

THE ROYAL LIBRARY &  
THE ROYAL ARCHIVES

# A GUIDE TO COLLECTIONS



## This is a guide to the history of the Royal Library and Royal Archives and their holdings.

THE ROYAL LIBRARY serves as the Sovereign's official library, and as this guide shows, is a comprehensively diverse collection. The Library's collections also include music, coins and medals, insignia, and sound recordings.

THE ROYAL ARCHIVES is a private archive which offers public access to historical papers for educational purposes and academic study.

### HOW TO CONTACT THE ROYAL LIBRARY AND ROYAL ARCHIVES

It is easy to find and use the Royal Library and Royal Archives. The team is very happy to assist in any requests or enquiries you may have and advice on access is given on page 2.

#### *By email*

For the Royal Library & Royal Bindery  
royallibrary@rct.uk

For the Royal Archives  
royalarchives@royal.uk

For any other enquiry  
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# Access

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*Requests for access for groups or individual researchers should be sent to the Royal Library or Royal Archives via email (see inside front cover). These will be processed by the Office and Facilities Manager.*

## Individuals

The Royal Library and Royal Archives apply four principles when considering requests for information from, or access to, their historic collections:

- 1 **'Information First':** Access to the collections is on the basis of information sought.
- 2 **Unique Content:** Particular consideration will be given to applications where the material or content can be found only in the Royal Library and Royal Archives. Where it can be accessed elsewhere (for example, online or in other libraries or archives), external researchers will be expected to have consulted those sources first.
- 3 **Historical Research:** Access is granted for the purpose of 'historical research'. This term is widely defined, and recognises the huge range of subjects and themes and the myriad ways in which research is conducted.

- 4 **Equitable Access:** The Library and Archives aim to provide access to a wide range of applicants, and this may mean that, from time to time, repeat applicants may be rejected in favour of those applying for the first time.

*Access to the Royal Archives is granted solely at the discretion of the Keeper of The Queen's Archives.*

## Access for Groups

Requests for group visits to the Royal Library and Royal Archives will be considered on a case by case basis. In some instances, a charge will apply. At the time of printing the charge is £25 per person.

## Access for Royal Household Staff

Access to the Royal Library and Royal Archives can be granted through individual contact with a member of Royal Library or Royal Archives staff, who are happy to assist with any enquiries you may have.



# Where are the Royal Library & Royal Archives?

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## Windsor Castle

The principal collection of historical Royal Library material is held at Windsor Castle, in a series of three rooms adapted by William IV in the 1830s. This collection consists of the majority of the Library's historic material as well as extensive collections of reference material on History, Biography, Geography and Literature.

This collection is supplemented by items held in store at Windsor, consisting of further works on History and Literature as well as the Royal Library's collection of scientific texts. At Windsor is a substantial reference collection for Royal Collection Trust sections. In addition, there is a collection of Queen Victoria's childhood literature, and material from the libraries of Queen Charlotte, Queen Mary and Victoria, Duchess of Kent at Frogmore House.

The Royal Archives are primarily stored in the Round Tower at Windsor Castle. They have been held there since the foundation of the Archives in 1914.

## St James's Palace

A substantial art reference library is held at York House for the curatorial sections of Royal Collection Trust based there.

## Holyroodhouse

The Palace of Holyroodhouse contains a small reference collection as well as historic material relating to Scotland and Mary, Queen of Scots.

## Osborne House

The majority of material at Osborne House is Queen Victoria's collection of literature.

## Palace of Westminster

The Royal Library's collection of Hansard (a complete set from the beginning of the Parliamentary record to 1900) is at the Department of the Official Record in the House of Commons.

OPPOSITE: Albumen print of Queen Elizabeth I's walking-gallery, Windsor Castle, c.1880, today Room III in the Upper Library, (RCIN 2100706)

## Elsewhere

There are some books on long-term loan to the library of the University of Aberdeen and the British Golf Museum in St Andrews. The set of the *Navy List* formerly housed on the Royal Yacht *Britannia* is now on long-term loan to the Army & Navy Club in London. From time to time other items can be found on short-term loan at exhibitions.

There are also extensive collections of items at Sandringham House and Balmoral Castle, as well as at Clarence House and Birkhall. Books in these residences are the private property of Her Majesty The Queen and stem from the private collections of Queen Victoria, King Edward VII, King George V, King George VI and their consorts.





# The Royal Library

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## Historical Background

The current Royal Library was established by William IV (r. 1830–37) in a series of three rooms adapted from the State Apartments at Windsor Castle. These three rooms are referred to as the Upper Library and consist of Room I, adapted from Queen Catherine of Braganza's state bedchamber; Room II, formerly the private bedroom of the Tudor monarchs; and Room III, Queen Elizabeth I's indoor walking-gallery.

The current Royal Library is not the first official library of the monarchy.

Earlier Royal Libraries were presented to the nation in 1757 by George II (the Old Royal Library) and in 1823 by George IV (the King's Library). Both collections now form a core part of the British Library.

William IV did not establish the Royal Library from scratch. At his accession, he had access to the private libraries of George III, and of George IV at Carlton House. Both kings were avid book collectors and their libraries contained a wide array of material. William IV brought these libraries together at Windsor and added to them considerably.

## George III's Private Libraries

Aside from the King's Library at Buckingham House (now Buckingham Palace), a library to which he allowed scholars access, George III also maintained private libraries at Windsor Castle and Kew Palace where he kept a collection of items of personal interest. These collections were not part of the gift to the nation made by George IV in 1823, and contained the King's personal copies of works on Agriculture, Botany, Architecture and Science among others. There are some copies in the Library which contain annotations in the hand of George III showing he spent time reading as well as collecting these books.

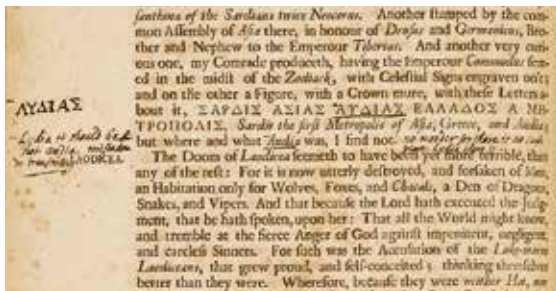


Bookplate of the Royal Library used during the reign of William IV. A modified design was also used by Queen Victoria





ABOVE: Lithograph after Joseph Nash of Queen Elizabeth I's walking-gallery, Windsor Castle, 1848, today Room III in the Upper Library (RCIN 817132)



LEFT: An example of George III's handwriting in George Wheler, *A Journey into Greece*, 1682 (RCIN 1141213)

## The Carlton House Library

During his time as Prince of Wales, George IV also maintained a comprehensive collection of books at Carlton House. This collection consisted of works by contemporary authors as well as significant historic material. Particular interests of the King included Military History, Classical Literature, English Literature, History and Topography. Many of these

books were bound or re-bound in a uniform style to suit his tastes.

## Nineteenth-Century Additions

In 1860, the Royal Library was rearranged by Prince Albert and the then Librarian, Bernard Woodward. This project saw the Library organised by subject area. This arrangement remains in place to the present day.

The reign of Queen Victoria saw major additions to the Library. Subsequent Librarians oversaw the acquisition of new books from throughout the British Empire as well as the acquisition of historical material with Royal provenance or of particular historic interest.

The nineteenth century also saw the development of large book collections at Sandringham House, Balmoral Castle and Osborne House (see pages 4 and 5).

### Modern Additions

The Royal Library continued to collect throughout the twentieth century and

does so today. The Library's collection has more than quadrupled in size since its reorganisation in 1860, and currently contains over 200,000 items.

The Library has expanded to include not only material collected by members of the Royal Family, but its collection also reflects the work of the Royal Household, Royal Collection Trust and the particular interests of successive Librarians. For example, during his tenure as the Librarian between 1905 and 1926, Sir John Fortescue considerably expanded the Military History section.

