

Wives, Widows and Wimples Theme 5: Marriage arrangements

Document 1

Mi D 4792: Marriage settlement between Philip Boteler and Isabel Willoughby (6 January 14 Henry VI [1436], English)

Transcript by Kathryn Summerwill. Translation by Kathryn Summerwill and
Thorlac Turville-Petre

This indenture made the sext day of
Janever the yeere of the regne of Kyng
Herry sext the fourtenth bytwyx **Sir** Hugh
Wyllughby of Wollaton knyght
on **þat** one **partie** and Philip Botiler Squier
on **þat** oder **partie** Wittenesseth. Where as
bargayn toke bytwyx the forseid **Sir** Hugh
and Reynalde Cokayn **and** oder
executours of þe Testament of John
Cokayn Iustice A **relative** of the forseide
Philip of the Wardeship **and** mariage of þe
forseid Philip broder **and** heir to Edward
Botiler . **sonne** **and** heir to **Sir** Philip Botiler
of Watton knyght their fader . in **presence**
of wheche executours **and** of **Sir** William
Babington knyght chief
Iuge of þe **commone** place Surveyour of
þe Testament toforseid . the forseid **Sir**
Hugh **promised** vn to the forseid Philip if so
wer **þat** he toke to his wyf
Isabelle one of þe **doughters** of þe forseid
Sir Hugh that then he wolde yeve **with**
here to theyre bother avayle in arrayement
of her body **and** of here
Chaumbre **and** in oder stuffe the value of
fyfty marke. And for alsmoche **þat** þe
forseid Philip hath taken þe foreseide
Isabell **doughter** of the forseid
Sir Hugh to his wyf The forseid **Sir** Hugh
hath yeven **and** deliuerd to the forseid
Philip **with** the forseid Isabell his **doughter**
to ther bother behove
bysyde alle here array of here body **and** of
here Chaumbre in plate **and** money the
value of fyfty marke that is to sey in plate
a potte of siluer
couerd **and** foure couerd peses the which
plate weyeth of Troy weght viij **pounds** ij
unces iij **quarterns** **and a half** **and ii**
pence weght pryce of þe vnce ij **shillings**
vij **pence** þe
somme of the holl value of þe plate is xij
pounds iij **shillings** vj **pence**. And in
money xx **pounds** iij **shillings** ij **pence**.
the which plate **and** money þe forseid
Philip hath receyved
of þe forseid **Sir** Hugh þe yeer **and** day a

This indenture made the sixth day of
January in the fourteenth year of the reign
of King Henry the Sixth, between Sir Hugh
Willoughby of Wollaton, knight, on the one
part, and Philip Botiler, esquire, on the
other part.

Whereas in an agreement made between
the aforesaid Sir Hugh and Reginald
Cokayn and other executors of the
testament [will] of John Cokayn, Justice, a
relative of the aforesaid Philip, relating to
the wardship and marriage of the aforesaid
Philip (brother and heir to Edward Botiler
who was son and heir to Sir Philip Botiler of
Watton, knight, their father), in the
presence of the executors and of Sir
William Babington, knight, Chief Judge of
the Common Pleas and Surveyor of the
aforesaid testament, the aforesaid Sir
Hugh promised to the aforesaid Philip that
if it happened that he (Philip) took as his
wife Isabelle, one of Sir Hugh's daughters,
that then he would give with her to the
benefit of both of them, in arrayment of
her body and of her chamber, and in other
stuff, the value of fifty marks [£33 6
shillings 8 pence], and for as much that
the aforesaid Philip has taken the aforesaid
Isabelle, daughter of the aforesaid Sir
Hugh, as his wife, the aforesaid Hugh has
given and delivered to the aforesaid Philip
for the needs of both of them besides all
her array of her body [clothes] and of her
chamber in plate and money to the value
of fifty marks, that is to say, in plate: a pot
of silver, covered, and four covered pieces,
which plate weighs in Troy weight 8
pounds 2 ounces 3 and a half quarterns,
and 2 pence weight price per ounce, 2
shillings 8 pence, the sum of the whole
value of the plate is £13 3 shillings 6
pence, and in money £20 3 shillings 2
pence, the which plate and money the
aforesaid Philip has received from the
aforesaid Sir Hugh on the year and day
abovesaid. And for as much that the

