Dissertations Subject Explorer

PART A – MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN

This part is based mainly on research in the University’s Stenton Library Collection and covers the following subject areas:

- Henry VII
- Henry VIII, Edward VI, Jane, Mary I
- Elizabeth I
- Relations between Scotland and England during the Tudor dynasty
- James I and Charles I
- The cult of King Charles the Martyr
- Charles II
- New denominations and the Anglican church
- Hobbes’ Leviathan
- Chronicles from the early 17th Century
- James II, Mary II, William III
- The religious climate in England from 1685 to 1702
- Religious dissent under Queen Anne
- Chronicles 1688-1723
- Minority religions and religious philosophies in England
- History and descriptions of English religious buildings
Henry VII

These memoirs, collections of letters and privy purse accounts concern various matters during the reign of Henry VII. They touch on matters of foreign policy, how his court was run and the character of certain members of the royal family.

Possible subject areas include:

- Venetian perception of England
- Lady Margaret, mother of Henry VII, and her role in the government
- Elizabeth of York and the privy purse
- The role of the Star Chamber under Henry VII

Details of items in Special Collections:

STENTON LIBRARY--BG/25
The funeral sermon of Margaret, Countess of Richmond and Derby, mother to King Henry VII. ... with a ... further account of her charities and foundations, ... her professors ... and ... preachers

Fisher, John, Saint, (1469-1535.) Printed at the Dyal and Bible in London, 1708. John Fisher has the dubious honour of being the only member of the College of Cardinals to have been martyred for his beliefs. He was canonized by the Roman Catholic church in 1935. He was the personal confessor and chaplain to Lady Margaret Beaufort.

According to the preface, this manuscript was first published 200 years prior to this edition and the original printed copy had become almost as scarce as the original manuscript. In a preface that takes up nearly half of the codex, the editor gives a biography of Lady Margaret, including her virtues, her duties as member of the royal court, her accomplishments, and her contributions to the Church and the University of Cambridge as a patron.

Following the preface is a list of the professors and preachers at St. John's College at Cambridge, which Lady Margaret commissioned, from the early 16th century until 1679.

Next is a transcription of the epitaph on her grave and an illustration of her funeral monument in Westminster.

Finally, comes the sermon in vernacular English in gothic-style print. Throughout the sermon, Fisher refers to her as “princess,” although that was never her official title. He uses text from the Gospel of John when Martha chastised Jesus for not saving Lazarus before he died to illustrate the character of the late countess. He compares Lady Margaret to Martha in her nobility, her lineage, her strength of spirit and her faith. This is an interesting sermon, for although it does praise the character of the deceased, it is an honest description of that character. One gets the impression that Margaret was wilful and perhaps had a tendency to always be right. The bishop does praise her extreme piety. This is much more a description of the character of Margaret than a biographical account.

The appendix contains two letters from Henry VII to Lady Margaret, his mother, with John Fisher being the courier. Also included is a short poem in Latin from one of the monks of Westminster written to the Lady and a copy of the charter (in Latin) that instructed the opening of St. John's College in Cambridge as commissioned by Lady Margaret.

46 pages without preface.

STENTON LIBRARY--BI/01
Privy purse expenses of Elizabeth of York: wardrobe accounts of Edward the Fourth. With a memoir of Elizabeth of York, and notes
Edited by Nicholas Harris Nicolas, Esq. (1799-1848.) Printed by William Pickering in London, 1830.

Nicholas explains in the preface the importance of reviewing these accounts of the individual expenditures of the privy purse for understanding personal and State history. Included in this volume is the Wardrobe Accounts of King Edward IV at the end, because the editor finds that they are inferior in value.

The last eighty or so pages of the introduction consist of a biography of Elizabeth of York. This is compiled from letters and works of prior antiquarians. It starts with her lineage and tells of her siblings, then moves on to her marriage to Henry VII. Since the focus of this work is on the personal expenditures of the Queen Consort, there is much attention in the biography given to wardrobe that was worn on specific occasions. There are few primary documents about Elizabeth's life after she was married, save this expense account and the one belonging to Henry VII, so he uses the work of prior antiquarians to draw his conclusions. To his credit, he does look at these sources analytically and questions their conclusions in light of the lack of primary documentation.

The exact transcription of the privy purse follows the biography in abbreviated vernacular English. It consists of a list of items with a description of when and where the item was to be delivered and for what purpose. In the case when the item to be delivered is a gift, it is listed who the item is for and for what purpose. In the margin beside the description is the cost of the item. Each of these lists is signed by Elizabeth.

Approx. 170 pages, not including the index.

STENTON LIBRARY--MON/CAM/021
Rutland papers: original documents illustrative of the courts and times of Henry VII and Henry VIII. Selected from the private archives of His Grace the Duke of Rutland

This collection is an assortment of papers that were in the library of the Duke of Rutland and were donated to the William Camden society. These papers largely address the pomp and ceremony which accompanied the events when Henry VII and VIII would meet with their fellow monarchs and other rulers from the Continent. The events include jousts, tournaments, exhibitions and other entertainments. Also included are traditional oaths and customs. The papers are a collection from a number of different authors.

For example, the first item is the "Device for the Coronation of King Henry VII" and was likely written by someone in the College of Arms. It was probably given to the King and his advisors for the purpose of illustrating how such events had taken place historically. There are lists which read like receipts, listing items that were procured for foreign dignitaries as well as lists of people who attended certain ceremonies and in which order they were expected to arrive. All of these documents are preceded by a note from the editor which serves to put these events into historical context and clear up any ambiguities. Most lists are in English but a few are in Latin.

120 pages.

STENTON LIBRARY--MON/CAM/037
A relation, or rather a true account, of the island of England with sundry particulars of the customs of these people and of the royal revenues under King Henry the Seventh about the year 1500
The original manuscript from which this was translated was in Italian and found at the library of Abbate Canonici at Venice. The authorship and the person to whom this letter is written is unknown. The best guess is that he was a Venetian ambassador who was commissioned to make this report for the nobility of Venice. There is listed several ambassadors from the early 16th century in Venice who could have penned this document originally.

The manuscript begins with the geography of England relative to the rest of Europe, then the author continues with comments on the weather, the preferences of seafood, crops, husbandry, wildlife, etc. He talks about the differences in the dispositions between the Scottish, Welsh and English. He spent some time in Scotland and he describes the people and the landscape there. He gives a description of the history of Wales as well and of their relationship with the English. He continues with his description of the English people insofar as their appearance, their dress, their customs and their religious practices in both noble and common classes. He explains the custom of apprenticeship and inheritance. He finishes his description of all things English with an explanation of Church and State. His narrative is peppered with his own observations, opinions and assumptions. He jumps from topic to topic with little to no transition. Running along the bottom of the English translation is the original Italian, in generalized Italian, rather than the Venetian dialect.

Notes by the editor explaining peculiarities in translation or in history finish off the codex.

57 pages without notes.
day. Since he was instrumental in many battles of the War of the Roses, several of these letters consist of meetings with his fellow knights. Sir Robert Plumpton was well-connected, having family in high places all around the northeast of the country, as well as on the Continent. Several of these letters consist of family writing back and forth, making plans for visits and giving news about the day-to-day management of their lands.
370 pages.
The rare books listed here are a number of different documents (privy purse expenses, journals, memoirs, etc.) which relate largely to the characters of Henry VIII, Edward VI, Lady Jane Grey and Mary I.

Possible subject areas include:

- Courtly life under Henry VIII
- The reign of Edward VI in his own words
- Humanism and its impact on the education of Lady Jane Grey
- The public perception of Mary Tudor’s ascent to the throne

Details of items in Special Collections:

STENTON LIBRARY--BI/03

The privy purse expenses [i.e. expenses] of King Henry the Eighth : from November MDXXIX, to December MDXXXII


Nicolas explains that the expenses that are recorded in these accounts are for the king’s personal use in addition to the daily expenses of running his court. He notes that while these expenditure reports have been cited in other historical works, this is the first time they have been compiled in their entirety from the original manuscripts. The preface is concerned specifically with how this collection was assembled.

The introduction begins with a list of exactly which of his multiple estates Henry was when these expense reports were written. Also included is what he was doing while he was there that might have garnered these specific expenses. I.e: hawking, hunting, throwing a banquet, meeting with heads of State, etc. There are also some comments on some specific remarks made within the context of these documents that stand out as noteworthy.

The receipts state an item, then follows a summary of what the item was. These summaries include who the item was for, why they were receiving it, where it was to be deposited, and when it was to arrive. Most of these are payments of some item (a number of skins, a few casks of wine, a hunting falcon) for some service rendered by a member of court. Next to this summary, the price of the item is listed and at the bottom, a sum total is given.

These are written in heavily abbreviated vernacular English. 372 pages with index.

STENTON LIBRARY--MON/CAM/NEW/21

A treatise on the pretended divorce between Henry VIII and Catharine of Aragon

Harpsfield, Nicholas. (1519-1575) Edited by Nicholas Pocock. Printed by Nichols and Sons, 25 Parliament St. in London, 1878. Harpsfield was a member of the clergy under the reign of Henry VIII and a friend of Thomas More. He assisted Mary Tudor in the trials and persecutions of hundreds of Protestants. Under Elizabeth I, he was imprisoned for refusing to endorse the new Book of Common Prayer. He was released from prison for health reasons 16 months before his death.

This work was assembled from four previously unpublished manuscripts which were copies of the original in varying degrees of preservation. The preface details how the publication of this work came about.

The most preserved of these original manuscripts was copied in 1707 by William Eyston. His preface is included in this edition. This introduction includes a letter to his
son, a short biography of Nicholas Harpsfield assembled primarily from charters, and a letter to the reader, which summarizes the contents of the book.

The treatise is written several years after Henry VIII’s first divorce. As the author is a great admirer of Thomas More, he summarizes in his first book More’s argument against the divorce of the monarch. He continues with his own argument against the divorce and why he believed it to be illegitimate, citing scripture to bolster most of his arguments.

Fascimiles of the signatures of Elizabeth of York and Cardinal Morton on loose page before publication information.

344 pages including notes.

STENTON LIBRARY--CI/01
The journal of King Edward’s reign

There is no introduction to this copy as it was a limited edition with no more than 520 copies distributed. It was copied from the original manuscript found in the British Museum.

This journal is ascribed by Edward VI, the original manuscript being written in his own hand.

The first few entries are written in third-person as a story. It begins with the birth of Edward VI and follows with a few lines about the people that saw to his education and upbringing. The death of Henry VIII and Edward’s coronation comes next. It is written in terse narrative form and almost reads like a list of events given in a detached epic-like story voice.

The text mostly deals with foreign-relations, battles fought, important ambassadors who did this or that… etc.

There is very little in each of the first few years of the journal. (As the kid was an infant, no surprise.) They were probably written in summary long after the fact.

In later years, he writes something on each day. These entries may consist of one brief sentence such as a certain man appointed to a bishopric. Other times, he might list several a number of articles that were added to a treaty with a foreign dignitary that day. The longest entries are those which describe battles. It is only in these entries that there is any personal interjection of enthusiasm. These are usually given to relating certain feats of bravery.

The majority of the journal is concentrated on foreign affairs, but the longest entries are given over to affairs domestic. There is little said about religion or any matters personal.

86 pages.

STENTON LIBRARY--BE/31
The literary remains of Lady Jane Grey : with a memoir of her life
Grey, Jane, Lady, (1537-1554.) Published by Harding, Triphook and Lepard in London, 1825.

This biography contains several letters written by Jane Grey, the first three in Latin, to her friends and family. Some are regarding matters of the faith, others are more personal. The “memoir” (ie: biography) that is written about Jane was assembled from the former works of antiquarians such as Dugdale.

The letters in Latin discussing theology show her strong humanist background as well as her knowledge of Christian history and theology and a competency in Latin, Hebrew and Koine Greek. Also contained here is the dialogue held with Feckham, the
member of the clergy who was charged with the task of getting Jane to renounce her Protestant faith.

The last few letters are to her sister and to her father saying goodbye before her execution. There are also included a few words which she wrote to a lieutenant at the Tower and some graffiti which was written on the walls of her cell.

Contains a replica of a portrait done of Jane Grey before the title page.

Fold-out family tree illustrating Jane’s claim to the throne following the preface. Approx. 170 pages.

STENTON LIBRARY--BI/02

Privy purse expenses of the Princess Mary, daughter of King Henry the Eighth, afterwards Queen Mary: with a memoir of the princess, and notes


This is the publication of a single manuscript that was written by a single hand and signed in many places by the then-Princess, Mary Tudor. The accounts begin in December of 1536 and end in December of 1544 with several gaps in between. The preface continues on about how the published account of this manuscript was assembled.

Following this is an incredibly lengthy introductory memoir in which the editor uses the privy expenses to write a narrative of what Princess Mary’s life was like over these eight years, including the residences where she was staying when these receipts were written. He supplements the expense receipts with letters that were written to or about Mary during this time in her life to make a rather fluid narrative. This is followed by an appendix that includes facsimiles of some of these letters.

After this sizable introduction, comes the receipts themselves. These are written in heavily-abbreviated vernacular in item-summary-price format. The summaries explain what the items were, who they were for, and what occasioned the receiving of the gift. Most of these items are merely payments for the completion of the task and usually the item is not listed at all, merely who was to receive it. Sometimes, annotations are added by Mary herself. Many of these receipts are signed by her.

285 pages without introduction.