### Public Access

#### Online catalogues

Some 80,000 items from the Library are free to search on [www.royalcollection.org.uk/collection](http://www.royalcollection.org.uk/collection) and a substantial part of the incunabula collection is included in the Incunabula Short Title Catalogue, [www.bl.uk/catalogues/istc](http://www.bl.uk/catalogues/istc).

#### Other listings

A further 124,000 reference items are listed on the Royal Collection's internal databases and these can be searched by Royal Library or Royal Collection Trust staff.

#### Publications

A bibliography of the Royal Library and some of its collections can be found at the end of this booklet (see pages 45–7).



Henry VIII's copy of one of the first books dedicated to gardening, Petrus de Crescentiis' *Ruralia Commoda* (c.1490–95, RCIN 1057436), recently shown in *Painting Paradise: The Art of the Garden*, The Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace, 2015

OPPOSITE: Gelatin silver print photograph of the Muniment Room in the Round Tower, Windsor Castle, in 1929 (RCIN 2351503)



# The Royal Archives

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The Royal Archives was founded in 1914 and is a private archive which offers public access to historical papers for educational purposes and academic study, while protecting the personal private papers of The Queen and members of the Royal Family. Access to the Archives is the responsibility of the Keeper of The Queen's Archives and this authority is exercised on a day-to-day basis by the Librarian as the Assistant Keeper of The Queen's Archives.

The archival collection reflects the changing world and the monarchy's relationship to it, and contains, among its significant collection, the papers of the last Stuarts in exile, George III, George IV, and those of later monarchs and members of the Royal Family, including the correspondence and journals of Queen Victoria.

## Public Access

### *Online catalogues*

*Household staff lists:* The Royal Archives has made Royal Household staff lists from the seventeenth century to 1924 available on the genealogical website *Find my Past* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)).

*Queen Victoria's Journals:* In 2012, the Royal Archives, in association with the Bodleian Library, made the

journals of Queen Victoria available online. This service is freely available in the United Kingdom via [www.queenvictoriasjournals.org.uk](http://www.queenvictoriasjournals.org.uk), and provides an excellent insight into the life and thoughts of the Queen during a period of tremendous change.

*Current digitisation projects:* Projects to digitise and publish the Stuart Papers, the Cumberland Papers and the Georgian Papers have begun. These papers are of great importance to historians of the long eighteenth century (1688–1830). Any enquiries regarding the project to digitise the Georgian Papers should be directed to [georgianpapers@royalcollection.org.uk](mailto:georgianpapers@royalcollection.org.uk).

### *Access via other libraries and archives*

Royal Archives material has also been made available via microfilm at the British Library, The National Archives, and some associated university and academic libraries. This includes the Stuart Papers, the Cumberland Papers, the Melbourne Papers, the Cambridge Papers, Victorian Papers regarding changes of government and European Foreign Affairs, and Cabinet reports, 1837–1916. Researchers are advised to consult either the British Library or The National Archives, as appropriate, for access to these papers listed above.



### *Published material*

In 2014, the Royal Archives produced a book, *Treasures from the Royal Archives*, in commemoration of its centenary. In addition to this book, there are many published editions of correspondence held by the Royal Archives, some principal examples include:

- ◆ The Letters of Queen Victoria, which were published in nine volumes between 1908 and 1932.
- ◆ The correspondence of George III and George IV.

Full details are in further reading on page 45.



# Important Areas of Interest:

## Royal Library

The Royal Library's collection holds many objects of particular interest. Some of these were initially in the collections of George III and George IV, while others were acquired at a later date.

### EARLY PRINTED BOOKS, MANUSCRIPTS, FINE BINDINGS & PRIVATE PRESSES

#### Incunabula

The Royal Library holds over 250 incunabula, so-called because they date from the cradle of printing (the term

comes from the Latin meaning cradle or swaddling clothes). While a press had been used for printing at an earlier date, the great innovation was printing with movable metal type, which was developed by Johannes Gutenberg in the 1450s. The term 'incunabula' refers to books printed during this early period, up to 1501. The development of mechanical printing allowed books to become much more readily available, making them highly significant for, and central to, the technological and intellectual achievements of the European Renaissance. In the Library,



The Mainz Psalter, 1457 (RCIN 1071478)



*The Sobieski Hours*, c.1420 (RCIN 1142248), illuminated by the Bedford Master

they were primarily collected by George III, George IV and William IV with later additions by Queen Victoria, King Edward VII and King George V.

One of the highlights of this section is the *Mainz Psalter* (1457, RCIN 1071478), presented to George III in 1800. It is the second printed book ever published, and the first with rubricated (red as well as black) printing. The Royal Library's copy is one of only ten copies in existence, and as such, it is rarer than the *Gutenberg Bible*.

### Western Manuscripts

The important collection of Western Manuscripts held by the Royal Library

include Lord Byron's autograph manuscript of *The Two Foscari* (1821, RCIN 1047665) and the sixteen-volume manuscript diary, as well as some of the papers, of the artist Joseph Farington (RCINS 1047051–65, RCIN 1047675), which is an invaluable guide to British society between 1792 and 1821.

However, perhaps most important among the Royal Library's collection of manuscripts are two Books of Hours, *Cardinal York's Hours* (c.1500, RCIN 1005087) and the *Sobieski Hours* (c.1420, RCIN 1142248), both presented following the death of Henry Benedict Stuart, Cardinal York, in 1807.





## South Asian, Islamic & Ethiopic Manuscripts

Acquired in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, this is a significant collection of Indian, Persian and Ethiopic manuscripts, written in most of the major scripts of South Asia and Ethiopia.

Included in this collection is *The Padshahnama* (1630–57, RCIN 1005025), one of the finest Mughal manuscripts ever produced, which tells the history of the reign of Shah Jahan (r. 1628–58) and bears exquisite likenesses of members of his court.

## Fine Bindings

The Royal Library holds an exceptional collection of finely bound books in a wide variety of styles and materials. The collection is particularly rich in bindings



*The Restoration Bible*, 1660 (RCIN 1142247)

thought to have a Royal provenance, many of which were reacquired in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

## Private Presses

Private Press books, printed in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries in emulation of early printing,



Eric Gill, *The Four Gospels*, 1931 (RCIN 1052088)

OPPOSITE: Folio 43b, Jahangir receives Prince Kurram (the future Shah Jahan) on return from the Mewar Campaign, *The Padshahnama*, 1656–7 (RCIN 1005025)

form a notable collection in the Royal Library. Examples include William Morris's translation of *Beowulf* (1895, RCIN 1050448) and Eric Gill's *The Four Gospels* (1931, RCIN 1052088).

## LITERATURE & MUSIC

### English Literature

Highlights of the Royal Library's extensive collection of English Literature include the copy of *Emma* by Jane Austen (3 vols, 1816, RCINS 1083626, 1080108–9) which was presented by the author to the Prince Regent, later George IV, and copies of the First, Second, and Third Folios of the *Complete Works* of Shakespeare.

The Second Folio (1632, RCIN 1080415) is perhaps most important as it bears annotations by Charles I, and is likely to have been the copy read by

the King during his imprisonment at Carisbrooke Castle. After Charles I's death, the copy passed through several hands before ending up in the library of the great Shakespearean commentator, George Steevens (1736–1800), at whose sale in 1800 it was purchased by George III. Significant sections of the English Literature collection come from George IV's library at Carlton House and from the collections of Queen Victoria.