boueseid. And for alsmoche **pat** þe forseid
Sir Hugh hath deliuerd vn to the forseid
Philip ouer þe value of þe plate
to forseid þeremenaunt of þe fifty marke
in money to his greete ease **and** spede in
sueing liuere of his landes oute of
þekynges handes The forseid
Philip Botiler Squier **promised** in the
presence of þe forseid **Sir** William
Babington Iustice **and** by this **present**
writeing **graunteth** to þe forseid **Sir** Hugh
pat
he shall **with** in thre years next folouing
the date of this **presentes** writeng by plate
or perle or oder Iuels to the aveyle of hym
and the forseid
Isabell his wyf to þe value of the
remenaunt of the fyfty marke so deliuerd
hym in money aboueseid And also þe
forseid Philip Botiler Squier
promised in the **presence** of the forseid
Sir William Babington Iustice **and** by this
present writeing **graunteth pat** the
forseid **Sir** Hugh shall mowe
reyre all maner of duetes **and** arrerages of
rentes **pat** aren due vn to hym of alle
þelandes **and** tenementz of þe forseid
Philip Whech the forseid **Sir** Hugh
hadde the Wardeship of by **virtue** of þe
letres patentz of kyng Herry sexti to the
day of þe Writtes of liuere of þelandes
deliuered vn to þe forseid
Philip **with**outen any lateing of þe forseid
Philip ore of any oder in his name. In
wittenes of wheche **promisses** the **parties**
aboueseid haue
ynterchaungeable sette to her seals yeven
at Wollaton the yer **and** day aboveseyd.

aforesaid Sir Hugh has delivered to the
aforesaid Philip over the value of the plate
the remnant of the fifty marks in money to
his great advantage and benefit in taking
legal action for possession of his lands out
of the King's hands, the aforesaid Philip
Botiler esquire promised in the presence of
the aforesaid Sir William Babington,
Justice, and by this present writing grants
to the aforesaid Sir Hugh, that he shall
within three years next following the date
of this present writing by plate or pearls or
other jewels to the benefit of him and the
aforesaid Isabelle, his wife, to the value of
the remnant of the fifty marks so delivered
him in money abovesaid. [There may be a
word missed out by the scribe, which
renders the meaning of the last sentence
obscure] And also the aforesaid Philip
Botiler esquire promised in the presence of
the aforesaid Sir William Babington,
Justice, and by this present writing grants,
that the aforesaid Sir Hugh shall have
power to raise all manner of duties and
arrears of rents that are due to him from
all the lands and tenements of the
aforesaid Philip whom the aforesaid Sir
Hugh had the wardship of by virtue of the
letters patent of King Henry VI up to the
day of the writs of livery [assigning
possession] of the lands delivered to the
aforesaid Philip, without any hindrance of
the aforesaid Philip or of any other
[person] in his name. In witness of which
promises, the parties abovesaid have
jointly set to their seals. Given at Wollaton
the year and day abovesaid.

Document 2

Ne D 1903: Copy of an agreement made prior to the marriage of Henry Stanhope and Jane Rochford (28 Sep. 1476, English) Transcript and translation by Kathryn Summerwill

Thys Indenture mayde att **Nottingham** the
xxvij day of September the xvj yere of
kyng Edward the iijth Betwene
dame Jane Thyrlande apon the one **partye**
and John Stanhope Esquyer apon the
other **partye** agreed for a maryage betwyx
Henry Stanhope Son of the seyde John
Stanhope and Jane Rechford latte
doughtur to Herry Rechfort Esquyer for
wyche maryage the seyde John Stanhope
grauntes to the seyde Jane Thyrlande be
thes **presents** that he afor the

This indenture made at Nottingham the
28th day of September in the 16th year of
[the reign of] King Edward IV, between
Dame Jane Thyrlande on the one part, and
John Stanhope esquire on the other part.
Agreed for a marriage between Henry
Stanhope, son of the said John Stanhope,
and Jane Rechford, late daughter to Harry
Rechfort esquire, for which marriage the
said John Stanhope grants to the said Jane
Thyrlande, by these presents [by this
deed], that he shall, before the marriage is