STENTON LIBRARY--BA/02

The accession of Queen Mary: being the contemporary narrative of Antonio de Guaras, a Spanish merchant resident in London


This edition is the mass-produced copy of the original manuscript. The manuscript had practically disappeared from academic circles having only been quoted in one publication prior to this one. The author of the document was mentioned in a few different texts, although he does not seem to have been a person of great import. He was a Spanish merchant who crops up on the periphery of the courtly circle as he occasionally acted as a translator in trials. The introduction continues by talking about Guaras’s character from what the editor can glean from this and the few other documents that mention him as well as his perception of Mary Tudor.

Following this is a copy in the original Spanish of the manuscript.

Next is the English translation. Each version is about 30 pages in length. It should be noted that the book binder neglected to cut the top of one quire of folios in the middle of this codex and so it is a real challenge to read the end of the Spanish account and the introduction of the English translation.

This is specifically an account of how Mary came to ascend the throne. He starts with the death of Edward VI, followed by the short reign of Lady Jane Grey and the
rebellion that followed. Guaras admires Mary’s character and explains how she dealt with the usurpation of her rightful throne in a manner properly befitting a monarch. He tells of the execution of the traitors and includes a speech given by the Duke of Northumberland at the scaffold. He was apparently writing this at the time that it was occurring as an eye-witness. Following this is a long description of the coronation of Mary.

152 pages with notes.
Elizabeth I

These rare books include memoirs, biographies and histories that pertain to the reign of Elizabeth I. They touch on a number of topics such as her character, the Parliament, foreign relations and the lives of certain members of her court.

Possible subject areas include:

- Matters of the Church during the first few years of Elizabeth’s reign
- Machiavelli’s philosophy and Walsingham
- The relationship between the Parliament and the monarchy
- Foreign relations between England and the Continent
- The historical perception of Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester

Details of items in Special Collections:

STENTON LIBRARY--DI/21
*The several opinions of sundry learned antiquaries: viz. Mr. Justice Doddridge, Mr. Agar, Francis Tate, William Camden, and Joseph Holland. Touching ... the High-Court of Parliament in England*
Doddridge, John, Sir, (1555-1628.) Printed at the Crown in London, 1658. Doddridge was a lawyer, a philosopher and antiquarian, who was heavily influenced by the humanist movement.

This pocket-sized book is a collection of Parliamentary historical observations by five antiquarians, assembled by Doddridge for the purpose of explaining the reach and proceedings of Parliament based on precedent. The scope of these essays includes the inception of Parliament and the reign of Elizabeth I. There are several readers’ annotations that appear to be contemporary with the publication, most lambasting the content.

96 pages.

STENTON LIBRARY--FD/14
*The history of the most renowned and victorious Princess Elizabeth, late Queen of England; containing all the most important ... passages of state, both at home, and abroad*
Camden, William, (1551-1623) Printed at the Flower-de-luce and the Peacock in London, 1675.

The author of the preface writes that Camden is a man who needs no introduction; nonetheless, he assures us that unlike most historians, Camden’s pen was completely uncoloured by any bias, affection or prejudice. According to Camden, this work was commissioned by Sir William Cecil, who imparted Elizabeth’s rolls, memorials and records to the author to ensure the most accuracy in recounting this history. The original work was written in Latin and translated into English in 1625.

The history begins with Elizabeth’s lineage, the history of her parents and the royal succession preceding her rise to the throne. The story that follows is a chronological account in narrative format of the Queen’s policies, her interactions with Parliament and foreign relations. Since this information was gathered from charters and documents, it is very fact-based with few opinions, but the narrative flows very nicely and is supplemented by the fact that Camden was a member of court who knew Elizabeth personally.

Approx. 650 pages.
STENTON LIBRARY--CI/09
Arcana aulica : or Walsingham's manual of prudential maxims for the states-man and courtier. To which is added Fragmenta regalia : or observations on Queen Elizabeth, her times and favourites
Du Refuge, Eustache, (d.1617) Printed at the Spread-Eagle in London, 1694.

The publisher states in his introduction that his purpose for reprinting this already well-known work is that people in the current age have neglected their duty in favor of their own interests and pleasures and could use some reminder of the wisdom on which we all used to subsist. He notes that the first work, by Walsingham, is a book of policy, not morals, pertaining to the way a courtier was expected to behave.

Walsingham, showing his Machiavellian influence, addresses the ruler that the courtier is supposed to find favor with as “the prince” throughout this instruction manual. Everything that a courtier does, every action, every gesture is so that one might find favor with this ruler and be exalted in their status. He gives instructions on how to behave under every manner of ruler, be they benevolent or cruel. He draws on legend and historical example to illustrate his points.

Contains woodcut of a queen on a throne flanked by two women.
153 pages.

STENTON LIBRARY--DU/02
The original institution, power and jurisdiction of parliaments : In two parts. Part I. Comprehending the nature and method of all parliamentary transactions ... Part II. Consisting of observations ... collected out of divers journals of the House of Commons, enter'd in the reigns of King Edward VI, Queen Mary, Queen Elizabeth, and King James I
Hale, Matthew, Sir, (1609-1676.) Printed at Grays-Inn Gate, the White-hart, and the Judge's Head in London, 1707. Sir Matthew Hale was a jurist who supported Charles I during the English Civil Wars, supported William and Mary during the Glorious Revolution and was a proponent of Presbyterianism.

As Hale was a student and practitioner of the law, the purpose of this work is to inform his readers about Parliamentary procedures based on historical precedent. The first part consists of the duties of various members of Parliament, their jurisdiction and privileges as well as Parliamentary proceedings. The second half is concerned with elections of new members, of amendments and bills that effect Parliament and how to handle unprecedented legislature based on examples from the past. For his legal precedents, Hale uses documents procured from the Tower that were written during the reigns of Edward VI through James I.
240 pages.

STENTON LIBRARY--CI/06
The life of Robert Earl of Leicester : the favourite of Queen Elizabeth

This biography was assembled from the works of previous antiquarians, specifically the disputed author of Leicester Commonwealth (the slanderous book published shortly after Dudley's death,) and William Camden. The author of the preface describes Dudley as the one mistake Elizabeth made in an otherwise impeccable career of choosing political advisors. His one good trait seems to have been the ability to win over the character of so wise a queen. The author attributes Elizabeth's otherwise inexplicable love for Dudley to either an appreciation for his early political accomplishments or an astrological conjunction of their stars. This biography begins with Dudley's appointment to court as soon as Elizabeth ascended the throne and
focuses heavily on the political maneuverings of the court in relation to Dudley (eg: his engagement to Mary of Scotts, his relationship with Walsingham and Cecil, etc.)

The appendix contains copies of the charters that the author used to authenticate his work.

Woodcut of Robert Dudley preceding publication page.

277 pages.

STENTON LIBRARY--CI/02

The life of that great stateman William Cecil, Lord Burghley, ... published from the original manuscript wrote soon after his Lordship's death; now in the library of the right honorable Brownlow Earl of Exeter. To which is added, his character by ... Camden

Collins, Arthur, (1682?-1760.) Printed at the Mitre, Crown, the Queen's Head, and the Three Daggers in London, 1732.

The majority of the sources used for this work were first-hand resources which the author reckons to have been written shortly after the death of Elizabeth. He begins with a history of Cecil's family and his family's name. The actual biography is extensive and well-rounded consisting of a character-study in which Cecil is examined as a person, a statesman and an entertainer in the court of Queen Elizabeth. This is perhaps an over-flattering biography as it is being written for one of Cecil's grandchildren.

118 pages.

STENTON LIBRARY--CI/14

Laneham's letter describing the magnificent pageants presented before Queen Elizabeth, at Kenilworth castle in 1575, repeatedly referred to in the romance of Kenilworth ; with an introductory preface, glossarial and explanatory notes

Laneham, Robert, (16th cent.) Printed in London, 1821.

The romance of Kenilworth, which centered around the marriage of Robert and Amy Dudley, was published earlier in 1821 by Sir Walter Scott and sparked public interest in the event described in depth in this letter. The publisher adds notes, which he says will help the reader make sense of a letter that he believes is otherwise indecipherable due to the style of metaphorical floweriness of the day. This event took place at Dudley's residence, where Laneham held a position in the stable.

Laneham says that the spectacle was so large that there was no way for him to view the whole thing, nor even start to describe what little bit that he saw, though he will do his best. He starts with a description of the geographical situation of Kenilworth Castle. He speaks of Elizabeth's arrival and of the feast that followed her first night in the area. Upon Elizabeth's arrival at the Castle, she comes into a magical world where nymphs play in the pool by the castle next to the Lady of the Lake, trumpeters standing eight feet tall announce her presence, suitors spouted rehearsed poetry, exotic birds sang in wire cages, etc. The rest of the narrative continues in this fashion, describing all of the events that took place during this week of festivities and the décor that accompanied said events.

114 pages.

STENTON LIBRARY--MON/CAM/007

Annals of the first four years of the reign of Queen Elizabeth

Hayward, John, (1564?-1627.) Printed by John Bowyer Nichols and Son, Parliament Street, London, 1840.

This edition of this work was printed from a manuscript found in the Harleian Collection for the Camden Society, a group of newly founded historians dedicated to the preservation and distribution of important historical texts. The sizable introduction talks about the importance of preserving the nation's key historical documents (such as this
one) and gives a brief biography of the author, describing his strengths and weaknesses as a historian from a modern point of view. The author of the introduction examines where Hayward obtained his information and what might have been assumed or gathered from unreliable witnesses.

Included at the end of the introduction is a facsimile of John Hayward’s will followed by a catalogue of his works and a summary of each.

The Annals are an exact transcription of the original manuscript written in the vernacular. It begins with the description of the illness and death of Queen Mary and the ascension of Elizabeth to the throne. This account is written in an impersonal style which catalogues the series of political events from the perspective of the monarchy and Parliament. It only describes the character and appearance of people so far as they are applicable to the role they played in the political realm. This work is essentially a chronological list of Parliamentary decisions and important bills passed given in narrative form. It is heavily focused on the evolving role of religion and the conclusions reached by Parliament that concerned how the Church was to be run. A fair amount of attention is also given to foreign policy, specifically with Scotland. The majority of the work is given over to the first two years.

115 pages including index.
Relations between Scotland and England during the Tudor dynasty

These rare books contain letters and memoirs that pertain to the turbulent relationship between the countries of Scotland and England from the reigns of Henry VII and Elizabeth I.

Possible subject areas include:

- The role of ambassadors as mediators between two nations during the 16th century
- The relationship between Elizabeth I and James VI of Scotland
- The Scottish allegiance with France and the ramifications of this allegiance in regards to England
- The role of religion in foreign politics

Details of items in Special Collections:

STENTON LIBRARY--FO/07
_The memores of Sir James Melvil of Hal-Hill: containing an impartial account of the most remarkable affairs of state during the last age, not mention'd by other historians: more particularly relating to the Kingdoms of England and Scotland under the reigns of Queen Elizabeth, Mary, Queen of Scots & King James. In all which transactions the author was personally and publicly concerned_
Melville, James, Sir, 1535-1617. Published from the original manuscript by George Scott (Gent.) Printed by E.H. at the Turks-head in Corn-hill, London, 1683. Melville was a Scottish diplomat that served primarily as an envoy between Mary, Queen of Scots and Elizabeth I. He served under James I for only one year before retiring to his estate. Scott was his grandson.

The memoir starts with a summary of English Reformation from the Melville's point-of-view and continues with foreign relations. Since he was an ambassador to Scotland, much of the memoir is concerned with the relationship between Elizabeth and Mary, Queen of Scots. This work provides excellent information on the characters of Elizabeth and Mary and the relationship between their two nations.
Approx. 300 pages.

STENTON LIBRARY--CH/31
_Letters and negotiations of Sir Ralph Sadler, ambassador of King Henry VIII of England to Scotland_
Sadler, Ralph, Sir, (1507-1587.) Printed in Edinburgh, 1720.

This is not a direct copying of the letters and memoirs of Sadler, but rather these documents put into narrative form by the publisher. Sadler’s letters are concerned with the rather troubled relationship of England and Scotland during this time period, specifically in light of Scotland’s allegiance with France.
Approx. 450 pages.

STENTON LIBRARY--CI/16
_Life of William Davison: Secretary of State and Privy Counsellor to Queen Elizabeth_
Nicolas, Nicholas Harris, Sir, (1799-1848.) Printed by John Nichols and Son, London, 1823.

In the preface, Nicolas defends the logic of writing another book on the reign of Elizabeth I when so many books of this type were being published at this time, saying that Davison was an ambassador whose work was key in understanding the relationship
between Scotland and England during the 16th century. This work was done in light of some new manuscripts regarding the life of Davison and his dealings with Elizabeth I and Mary of Scots being uncovered in the British Museum. Because of the sources that he used, the book’s main focus is on the career of Davison rather than his life and is highly detailed concerning Mary, Queen of Scots.

The author includes a facsimile of Davison’s handwriting before the title page. 355 pages.

STENTON LIBRARY--MON/CAM/046
Letters of Queen Elizabeth and King James VI of Scotland : some printed from originals in the possession of the Rev. Edward Ryder and others from a ms. which formerly belonged to Sir Peter Thompson
Edited by John Bruce. Printed by J.B. Nichols and Son, Parliament Street in London, 1869.
There are Approx. 100 letters in this collection, and a little less than half of them were transcribed from the originals. The rest were copied from a volume of transcripts. In this introduction, the editor explains the customary manner in transcribing, sending and receiving letters through a series of royal dignitaries and secretaries during the 16th century. He also explains how the manuscripts came to survive in the present state.