### Languages, Linguistics & World Literature

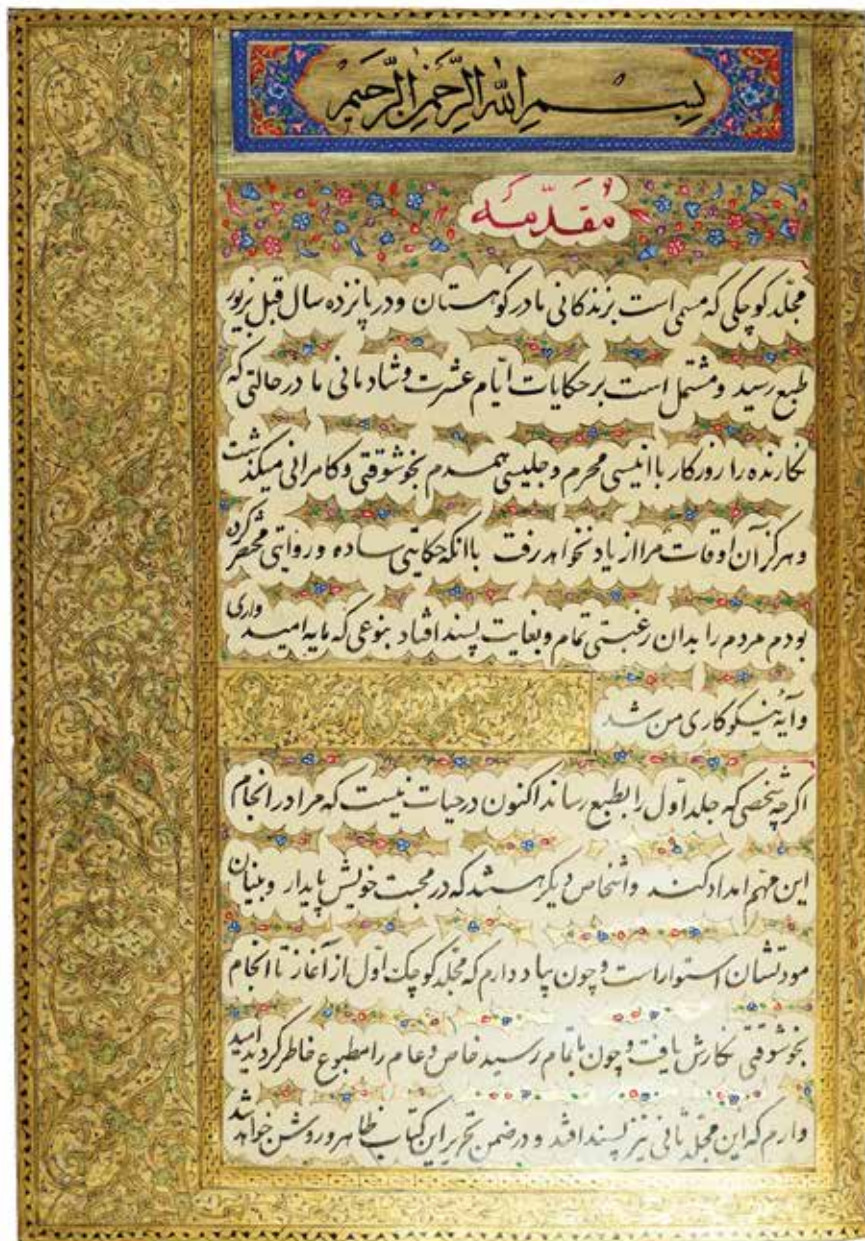
The Library contains a very wide array of ancient, modern and invented languages. Collecting habits of successive monarchs, and official gifts received, have resulted in the Royal Library gaining an excellent collection of international literature. In addition to works in French, German, Italian and Spanish, there are many volumes in Russian, Serbian and Hungarian as well as numerous Indian, Asian and African texts.

A lot of this material was gathered by Prince Albert, and includes numerous translations of famous nineteenth-century works. Some of the most important include a manuscript Persian translation of Queen Victoria's *More Leaves from the Journal of a Life in the Highlands from 1862 to 1882* (1884–5, RCIN 1005029) and the first German edition of Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (1869, RCIN 1082586), presented by the author to Princess Beatrice, Queen Victoria's youngest child. Among the languages covered by the Library are Inuktitut,



Jane Austen's *Emma*, London, 1816, presented to George IV when Prince Regent (RCINS 1083626, 1080108–9)





Queen Victoria, More Leaves from the Journal of a Life in the Highlands from 1862 to 1882, 1884-5 (Persian, RCIN 1005029)

Gaelic, Welsh, Manx, Manchu, Tibetan, Malay, Mohawk, Swahili and Lips-kith (RCIN 1074322), a language created in 1919, which was intended to serve as a *lingua franca* for diplomacy.

## Poetry

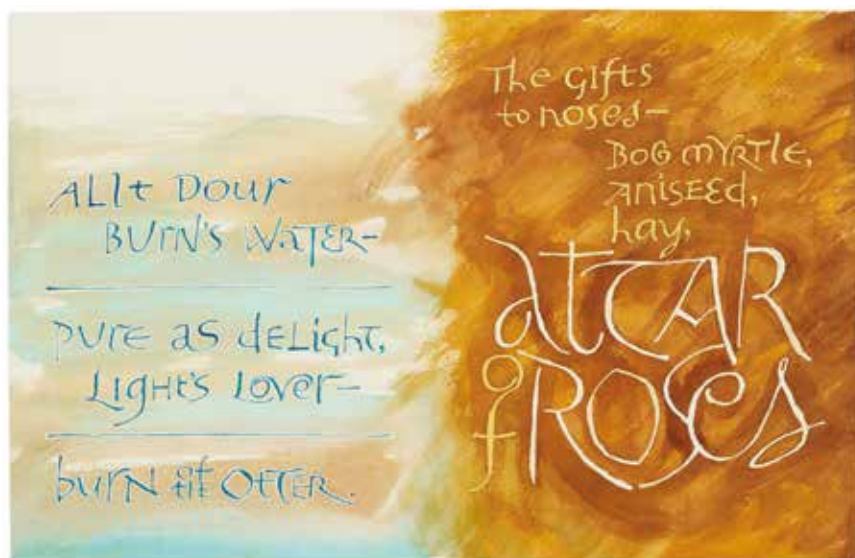
Patronage of poetry has always been important to the British monarchy, and as a consequence the Library holds material presented by every Poet Laureate since William Wordsworth (1770–1850), including unique manuscripts commissioned by, or for, the Royal Family. Among the most important recent acquisitions to this collection are works by the current Poet Laureate, Carol Ann Duffy, celebrating the 60th Anniversary of The Queen's Coronation (*The Crown*, 2013,

RCIN 1102861) and whisky (*Drams*, 2014, RCIN 1102980). An exhibition, *Poetry for the Palace*, was held in The Queen's Gallery at the Palace of Holyroodhouse in 2014 to commemorate the relationship between the Monarchy and Poets Laureate throughout history.

## Classical Literature

The basis of the Royal Library's collection of Classical Literature came from George III's libraries at Windsor and Kew. This was later supplemented with additions of significant material during the reigns of George IV, Queen Victoria and King George V.

Highlights include an Italian edition of Horace, once owned by Leopold II, Holy Roman Emperor (r. 1790–92) while Grand Duke of Tuscany (2 vols,



Carol Ann Duffy, *Drams*, 2014 (RCIN 1102980) Poetry: © Carol Ann Duffy; artwork and photograph: Royal Collection Trust/© Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 2016







Autograph letter from Thomas Jefferson to John Jay, dated 11 April 1783 (RCIN 1047551)

other Founding Fathers of the United States (RCIN 1047551), presented to the future King Edward VII while he was travelling in Virginia in 1860.