maryage solemnised shall make to the seyd Henry Stanhope **and** Jane Rechford a suffycyante and lauffull Estatte of landes **and** tenementes to ye yerly valow of xx **pounds** ouer all charges to haue to them **and** to the heyres off theyr bodyes lawfully begoten **and** for default of such Ishue to ye heyres of ye body of the seyd Henry Stanhop lawfully begoten **and** for defeaute of suche heyres to the Ryght heyres of ye seyd John Stanhope **and** hys heyres and also the seyd John Stanhope grauntes be thes **presentes** that he wythin a yer after the datte herof shall cause to be mayd to hym **and** to dame Kateryn hys wyffe by dedes ended suffycyant and lawfull estates and other landes **and** tenementes in Wylloughby Wallesby Kyrton Hoghton **and** Boughton in the countye of Nottingham to haue to theym for terme of their lyves **and** to eytheyr of them longer lyffying wythout impeachment of wast the Remynder therof to the seyd Henry Stanhope **and** to the heyres mayles of hys body lauffully begoten **and** for defeaute of syche Isshue the Remynder therof to the heyres **and** assynges of ye seyd John Stanhope and also the seyd John Stanhope grauntes by thes **presentes** that he wyll in the space of ij yeres next ensuyng the forseid date shall cause to be mayd to hym by dedes indented a suffycyante lawfull estate in other landes **and** tenementes wyth ye appurtenances in Tuxforde Darleton Tryswell **and** other places in the seyd county of Nottingham **and** in reuersyon wych landes **and** tenementes Tuxford Darleton **and** Tryswell and other places wyth the forsayd landes **and** tenementes in Wyllughby Wallesby Kyrton Hoghton and Boughton wyth theyr appurtenances shall amounte to ye yerly valou of xlvj **pounds** xiiij **shillings** ouer all charges **and** Reprises to haue the seyd landes **and** tenementes in Tuxford Darleton **and** Tryswell and other the premyses to the seyd John Stanhope terme of hys lyffe wythout impechment of wast the Remynder of ye seyd landes **and** tenementes in Tuxford Darleton **and** Tryswell afforsayd to the foresayd Herry Stanhope **and** Jane Rechford **and**

solemnized, make to the said Henry Stanhope and Jane Rechford a sufficient and lawful estate of lands and tenements, to the yearly value of £20 above all charges, for them and the heirs of their bodies, lawfully begotten. And for default of such issue [that is, if they have no lawful heirs], to the heirs of the body of the said Henry Stanhope lawfully begotten [for example, from a second marriage], and for default of such heirs, to the right heirs of the said John Stanhope [his next of kin], and his heirs.

Also, the said John Stanhope grants by these presents that, within a year after this date, he shall cause to be made to him and to Dame Katherine his wife, by indented deeds, sufficient and lawful estates and other lands and tenements in Willoughby, Walesby, Kirton, Haughton and Boughton in the county of Nottingham, to have for the term of their lives, and to either of them who lives longest, without impeachment of waste, the remainder thereof [that is, after their deaths it will go] to the said Henry Stanhope and to the male heirs of his body, lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue, the remainder thereof to the heirs and assigns of the said John Stanhope.

And also the said John Stanhope grants by these presents that, within the space of two years next ensuing after the aforesaid date, he shall cause to be made to him, by indented deeds, a sufficient and lawful estate in other lands and tenements, with the appurtenances, in Tuxford, Darlton, Treswell and other places in the said county of Nottingham, in fee and in reversion, which lands and tenements [in] Tuxford, Darlton and Treswell, with the aforesaid lands and tenements in Willoughby, Walesby, Kirton, Haughton and Boughton, with their appurtenances, shall amount to the yearly value of £46 13s 4d, over all charges and reprises. The said lands and tenements in Tuxford, Darlton and Treswell and the other premises [shall be held] to the said John Stanhope, for the term of his life without impeachment of waste. [After his death] the said lands and tenements in Tuxford, Darlton and Treswell aforesaid [will go] to the aforesaid Harry Stanhope and Jane Rechford and to the heirs of the said Harry Stanhope, lawfully