The letters of between James VI and Elizabeth I, of which this work is comprised, is peppered with extensive footnotes from the editor to help clear up any contextual ambiguities. Each letter begins with an italicized summary of the contents of the letter that follows. The letters are in English and French. They begin in 1582 and the last communication is dated January of 1603.

The letters show the kind of diplomacy that was practiced during this time and the importance of appearance, even when matters were strained between the two monarchs. (For example, when Elizabeth suspected James of dispatching an assassin to kill her.) They deal with all type of foreign relations between the two countries and their relationship with continental Europe and Ireland.

156 pages without index.
James I and Charles I

These rare books and documents are memoirs, propaganda pieces and records of Parliament that relate to the time when James I ascended the throne of England in 1603 to the execution of Charles I in 1649, including the events leading up to the English Civil War.

Possible subject areas include:

- Memoirs as propaganda for and against the monarchy in the years leading up to the deposition of Charles I
- The role of religion in the overthrow of the monarchy
- Attitude of the court in the years leading up to and during the civil war
- Parliamentary viewpoints in the years proceeding and during the Short and Long Parliaments
- The politics of the members of the New Model Army

Details of items in Special Collections:

STENTON LIBRARY--LE/04- The workes of the most high and mightie prince, James by the grace of God, King of Great Britaine, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c

James I, King of England, Published by James, Bishop of Winton and Deane of His Majestie's Chappel Royall. Printed by Robert Barker and John Bill, Printers to the Kings most Excellent Majestie, 1616.

The forward is addressed to the young Prince Charles I. This is a pro-royalist piece designed to praise the accomplishments of King James I and preserve some of his works for posterity. After the prologue follows several of the King’s addresses to the churches concerning passages of scripture, a treatise in defense of the Divine Right of Kings, and several speeches to Parliament and the Starre-Chamber.

Decorated with several beautiful woodcuts.
Approx. 300 pages.

STENTON LIBRARY--CK/03- A declaration of the Lords and Commons in Parliament : with additional reasons, last presented to His Majestie ... 12 Martii, 1641 ..., whereunto is annexed, his maiesties speech to the Committee, the 9 March, 1641, when they presented the declaration to the Houses of Parliament at New-market.


This is a direct transcription of the declaration that was given to Charles I by Parliament on the 12th of March, 1641. It contains the list of grievances that the Parliament had towards the king.
Approx. 20 pages.

STENTON LIBRARY--CJ/31- The popish royall favourite : or, a full discovery of his majesties extraordinary favours to, and protections of notorious papists, priests, jesuits, against all penalties of the laws.

Prynne, William, (1600-1669.) Documents, declarations, charters and letters, written or ascribed to Charles I, collected and published under the authority of Parliament. London, 1643.

The short prologue explains the international political situation of the day and paints the Spanish and Irish allies of the King as papists and Romanists. The dedication is to Robert, the Earl of Essex general of the New Model Army. The rest of the pamphlet is a
collection of the correspondence attributed to Charles I, in which several concessions are made for the benefit of the Catholic religion.

Pamphlet of Approx. 50 pages.

STENTON LIBRARY--CK/29- An exact collection of all remonstrances, declarations, votes, orders, ordinances, proclamations, petitions, messages, answers, and other remarkable passages betwenee the Kings most excellent Majesty, and his High Court of Parliament beginning...in December 1641,...untill March the 21, 1643.

Great Britain. Parliament. Printed for Edward Husbands, T. Warren and R. Best and to be folded at The Middle Temple, Grays Inne Gate and the White Horse in London, 1643.

This work contains the exact minutes of the meeting of the Parliament with no introduction or preface.

Woodcut of the King addressing Parliament at the beginning.

Approx. 1000 pages.

STENTON LIBRARY--CJ/30- Vindiciæ Caroli Regis: or, a loyall vindication of the King. In answer to The popish royall favourite.

N.D. (1645) (No additional publication information is given)

The dedication is given to the King Charles I, lamenting the sorrows that he has undergone and praising his attributes. This is a defense of Charles I that lists the charges against his that label him a papist and then addresses each charge with a defense.

Pamphlet of Approx. 60 pages.

STENTON LIBRARY--CL/04 A solemne engagement of the Army under the command of his Excellency Sir Thomas Fairfax; with a declaration of their resolutions, as to disbanding; ... Together with the representations of the dis-satisfactions of the Army, ... presented to the Parliament ... With his ... letter to the Speaker June the 8.

Fairfax, Thomas Fairfax, Baron, (1612-1671.) Printed at the Blew Anchor in Cornhill, London. 1647.

This book is given in the form of an address to Parliament, defending the reasons that the army has disbanded. There follows another address which is given to the House of Commons.

Approx. 20 pages.

STENTON LIBRARY--DB/20 The Royal Charter granted unto kings, by God himself; and collected out of his holy word, in both testaments

Bayly, Thomas, Doctor of Divinity; Printed in London 1649.

The dedication is to Charles II in exile. He claims that the overthrow of the monarchy was anti-Christian because the king is divinely appointed. He relies heavily on Biblical citation to illustrate his point.

Approx. 100 pages.

STENTON LIBRARY--CI/28 The court and character of King James : whereunto is now added the court of King Charles : continued unto the beginning of these unhappy times with some observations upon Him rather than a character.

Weldon, Anthony, Sir, (d.1649?) Published by “Authority.” Printed in London by RI 1651.

The attribution given to Sir Anthony is questionable as it was not given to his until after his death.

Weldon assures the recipient of the dedication, Lady Sidley, of the authenticity of these memoirs as he was either an eye or ear-witness to all of the events that he relates. The letter to the reader states that what we are about to read is concerning the
downfall of the state of England due to King James’s desire to please only himself and his friends. He asserts that his son, King Charles I is no better.

Approx. 75 pages.

STENTON LIBRARY--CI/27  Truth Brought to Light and discovered by Time or A discourse and Historicall Narration of the first XIII yeares of King James Reigne.
Anon. Printed by Richard Cotes; London 1651.
The prologue is a poem that tells how time tramples on the untruths that were covered by the monarchy and show that kings as well as peasants must die. The book that tells how James ruined the nation by his selfishness.
Contains a lovely woodcut on publication page
Approx. 250 pages.

STENTON LIBRARY--BM/03  Cottoni posthuma : divers choice pieces of that renowned antiquary Sir Robert Cotton, knight and baronet, preserved from the injury of time, and expos’d to publick light, for the benefit of posterity.
Cotton, Robert, Sir, (1571-1631.) Printed by Francis Leach for Henry Seile on Fleet Street in London, 1651.
Sir Cotton was a prominent antiquarian and a member of the court of James I. He garnered a reputation as an anti-royalist for publishing a treatise that stated that the king should be beholden entirely to the decisions of Parliament. As a result, his memoirs and works were banned until after the monarchy was overthrown. His grandson published them as part of a pro-Parliamentary agenda.
Approx. 300 pages.

STENTON LIBRARY--CK/04  The compleat history of independency upon the Parliament begun 1640, continued till this present year 1660, which fourth part was never before published.
Walker, Clement, (1595-1651.) Printed in two parts at The Angel and The White Lion. London 1661.
This book is a piece of pro-Parliamentary literature written in dedication to the general of the Parliamentary Army in the north, Sir Thomas Fairfax. The book starts out by listing the injustices suffered by Parliament on behalf of the crown and explain why they made the decisions that they did. It goes on to tell the events of the war from the side of the Parliament.
Clement Walker died in 1651, so the last part of the book was written by an anonymous pro-royalist after the Restoration.
Approx. 400 pages
The cult of King Charles the Martyr

In the wake of the failed reign of Oliver Cromwell and the Restoration, a new movement rose up in England concerning the execution of King Charles I. These selections comment on or support the social phenomenon which came to be known as the Cult of King Charles the Martyr.

Possible subject areas include:

- Social and political causes of the preoccupation with the death of Charles I
- Eikon Basilike’s role in the proliferation of the “cult”
- The propaganda of Eikon Basilike
- Antagonism toward the Cult of King Charles the Martyr

Details of items in Special Collections:

STENTON LIBRARY--CJ/27

**Eikon Basilike, the pourtraicture of his sacred majestie in his solitudes and sufferings**

Attributed to King Charles I; Reprinted in R.M. 1648

The publication page includes the bible verse Romans 8:37, which reads in the King James Version, “Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.”

Eikon Basilike is Greek for “The Royal Portrait.” This pamphlet was attributed to the late King Charles I, although its true authorship is dubious. It is a solemn meditation of his majesty during his imprisonment prior to his execution.

Most of the book is a retelling of the events that occurred in the time leading up to the war and to Charles’s imprisonment from his POV. In all decisions that he made, they were done for the good of his people and in all the bad decisions were the actions of jealous. He disagrees with or dissolves the Parliament because he is not bound by law to listen to them and is only subject to the will of God, whose divine appointment he represents.

The last part of the book includes prayers that show him as a humble Christian, undesiring of riches, only hoping to be God’s rightly appointed servant. He asks for patience and strength of character when dealing with his enemies. He prays that God forgive his people as they are swept up in the anarchy fomented by his enemies. This section also includes meditations in prison as well as a letter to Charles II. It ends with an impassioned prayer about how he has accepted his death and asks God to welcome him in heaven.

Also included is a few folios containing prayers that Charles II is to have said in prison as well as eye-witness accounts of the King’s last visits with his children, including one account from Princess Elizabeth.

There is a note in semi-modern handwriting near the beginning that says that there were 47 editions of this book were published and 4000 copies sold in the first year.

Approx. 200 pages long with both publications.

As this is not an original publication, it is pocket-sized and does not contain the famous woodcut of Charles I.

STENTON LIBRARY--CK/25

**King Charles the First, no man of blood : but a martyr for his people. Or, A sad, and impartiall enquiry, whether the King or Parliament began the warre.**
Philipps, Fabian, (1601-1650.) Printed in 1649. (No other publication information available.)

The prologue begins by lamenting the war and all of its destruction. Philips lists major events in the war chronologically, exonerating the king for all that he was accused of. He lists a number of people who he believes to be responsible for the schism between the monarchy and Parliament.

Approx. 60 pages.

STENTON LIBRARY--CJ/29

[Eikonoklastes], in answer to a book intitul'd [Eikon basilike], the portraicture of His sacred Majesty King Charles the First in his solitudes and sufferings

Milton, John, (1608-1674.) Published in Amsterdam, 1690. In addition to being a famous poet, Milton was also supporter of Oliver Cromwell and is thought to have been a Calvinist.

Milton concedes in the preface that the task of condemning a dead king is not a noble task, but he feels that in light of the recent obsession with Charles I, what he has to say needs to be said. He does not dispute the authorship of the tract, but believes it to be a work of propaganda and not a well-written one. He uses the quotes to bring out Charles's flaws rather than exonerate him as the Eikon clearly intended to do. Milton believes that the king was the author of his own destruction.

Woodcut before title page of Milton above a scene from Paradise Lost.

207 pages.

STENTON LIBRARY--CK/24

Vindiciæ Carolinæ: or, a defence of Eikon Basilike, the portraicture of his sacred majesty in his solitudes and sufferings : In reply to a book intituled Eikonoklastes, written by Mr. Milton, and lately re-printed in Amsterdam

Wilson, John, (1626-1696.) Printed in at the Angel in London, 1692. Wilson was a playwright of the school of Ben Jonson and royalist politician who died in obscurity.

Wilson responds to Milton's treatise by attacking him in his preface saying that he had behaved dishonourably by dancing on the grave of a king. He believes that Milton speaks in long, eloquent prose because he is attempting to veil the truth from his readers. As Wilson has no need to hide behind falsehoods, he will endeavour to present his argument more plainly. This discourse is not only an attack upon Milton, but a book report of sorts that examines Eikon Basilike in depth, seeks to establish its purpose and prove that it was in fact written by Charles I.

Woodcut before title page shows a kneeling Charles casting off his crown and exchanging it for a crown of thorns before a book with the words “In verbo tuo spes mea.” My hope is in Your Word.

Approx. 140 pages.

STENTON LIBRARY--CL/08

England's black tribunal. Set forth in the tryal of King Charles I. By the pretended High Court of justice ... Jan 20. 1648. Together with His Majesties speech, on the scaffold. The fourth edition. To which is added, an historical preface, by a True Churchman.


The author explains that the cause of the chaos following the dissolution of the Short Parliament was that the government and religion had become poisoned, and therefore had corrupted the minds and hearts of the people of England. He marks that the death of the King was a waste, as it did not improve the nation, but left it in a state of ruin.
This book is a collection of primary sources that concerned the trial of Charles I. It includes minutes of the trial, speeches given on the scaffolding, memoirs of people that were there, and letters that were passed between people that were involved in the trial. All are presented with succinct introductions that include pithy opinions of the editor. (Eg: “England’s Black Tribunal Set forth in the Tryal of King Charles I before the Pretended High Court...)

Woodcut of King Charles I before publication page.

180 pages.

STENTON LIBRARY--Cj/28

A vindication of K. Charles the Martyr : proving that his majesty was the author of Eikon Basilike. Against a memorandum said to be written by the Earl of Anglesey and against the exceptions of Dr Walker and others

Wagstaffe, Thomas, (1645-1712.) Printed at the King’s Head, London, 1711.

Wagstaffe attributes the inaccuracy of the biographies of Charles I to the tendency of historians to want to glorify themselves during their histories rather than their subjects. This defence is against the publication of a deceased Mr. Bayle, who wrote a dictionary relying on attacks against Eikon Basilike as his main resource. He says that this is not argument with cited sources to backup his claims, but a running narrative of his opinions on the subject.