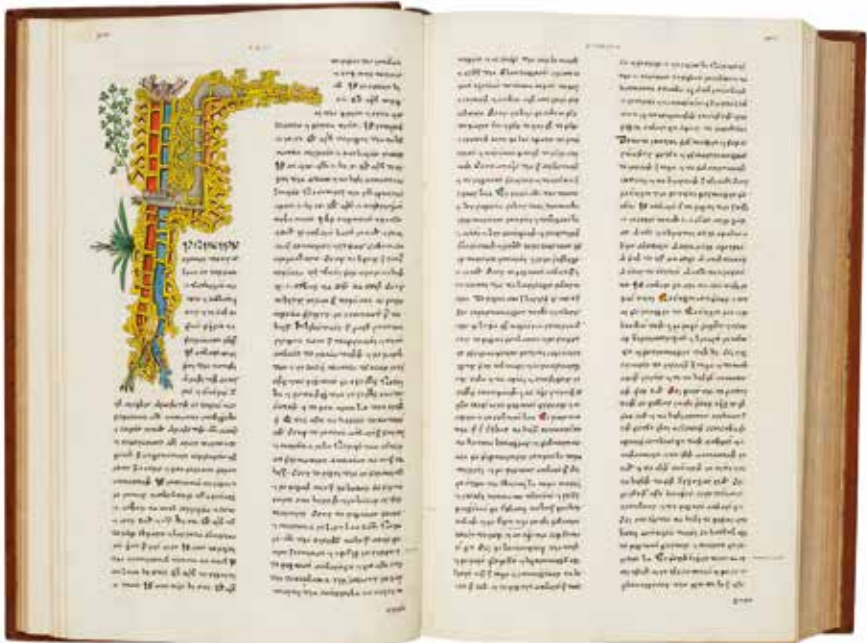
Ancient History & Antiquities

The Ancient History & Antiquities section of the Royal Library was primarily acquired by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. It contains some of the most important works of nineteenth-century archaeology including Sir Austen Henry Layard's two-volume study, published in 1849 and 1853, of the remains of Nineveh and Nimrud in northern Iraq (RCINS 1071068–9), and Viscount Kingsborough's monumental nine-volume work, the *Antiquities of*

The third hour of the Amduat, Third Century BC (RCIN 1145264)







*Book of Ballymote*, c.1837–40 (RCIN 1047555)

## Mexico (1831–48, RCINS 1070171–9).

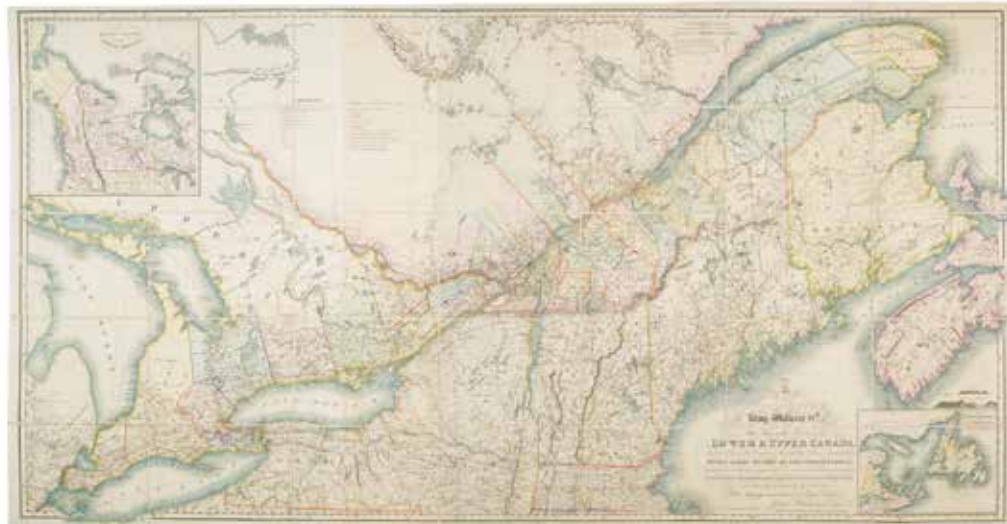
There are also earlier works retained by George IV in 1823, such as the presentation copy of Robert Adam's 1764 survey of the palace of Diocletian at Split (RCIN 1071086).

The Royal Library also holds eight pieces of papyrus dating from the third century BC (RCINS 1145259–66) containing the first eight hours of the *Amduat*, an Egyptian funerary text that describes the journey of regeneration of the sun god Re through the 12 hours of the night from sunset to sunrise.

## British & Irish History

The Royal Library's collection of works on British History comprehensively covers the history of Great Britain, Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. Much of this material came from the libraries of George III and George IV, with later additions made by Queen Victoria.

Among this collection is an extra-illustrated copy of the Earl of Clarendon's *History of the Rebellion and Civil Wars in England* (3 vols, 1707, RCINS 1027884–6) which was purchased by George III and a manuscript copy of the *Book of Ballymote*, started at the suggestion of George IV following his



Joseph Bouchette, *Map of the Provinces of Lower and Upper Canada*, 1831 (RCIN 1142933)

visit to Ireland in 1821, and presented to the Royal Library early in the reign of Queen Victoria (c.1837–40, RCIN 1047555).

### Commonwealth History

Due to the sovereign's role as the Head of the Commonwealth, the Royal Library contains material on the history of the Commonwealth and Commonwealth nations.

Some of the most significant items held in this collection include the first history of Malta (1647, RCIN 1029487), a manuscript account of the island of Tobago presented to George IV in 1813 (RCIN 1047379), and a lavish two-volume survey of Canada, presented to William IV in 1831. The five large maps which accompanied this work were so detailed that copies of them were used

for the Canadian census of the same year (RCINS 1141457–8, 1141463–4 and 1142933).

### Military History

Expanded in the early-twentieth century on the initiative of the Librarian, military historian Sir John Fortescue, the Royal Library contains an extensive collection of material on Military History. Historic texts in this section were principally collected by George IV and include Marmaduke Stalkart's *Naval Architecture* (1781, RCIN 1059264), a beautifully bound volume purchased by the future King at the age of 19, and *Drawings of the Colours and Standards of the British Army tempore James II* (c.1685–9, RCIN 1083409) a manuscript acquired in 1820.

## Seals & Deeds

A collection of wax seal impressions, some of which have deeds and legal documents attached, is housed in the Royal Library. The earliest of these date from the reign of Edward I (r. 1272–1307) and primarily relate to purchases made on the land which now forms part of the Sandringham Estate in Norfolk.



Document with the Great Seal of Edward III, 1341 (RCIN 71317)

## Royal History & Coronations

Orders of service for the Coronations of several sovereigns, as well as commemorative volumes published in honour of the occasion, have been collected. Important examples include John Whittaker's *Ceremonial of the Coronation of King George IV* (1823, RCIN 1005090), an extravagant volume



John Whittaker, *Ceremonial of the Coronation of King George IV*, 1823 (RCIN 1005090)

printed in gold, and the order of service used and signed by The Queen at her Coronation in 1953 (RCIN 1006834).

## Heraldry & Genealogy

The Royal Library holds a substantial collection of books relating to Heraldry and the genealogies of noble houses of Britain and Europe. Notable among these are heraldic manuscripts, one of which, *The Wriothesley Garter Book* (RCIN 1047414) created around 1535, contains one of the earliest contemporary depictions of Henry VIII seated in Parliament.

## Religion & Theology

In part owing to their role as Head of the Church of England, reigning monarchs have acquired many important works of Religious Literature, and the collection





OPPOSITE: Henry VIII seated in Parliament,  
*The Wriothesley Garter Book*, c.1535  
 (RCIN 1047414)

in the Royal Library reflects this. Among the most significant items held in the Library is a copy of *Assertio Septem Sacramentorum*, Henry VIII's treatise against the teachings of Martin Luther, which earned him the title *Fidei Defensor* (Defender of the Faith) from Pope Leo X. The Library's copy is signed by the King himself (1521, RCIN 1006836). The Library also holds a Catholic missal used by James II, complete with an added manuscript prayer for the Royal Family. It was the last such book to be used by an English sovereign (1688, RCIN 1081283).

