

# palaeography

### further practice

Document 13: Letter from Francis Throckmorton to Elizabeth I, dated about June 1584

(Catalogue reference: SP 12/171 folio 2)

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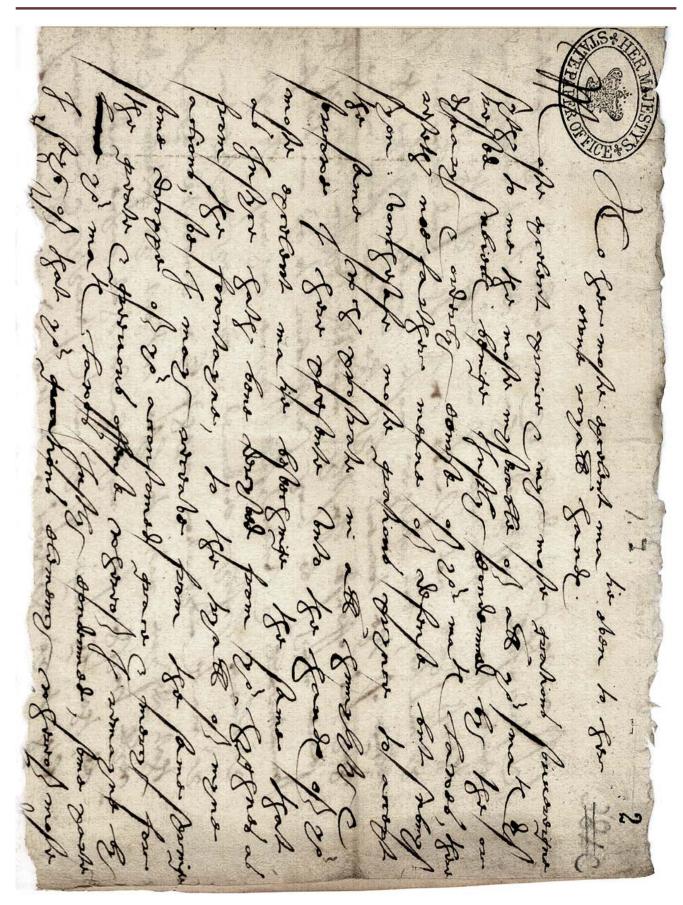
#### about this oocument

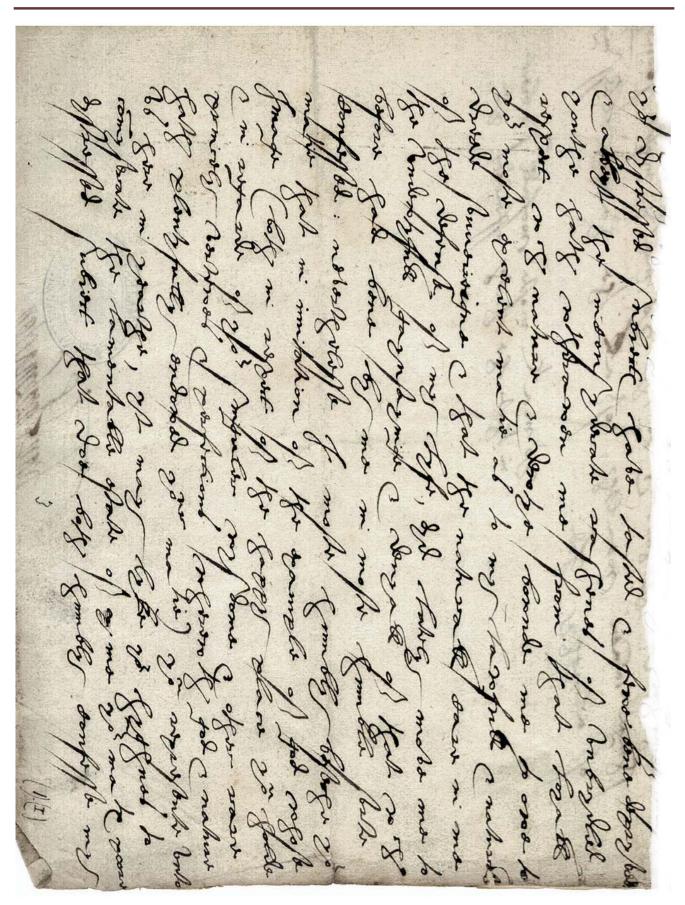
This document is a letter from Francis Throckmorton to Elizabeth I, dating from about 1584. (Catalogue reference: SP 12/171 folio 2)

The Roman Catholic Francis Throckmorton was arrested in 1583 due to his involvement in a conspiracy aiming to remove Elizabeth I and place Mary Queen of Scots on the throne, thereby restoring the Catholic faith. This letter, which was written to the queen at the end of Throckmorton's imprisonment in the Tower of London in the summer of 1584, shows Throckmorton desperate for mercy. It is probable that the letter never reached Elizabeth. Throckmorton was executed on 10 July 1584.

#### Please note:

The document is written in secretary hand.





### transcript

- 1 To her most excelent ma[jes]tie even to her
- 2 owne royall hand[es].
- 3 Moste excelent prince & my moste gratious souvereigne
- 4 sythe to me the moste myserable of all yo[u]r ma[jes]t[ies] dys
- 5 tressed subject[es] beinge Justly Condemned by the or
- 6 dynary & orderly Course of yo[u]r ma[jes]t[ies] Lawes, there
- 7. resteth noe farther meane of Defense but submys
- 8. syon: vouchesafe moste gratious prynce to accept
- 9. the same w[hi]ch prostrate in all humylyty &
- 10. sorrowe I here presente unto the hand[es] of yo[u]r
- 11. moste excelent ma[jes]tie beseechinge the same that
- 12. as Justyce hath bene deryved from yo[u]r hyghnes as
- 13. from the fowntayne, to the tryall of myne
- 14. actions; soe I may receave from the same springe
- 15. some Droppe of yo[u]r accoustomed grace & mercy for
- 16. the greate & greevous offense whereof I remayne by
- 17. yo[u]r ma[jes]t[ies] Lawes Justly Condemned, some parte
- 18. I say of that yo[u]r gratious Clemency whereof moste
- 19. yo[u]r Dystressed subject[es] have tasted & fewe bene depryved
- 20. & albeyt the inConsiderate rashenes of unbrydled
- 21. youthe hath w[i]thdrawen me from that loyall
- 22. respect w[hi]ch nature & Dewtye bownde me to owe to
- 23. yo[u]r most excelent ma[jes]tie as to my Lawfull & natura[ll]
- 24. Dreade souveraigne & that the naturall Care in me
- 25. of the Defense of my Lyfe, dyd Lately move me to
- 26. the undewtyfull gaynsayinge & Denyall of that w[hi]ch
- 27. before had bene by me in moste humble sorte
- 28. Confessed: neverthelesse I moste humbly beseche yo[u]r
- 29. ma[jes]tie that in imitation of the example of god whose
- 30. Image (both in respect of the happy place you holde
- 31. & in regarde of yo[u]r singuler wysdome & other rare
- 32. princely vertewes & perfections wherew[i]th god & nature
- 33. hath plentyfully endowed your ma[jes]tie) you represente unto
- 34. us here in thearthe, yt may lyke yo[u]r hyghnes to
- 35. com[m]yserate the lamentable estate of me yo[u]r ma[jes]t[jes] poore
- 36. dystressed subject that Does both humbly Confesse my