He begins with the memorandum attributed to Lord Anglesey and proceeds to philosophically pick it apart. He then continues with his own points basing his assertions on an appeal to common sense.

This is the first of two works included in this codex by the same author. The second is a defence of Eikon Basilike against another pamphlet entitled Amyntor. This work focuses specifically on proving that Charles II wrote Eikon Basilike by disproving the arguments of men who have stated otherwise.

There is also included a short pamphlet on Jacobites in the last few pages of this codex.

The first work is Approx. 170 pages.
The second work is 95 pages.

STENTON LIBRARY--CL/25

The Indictment, arraignment, tryal, and judgment, at large, of twenty-nine regicides, the murtherers of ... King Charles the Ist ... October, 1660 .... To which is added, their speeches

No author given as this is an edited work. Printed in London, 1724.

In the preface, it is stated that the preservation of these documents is for the purpose of conveying to future generations how sad it is that people get caught up in the zeal and enthusiasm of mass hysteria. This enthusiasm carries them past common sense and leads to the very destruction of their souls. He quotes St. Augustine as saying that, “True martyrs who deserve that honorable name... are persecuted for righteousness sake.”

The writer of the preface gives a brief biography of each of the people condemned for regicide, emphasizing their well-born status and then how they pretended to be led astray by either Cromwell or the Parliament. Some, he notes, faced their executions most dishonourably, one drinking himself into a stupor so that he would have courage, another struggling with the executioner who had to force him off the ladder to hang himself.

The body of the book starts with a summary of the “cabal at Westminster,” that was the plot to kill Charles I, apparently taken out of a journal book of someone who
took notes. This was a summary of the actions of the Parliament starting on January, 1648. All of the points concerning the king are printed in italics.

Following this is an account of the trials of those accused of murdering the king. The last pages of the report contain speeches given of the condemned before they faced the noose.

Contains a woodcut of Charles I, labelled “Charles the I King of Gr. Britain, France & Ireland, etc. Murdered Jan. 30, 1648” before the publication page.

Approx. 500 pages.
Charles II

These Rare Books include memoirs, treatises and pamphlets written from the time of the Restoration of the monarchy to the death of Charles II in 1685 and concern domestic politics and foreign relations.

Possible subject areas include:
- Public opinion and reaction to the Restoration
- The perception of English Catholics as foreign enemy agents on English soil
- English foreign relations with France

Details of items in Special Collections:

STENTON LIBRARY--CN/14
*Angliæ notitia; or the present state of England: the first part* The seventh edition with several additions.

This is an encyclopaedic work. The information given is very academic, but also informative of the mindset of the contemporaries of England at the time. The author talks on all subjects from day-to-day life, to crime, from the Church to the State. It was intended for a foreign audience as a type of guide book.

The first and second parts of this work are bound together in the same document.

The first is 361 pages long and the second is 322 pages long.

STENTON LIBRARY--DB/10
*The controversial letters, or the grand controversie concerning the pretended temporal authority of Popes over the earth, and the true sovereign of Kings within their own respected kingdoms / between two English gentlemen, the one of the Church of England : the other of the Church of Rome.* 2nd ed.
Walsh, Peter, (1618?-1688) Printed at the Gun and at the Ship in London, 1674.

Apparately, these letters are a continuation of a theological debate that was begun in person. This is an excellent argument that reflects the temperature of the religious and political climate in England and how it affected foreign relations and the relationships of Catholics and Protestants within England.

Pagination restarts at the beginning of each letter.

Approx. 350 pages in total.

STENTON LIBRARY--DK/10
*Jura coronae. His Majesties royal rights and prerogatives asserted, against papal usurpations, and all other anti-monarchical attempts and practices*
Brydall, John, (b. 1635?) Printed and folded at George Dawes’ shop, London, 1680

The purpose of this text is to illustrate to the reader the inherent rights of the monarchy but also to assert the implicit right of the king to be head of the Church as well as the State. There is a tone of social contract here, as the author asserts that he is not in favour of a dictatorship, but a benevolent monarch, a state in which the citizens are subjects, not slaves. As he outlines the king’s rights, he proceeds to explain how papists and puritans should be handled within this framework.

Approx. 150 pages
England bought and sold, or, a discovery of a horrid design to destroy the antient liberty of all the free-holders in England, in the choice of members to serve in the Honourable House of Commons in Parliament, by a late libel entituled, The certain way to save England, etc
As the title suggests, this is an account of the horridness of the usurpation of the monarchy by Parliament in hyperbolic prose that only propaganda pamphlets of this era can deliver. It is a response to a previous treatise called “England Saved.”

10 pages.

STENTON LIBRARY--FW/01 VOL. 1
The history of the reformation of the Church of England
This work was the standard reference guide to the history of the Reformation for over a century after its publication, even though its contents were refuted by Catholics. Even in the introduction, the author writes that, through researching the history of the Reformation, his ultimate conclusion was the King should be the head of the Church. This work is not so much helpful for its historical accuracy, as it is for the insight it gives the reader into Protestant propaganda against Catholics and the rule of the Pope as well as how Protestants in England viewed their fellow English countrymen.
Contains a large woodcut at the beginning featuring Henry VIII and Martin Luther.
Approx. 260 pages, appendices not included.

STENTON LIBRARY--DA/26
Christian loyalty: or, a discourse, wherein is asserted that just Royal authority and eminency, which in this Church and realm of England, is yielded to the King
Falkner was the Archbishop of Canterbury and wrote this discourse defending the monarchy's right as head of the church against foreign usurpers, ie: Catholics. He writes this work, he explains, to clear up any doubt in the minds of the people of England that they should be loyal to their king. Starts out by asserting the King’s supremacy and continues to explain the role of ecclesiastical authority within the Church and the government.
545 pages.

STENTON LIBRARY--CM/05
The secret history of White-Hall, from the Restoration of Charles II. down to the abdication of the late K. James
These are the memoirs of a Secretary-Interpreter concerning a marquis that took the private minutes in negotiations between England and France. He gives information into the foreign reaction to the Restoration and the behavior of the members of court. He refers to the foreign relations with France concerning the buying and selling of property.
300 pages.
New denominations and the Anglican Church

These treatises, chronicles and pamphlets were published during the reign of King Charles II and are concerned about how the new Presbyterian Church and the Nonconformist movement would affect the power structure of the Church of England. These include works both for and against these emergent sects.

Possible subject areas include:
- Clergy of the Church of England’s view point concerning Nonconformists
- Claims the Church of England made to undermine the legitimacy of the Presbyterian Church
- How the Presbyterian clergy sought to legitimate their authority
- The ultimate goal of the Nonconformist movement

Details of items in Special Collections:

STENTON LIBRARY--DB/15
Presbyterian ordination vindicated. In a brief and sober discourse concerning episcopacy, as claiming greater power, and more eminent offices by divine right, then presbyterie. The arguments of ... Dr Davenant ... are modestly examined
Firmin, Giles, (1614-1697) Printed at the King’s Head, London, 1660. Firmin was an Anglican minister who was ordained by Presbyterians. He then moved to the Colonies in America and was exposed to the theology of the Quakers. Upon his return, his ordination was questioned. Because of this, his experience is atypical.

Firmin debates the assumption that Presbyterians are not loyal to the crown, stating that they prayed for the Restoration of the monarchy and did not take up arms with the Parliamentarians. He says that so many religious factions have sprung up in recent years, that, at some point, the legitimacy of every minister in the land has been questioned. He lays out his argument in the form of a scholastic dialogue beginning by questioning the institution of apostolic succession.
47 pages.
Also includes a 13 page pamphlet written by the Presbyterians to the monarchy demanding reform in the Anglican Church. The main argument of this work being that the Reformation of the Anglican Church is incomplete; it is still too papist.

STENTON LIBRARY--DC/03- Episkopos apostolikos: or the episcopacy of the Church of England justified to be apostolical

This was written during the abolition of the episcopate (or right before it) and dedicated to the Archbishop of Canterbury, bemoaning the fate of the clergy during the rule of Cromwell. Morton defends the Anglican Church against the Nonconformist idea that the episcopate is papist. This tract was published after the author’s death as a propaganda piece defending the Church against the attacks of Nonconformists and Presbyterians.
160 pages, not including a letter to the reader Approx. 50 pages long.

STENTON LIBRARY--DC/07- The cure of church-divisions:...with some directions to the pastors
Baxter, Richard, (1615-1691.) Printed at The Three Crowns, London, 1670. Baxter was a Puritan Nonconformist who spent a fair amount of time in prison due to his beliefs.
Baxter’s prose sounds very modern to today’s reader. His main thesis is that all factions of the Church need to resolve their differences and become one universal
church. Although he specifically says that he does not blame any individual party in the schism of the Church, there is an undercurrent of criticism towards the Church of England. Baxter believes that the Church has put politics and ritual before the spirituality of Christianity.

430 pages.

STENTON LIBRARY--FC/06- Aërius redivivus: or the history of the Presbyterians...
From the year 1536 to the year 1647. The second edition.
Heylyn, Peter, (1599-1662.) Printed at “The Black Boy” and on Fleet Street in London, and by John Crosley in Oxford, 1672. Heylyn was a Doctor of Divinity as well as the chaplain to Charles I and II.

These chronicles give insight into the perception that the clergy of the Anglican Church, and perhaps the monarchy as well, had towards the Presbyterians. Heylyn claims that they were not descended from Calvin, but from the Jewish Sanhedrin, and therefore (by his logic,) the devil. While this does give a history of the Calvinist faith from its inception in Geneva, he also talks of the manifold seditions and conspiracies that the Presbyrs and their followers committed throughout their long history.

471 pages long.

STENTON LIBRARY--DB/32- A serious and compassionate inquiry into the causes of the present neglect and contempt of the Protestant religion and Church of England
3rd ed. corr. and enl.
Goodman, John, (1626-1690.) Published at the Angel in Amen-Corner, London, 1675.

This is was printed for the king’s bookseller and states on the publication page that the purpose of this book was to convince the religious of England to turn back to the official Anglican Church as approved of by the State. The opening epistle is a short plea to Nonconformists that they may reap some of God’s good blessing through this text. The first part explores the reasons behind the separation from the Church of Rome and the second part is the plea to the people of England to accept the official Church. These arguments are made from the perspective of the State, rather than from a theological viewpoint.

Approx. 260 pages with afterword.
**Hobbes' *Leviathan***

Thomas Hobbes' *Leviathan*, published in 1651, was both a product of the political and social atmosphere of the age and a singular work that changed the face of political philosophy. These works either influenced Hobbes, were written in response to his work, or are similar in content.

**Possible subject areas include:**
- The reception of the *Leviathan* in England upon its publication
- The arguments for and against Hobbes' work
- The primary objections to this treatise
- The political climate of England in which *Leviathan* was written (see also the rubric on Charles II)

**Details of items in Special Collections:**

**STENTON LIBRARY--CK/05-**  
*Tracts of Mr. Thomas Hobbs of Malmsbury. Containing I. Behemoth. II. An answer to Arch-Bishop Bramhall's...The catching of the Leviathan...III. An historical narration of heresie...IV. Philosophical problems*  
Hobbes, Thomas, (1588-1679.) Printed at The Green Dragon, 1682. **This was a later publication than the original. The fact that this anthology was printed over a century after the original shows that Hobbes’ works were still of great interest to the people of England. The last tract was never printed before this edition.**  
Approx. 400 pages.

**STENTON LIBRARY--CL/17-**  
*The Creed of Mr. Hobbes examined; in a feigned conference between him and a student in divinity*  
Tenison, Thomas, (1636-1715.) Printed at The Three Daggers, London, 1671. **Tenison later became Archbishop of Canterbury**  
This is a fictional debate in which Hobbes and his principles are confronted by those of Epicurus, Des Cartes, Plato, Aristotle... the list goes on. It applies the political beliefs of Hobbes in an argument for the existence of God. The student of divinity then goes on to debate with Hobbes on a number of subjects from the Restoration of the monarchy to ancient philosophy. This tract reveals more about the character of the author than it does about Hobbes or his beliefs.  
263 pages.

**STENTON LIBRARY--CL/16-**  
*A brief view and survey of the dangerous and pernicious errors to church and state, in Mr. Hobbes's book, entitled Leviathan*  
Clarendon speaks in the introduction about how much he admires people that write tracts against those works that are most popular among the people, then proceeds to join their great tradition. He says that he greatly esteems Hobbes as a man and finds his works intelligent and well-thought out. However, he finds that most of the things that he says are novel for the sake of being novel, which the present age gives too much credit. He then proceeds to deconstruct the book chapter by chapter. He agrees with so many of the ideas of Hobbes that this is less of a political retaliation, and more of a literary critique.  
320 pages.
**STENTON LIBRARY--CN/25--The common interest of King and people: shewing the original, antiquity and excellency of monarchy**


This is a defense of the monarchy against democracy, aristocracy, papal rule and Presbyterian rule. It begins as an argument using Hobbes to endorse his position. What follows is a defense of the monarchy against other forms of government, stating that the monarchy is the natural state of government. Praises the political benefits of the monarchy, then goes on to attack the enemy of the monarchy, alternative religion.

Woodcut of Charles II.

280 pages

**STENTON LIBRARY--CM/07--The interest of princes and states**

Bethel, Slingsby. Printed at the White-hart, London, 1680. *Bethel was a Parliamentarian during the English Civil War. After the Restoration, he retired from public life.*

This treatise is written in the Machiavellian style, as an address to a “Prince”, advising the correct way to lead the government. Bethel believes that advisors to the king should be elected with the public interest in mind, asserting the need for checks and balances on the king. The book goes on to address the needs of the public and how the king should address them in many countries throughout Europe.