to ye heyres of ye seid Herry **Stanhope** lawfully begoten and for defaute of suche isshue the Remynder of ye seid landes **and** tenementes in Tuxford Darleton **and** Tryswell **and** other theyr appurtenances to the heyres **and** assyngnes of ye seid John **Stanhope** for wyche maryage **and** estates apon the partye of ye seid John **Stanhope** to be performed The seid Jane Thyrland grauntes that as of the goodes of ye seid Jane Rechford and of here owne goodes shall pay to the seyde John **Stanhope** in mony and plate of syluer at the eleccion of the seid J **Stanhope** to ye some of CCC markes that ys at the day of the maryage C markes **and** at the fest of Saynte Martyn in wynter that shalbe in the yer of our lord **mille CCCClxxvij C marke and** at the fest of saynt Martyn in wynter that shalbe in the yer of our lord **mille CCCClxxvij C mark and** the seid Jane Thyrland grauntes to gyff to ye seid Herry **and** Jane **Rechford** stuff or plate **and** howshold in the name of ye chamber to the valou of L **marks** ouer the seid CCC markes wythin one yer after ye seid maryage yf ye seid Jane **Recford** lyff so longe **and** eyther partye to bere The costes of ye dener **and** aparell evenly betwyxe them and the seid **John Stanhope** grauntes to fynd them ij yeres mett **and** drynke **and** chamber and the seid John **Stanhope** is agreable to be bounden in a statute marchaunt in agreable som that may be thought by lerned counsell gud to bynd hys heyres for execution of ye seid estates **and** the seid Jane Thyrland to be bounden for her paymentes **and** for performance of ye seid tenementes eyther partye byndes them to other in CCC markes Acta Sunt hec primo die octobris Anno xvj **Edward** iiiijth

begotten, and for default of such issue, the said lands and tenements in Tuxford, Darlton and Treswell and their appurtenances [will go] to the heirs and assigns of the said John Stanhope.

For which marriage and estates upon the part of the said John Stanhope to be performed, the said Jane Thyrland grants that [out of] the goods of the said Jane Rechford and of her own goods, [she] shall pay to the said John Stanhope in money and plate of silver, at the election of the said John Stanhope, to the sum of 300 marks [£200], that is on the day of the marriage 100 marks, and at the feast of St Martin in Winter [11 November] in the year of our Lord 1477, 100 marks, and at the feast of St Martin in Winter in the year our Lord 1478, 100 marks. And the said Jane Thyrland grants to give to the said Harry and Jane R. stuff of plate and household, in the name of the chamber, to the value of 50 marks over the said 300 marks, within one year after the said marriage, if the said J.R. lives so long. And either party is [that is, both parties are] to bear the costs of the dinner and apparel evenly between them. And the said J. St. grants to find them two years' meat and drink and chamber, and the said John St. is agreeable to be bound in a statute merchant¹ in an agreeable sum that may be thought by learned counsel good to bind his heirs for execution of the said estate, and the said Jane Thyrland to be bound for her payments. And for performance of the said tenements, either party binds them to the other in 400 marks. This happened [the signing of bonds] the 1st day of October in the 16th year of Edward IV.

1. See the 'Deeds in Depth' Research Guidance unit for information about what a [statute merchant](#) was.

Document 3

MS 66/1: Extract from an extent of the Manor of Langar and Barnstone in Nottinghamshire (c.1340, Latin)

Transcript by Kathryn Summerwill. Translation by Professor L.V.D. Owen, in 'Three Nottinghamshire Manorial Records', *Thoroton Society Record Series Vol XI, Pt. II* (1946)

Tenentes tofftorum in bondagio

[Cottars]

¶ Matillda de Herdeby tenet j tofftum in bondagio et reddit per annum . ij . solidos . vj denarios . terminis ut supra Et dabit auxilium secundum numerum animalium suorum Et debet meterium in Autumpno ad Magna precaria domini cum tota familia excepta . uxore domus Et valet operis illius diei per estimacione ij denarios et habebit j repastum et valet j denarius et sic valet opus illius diei ultra repastam j . denarius. Et dabit pro quolibet pullano masculino . iij . denarios . pro tolleneto Et valet tollenetur per annum . [...] Et dabit pannagium porcorum bis per annum . ut supra et valet pannagium per annum [...] Et dabit Merchetum et LeyrWytum pro filiis suis.

Bondage tenants of tofts.

Matillda de Herdeby has 1 toft in bondage and pays 2s 6d per annum at the terms as above [Christmas, Lent, Pentecost and Michaelmas]. And she owes an aid of the above mentioned number of her animals [not specifically mentioned, a sum of money in proportion to the number of animals she owns]. And she owes harvest work in autumn at the chief service of the lord with her whole family except the housewife. And the value of the work of that day shall be assessed at 2d. And she shall have one meal to be valued at 1d. And the afternoon's work shall be valued at 1d. And she shall give as toll for every male foal 4d. The value of this toll per annum is [blank]. And she shall provide pannage for swine twice in the year as stated and the pannage shall be valued at [blank]. And she shall pay merchet and leywrite for her daughters.