## Sacred Texts

Amongst the significant collection of sacred texts from around the world are a fifteenth-century copy of the Qur'an,



Henry VIII (with his signature), *Assertio Septem Sacramentorum*, 1521  
 (RCIN 1006836)



*The Qur'an* (15th century, RCIN 1005000)

acquired by Queen Victoria in 1898 (RCIN 1005000), a Torah scroll, one of 1,564 scrolls saved from desecrated Synagogues in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia during World War II (1830, RCIN 1123995), which is on permanent loan from the Czech Scrolls Memorial Committee, and a copy of the *Gita Govinda*, presented to King Edward VII in 1875 (c.1790, RCIN 1005114).

## Law

In addition to the set of Hansard at the Palace of Westminster (see page 4), the Royal Library holds a number of standard reference works and historic texts on the development of English, Scottish, and other laws. Among the legal manuscripts in the Library is one of the two Scottish copies of the 1706

*Articles of Union* (RCIN 1142244) – the other is held at the National Archives of Scotland in Edinburgh – and the Jackson collection of fragments, a miscellaneous group containing extracts of canon and common law taken from larger documents.

## SCIENCE & EXPLORATION

### Science & Agriculture

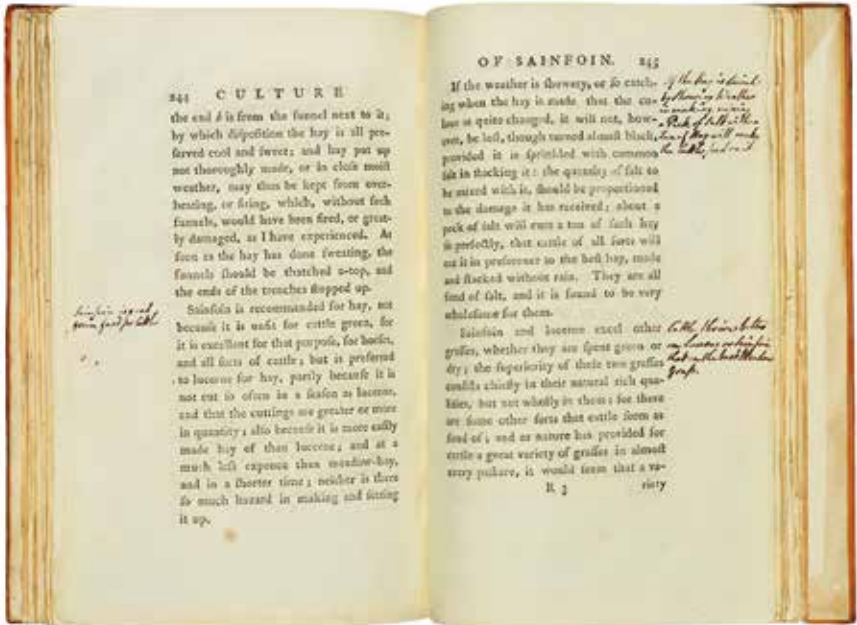
Primarily consisting of material gathered by George III for his private libraries at Windsor and Kew, the Royal Library contains an interesting range of material on science and agricultural matters.

Some of these texts contain annotations by the King himself, such as



*The Articles of Union between Scotland and England, 1706* (RCIN 1142244)





*The Improved Culture of Three Principal Grasses...*, 1775 (RCIN 1057372)

*The Improved Culture of Three Principal Grasses...*, a 1775 work exploring the benefits of different grass species in agriculture (RCIN 1057372).

## Natural History, Botany & Horticulture

Several monarchs have had a considerable interest in the sciences, and this is reflected in the Royal Library's collection of works on Natural History, Botany and Horticulture. While some of these volumes were collected by George III, further additions, both of historic and contemporary material, were made during the reign of Queen Victoria and continue today.

Most notable among this collection are the four double-elephant folio

volumes of John James Audubon's *The Birds of America* (1827–35, RCINS 1122502–5) which contain magnificent life-size hand-coloured plates, as well as 41 volumes of John Gould's magnificent work on the birds of the world (1837–83, RCINS 1055254–9, 1071014–15, 1122342–58, 1122363, 1122367–81).

## Travel & Exploration

The Royal Family is exceptionally well travelled. The Royal Library contains numerous works on national and international travel, exploration and discovery. There is a small collection of these at Windsor, with a larger selection forming part of King Edward VII's library at Sandringham House. Both collections range from railway guide books to





John Gould, *A Monograph of the Ramphastidae, or Family of Toucans*, 1834–55 (RCIN 1122381)



John James Audubon, *The Birds of America*, vol. III, 1834-5 (RCIN 1122504)



*Aurora Australis*, 1908-9, showing boards made from packing cases of mock-turtle soup (RCIN 1121970)

accounts of scientific and exploratory voyages.

Among the most important of these is the “mock-turtle soup” copy of *Aurora Australis* (1908-9, RCIN 1121970), the first book ever printed in Antarctica. It was probably presented to King Edward VII in 1909 by Ernest Shackleton.

### Geography & Topography

Complementing the section on travel, the Royal Library contains many topographical and geographical works with a particular emphasis on British

topography and atlases dating from the late-sixteenth to the mid-nineteenth century.

One of the most notable of these is Christopher Saxton’s *Atlas of England and Wales* (1579, RCIN 1046848), the first complete atlas of England and Wales which bears a lavish hand-coloured title page depicting Elizabeth I enthroned.

OPPOSITE: Christopher Saxton, *Atlas of England and Wales*, 1579 (RCIN 1046848)





*Clementis et Regis moderatores iuxta Beati  
Nae forma insigni conspicienda vultu.*

*Tyrus dum potes cecum numeris bello fatigant;  
Curis errans toto perfrangitur in arce, tota  
pax beata longa, Vera et puritate. Beatus  
interius moderantibus sapienter habentibus  
Chora dant, celebrisq; fretis, longumq; regnum  
Nec tenent, regno tandem frustrata perenni.*

## NUMISMATICS, MEDALS, DECORATIONS & INSIGNIA

### Numismatics & Commemorative Medals

The collecting of coins and their study has long been central to the formation of historic libraries, and as such, the Royal Library holds a significant collection of coins, banknotes and medals. The present collection was first accumulated by Queen Mary, with further additions of material occurring up to and throughout the present reign.

Some of the most significant areas of the coin collection are items from the Tutbury, Cuerdale and Swinton hoards, acquired by Queen Victoria in her capacity as Duke of Lancaster and transferred to the Library from elsewhere

in the Royal Household in 1980. These collections consist of Viking, Anglo-Saxon and medieval coins.

The coins and medals collection also holds a unique gold example of a portrait medallion of Elizabeth I (c.1616, RCIN 443072), engraved during the reign of James I by Simon van de Passe.

### Insignia

The Royal Library is responsible for the safekeeping of insignia of Orders of Knighthood acquired by, and presented to, various monarchs from George III to Her Majesty The Queen. The Head of Collections Information Management is responsible for the cataloguing and continued study of the Library's insignia collection.