Approx. 250 pages.

**STENTON LIBRARY--CO/05--The free-holders grand inquest, touching our Sovereign Lord the King and his Parliament. To which are added observations on forms of government, Together with directions for obedience to governours**

Filmer, Robert, Sir. Printed in London, 1680. *Filmer was an ardent royalist. He wrote these two tracts during the Interregnum, but it was not published until the monarchy was restored. When John Locke wrote his “Social Contract,” he specifically argued against some of the points that Filmer raises here in defense of Divine Right.*

Since we are unsure as to the exact date when this tract was written, it may have predated the publication of *Leviathan*, but it argues many of the same topics and is indicative of the political and social climate when both treatises were written.

This bound copy also includes a publication page for a work advising juries on the correct way to identify Hebrew and English witches, however, the content that matches these pages is not included.

Approx. 400 pages with both works included.
Chronicles from the early 17th Century

These chronicles are accounts of various periods of the history of England as told either by authors living in the early 17th century or by chroniclers of previous centuries whose works were then reprinted during this time for a variety of purposes.

Possible subject areas include:

- Historical chronicles as a form of modern propaganda
- Comparative historiography (modern historiographical techniques versus those of the 17th century)
- 17th century perception of history's role and place in society
- Common themes in chronicles during the reign of James I
- Common themes in chronicles during the reign of Charles I and the Interregnum
- The manner in which the 17th century English viewed the overall progression of human history

Details of items in Special Collections:

STENTON LIBRARY--CC/16- The historie of Great Britannie declaring the successe of times and affaires in that iland, from the Romans first entrance, vntill the raigned of Egbert
  Clapham, John, (b.1566.) Printed by Valentine Simmes, London, 1606.
  Clapham attributes the lineage of the early inhabitants of England back to Japham, son of Noah. The first section of the book is the largest and describes the multiple battles that followed the Roman invasion of Britain. The Romans are described favourably with much attention given to each general's personal motivations and feelings. He attributes long blocks of quotations of the main characters to "some authors" but does not go on to mention who these authors are. This is very much British history from a Roman point of view.
  The second section is an account of the chaos of post-Roman Britain, attributed to the Picts and Scotsman who invaded taking advantage of the power vacuum left by the retreating Roman armies. According to the author, the Britons were unified as one southern tribe after the departure of the Romans. Together, they lived in peace until the Saxons, Jutes and Angles arrived. The Britons are murdered by the pagan Saxons because of their adherence to the Christian faith. The Anglo-Saxon portion of this chronicle is a narrative line of the succession of kings.
  Approx. 300 pages.

STENTON LIBRARY--CE/14- The lives of the III. Normans, Kings of England: William the first, William the second, Henrie the first
  Hayward, John, (1564?-1627.) Printed by RB, London, 1613.
  The dedication to Prince Charles speaks of the importance of history in achieving immortality.
  The first and largest portion of this chronicle is of the life of William the Conqueror, beginning with his parents' meeting. Hayward speaks of William's good character, which helped him vanquish his foes as much as any prowess on the battlefield. Apparently, he loved the English people and their king so much that if it should be required, he would step in and govern them.
The lives of the two kings that follow are told in similar fashion. They were both wise and every decision they made was done with rationality and an appropriate amount of gravitas.

Written in narrative prose, similar in style to a Greek myth.

There are under-linings and side-notes written in a neat hand c. 17th century.

314 pages.

STENTON LIBRARY--FD/08 - The collection of the history of England
Daniel, Samuel, (1562-1619.) Printed for Simon Waterson, London, 1626. According to the prologue to the publication, Daniel was a member of Elizabeth I's privy chamber and was a member of the court of James I.

There is a note before the publication pages that says that this history was commissioned by the court and was written for James I.

This document consist of short commentaries on different times throughout English history in chronological order.

It starts with the conquering of England by the Romans, goes on to King Alfred, then William I, William II, Henry I, Stephen, and so on until Edward III. There is much to say about the succession of Kings and commentary about the type of government that each age had. This is very fact-based work. It is basically a line of succession chart with little narrative. There is commentary about policy and how the rulers stood with their parliament or ministers.

Approx. 225 pages.

STENTON LIBRARY--BM/04 - A restitution of decayed intelligence : in antiquities. Concerning the most noble, and renowned English nation
Verstegan, Richard, ca. (1550-1640.) Printed and folded at the King's Arms, London, 1634. Verstegan was a third-generation Dutch-Englishman who went by the name Rowlands when he attended Christ Church College, Oxford and studied Anglo-Saxon linguistics. He left without a degree due to his conversion to Catholicism. He became a prolific writer on the Continent as well as in England.

In spite of his professed religion, the book is dedicated to James I, defender of the faith. There are multiple dedications and epistles at the beginning of this work. Some of these are Latin, some English, some in prose and some in poetry, most are original, but some are attributed to other authors and borrowed for the purpose of illustrating the necessity of documenting the works of our ancestors.

This chronicle is concerned with the Saxons, from their origins until the Norman Conquest. Verstegan traces the Saxon lineage from the Flood, through the fall of the Tower of Babel and on through the Old Testament relying on questionable linguistic etymology to reinforce his argument. He later links their heritage to Troy by way of Rome. The narrative continues with the lifestyle of the Saxons when they lived in Germany, including specific rulers and with an emphasis on religion.

The Saxons land in Britain halfway through this work. There, the government of the Island was divided among the conqueror’s three sons into Scotland, Wales and England. He continues with the wars fought with the Picts (who he attributes as coming from “Scythian Germany,”) then with the Danes and then the Normans. He concludes the book with a list of names in England that have Saxon roots and their meanings.

Woodcut of Babel on Publication page.

Woodcuts labeled “Woden” and “Thor” in body of document.

Approx. 330 pages.

STENTON LIBRARY--CH/15 - An historicall narration of the manner and forme of that memorable parliament, which wrought wonders : begun at Westminster 1386, in
The author speaks in slanderous tones about the king surrounding himself with advisors who were incompetent. The nobility looked on the suffering of the people and urged the king to summon a Parliament to address the issues which plagued the nation. When the Parliament assembles, it lists the multiple offences that the king has committed against the English people. The narrative goes on to tell how the members of Parliament rose up against the monarchy. When they raised an army, God was with them and allowed them to defeat the Royalists.

Pamphlet of 36 pages.
James II, Mary II, William III

These rare books were published from 1685-1702. They address the political and religious climate resulting from the troubled rule of James II, the overthrow of the monarchy, the Glorious Revolution and the reign of King William and Queen Mary.

Possible subject areas include:

- Changes in political philosophy as a result of the Glorious Revolution
- Royalists’ defense of James II
- Queen Mary’s impact on the public perception of the monarchy
- John Locke’s influence on political philosophy
- The public’s view of the Glorious Revolution

Details of items in Special Collections:

STENTON LIBRARY--FW/10- **The established government of England, vindicated from all popular and republican principles and mistakes : with a respect to the laws of God, man, nature and nations**

Philipps, Fabian, (1601-1690) Printed in London, 1687. Philipps was a writer of many treatises under Charles II.

The dedication is to James II. Philipps is clearly a royalist and has a poor opinion of the leanings of the “mad-headed multitude.” He goes on to say in the introduction that the problem with the monarchy comes from the selection of inferior minds to the royal cabinet as well as the fuzzy definition of the role of Parliament. None of these faults does he directly attribute to the monarchy.

The intended audience of this book is other lawyers of England. (Fabian’s title is esquire.) From Fabian’s point-of-view, the Parliamentary rebellion against the monarchy has been going on non-stop for fifty years, since the Short Parliament was dismissed by Charles I. He uses precedence laid down by kings going back to John I to establish the intended limitations of Parliamentary power. He builds on historical precedence and applies these examples to many hypothetical and actual situations handled by Parliament to demonstrate how they should have acted and how they should have deferred to the monarchy. This is a law review of executive power using historical examples to demonstrate how Parliament has been in the wrong in the past 50 years with regards to the monarchy.

761 pages.

STENTON LIBRARY--CO/20- **The new state of England under their Majesties K. William and Q. Mary. In three parts**

Miège, Guy, (1644-1718) Printed in London in 1691.

Miège was a lexicographer. This is apparent by his style of prose: terse, to the point and more like reading a list than a narrative. There is an index at the beginning of the codex, indicative of how thorough this text will prove to be. Even with his fact-oriented background, it does not prevent Miège from beginning the text “England is the best and largest part of the greatest island of Europe.” The book is written as a complete guide to someone who has never been to England. It covers every aspect of life of the nation, starting with geography (beginning on a large scale, then continuing on to cover the geography of every county with brief history included,) continuing with trade-based economy, internal trade, patriotism among the citizens, and finally concluding with the present political state.
A pocket sized book.
Approx. 700 pages.

STENTON LIBRARY--DB/07- An argument proving, that the abrogation of King James by the people of England from the regal throne, and the promotion of the Prince of Orange, one of the royal family, to the throne of the kingdom in his stead, was according to the constitution of the English government, and prescribed by it. In opposition to all the false and treacherous hypotheses, of usurpation, conquest, desertion, and of taking the powers that are upon content

Johnson, Samuel, (1649-1703.) This book is bound in another codex containing “A Sermon Preach’d before the Right Honourable The Lord Mayor, The Aldermen and Governours of the Several Hospitals of the City of London at St. Bridget’s Church on Easter-Monday, 1700” and several other sermons. It is the last work in this codex. No publication information is given for the pamphlet. Samuel Johnson was a pamphleteer and a cleric who deplored James II and supported the Glorious Revolution.

Johnson proposes, in a concise argument, that the people of England dethroned James II following proceedings that were allowed by the English Constitution. He proceeds to analyze the legal wording behind this act and explain it to the public in a way that legitimizes it. He relies on Social Contract philosophy to parse out the rest of his argument.
Approx. 10 pages.

STENTON LIBRARY--CN/26- A discourse of government, as examined by reason, scripture, and law of the land. Or true weights and measures between soveraignty and liberty

Warwick, Philip, Sir, (1609-1683.) Printed against the Exeter-Exchange in London, 1694. Warwick was a member of the Long Parliament who left when they rebelled against the monarchy. He remained an ardent royalist through the reign of Charles II.

This work was published almost 20 years after it was written. The publisher explains in his letter to the reader that his reason for publishing this tract now was to appeal to the public’s sense of logic now that the chaos of revolution has stilled somewhat. He continues to say that this was a book written in a time of anarchy, when its sober judgments would not have been accepted by the larger public; he hopes now that they will be. Essentially, this is a call to return to the beliefs concerning government of a previous generation, before, Hobbs, Milton and Locke usurped the philosophy.

The discourse is written in simple but fluid prose. He posits that God created man to live with one another in a government of divine monarchy and since God created it, it was infallible. This is a rebuttal to Leviathan. He cites scripture to back up his argument.
213 pages.

STENTON LIBRARY--BD/22- An essay on the memory of the late queen


This work waxes of all of the florid prose one can expect with such an elegy. Burnet goes on about Mary as if she were a saint. It nothing short of miraculous the talent that Burnet displays in writing a tract of this length with so few actual facts mentioned. Her qualities are listed and expounded upon and she is compared to this biblical persona or that saint, but what did she do in her life? Don’t look to this book for the answer.

It is, however, perhaps indicative of the public’s obsession with the idea of the feminine monarch that this was published and circulated with success. It may also be a clue as to why William III’s image took a nose-dive after his wife’s passing.
Contains a woodcut of Queen Mary before title page
The debate at large, between the House of Lords and House of Commons, at the free conference, held in the Painted Chamber, in the session of the convention, anno 1688. Relating to the word, abdicated, and the vacancy of the throne, in the Common's [sic] vote
These are the minutes taken from this series of assemblies of Parliament.
It relates the manner in which the houses of Lords and Commons sought to resolve the “abdication” of the throne by James II and the consequent ascension of William and Mary. The Parliament wants William and Mary to take the throne, but needs to phrase the legalese just so, so that it seems legitimate.
176 pages.

Anglia libera: or the limitation and succession of the crown of England explain’d and asserted
Toland, John, (1670-1722.) Printed in the Posthouse, London, 1701. An Irish philosopher educated in Scotland and England, Toland converted from Catholicism at age 16 and was influenced heavily by the ideas of John Locke.
He begins the work with a summary of his take of governmental philosophy with tones of Social Contract, then goes on to given an account of the “abdication” of James II and praises the success of the Glorious Revolution. He explains the limits that should be put on the monarchy, given that it can be overthrown by the people and the role of Parliament.
This is a political treatise set within the contemporary context of the Glorious Revolution.
190 pages.
The religious climate in England from 1685 to 1702

This selection includes pamphlets, treatises and memoirs that relate to the English clergy and its interaction with Catholics, Nonconformists and Presbyterians around the time of the Glorious Revolution and during the reign of William and Mary.

Possible subject areas include:

- The practical extent of religious tolerance under William III
- Clerical view of Catholicism and Nonconformists
- Debates concerning apostolic succession
- The English perception of Irish Catholics

Details of items in Special Collections:

STENTON LIBRARY--DC/04- The life of William Bedell, D.D. Bishop of Kilmore in Ireland
Burnet, Gilbert, (1643-1715) Printed at the Harrow, London, 1685. *Burnet was an ardent anti-Catholic and a high-ranking member of court. He was forced to go abroad during the reign of James II and returned to support William and Mary.*

The extensive preface defends the monarchy's right to govern the church. Burnet states that any government that delivered the "true Christian faith" cannot be criminal.

