

Letter from Edward Alleyn to his wife Joan, 'his good sweet mouse', c. July 24, 1593

<https://henslowe-alleyn.org.uk/catalogue/mss-1/article-011/>

Transcribed by Prof. Grace Ioppolo

[main text]

Emanuell¹

My good sweete mouse I commend me hartely
to yo^u And to my father my mother & my
sister bess hoping in god thought the sicknes
beround about you yett by his mercy itt may
escape yo^r house w^{ch} by y^e grace of god it
shall therefor vse this corse kepe yo^r house
fayr and clean w^{ch} I knowe you will
and every evening throwe water before yo^r dore
and in yo^r bake sid and have in yo^r windowes
good store of rwe and herbe of grace and
w^t all the grace of god w^{ch} must be obtaynd
by prayers and so doinge no dout but y^e Lord
will mercyfully defend yo^u: now good mouse
I have no newse to send you but this thatt
we have all ou^r helth, for w^{ch} the Lord be prayed
I reserved yo^r Letter att Bristo by richard couley
for the wich I thank you I haue sent you by this
berer, Thomas popes kinsman my whit
wastcote because it is a trobell to me to cary² it.
reseave it w^t this Letter And Lay it vpp for
me till I com if you send any mor Letters
send to me³ by the cariers of Shrowsbery, or to west
chester, or to york, to be Kept till my Lord
stranges players com and thus sweett hart
w^t my harty commendations to all o^r frends, I sett
from bristo this wensday after saynt James his day
being redy to begin the playe⁴ of hary of cornwall
mouse do my harty commendations to mr^r grigs his wife
and all this household and to my sister phillyps.

Yor Loving husband, E Alleyn.

mouse you send me no newees of any things
houshold send of yo^r domestycall matters
such things as happens att home as how yo^r

¹ i.e., Emmanuel ('God is with us', Hebrew)]

² c changed from another letter, probably r.

³ o on to altered from another letter; *me* interlined with a caret.

⁴ y altered from another letter.

distilled watter proves or this or that or any
thing what you will

[addition in left margin]

And Jug I pray yo^u Lett my orayng tawny stokines of woolen
be dyed a very good blak against I com hom to weare in the
winter yo^u sent to me nott word of my garden but next tym you will
but remember this in any⁵ case that all that bed w^{ch} was parsley
in the month of September you sowe ltt w^t spinage For then is the tym
I would do it myself but we shall nott com home till allholand tyd
and so swett mouse farwell and so brake ou^r Long Journey w^t patience

⁵ *a* altered from another letter, probably *n*

[blank]

[blank]

This be delyvered
to m^r hinslo on of the
gromes of hir maiesty
chamber dwelling⁶
on the bank sid
right over against
the clink

⁶ w altered from another letter, probably o