An example of one of the coins from the Cuerdale Hoard, silver penny from the reign of Cnut, c.898–915 (RCIN 443009)



OPPOSITE: Lesser George of George III, c.1750. Gold, diamond, sapphire, ruby, amethyst (RCIN 441145)





# Important Areas of Interest:

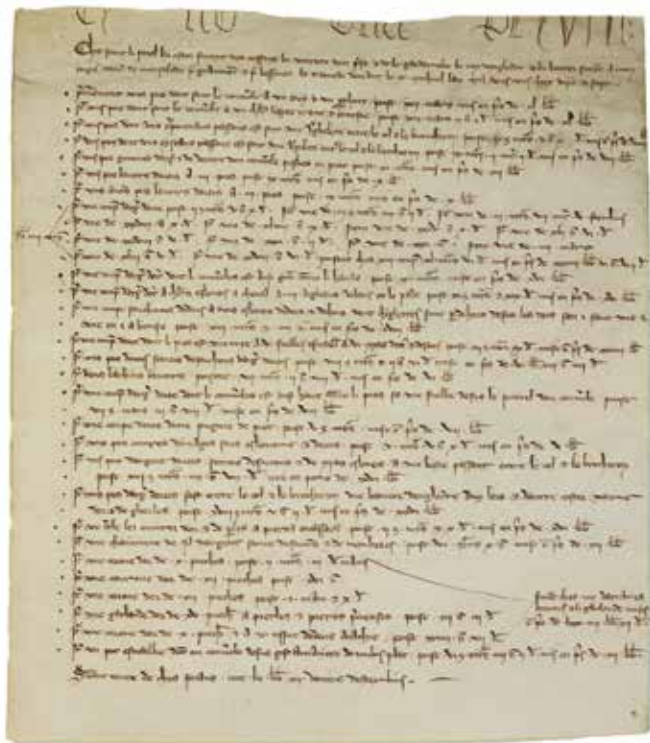
## Royal Archives

### EARLY MATERIAL

The Royal Archives contains a small collection of medieval and Tudor material. This is the result of later collecting habits of the Royal Family,

most notably Queen Mary. While this is not an area of particular strength, significant material includes a list of jewels from the wardrobe of Edward I. The document, written in Norman French and dated September 1297,

List of jewels from the wardrobe of Edward I. Presented to Walter de Moreslede, September 1297 (RA EB/EB/50)





is the oldest document in the Royal Archives. Among the Tudor material is a household account book of the future Elizabeth I while resident at Hatfield House between 1551 and 1552.

## STUART PAPERS

The Stuart Papers were acquired by George IV when Prince Regent following the death of Henry Benedict Stuart, Cardinal York, and were

For the Chiefs

When I came into this Country, it was my only view to do all in my power for your good and safety. This I will always do as long as life is in me. But alas! I see with grief, I can at present do little for you on this side the water, for the only thing that can now be done, is to defend your selves 'till the French assist you. If not, to be able to make better terms. To effectuate this, the only way is to assemble in a body as soon as possible, and then take measures for the best, which you that know the Country are our Judges of. This makes me be of little use here, whereas by my going into France instantly, however dangerous it be, I will certainly engage the French Court either to assist us effectually and powerfully, or at least to promise you such terms as you would not obtain otherwise:— My presence there, I flatter myself, will have more effect to bring this over to a determination than any body else. For several reasons, one of which I will mention here, &c. It is thought to be a Politick, tho' a false one, of the French Court, not to restore our Master, but to keep a continual civil war in this Country, which renders the English government less powerful and of consequence themselves more; this is absolutely destroyed by my leaving this Country, which nothing else but this will persuade them, that this Play cannot last, and if not remedied, the Elector will come as despatch as the French King, which I should think will oblige them to strike the great stroke, which is always in their power, however anxious they may have been to sit for the time past. Before leaving off, I must recommend to you, that all things should be decided by a Council of all you Chiefs, or in any of your absence, the next Commander of your several corps, with the assistance of the Duke of Perth and Lord George Murray who, I am persuaded, will stick by you to the very last. My departure should be kept as long private and concealed as possible, on one pretext or other, which you will fall upon. May the Almighty Bless and direct you.

28<sup>th</sup> April 1746.

Letter from Prince Charles Edward Stuart to the Scottish Chiefs, justifying his reasons for leaving Scotland after the Battle of Culloden, 28 April 1746 (RA SP/MAIN/273/117)

originally kept in the Prince's Library at Carlton House. Comprising 541 bound volumes with a further eleven boxes of material, the Stuart Papers are an invaluable collection detailing the fortunes of the last Stuarts after the exile of James II in 1688. The majority of these papers concern the period 1713 to 1770, and provide an insight into Jacobite attempts to regain the throne, while later papers concern Cardinal York's relations with the Vatican until his death in 1807. A project is underway to digitise these records to make them available to a wider audience online.

## CUMBERLAND PAPERS

Deposited in the Royal Archives at its foundation, the Cumberland Papers comprise the military records of William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland from his command during the 1745–6 Jacobite Rebellion to 1757. These papers are sometimes referred to in conjunction with the Stuart Papers due to the wealth of information they provide regarding the Duke's campaign against the Jacobite claimants.

The Cumberland Papers also contain records of the Duke's tenure as Ranger of the Great Park at Windsor until his death in 1765. As with the Stuart Papers, a project is underway to digitise and make some of these records further accessible.

## GEORGIAN PAPERS

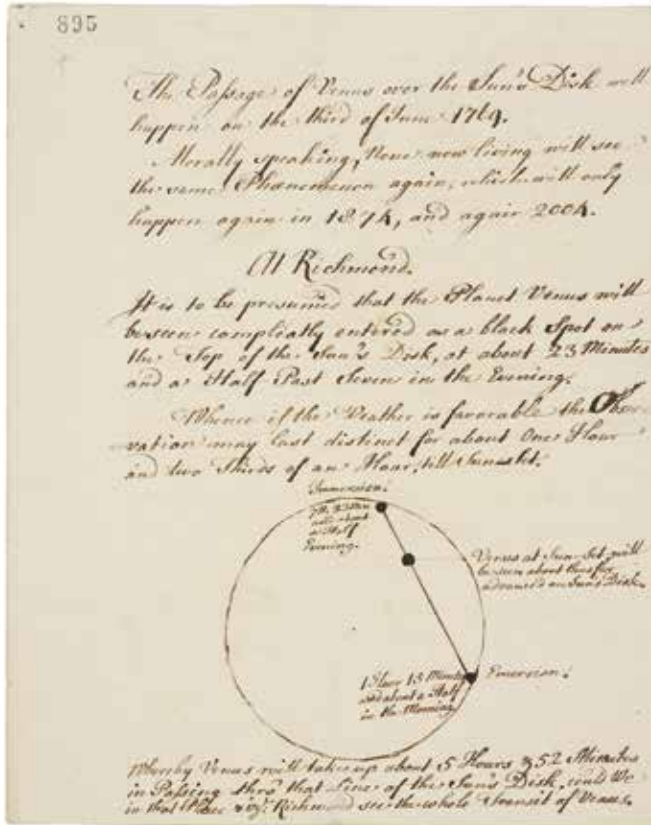
### George III Papers (Including George I & George II)

George III's papers form the earliest surviving collection of a reigning monarch's papers stored in the Royal Archives. They were discovered at Apsley House, the London residence of the Dukes of Wellington, along with the papers of George IV, and were deposited in the Royal Archives in 1912.

George III was a diligent man who meticulously made copies of his correspondence until his first illness in 1788. He thereafter continued to file letters until the deterioration of his eyesight necessitated the appointment of a Private Secretary in 1805. The papers provide a remarkable insight into the life and interests of the King from 1753 until the onset of his final illness in 1810.

The collection comprises three main series: his official correspondence dating from 1753 to 1810, his private papers from 1755 to 1810, and his correspondence with his siblings and children. The Royal Archives also contains many academic essays written by the King, and includes examples of his correspondence with notable cultural figures of the eighteenth century, such as William Herschel and Sir Joseph Banks, as well as material highlighting the King's interest in the development of the Royal Academy of Arts from its foundation in 1768.

The papers of George III also include small numbers of papers of his siblings, as well as some of the papers of his father, Frederick, Prince of Wales,



Memorandum  
by George III on  
the forthcoming  
transit of Venus,  
[1769] (RA GEO/  
MAIN/895)

his grandfather, George II and great-grandfather, George I.