The majority of the book is the reprint of the letters that were either written by, to or about Bedell. It begins with a brief biography concerning the facts of Bedell's life with predictable inflations regarding his character. (There was never a better man ordained bishop than Bidell.) He apparently went to Italy and spent some time defending the English faith to the Pope. There, he got the Book of Common Prayer translated into Italian.

The biography drives home the point that Bedell was a warrior to the cause of the Church of England, who had no qualms about entering into enemy territory to spread Anglicanism.

259 pages.

STENTON LIBRARY--DA/24- A discourse about tradition: shewing what is meant by it, and what tradition is to be received, and what tradition is to be rejected
Patrick, Simon, (1626-1707) Printed at the Unicorn and at the George in London, 1685. *Patrick had a successful career in the Church of England, starting as a chaplain and finishing as a bishop. He was a prolific writer and his works include tracts against Nonconformity as well as general theological treatises.*

Patrick's thesis in this discourse is that morality should be clear and easy to discern by reading the scriptures. He states that this is the only doctrine on which we should base our faith. It is only through the recent meddlings by Nonconformists that good Anglicans are being led astray. He uses scriptures to legitimate the doctrine and sacraments of the Anglican faith.

36 pages.

There are several other treatises in this codex all along the same lines: legitimizing the Church of England through Apostolic succession and scriptural authority, confirming the right of the Crown to lord over the Church, denouncing
Catholicism, hinting at the incorrectness of Nonconformist movements. There are all, on average, 40 pages in length.

STENTON LIBRARY--DB/22- A dissuasive from popery to the people of England and Ireland : together with II. Additional letters to persons changed in their religion

Taylor, Jeremy, (1613-1667.) Printed for R. Roysten, bookseller to the king, London, 1686. Taylor was a clergyman during the reign of Charles I through the Interregnum. He is honored in the Church of England as a lesser saint and is considered to be “The Shakespeare of the Divines.”

Taylor notes in the introduction that this is a subject that has already been much covered, but he wishes to address it again, as it is once again a growing problem in Ireland and he should not feel worthy of his office if it was not brought to the attention of his parishioners. He was a great writer with an excellent command of historical and biblical allegories that lend to the overall prose rather than interrupting it and digressing. The book itself is meant to be read by his congregation and is aimed at explaining Catholic doctrine, how it differs from Anglican doctrine and why it leads to an unchristian and therefore sinful lifestyle.

Woodcut before title page with a church, a woman and a cross with Koine Greek on it.

277 pages.

STENTON LIBRARY--DB/12- Bishop Overall's Convocation=book, MDCVI : concerning the government of God's Catholick Church, and the kingdoms of the whole world

Overall, John, (1560-1619.) Printed at the Bishop's Head in London, 1690. Overall was the Bishop of Norwich and one of the chaplains-in-ordinary to Queen Elizabeth.

This work was originally written in 1606.

Overall lays down several canons that the bishop extrapolated from the scripture, first writing out the canons and then explaining them in detail. These canons go through the Bible laying out events that happened and then saying that if any man denies that this happened or that this law is not just, then they are not a true Christian. This establishes salvation through scripture as well as summarizes the doctrine of the Church of England.

Contains two woodcuts of the bishop before the title pages.

Approx. 340 pages.

STENTON LIBRARY--DB/33- Tutamen evangelicum : or, a defence of scripture-ordination, against the exceptions of T.G. in a book entitled Tentamen novum, proving, that ordination by presbyters is valid

Owen, James, (1654-1706.) Printed in Manchester, 1697.

Owens begins in the prologue by listing the works that the author of Tentamen Novum has written in the years since its publication, and proceeds to lambast each one of these works in turn.

He attacks his opponent on various fronts. He considers current doctrine of the bishops, examines the way that he believes Jesus originally set up the Church, the way that Paul explained apostolic succession, current ecclesiastical government and the way that it is structured, all to establish that Presbyterian ordination is invalid.

The prose is somewhat tedious, but the overall result is very well thought out.

190 pages.
Religious dissent under Queen Anne

These sermons, pamphlets and dissertations speak to the growing animosity between the Anglican Church and the Nonconformist movement. As the 18th century begins, the threat of Catholicism is not as pressing on the minds of the English clergy as the increased popularity of the Presbyterians and other Dissenters. These rare books are documents both defending the Church of England and in favor of the Nonconformists.

Possible subject areas include:

- 18th century Anglican clerical perception of Catholicism
- Role of Whig and Tory divide in Church of England politics
- Presbyterian secular politics
- Pro-Church of England propaganda
- Pro-Nonconformist propaganda

Details of items in Special Collections:

STENTON LIBRARY--DD/05- A new test of the Church of England's loyalty: : or, Whiggish loyalty and Church loyalty compar'd
Defoe, Daniel, (1661?-1731.) Reprinted in 1703. (No other publication information given.) Immortalized by his famous novel, Robinson Crusoe Defoe was also a prominent pamphleteer, having written over 500 different tracts under at least 198 different pen names. He was a Presbyterian dissenter.

Defoe argues in this pamphlet that although politicians will always divide themselves along party lines, the largest division between the people of England will be between the Anglicans and the dissenters. Because of its very nature, the Church of England Party (as he calls it) is naturally assumed to be loyal to the crown, whereas the dissenters are always branded rebels. They have the advantage because matters of State can be woven into their sermons.

Defoe then muses that the first and best reformer of the Church of England was Edward VI. He believes that had Edward lived, he might have continued the reformation of the Church to its natural conclusion, Presbyterianism. But since he did not, and the reformation was stunted by his successor, Mary Tudor, England is stuck in a state of quasi-Reformation, where the true believers are condemned as spies and traitors in their own land.

23 pages.

STENTON LIBRARY--DE/13- De Laune's Plea for the non-conformists...In a letter to Dr. Benjamin Calamy, on his sermon, called, Scrupulous conscience
De Laune, Thomas, (d.1685.) Printed at the Bible in London, 1706. This is the seventh publication of this work, according to Daniel Defoe, who penned the prologue.

In the preface, Daniel Defoe praises this work as a well-rounded rebuttal to those have attacked Nonconformists through the use of scripture, philosophy or historical precedent.

De Laune's treatise is written as a letter in response to a sermon that was given six months previously that condemned Nonconformity. He uses contemporary political thought and scripture to argue that one has the right to question religious authorities if one does not hold with their beliefs. He states that being unquestionably submissive to clerical authority is not the definition of being a good Christian. De Laune then argues
that the ecclesiastical hierarchy of England has given its people more than ample reason
to defy their authority and proceeds to cite these reasons.

This pamphlet is bound with another short work entitled “The Image of the
Beast”

45 pages.

STENTON LIBRARY--DE/16- Dissenters self-condemn’d : being a full answer to Mr. De
Laune’s Plea for the non-conformists, lately recommended by Mr. Daniel Foe....To
which is added, The dissenters harmony in principle with the papists. With a letter
prefix’d to Mr.Daniel Foe
Robertson, William, (fl.1713.) Publishing information not available.
Robertson’s tract begins with a letter to Daniel Defoe, lambasting his prologue to
De Laune’s work. Robertson lashes out at Defoe’s audacity, saying that he cannot help
but wonder how Defoe dares call himself a good Protestant Christian and promote De
Laune’s work, which at the very least promotes ideas of popery and at the most is a tract
in defence of atheism and infidelity. He lumps Defoe and De Laune in the same category
as enchanters and prophets that the scriptures warn will try to ensnare the faithful with
enticing thoughts and lead them away from true Christianity.

Robertson’s prose is filled with absolutist rhetoric and few citations outside of
scripture. This work is an emotional, rather than an intellectual, reply.
143 pages.

STENTON LIBRARY--DD/26- The perils of false brethren, both in Church, and state: set
forth in a sermon preach’d...at the Cathedral-Church of St.Paul, on the 5th of
November, 1709
Sacheverell’s powerful pro-Tory sermons made him an idol to the Tories and a nuisance to the
Whigs who managed to have his works condemned to be burned in 1709. This only made him
more popular as his supporters took to the streets and burned churches of Presbyterians and
Dissenters in his honour.

Sacheverell dedicates this sermon to the Lord-mayor of London against the
wishes of those who had this book condemned.

He unveils, in suitably dramatic rhetoric, the conspiracy that has infiltrated the
English nation which only the Hand of God has helped to subvert. This conspiracy is so
unspeakably heinous that it could have only been hatched in the cloisters of hell! What
conspiracy, you ask? This is the conspiracy of those false brethren who would have us
shake off our allegiance to holy mother Church and State, by having us believe that we
do wrong! How could the English Church and State possibly wrong, when the church has
withstood the test of all manner of assaults and the queen sits happily on her rightly-
bestowed throne?

And so on...
27 pages.

STENTON LIBRARY--DD/32- The measures of submission to the civil magistrate
consider’d in a defense of the doctrine ... / by Benjamin Hoadly 3rd ed.
Hoadly, Benjamin, Dr., (1706-1757) Printed at the Crown in London, 1710.

This work was delivered in the form of sermon given before the Lord-Mayor five
years prior to this publication.

Hoadly uses statements made in the Pauline paricapies to enforce the idea of
social contract. He uses these passages to illustrate how all people are to be submissively
subject to their governors and the governors are subject to the needs of their people.
This is not to say that people have the right to throw off their governor if they don’t
appreciate the way they are governing. Hoadly believes that, as Christians, the people are duty-bound to be servile to their leaders. The remainder of the sermon is concerned with the correct way a Christian leader should act towards their subjects.

The actual sermon ends after 16 pages. Then a defence of the sermon follows. The sermon has been in circulation for long enough that it has garnered a fair amount of responses, most of them unfavourable. Hoadly uses this opportunity to justify his perspective. He takes arguments made against this work into consideration and contradicts them with his own perspective. He believes that just because the monarchs of the recent past have been less than satisfactory, does not mean that the system is flawed, only that the monarchs were not practicing their divinely appointed position correctly. By this defence, he validates the monarchy as the head of the Anglican Church. There are two other sermons bound in this copy, being the third edition of this work.

The sermon and its defence are Approx. 240 pages long.

STENTON LIBRARY--DD/24- An account of church-government and governours. The second edition, with additions and amendments.
Brett, Thomas, (1667-1744.) This second edition was printed at The Rose in London in 1710.

Brett explains in his preface that this book was written for the purpose of inspiring someone with a greater education than he to write a more extensive history of the governance of the Church of England. He believes that since the book’s first publication, several good works on this subject have been published, most of them reinforcing his belief that the Church (specifically the Church of England, the orthodox Church by way of apostolic succession) had been endowed with certain temporal rights since its inception by Jesus Christ. Brett calls for a reconciliation of all Churches to be one as professed in the Apostles’ Creed. He believes that this one Church should be modelled on the Church of England and he uses the rest of the book to explore the specifics of the hierarchy within the Church.

452 pages.

STENTON LIBRARY--DB/01- Dangerous positions and proceedings, published and practised within this island of Britain, under pretence of reformation, and for presbyterial discipline
Bancroft, Richard, (1544-1610.) Printed in London, 1712. Bancroft was a prominent member of the clergy and concluded his career as the Archbishop of Canterbury. Earlier, when he held the office of Bishop of London and was the overseer of ecclesiastical affairs, it was his duty to condemn anti-clerical writings. The infamous Martin Marprelate papers fell under his jurisdiction.

This anti-Presbyterian tract was written in the early 17th century, yet its contents still resonated with an 18th century audience. The publisher believes that the time is right for the reprinting of this document since too many people in his day espouse the beliefs that are condemned in this work.

Bancroft writes his work as a defence of the principles that Elizabeth I sought to establish during her reign. It cries out against Catholicism most prominently, since that was the most obvious threat to the Church during that time, but it also addresses threats from within the kingdom itself. He warns against those who would seek to mislead good Christians in the name of Reformation. These people are taking reform too far, for if it is not sanctioned by the Church, then it is Nonconformist and a threat.

182 pages.
Chronicles 1688-1723

The following call numbers are rare books that were published after the Glorious Revolution and continue through the reign of George I. They reflect interest in a number of different subjects, from ecclesiastical history to numismatics and are indicative of a change in historiography that emphasizes the importance of primary sources and proper citation.

Possible subject areas include:

- The evolution of historiography in the 17th century
- Chronicles and histories as royalist and/or Anglican propaganda
- The growing importance of a documented national history in the late 17th and early 18th century
- The importance of Rome in woodcuts and history

Details of items in Special Collections:

STENTON LIBRARY--FW/16- *Origines britannicae, or, The antiquities of the British churches: with a preface concerning some pretended antiquities relating to Britain, in vindication of the Bishop of St. Asaph*

Stillingfleet, Edward, (1635-1699.) Printed at the Phoenix in London, 1685. *Stillingfleet was a staunch defender of Anglicanism, a prolific writer and an immensely popular speaker.*

The purpose of this work is to focus on the history of the Church from the time of the first converts of Christianity in Britain, to the conversion of the Saxons. A very lengthy prologue reflects the author’s frustration of trying to discover the true origins of the British people through contradictory legends, traditions and histories. This is attempted on a very broad scale. (Where is the true origin of the Celts? Near Scythia, as some say? Near Greece? Did they come to England via France or Spain?)

The rest of the book examines specific legends and histories of certain places that pertain to the coming of Christianity to England. For example, he takes the legend of the coming of Joseph of Aramathea and focuses on the facts that can be substantiated. He debunks the legend to get to the historical root. Stillingfleet notices that the monks of Glastonbury have profited from this legend, but none of the early historians (like Bede) have taken any note of the coming of Joseph in their histories.

