

**Letter from Walter Bagot to an unnamed "right worthy knight," circa 1620: autograph manuscript draft, Papers of the Bagot family of Blithfield, Staffordshire. Transcription by Early Modern Manuscripts Online (EMMO). MS L.a.156, Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, DC.**

leaf 1 recto

Most worthy knight I am bold to send unto you some unbidden Christmas guests though no musicians  
to be troublesome unto you yet I hoping you and my Lady will be pleased to join with you in mutual  
Consent to gratify me and them in our request that you will be pleased which is that they may  
accompany and attend my son into this Country to finish to take some pleasure  
here in the end of Revels your kind promise in so doing with that worthy respect  
you have ever had of your word makes me without doubt to obtain my request  
whereunto I do also desire require it may be with the free consent of and  
of will of my good Lady which I will ever endeavour myself to deserve with  
my best persuasions to retain him in am love and duty towards her. I have  
heard that since his being here he hath had the smallpox which I doubt not  
but before this time he hath be well recovered. I have sent my son Richard Bagot  
with his my Son your honest neighbor Mr Sheldon which I pray. praying  
God to bless him and Continue him in and with all yours in in health and send them  
and us his gracious protection. And so requiring my love service may be  
remembered ever assured unto you and your worthy Lady with like from my wife  
will ever rest

yours ever assured

Richard

leaf 1 verso