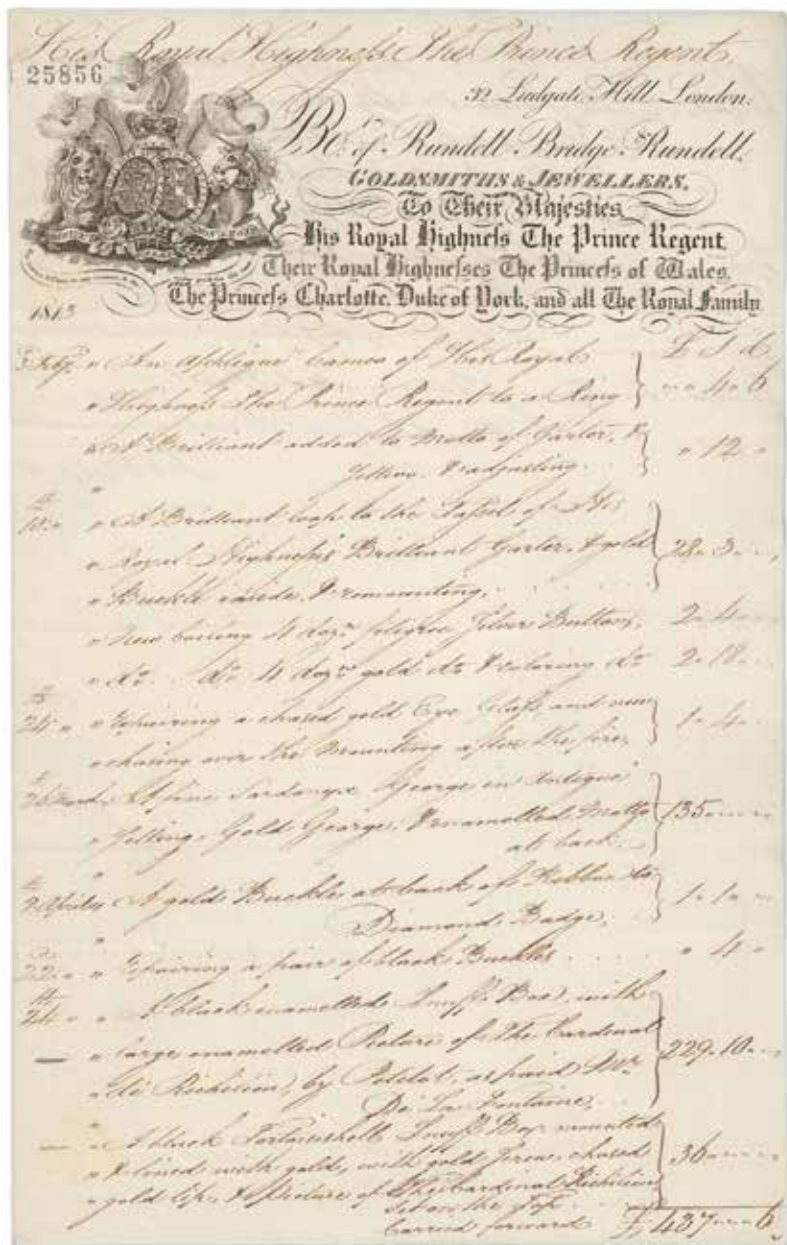
## George IV Papers

Much of the private correspondence of George IV was destroyed following his death in 1830. Fortunately, the King's chief executor, Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington, kept the remaining papers under his care. These were deposited in the Royal Archives following their rediscovery at Apsley House.

Like the papers of George III, George IV's records are organised into

three main series: his official papers dating from 1811 to 1830, his papers as Prince of Wales, and his correspondence with other members of the Royal Family. This correspondence provides an interesting insight into the lives and personalities of the children of George III.

Perhaps the most informative of George IV's papers are his account books and bills. These detail his acquisitions of decorative arts, books and paintings to furnish and decorate his various residences during his time as Prince of Wales, Prince Regent, and King.



Bill for various items purchased by the Prince Regent from jewellers and goldsmiths, Rundell, Bridge & Rundell, 1813 (RA GEO/MAIN/25856)



Other papers relating to George IV in the Royal Archives include some material relating to the King's relationship with Mrs FitzHerbert, including their marriage certificate, presented to King Edward VII in 1905.

### 'Additional' & 'Boxes' Papers

Among the papers of George III and George IV are some which were acquired at different times and therefore are not included in the main series. There are over 90 such groups of papers, and they fall into three broad categories: the papers relating to members of the Royal Family, papers of some individuals close to the Royal Family and notable figures of the period (such as Lady Charlotte Finch, Nathaniel Kent and Joseph Farington), and miscellaneous papers including inventories and account books.

Further material, primarily including Privy Purse papers and bills and a substantial body of papers relating to the separation and divorce of George IV and Queen Caroline are also found among these series.

### William IV

William IV's official papers were consciously destroyed following his death in 1837, much against the wishes of Queen Victoria. However, the Royal Archives holds a surprising number of papers relating to the King. The main series of papers comprises a small group of personal papers and military documents, 1830–33, papers relating to the Office of Robes during his reign (including financial accounts),

one volume of Privy Purse accounts, a small account book from 1793 and a substantial body of correspondence from 1779 to 1834, conducted largely with George IV, Alexander Whitehead and others.

There is also additional material relating to William IV in the Royal Archives. This includes correspondence between the King and Charles Grey, 2nd Earl Grey while the latter was serving in political office, including during his time as Prime Minister between 1830 and 1834 (see also Melbourne and Howick Papers, below); the Munster papers (the papers of George FitzClarence, 1st Earl of Munster, illegitimate son of William IV and Dorothea Jordan) and a letter book of correspondence with his father, George III, other members of the Royal Family, and various courtiers.

Further papers include a substantial series of the correspondence of Dorothea Jordan and the Hoste papers, which contain some correspondence of the King during his naval career.

### Melbourne & Howick Papers

The Melbourne Papers and the Howick Papers, both of which were presented to The Queen, comprise the ministerial correspondence of Lord Melbourne (Prime Minister 1835–41) and Charles Grey, 2nd Earl Grey (Prime Minister 1830–34). These papers contain much information on the passage of significant legislation such as the Great Reform Act of 1832, as well as documenting the rapid social changes and the political climate of the 1830s.

## QUEEN VICTORIA PAPERS

Queen Victoria's extensive collection of official and private correspondence as well as her journal, which, although heavily edited by her daughter, Princess Beatrice, still amounts to 141 volumes, was one of the main causes for the establishment of the

Royal Archives. Organised by her Prime Minister, Lord Melbourne, until 1840, and then by Prince Albert until his death in 1861, Queen Victoria's papers were meticulously sorted. Her official papers, concerning domestic, foreign and imperial affairs, cover a period of remarkable change. Her extensive private correspondence,



Princess Victoria's paper dolls, c. 1830 (RA VIC/MAIN/Z/124)

primarily with her uncle, Leopold I, King of the Belgians, and her eldest daughter, Victoria, Princess Royal (later Empress Frederick), and also with other relatives, ministers and foreign royals, show the Queen's close relationship with her family, friends and associates.



## Cambridge Papers

Among the collections of other members of the Royal Family in the Archives are the military papers of George, Duke of Cambridge (1819–1904), uncle of Queen Mary, who served as Commander-in-Chief of the Army from 1856 to 1895. These papers are of immense use to military historians of the nineteenth century, and are available on microfilm at the British Library and elsewhere (see page 10).

## WARDROBE PAPERS & ROYAL HOUSEHOLD RECORDS

As the Royal Archives were not established until the twentieth century, most records for the Royal Household are stored at The National Archives in Kew. However, records from 1901 onwards, as well as some material from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, are held by the Royal Archives.