His main focus is on the very early church, but he also includes the conversion of the Saxons.

364 pages.

STENTON LIBRARY--CH/06- *Historical observations upon the reigns of Edward I, II, III, and Richard II: with remarks upon their faithful counsellors and false favourites*

Howard, Robert, Sir, (1626-1698) Printed at the Post Office at Charing Cross and at the Spread-Eagle, London, 1689. *Sir Howard was a politician and playwright with royalist sympathies during the Interregnum. He supported the Glorious Revolution and was elected to the privy council under William and Mary.*

Sir Howard notes in the introduction that during these times when passionate political minds are divided against one another, one may turn to history for the full explanation concerning what precedents led us to our current state. His argument seems to be that since the Parliamentarians and anti-royalists have had no definitive starting point to their history, then their entire movement is without precedent and, therefore, without legitimacy.
In his version of historical events, it is the unworthy cabinet members that undermine the monarchy. He looks upon the successions that have gone on unchallenged as the best way to illustrate the stability and virtuousness of the monarchy.

This book can be seen more as a historical commentary on events that everyone is familiar with than a re-relating of said events.

192 pages.

STENTON LIBRARY--BD/19- **An English-Saxon homily on the birth-day of St. Gregory: anciently used in the English-Saxon Church,. Giving an account of the conversion of the English from paganism to Christianity**

Aelfric, Abbot of Eynsham.(c. 955- c. 1010) Translated by Elizabeth Elstob., Printed in London, 1709. Abbot Aelfric was a prolific writer who penned over 40 homilies and hagiographies. Elizabeth Elstob was a pioneer of Saxon studies. She was fluent in eight languages and was a forerunner of English feminism.

The prologue is addressed to Queen Anne and marks the contribution of female rulers to Christianity (Helena, Elizabeth I and Bertha, Queen of Kent.) Elstob hopes that the story of St. Gregory may inspire Anne to continue to follow in the traditions of these women.

The preface is a defense of the piece toward all who would find fault with it, particularly on the basis that the writer is a woman. She defends her education and the education of women in general. Then, she goes on to discuss her motives in translating this particular piece. She describes her interest in the Saxon language, but this piece in particular, since it delves into the role of women in the conversion of the English into Christians and the circumstances behind that conversion. She then gives a summary of the events in the homily. The preface is 55 pages long.

The homily is published in a side-by-side dual column format, so one can follow along in Saxon. This translation is very much an educational one, with multiple footnotes concerning the translation. The hagiography is typical. It speaks of Gregory’s ascension from relatively humble roots to the priesthood and then to Pope. Most of all, though, it emphasizes his piety throughout his rise to power.

Woodcut of St. Gregory before publication page.

49 pages with appendix.

STENTON LIBRARY--CA/21- **The life of Ælfred the Great**

Spelman, John, Sir, (1594-1643.) Printed at the Theatre in Oxford and at the Golden-Ball in London, 1709. *Spelman was a royalist under Charles I and a noted antiquarian.*

This was a reprinting of a manuscript from the Bodleian Library with several additions and historical comments by the publisher, Thomas Hearne. It was written in English and translated into Latin for its first publication in 1678.

The author's dedication is to Prince Charles so that he might know more about his royal ancestors. There are several footnotes given by the current publisher who attempts to explain exactly what the author means by some of his statements. He also inserts quotations of original text that might serve to explain where the author got his information; occasionally entire pages are given over to these comments.

The first founding of Reading and the battle fought between the Saxons and the Danes in 871 is explored here. Throughout these battles, the reader is placed firmly on the side of the Saxons, who are valiant and God’s choice for the natural rulers of this land. One of the Saxon warriors refuses to interrupt the mass at Reading, even when they are being attacked by the Danes. The book continues in this manner. It is mostly the accounts of the battles that were fought in an attempt to solidify Aelfred’s hold on the land. The author bolsters his claims by placing events within this historical context of other books that his contemporaries have written. (He cites Dugdale, for example.)
Leake begins his book with a historical account of English money from the murky waters of its first use on the island, which the author does not give a date to. He believes that Britons (Celts) used gold and silver coins before the Roman occupation. He does not base this on coins that he has examined, but on the accounts of the biography of Caesar. He moves quickly onward to the use of coins in the High Medieval Period. Here, he describes in narrative the characteristic of the coins struck during the reign of each monarch after the Conquest along with their inscriptions. Also included in these descriptions is what each coin was made of, with its standard weight and value. The descriptions become more detailed the closer the author gets to the present date as the type of coins become more diverse and individual cities and regions begin minting their own currency.

After the index are a few pages of plates that contain illustrations of several of the coins that were discussed in the book.

144 pages.

STENTON LIBRARY--EA/24- Chronological tables of Europe. From the nativity of our saviour to the year MD CCXXVI. Digested into a method, not hitherto extant; so very easie & exact, that one may immediately find out either pope, emperor or king: and thereby know in what time or kingdom he reign'd, who were his predecessors, contemporaries and successors
Marcel, Guillaume, (1647-1708.) No publication information available.

At the beginning is an explanation to the reader about how to read the chronological tables.

The first part of the table is an alphabetical index of the rulers of Europe from the time of Christ to 1726 with symbols (zodiac, religious and Roman letters) that indicate the manner of their rule, which country that they governed and which religion they subscribed to. The second table is a chronology of events divided by country and year. Following this is an index which gives an explanation of the symbols.

An elaborate woodcut comes before the publication page of Christ appearing in the clouds above several different peoples of the world.
Woodcut on dedication page of several angels.
Woodcut following dedication page shows the crowns of each of the kingdoms in Europe that are represented here.
Following this is an illustration of the coat of arms of each kingdom.
After the preface is a fold-out map of the world.
Following this is a fold-out map of Europe.
This pocket-sized book is Approx. 20 pages in length.

STENTON LIBRARY--LC/13- Firma burgi, or, An historical essay concerning the cities, towns and buroughs of England. Taken from records
Madox, Thomas, (1666-1727.) Printed at the Middle-Temple-Gate, London, 1726.

Madox was the official historiographer of the monarchy and his works have become a standard of medieval historical study.

Madox begins his prologue with a lesson in historiography: a historian should know everything on the subject in which he writes, or his historical opinion is imperfect;
one should give themselves a great deal of time and preparation for this undertaking; one should have a well-rounded knowledge in the languages that pertain to their field, etc.

This book is an survey of the history of several small towns in England. Madox begins with an overview of the ecclesiastical and secular way in which towns are generally governed, as well as how the state goes about getting revenue from them. He uses the following chapters to explore singular situations of governance: how a town by go about functioning if it was incorporated versus unincorporated, for example. He uses specific current examples to further illustrate his points as well as examples past.

This is a law book combined with history.

Contains a woodcut on publication page of London and Eboracum personified as women with a cathedral in the background.

Woodcut of a court-scene on dedication page.

Illuminated letter “I” on dedication page with woodcut of Athena (?) Woodcut of two people on preface page with an angel between them.

Woodcuts or illuminated letters begin each chapter.

297 pages.
Minority religions and religious philosophies in England

These treatises and histories, found in the Rare Books Collection of the Stenton Library, contain books published prior to 1850 that either defend or condemn these minority religions and philosophies that were practiced in England from the Reformation until the mid-19th century including Quakerism, General Baptism, Deism and Atheism.

Possible subject areas include:

- The emergence of Deism in Europe and the opposition that surrounded it
- Political fears regarding Atheism
- The historical roots of Quakerism
- The doctrine and history of General Baptists
- The demoniac of Surrey and the religio-political implications surrounding this incident

Details of items in Special Collections:

STENTON LIBRARY--DD/09- The folly and unreasonableness of atheism demonstrated ... in eight sermons preached at the lecture founded by ... Robert Boyle ... 1692


Bentley had received the grant established by Robert Boyle which provided one year’s salary to a minister who would preach eight sermons specifically defending the Christian religion against “notorious Infidels, viz., Atheists, Deists, Pagans, Jews and Mahometans; not descending to any controversies that are among Christians themselves.” This codex contains these eight sermons.

Bentley states in his sermons that there are now people who deny the truth of the Church and the existence of an immortal soul, but to avoid the label “atheists” they prefer the term “deists,” which sounds less offensive, but is, in fact, just as bad, and maybe more so since it uses subterfuge. Moreover, there are also several hypocrites which outwardly project a religious visage, but are in their minds corrupt. He also introduces the notion that since religion is the foundation of government anyone who is an atheist is, by definition, an anarchist or anti-social. He proves this point by saying that in the wholly godless nations of America and Newfoundland, the peoples of those nations live without government. He quotes examples in the Bible that without God, men lived in chaos. Bentley also defends Christianity from a perspective of the order of the cosmos and all its perfection.

Approx. 350 pages.

STENTON LIBRARY--DC/15- A vindication of the Surey demoniack as no imposter : or, a reply to a certain pamphlet publish’d by Mr. Zach. Taylor, called The Surey imposter. With a further clearing and confirming of the truth as to Richard Dugdale’s case and cure

Jolly, Thomas, (1629-1703.) Printed in Sheffield and in London in 1698. Jolly was a dissenting minister who was arrested several times for suspicions of holding conventicles. He was called in to help exorcize Richard Dugdale, along with several other independent ministers.

In this pamphlet, Jolly wishes to establish that Richard Dugdale was truly possessed, so that people may believe that the hand of God was at work here in restoring him to his pre-possessed state. He takes umbrage with Taylor for attempting to denounce him as credulous and naive. He defends his beliefs that the boy was possessed
against those who say that to believe in possession is to denounce the Church on the
grounds that it was encouraging the pervasion of popish superstition. He denies that the
possession could have been a disease or a trick by the possessed party. He spends most
of the first part of his book defending his own position against Taylor, rather than delving
into the events surrounding the possession.

The latter half of the book is spent recalling some of the events of the possession
and defending them as genuine. He includes excerpts from his own journal at the time,
which recount some of the more unusual happenings with the possessed man and how
he and his fellow ministers eventually exorcized him through prayer.

80 pages.

STENTON LIBRARY--BD/08- A brief collection of remarkable passages and occurrences
relating to the birth, education, life,... and deep sufferings of that...faithful servant of
the Lord, Margaret Fell; but by her second marriage, Margaret Fox. Together with
sundry of her epistles, books, and Christian testimonies to Friends and others

Fell, Margaret, (1614-1702.) Printed at White-Hart-Court in London, 1710. Margaret
Fell was one of the founders of the Religious Society of Friends and is known as “The Mother of
Quakerism.” She spent five years in prison for practicing a dissenting faith.

The collection begins with a Testimony “from Margaret Fox’s Children.” This
prologue attests to Fell’s character as a mother and as a leader in the Quaker faith. This is
followed by a few other testimonies which echo these sentiments.

Next is a collection of quotations of Margaret, right before she died.
Then is a brief autobiography.
Next follows several letters that she wrote to other members of the faith,
including those who were imprisoned with her for their beliefs. She also wrote epistles
to the clergy of the Church of England in defence of her religion. In these, she reveals her
extensive knowledge of the scriptures and of Christian history.

There is a copy of her testimony at the trial in which she was sentenced to life in
prison.

Approx. 400 pages long.

STENTON LIBRARY--FC/03- The history of the rise, increase, and progress,
of the
Christian people called Quakers. The second edition corrected.

was originally written in Low-Dutch. Sewel’s mother was an English Quaker minister, who
resided in Utrecht with her husband, William’s father. She was a prolific writer. William was a
translator and Quaker historian.

The dedication is to George I. He chooses the king as the subject of his
dedication to illustrate that the Quakers have been unfairly maligned throughout history
as traitors to the crown and are his loyal subjects as much as any Anglican. In the preface,
the author states that his purpose is to bring to light the sufferings of a people that now
make up (by his reckoning) a fair percentage of the people of England.

The book begins with the roots of Reformation with John Hus in 1415. The
author draws on the common ground with the English people. If there’s one thing we
can all agree on: the Catholics are the anti-Christ. The first 200 years are brief and a more
detailed history begins in the 1650’s, when the beginnings of Quaker doctrine come to
light in a series of Socratic-style theological debates. The emerging Quaker movement is
fleshed out within the context of the greater political history of England, specifically the
Interregnum.

The majority of the book takes place between 1650 and 1670.

Approx. 680 pages not including index.
The history and antiquities of dissenting churches and meeting houses, in London, Westminster, and Southwark: including the lives of their ministers, from the rise of nonconformity to the present time: with an appendix on the origin, progress, and present state of Christianity in Britain


Wilson begins his preface by stating that ecclesiastical history has been grossly misrepresented over the years as people have used it to further their own religious agenda than to relate the facts in the cold, dispassionate light of truth. He goes on to say that it is easy to see how popish writers could have fallen into this trap, but that good, Protestant writers have followed in their footsteps is nothing short of villainous. The writer of this piece has not fallen into this trap, as his goal was purely to seek the truth for himself, rather than for the purpose of any specific denomination.

The body of the book deals with 31 different churches in the greater London area of several denominations from Reformed Quakers to Particular Baptists and several independent churches.

It begins with a history of dissenting churches in London, starting with the reign of Queen Mary and continuing with the specific history of the Presbyterians, the Brownists and the Independents.

The history of the individual churches deals not so much with the actual buildings as with the specific beliefs of each congregation. The author extrapolates this information by quoting the sermons of the ministers that preach at each church and by reviewing the letters written by previous ministers. Short histories are given of important ministers in each congregation.

