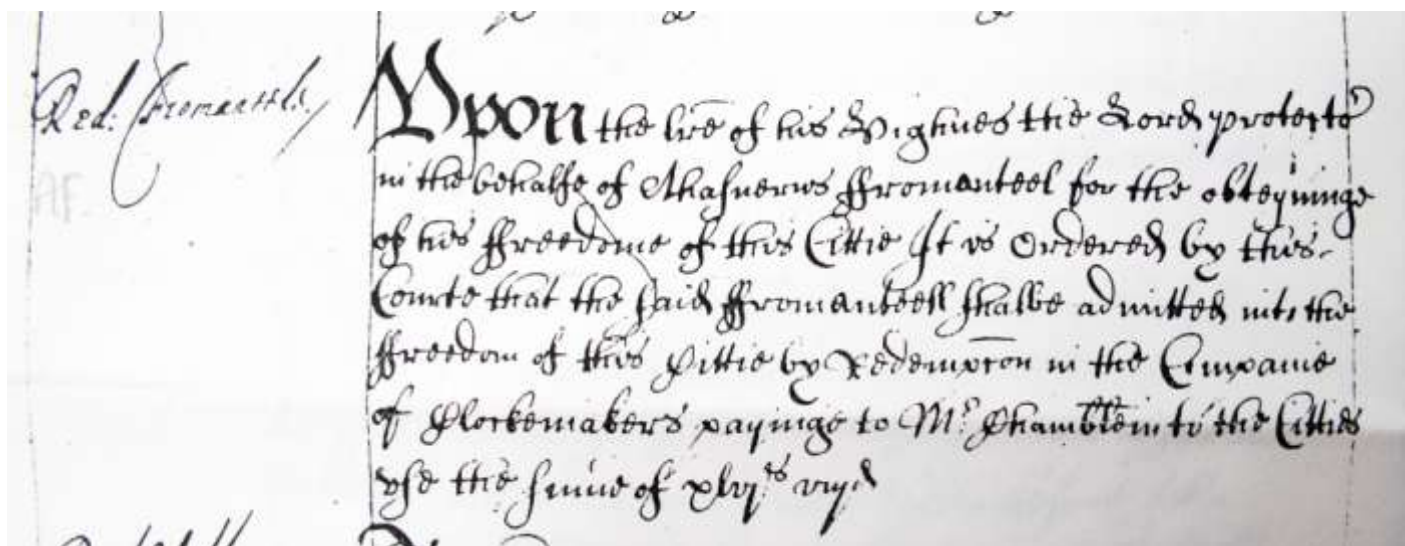


CLRO Ref: Repertory, Volume 64, folio 39b: just preceding page dated *January 10th, 1655/6*
(MS. courtesy of the Corporation of London Records Office)



The partially corrected transcript of the manuscript reads;

Red(emption): Fromanteel.

"Upon the letter of his Highness the Lord Protector [Oliver Cromwell] in the behalf of Ahasuerus Fromanteel for the obtaining of his Freedom of this Cittie. It is so ordered by this Court that the said Fromanteel shall be admitted into the Freedom of this Cittie by Redemption in the Company of Clockmakers, paying to Mr Chamblein to the Citties use the summe of 46s 8d."

Brian Loomes described the difficult relationship between the Clockmakers Company and Ahasuerus Fromanteel also Thomas Loomes. He was first to unearth the extraordinary record of Oliver Cromwell's personal intervention, on behalf of Ahasuerus Fromanteel, to award him the "Freedom the City *despite* the Clockmakers' Company, rather than by virtue of it". (See Loomes, "Country Clocks and their London origins", Chapt.2, The Fromanteels, pp.38-39, David and Charles Ltd. Devon, 1976, ISBN 0715370790). He was not able to pin down underlying reason for this preference, but suggests it was Ahasuerus' past financial support of Cromwell. John Massey suggests it was the Norwich connections of their wives.

In my 1993/6 theses and a 2005 paper I postulated that honour was, either, for Ahasuerus Fromanteel's secret *spring-remontoir* and *cross-beat* in his 1649 *Chef d'Oeuvre*, (Mr Dudley Palmer's Solar-Zodiac-Musical-Grande Sonnerie Clock, or his derivation (re-invention) of Galileo's *pivoted-pendulum*' (1635), simply derived from his vertical pivoting-foliot cross-beat escapement - as the Campanis did by accident. Only when Cromwell died, did Ahasuerus publish his claim, advertising a new "*Regulator* [pendulum] *examined and proved before his Highness the Lord Protector, by such Doctors whose knowledge and learning is without exception*". Who were those Doctors? Was the astronomer Huygens' suspended-pendulum ever so proved to Cromwell (after 1657/8)? Or was the artisan Ahasuerus' pivoted-pendulum first to be proved - also to deservedly gain his Freedom of the City of London in January 1655/6?

Ahasuerus Fromanteel, now a Freeman of the City, with the Lord Protector as his sponsor, nevertheless on January 10th, 1655/6, ([CLRO Vol.64, fo.43b](#)), in time honoured tradition the Clockmakers' Company still required Sureties of standing for his future good conduct as Freeman of the City.