Among the historic papers of the Royal Household stored in the Archives are:

- ◆ The papers of the Privy Purse Office from the Victorian period to the present.
- ◆ Some nineteenth century records of the Lord Chamberlain's Office relating to Windsor Castle.
- ◆ Some records of the Lord Steward's (now Master of the Household's) Department from the Regency to present.
- ◆ Records of the Royal Mews from the 1760s onwards.



King George VI's speech, with alterations in his own hand, given at a dinner party for the Commonwealth Prime Ministers on 13 October 1948 (RA PS/PSO/GVI/PS/MAIN/09196)



In 1914, the Duke of Buccleuch presented King George V with the Great Wardrobe papers kept by his ancestors, the Dukes of Montagu. This collection of warrants, bills and receipts relates to the purchase of furniture, furnishings, liveries and ceremonial robes covering the period 1660 to 1749. It is worth noting that The National Archives also holds a comprehensive set of Great Wardrobe records covering the period 1516–1920 (TNA LC 5).

### Private Royal Estates

The Royal Archives also holds material relating to the private estates of the Royal Family. This includes records of the Balmoral and Sandringham Estates from the nineteenth century onwards, Privy Purse records regarding the Osborne Estate on the Isle of Wight, until its presentation to the nation by King Edward VII, and records relating to the management of the estate at Windsor from the nineteenth century onwards.

### TWENTIETH-CENTURY PAPERS

The official papers of Kings Edward VII, George V, Edward VIII and George VI are held by the Royal Archives. These consist primarily of official correspondence, and provide information on foreign and domestic affairs as well as royal visits, functions and patronages which occurred during the first half of the twentieth century.

### RELATED MATERIAL IN THE ROYAL COLLECTION

Some collections once held by the Royal Library or the Royal Archives now come under the responsibility of other sections within Royal Collection Trust. Examples include the military maps of William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland, formerly part of the Royal Library, and now stored in the Print Room at Windsor Castle, and the internationally significant Photograph Collection, once part of the Royal Archives and now a separate section in its own right.

# Protecting the Collections

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The Royal Library and Royal Archives are fortunate to have a bindery and paper conservation studio on-site. The Royal Bindery is responsible for the preservation, conservation and restoration of material held by the Royal Library and Royal Archives and undertakes many tasks to keep the collections in the best condition possible. This work is carried out

*in situ* as well as in their dedicated conservation studios.

The Royal Bindery is also responsible for the binding of books for use elsewhere in the Royal Household, conservation prior to books and archives going out to exhibitions, and for the production of gifts presented during State Visits.



Recently, the Royal Bindery remounted and re-bound the four volume set of John James Audubon's *The Birds of America*. This project was published in 2014 in *Bookbinder: the Journal of the Society of Bookbinders* (see further reading for full details)

# Further Reading

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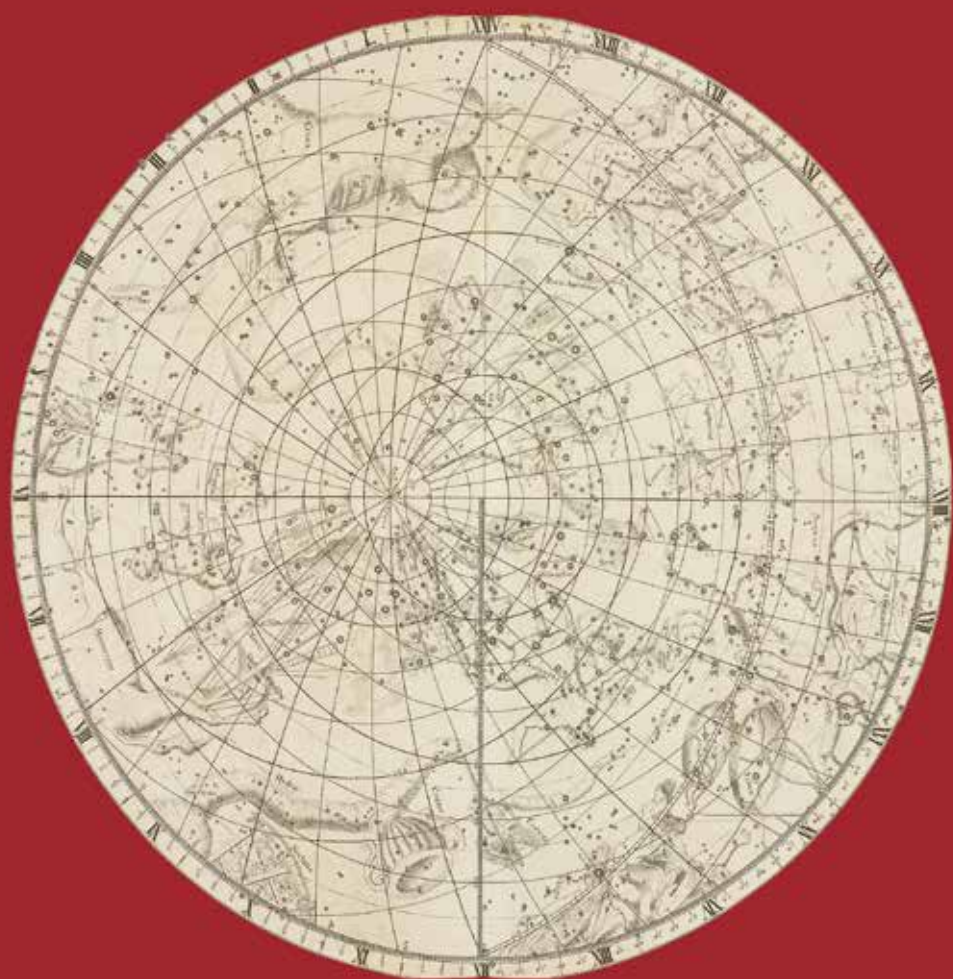
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# A Catalogue of all the Comedies, Histories, and Tragedies contained in this Booke.

<i>He Tempest.</i> Verona.	<i>The life of King Henry the 5.</i>
<i>The two Gentlemen of</i>	<i>The first part of K. Henry the 6.</i>
<i>The Merry Wives of Windsor.</i>	<i>The 2 part of K. Henry the 6.</i>
<i>Measure for Measure.</i>	<i>The 3 part of K. Henry the 6.</i>
<i>The Comedy of Errors.</i>	<i>The Tragedie of Richard the 3.</i>
<i>Much adoe about Nothing.</i>	<i>The famous history of Henry 8.</i>
<i>Loves Labour's lost.</i>	
<i>Midfommers night's Dreame.</i>	
<i>The Merchant of Venice.</i>	
<i>As you like it.</i>	
<i>The taming of the Shrew.</i>	
<i>All's well that ends well.</i>	
<i>Twelfth night, or what you will.</i>	
<i>The Winters Tale.</i>	
	<b>Tragedies.</b>
	<i>Troilus and Cressida.</i>
	<i>The Tragedy of Coriolanus.</i>
	<i>Titus Andronicus.</i>
	<i>Romeo and Iuliet.</i>
	<i>Timon of Athens.</i>
	<i>The Tragedy of Iulius Caesar.</i>
	<i>The Tragedy of Macbeth.</i>
	<i>The Tragedy of Hamlet.</i>
	<i>The Tragedy of King Lear.</i>
	<i>The Moore of Venice.</i>
	<i>Anthony and Cleopatra.</i>
	<i>The Tragedy of Cymbeline.</i>
	<b>THE</b>
<b>Histories.</b>	
<i>The life and death of K. Iohn.</i>	
<i>The life &amp; death of K. R. the 2.</i>	
<i>The life and death of K. H. 4.</i>	
<i>The second part of K. H. the 4.</i>	

William Shakespeare, *The Second Folio*, 1632. Charles I's personal copy, with annotations made by the king while imprisoned at Carisbrooke Castle (RCIN 1080415)





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