Document 4

WLC/LM/6, f.191v, f.193v and f.194v: Heldris de Cornuälle, 'Le Roman de Silence', lines 739-759, 1090-1102 and 1261-1274 (early 13th century, French) Transcript by Kathryn Summerwill. Translation by Theresa Tyers

Vos aues ueu bien souent
Fus **et** estoppe . auoec leuent
Vient asses tos a esprendre
Que ni estuet ia painne rendre
Altre tels est damor lorine
Puis **que**le aferme une rachine
Que puist amans nes tant doter
Que lor soit boin doir couter
Luns dals alautre cho **que** fait
Tres don**ques** croist lamors a fait
Par bien laparolle asseir
Et par souent entreueir
Seplus i a auolente
Tant croist lamor **plus** aplente
Car puis quen parler ont delit
Sicroist lamors **moult** depetit
Por cho **que** il ensamble soient
Mais amaint **qui** ne sentreuoient
Et fors salent **que** dan en an
Nont mie dasses tel ahan
Que diestre apries **et** consirrer

You have often seen
How, with the wind, wood and tow¹
Quickly kindles and is soon set alight,
That otherwise without trying very hard
would never catch fire.
In such a way is the origin of Love
For as soon as Love's root takes hold,
How may lovers really have any doubt
That it can only be good for them to hear
relate
To one another what this thing (Love)
does.
(In this way) then their Love² quickly
increases
By the use of well placed words
(And) by seeing each other often.
The more that desire is known to be there,
Then Love grows more and more.
Because in speaking of (this thing) they
feel pleasure³
And there, from such small beginnings,
grows Love
As long as they are together.
But lovers who do not meet,

Or merely encounter one another but from
year to year,
They can never know much of such
hardship,
Of being so close and yet (having) to
abstain.

1. The waste remains of flax/hemp for which one of the uses was for sealing between the joints of wood, for example on wooden ships.
2. The text gives the plural *L' Amors*
3. Or 'desire'.

Liuns **prent** lautre **par** ladestre
Et escalfent si del tenir
Quil nese pueent abstenir
Ne mecent les boces ensanble
Sans dire font si **com** moi sanble
Define amor **moult** bone ensegne
Car libaisiers bien lor ensegne
Et li **quil** trait paine **et** martire
Et lui **quele** laime **et** desire
Car nest pas baisier deconpere
Demere a fil . defil apere
Ainz est baisiers detel saour
Que bien saoure fine amor

One takes the other by the hand and
By this action they are so inflamed
That they cannot refrain
From bringing their mouths together.
It seems to me that without saying a word
They demonstrate the signs of perfect love.
Because (now) these kisses will instruct
them.
She who draws him into pain and suffering
And he, that she (both) loves and desires,
Because (this is) neither the kiss of a close
friend
Nor of a mother to a son or a son to a
father.
In this, a kiss of such piquancy and charm,
Is the pleasure that speaks of perfect
love.¹

1. 'Perfect love' chosen as the translation because the sense of *fine amur* seems to be that the heart of soul is involved in the experience (See J. D. Burnley, *The Review of English Studies*, New Series, Vol. 31, No. 122 (May, 1980), 129-148).

Lirois **parole** oies qua dit
Segnor entendesme .i. petit
Jo ne **uus quiier** un point celer
Dele feme . **et** del baceler
Cador uoel faire aliement
Si esteuroit castiement
Al conseil des courir . tel home
Ki lor seust mostrer lasome
Die lor .**quil** sunt dun eage
Dune bialte . dehalt **parage**
Et quant eages les i uelle
Et bialtes . nestroit pas **meruelle**
Sandoi **quesisent** laparel
Quil en amor fuscent parel

The King speaks. Listen to what he said.
'Lords, listen to me for a moment.
I do not want in the least to conceal from
you
That, of the woman and of the young man
Cador,
I wish to make an alliance.
It would be a (useful) lesson
If there was someone at this open Council,
such a man
Who could show them the reasons (for the
match),
Tell them, that they are of a similar age,
(Alike) in beauty and of noble birth,
And since in their age they are equal,
And of beauty, it would not be a wonder,
As they are each searching for their equal
That, in their love, they may be equal.