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Evan T. Jones, 'Fr. Giovanni Antonio de Carbonariis vs. Sheriffs of London: Chancery petition transcript, c.1496', The National Archives C 1/194/24 (University of Bristol, ROSE, 2006)¹

To the moste reuerent ffather in god John Cardenall Archebisshop
of Caunterbury and Chaunceller of Englonde² /

Shewyth unto your moste *gracious* Lordship your humble Oratour Antony Carbonarius generall proctour³ unto Adryan Castellus⁴ Collectour generall of our moste holy fader the pope in Englonde / That where as master Edward Vaughan doctor of lawe and other executours of the testament of the late Bisshop of London⁵ surmising that the seyd Adryan shuld be indettyd unto the seyd late bisshop in a *certeyn somme* of money for the ferme⁶ of a place whiche the same Adryan fermyd of the seyd Bisshop set and lyeng *within* the Cite of London wherin *your seyd* Oratour nowe inhabitith which exectours wold wrongfully charge *your seyd* Oratour *with* the det of the seyd Adryan have contrary to trouth surmysed that *your* Oratour shuld graunt to pay the dettes of the same Adryan and theruppon the same executours have nowe of late brought an action of det ageynst *your seyd* Oratour uppon a concessit solve⁷ for the somme of xxiiii. iiiid. before the shireffes of the Cite of London intending therby by sotell labor to have your seyd Oratour condempnyd contrary to all reason and gode conscience wherfor it may please your seyd gode grace the *premissis* considered to graunt a wryt of *certiorare*⁸ to be directyd to the seyd Shireffes commanding them by the same to *certify* the cause of the arrest of *your seyd* Oratour before the kyng in his Chauncery there to be *determinyd* according to conscience /

¹ Transcription conventions. Line spacing, spelling, captialization and punctuation follow the manuscript. Reconstructions of suspensions are in italics, e.g. '*with*' for 'wth'.

² John Morton, Archbishop of Canterbury 1486-1500, Chancellor 1487-1500 and cardinal 1493-1500. Died 15 September 1500.

³ A proctor is a 'person employed to manage the affairs of another; an agent, deputy, proxy, attorney' (*OED*). However, there are two more specific senses that could apply here. First, in an ecclesiastical sense, a proctor is someone who collects tithes for another, either as an employed agent or as a farmer. In canon law, a proctor would also imply an agent with powers of attorney. Since Carbonariis describes himself as 'general proctor' to Castellus he may have had quite broad responsibilities. That Carbonariis had been arrested by the sheriffs suggests that he was, at the very least, Castellus's principal agent in London.

⁴ Adriano Castellus, the papal collector in England, responsible for collecting all dues and taxes, such as the first fruits and tenths, that were paid to the Pope. He had been based in Rome since 1494, serving as Henry VII's proctor. T. F. Mayer, 'Castellus, Adriano (c.1461-1521)', *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (OUP, 2004).

⁵ Richard Hill, Bishop of London, 1489-1496. Died 20 February 1496, probate granted 19 March. His will confirms that Edward Vaughan, doctor of Law, was one of Hill's executors: TNA PROB 11/10 fos. 30, 33.

⁶ Farm: i.e. rent.

⁷ Concessit Solvere (he agreed to pay): A common form of debt action brought in the Mayor's Court of London, in which it was claimed that the defendant had agreed to pay the plaintiff a sum but had not done so. It was often used in cases of 'foreign attachment' where a third party could be summoned and attached (a form of arrest) on the grounds that he or she held property in the City of London belonging to the debtor: *Jowitt's Dictionary of English Law*.

⁸ Certiorari (to be more fully informed of): A prerogative writ of the Crown to remove a case from an inferior court to Chancery, where the case would be tried on grounds of equity: *Jowitt's Dictionary of English Law*.