, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire in 1585, and as high collector for his part of Hampshire for the 1586 lay subsidy.<sup>2</sup> In 1591 he was sheriff again, and attended on the Queen when her progress came to his father-in-law's estate at Farleigh Wallop.<sup>3</sup> A year later he was knighted and made a justice of the peace, and he was heavily involved in the militia for the following decade.<sup>4</sup>

A 1593 letter to Lord Burghley seeking the office of captain of Portsmouth offers clear evidence of Paulet's ambition. Since Burghley's granddaughter had recently married the latest Marquis of Winchester, Paulet obviously hoped to trade on family connections, but Burghley disappointed him.<sup>5</sup> However, this setback only temporarily slowed Paulet's steady accretion of

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<sup>1</sup> Eric N. Lindquist, ed. and intro., "Sir Richard Paulet: Diary (1610) and Other Documents." Unpublished monograph held by the Hampshire Record Office.

<sup>2</sup> HRO calendar, "Jervoise" 4A, p. i; HRO: 44M69 F2/11/30; C.R. Davey, ed., *The Hampshire Lay Subsidy Rolls, 1586* (Hampshire County Council, 1981), 3, 53.

<sup>3</sup> HRO: 44M69 B/19, 20.

<sup>4</sup> Lindquist, vii.

<sup>5</sup> HRO: 44M69 F2/11/59, F2/12/2; Lindquist vii-viii.

lands and offices that led eventually to Parliament. Although Paulet's estates and influence were located mainly in the northern half of the county, he was also made a burgess of Southampton in 1600, when his cousin Thomas Lambert was mayor of the town. Lambert's and Paulet's mothers were sisters, both daughters of Richard Andrews of Laverstoke. Lambert too was knighted and served as an MP, and the two men engaged in several business and land ventures together. In 1601 Paulet added extensively to the scope of his estates by purchasing the wardship of Thomas Jervoise, whose inheritance included lands in Wiltshire, Shropshire and Nottinghamshire. Jervoise was soon married to Paulet's eldest daughter, Lucy, and as Paulet had no son he adopted his new son-in-law as his heir. In 1604 Paulet was elected to James' first Parliament as member for Whitchurch, and he served again in 1610, keeping a diary that provides many details of that Parliament's debate over the "Great Contract" that Robert Cecil aimed to forge between Parliament and the King. Paulet made his first and only speech in the House of Commons in the brief, "Addled" Parliament of 1614. Paulet died shortly thereafter, and was buried in St Nicholas, Freefolk, where his monument dominates the small church.

Paulet was a great reader. In December 1596 he wrote this memorandum: 'In what sort I layde my bookes into my chest in the Closet vz On the left hand of the chest beyng opening I layd and Packt all the bookes I had of Mr Puttenham, which reached halfe way the Chest

At the right hand at the verye end I layd & Packt Certeyne bookes of dyvynytye and of Controversies in religion, together with some Lawe bookes: at the hether side next the Locke i packt Certeyne englishe bookes Conteyning histories, Planting surveyghinge and suche like.

At the further side right against them & next Mr puttenhams bookes aforesaie I layde all my Lattyne bookes greeke Grammer ~~dictionary~~ and such like. / Most of my Lawe bokes, Statutes Chronycles and sermones bookes Concerning religion and the bookes of Martyrs and such like lye. ether in my Chamber, Buttrye of parler./ Wher god graunt me tyme and grace to peruse them.'<sup>6</sup>

Religion was certainly a great interest of Paulet's, though it isn't clear which way Paulet leaned, or indeed if he had a great commitment to a particular religious position. When preparing to take refuge on the Isle of Wight during an invasion scare in 1599, Paulet noted that he intended to take with him a Bible and 'Mr Egertons book of the principles of Religion' ('A noat of what Armors I must carye with me to the Isle of Wight').<sup>7</sup> Egerton was a famous puritan divine, and the book possibly his translation of a popular French treatise by Matthieu Virel.<sup>8</sup> The 1610 diary of Paulet's time in London describes the many sermons he heard at Paul's Cross and elsewhere with the same detached lack of comment with which he recorded the speeches in Parliament. His will left money for 'a competent yearly maintenance for a minister who also should be a

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<sup>6</sup> HRO: 44M69 F5.

<sup>7</sup> HRO: 44M69 G5/20/58

<sup>8</sup> Lindquist ix

sufficient preacher to instruct the people in the knowledge of gods word and administer divine service and sacraments in my church or chapel of Freefolk'.<sup>9</sup> We thus have no way of knowing whether religion was the main reason for his 1607 purchase of of a play he called 'the widow of watlingstreet'—i.e., the Thomas Middleton play usually known as *The Puritan*.

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<sup>9</sup> TNA: PROB 11/127