Illustrations taken from original paintings of 26 ministers follow the table of contents.

536 pages.

A view of the principal Deistical writers that have appeared in England in the last and present century. 5th ed.


In this work, Leland collects of the works of each author, along with the publications of some responses that their views provoked. The last six chapters of the book are dedicated to David Hume and his beliefs. In the prologue, Leland makes it known that he has published this collection so that his audience might be made aware of this unprecedented attempt to flout ecclesiastical authority. He wants it known that these subversive tracts are weakening the foundations of Christianity and the entire ecclesiastical structure. This is most comprehensive collection of this type published during its time.

Approx. 415 pages.

Extracts from the minutes and advices of the Yearly Meeting of Friends held in London: from its first institution 2nd ed.

London, originally printed in 1802; supplement added in 1822.

The purpose of the publication of the minutes of this meeting was to assuage of the fears of some of the congregants that minutes were not being preserved for posterity. The first annual meeting of this type was in 1781. The meetings and the publication of the minutes was to promote universality of doctrine throughout the faith, to provide a sense of community and to publically chastise those who were back-sliding into the fires of damnation. This book covers all of these topics and also those that deal with government and their place in it.

Approx. 300 pages.
Taylor states in his preface that this is the history specifically of the General Baptists, which were apparently the more ancient and more numerous of the two sects (the other being the Particular Baptists.) He continues that, even now, the faith is diminished and many of the ministers of the faith have chosen other paths.

He gives the history of baptism and the controversies that surrounded it starting in 200 with Terullian, continuing with the first few ecumenical councils and the Donatist Controversy in Northern Africa. His history then moves west to the Iberian Peninsula where he follows the Christians displaced by the Umayyad invasion of 714. He believes these Christians to be the forerunners of the Cathars and Waldensians, who he believes were the only true Christians in the Western Church because they re-baptized converts to their religion. Taylor’s history then switches to the Anabaptists of Munster, then to Wycliff and Hus.

The second and much larger part of the book is concerned with the history of the Baptists in England; starting with the formation of the Church in Holland with English exiles and a focus spent on the 17th century in England.

Approx. 700 pages long.
History and descriptions of English religious buildings

These works all contain specific documentation on one or more cathedral, monastery, abbey, church or nunnery. Most books contain original charters which were influential in the founding and maintenance of these houses of worship. Many of these include histories of the foundations of the churches and the towns that surround them. Floor plans, diagrams, and illustrations of the churches themselves are also included.

Possible subject areas include:

- Architectural aspects of religious houses in England
- Historical themes regarding the foundation of houses of worship
- The dissolution of the monasteries
- Themes of heraldry in cathedrals
- Emerging interest in architectural history in the 18th century
- Biographies of notable members of the clergy

Details of items in Special Collections:

STENTON LIBRARY--AJ/11- The antiquities of Canterbury. Or a survey of that ancient citie, with the suburbs and cathedral
Published by William Somner in London, 1640.

Somner begins with the history of the city of Canterbury from Roman times, with an allusion to a Celtic settlement pre-dating the Roman conquest. He follows with an excerpt in Latin of Canterbury's holdings in the Doomesday Book. He gives a geographical description and history of major landmarks in the city complete with excerpts from original charters including the walls, mills, castle, suburbs, chapels, the Westgate Ward and the Ridingate Ward.

The largest selection is given over to a description of the Cathedral. Here, he gives a history of the charters and events that led to the construction of the church, a history of the building of the church, a survey of the church itself, a list of the Church’s benefactors and another of the bishops, priors and archdeacons that have served there.

The survey begins with a walking narrative of the body of the church which the author intersperses several quotes from Erasmus. He continues with a description of the monuments and then the chapels.

After the description of the cathedral, he says a little about each of the parish churches. Somner gives a history of the ecclesiastical government of Canterbury. A description of the temporal government follows.

Last is the appendix which reproduces his sources.
Following the table of contents is a fold-out map of Canterbury.
Woodcut of a Coat of Arms follows the publication pages.
A fold-out woodcut representation of an altar in St. Augustine’s church showing the reliquaries between pages 46 and 47.
Between pages 180 and 181 is a fold-out illustration of a baptismal font.
Approx. 520 pages long.

STENTON LIBRARY--FI/02- The history of St. Pauls cathedral in London, from its foundation untill these times : extracted out of originall charters, records, leiger books, and other manuscripts, beautifed with sundry prospects of the church, figures of tombes, and monuments
The history of the Cathedral begins with a papal dispensation issued in 185 AD to convert the King of Britain to Christianity, thus establishing the English monarchy’s early conversion to the Christian faith. He notes that it was the Saxon king Ethelbert, who had been converted by Augustine who established the first church on this site, which has been a temple to Diana.

After he has gone through the whole history of improvements and changes done to the church, making note of who commissioned which change. He goes on to the history of the reverence for the Virgin Mary at St. Paul’s “from ancient times.” He gives this evidence by particular images that were hung to honour the Virgin in the Cathedral, chapels that were built, pilgrims that came, and songs that were composed in her glory.

He then details the specific shrines, altars and chapels, their history, when they were built, for whom and who commissioned them. He tells of all of the funerals and anniversaries that were recorded as occurring in the church. He catalogues all of the people that were buried and where. The next hundred pages are collections of all of the epitaphs, containing multiple woodcuts that depict the shrines. Dugdale describes the church-yard, the library and the surrounding buildings which belong to the church. There follows woodcuts of the ambulatory, the quire, the courtyard, and a detail of the rose-window. Then follows a list of the receipts which list donations to the church.

In the appendix are copies of the charters from which he drew his information. It ends with a copy of the Dance Macabre in gothic manuscript, double columns.

Diagram of the inside of St. Paul’s with key containing shrines and chapels.

Woodcut of the outside of the old St. Paul’s.

Woodcut of the exterior with the door open.

Woodcut of exterior showing rose window.

Woodcut of Chapel of Thomas Kempe.

Woodcut of other side view.

In the preface, it is explicitly stated that the antiquarian who assembled this work wishes to remain anonymous.

There is an introduction containing a very brief history of the town of Hereford from Roman times. Next is the history of the Cathedral, the monastery dating from Saxon times, being rebuilt in 1079. Most recently, it was sacked by the Scots Army in 1645, surviving with only the library plundered.

The author lists all of the properties owned by the church, the church’s dimensions, the inscriptions on the bells, epitaphs along with descriptions of tombstones, benefactors of the library, a description of the cloisters along with inscriptions of plaques that hung in the cloisters. He then takes an extraction from the Doomsday Book which lists all of the revenues of the Church of Hereford at the time of the Conquest. He takes an extraction from a book kept in the library, listing, in Latin, the benefactors of the Church around 1611. He lists the inscriptions on the tables in the choir. Going to another altar in the church, he lists all of the inscriptions on these gravestones. He totals the number of the dead he has counted thus far and then finishes with a list of the coats of arms in the stain-glass windows,
He relies on the manuscript of a record found in the Bodleian repository to find a record of the events that the church has been used for.

The last part of the book is a history of notable clergy of the Cathedral and their histories.

There is a sizable index which lists all of the people interred in the church and the resources from which he obtained his references.

Approx. 200 pages
80 page index

STENTON LIBRARY--AO/15- The history and antiquities of Glastonbury : to which are added (1) The endowment and orders of Sherington's chantry, founded in Saint Paul's Church, London (2) Dr. Plot's letter to the Earl of Arlington concerning Thetford ; to all which pieces (never before printed) a preface is prefix'd, and an appendix subjoyn'd
Printed at the Theatre, Oxford in 1722.

The first 50 pages are a historical description of the Abbey. The history is rife with legend and the stories of Joseph of Armethay, St. Patrick and King Arthur's involvement with the town are not only treated as factual, but expanded upon. It is only when the author reaches the 8th century that we are pulled out of the murk of myth and given some more concrete facts about the founding of the Saxon abbey and its subsequent expansions until the dissolution of the monasteries under the rule of Henry VIII.

We are given a description of the dimensions of the ruins, what they used to be and what their purpose was. A history of the abbots follows, along with a geographical description of the town of Glastonbury and the surrounding area. Last, the author includes the legend of the Holy Thorne Tree.

The index includes an epistle attributed to St. Patrick which describes the early history of Glastonbury. The remainder of the documents are charters.

300 pages.

Before the publication page is a woodcut of a surly-looking Benedictine monk.

STENTON LIBRARY--AO/29- The history and antiquities of the Cathedral Church of Salisbury, and the Abbey Church of Bath
Rawlinson, Richard, (1690-1755.) Printed at the Lamb and the Flower-de-luce in London, 1723.

Rawlinson begins with a history of the Salisbury area starting around the time of the Conquest. The first cathedral that was built here during this time was situated so that it caught the wind like a giant net and no one could hear the priest during mass because of the howling. The priest was visited by the Virgin Mary who told him to dedicate a church to her in Merrifield, the location of New Salisbury. The new charter for the new church was ratified by Henry III and the first stones were laid in 1216. It was finished 42 years later.

In the history he gives the dimensions of the current church. Next is the properties that the church acquired, then the architectural account of the church, which is given in narrative format. Included in this is a diagram that explains the rafters and their attachments. Following this is the tombstones' descriptions and inscriptions (giving special account of the tomb of the boy bishop.) He lists the plaques and inscriptions given in the quire.

Other than the dimensions given in the introduction, there is no other description of the cathedral itself.

Rawlinson relates the antiquities of the Collegiate Church of St. Edmund in Salisbury. The introduction of the church gives a few sentences about its history and then it describes a window in the church of the 6 days of Creation, for which the church is
most known for. There was apparently some superstition surrounding the window, which was infamous enough that the author does not see the need to delve into it. The church fell into the ruin that came from the dissolution of the monasteries. The rest of the description of the church are copies of the tomb inscriptions.

The next section concerns the Abbey Church of Bath and begins with the typical brief history. It was built in 775, but apparently not completed in its contemporary state until 1612. He lists the benefactors that made improvements to the church during the reign of Elizabeth I. The last pages of this description are lists of the tombstone inscriptions.

The last half of the book is the histories of the bishops, archdeacons, Chancellors, precentors and lesser members of the clergy of this diocese, starting in 705.

In this volume is also bound a copy of A Vindication of the King's Sovereign Rights. 351 pages.
Bentham, James, (1708-1794.)

Bentham divides a sizable history of the cathedral into five marked periods beginning with the foundation of the church and monastery in 673 and ending in the year of the publication of this work, 1771. In an effort to make this work appeal to a broader audience, he has included in it the broader topic of the Saxon conversion to Christianity. Interspersed between the five periods of history are the histories of the individual members of the clergy that have served in the cathedral.

The actual description of the church only take up about 10 pages written in narrative format, starting with dimensions.

The appendix consists of the charters that were used as reference material. There are 50 copper plate illustrations with complete index on pages 290 and 291. They consist of church plans, cross-sections, monuments, tombs and heraldry. The body of the book is Approx. 300 pages long.

STENTON LIBRARY--FY/04- The history and antiquities of Croyland-Abbey in the county of Lincoln

Gough begins with the history of the founding of Croyland Abbey by Ethelbald of Mercia in the early 8th century, placing it in the context of the political situation of the day. The history continues, following happenings at the abbey, with changes to the actual structure along with notable events concerning the clergy, all contextualized within a framework of broader history.

He then lists the abbots of Croyland, along with the rectories and vicarages that were associated with the Abbey.

The appendix takes up the second half of the book and includes copies of all of the charters and registers that were used to extrapolate his information.

A fold-out ink-drawing of the ruins of Croyland-Abbey dominates the page before the publication information.

Ink-drawing of Saxon inscription on a stone outside of the abbey at the end of the preface.

Replica of a map of Croyland dating from the 15th century between pages 84 and 85.

Illustration of the buttresses in the west front of the Abbey between pages 86 and 87.

Plan of east end of Abbey Church dating from 1113 between pages 88 and 89.

Illustration of the Abbot's Chair and signet ring between pages 98 and 99.

Illustration of Croyland Bridge between pages 106 and 107.

STENTON LIBRARY--LA/05- A history of the antiquities of the town and church of Southwell, in the county of Nottingham

Dickenson's history of Southwell begins with the founding of the church and town, tracing its etymology from Roman times, using Saxon coins to prove its continuation as a town during that time. He lists its revenues after the Conquest, citing the Doomsday Book. He continues with the construction of the new edifice, the dissolution and reinstatement under Edward VI and Mary.

Following this is the description of the church's finances which begins with a list of financiers and explanations as to how the church was funded during the different periods of its history. Copies of some of the charters that included donations to the church or church lands are added here.

He then names the benefactors, archbishops of York (with a short biography of each) and a list of antiquities having had belonged to the church.
He concludes with a modern history of the church that begins with a satirical ballad written circa 1600 and concludes with the church’s current condition. Pages 1-72 include several copper plate illustrations of various aspects of the church including the church’s interior and the chapter house. An illustration of Rastall who was the vicar at the church is between pages 138 and 139. A view of the ruins of the Palace is found between pages 346 and 347. A plate of a tomb monument is found between pages 356 and 357. There is no appendix, since all of the charters were found in the body of the document. 486 pages.

STENTON LIBRARY--FI/04 - The history and antiquities of the abbey and borough of Evesham

The book begins with a short history of the foundation of the Abbey in 709. There follows a biography of the abbots. Next is the revenue attributed to the monastery, first at the Conquest and then at the dissolution of the monasteries. Drawing on the writings of an abbot who lived in the 1220’s in Evesham, the author reconstructed the day-to-day lives of the monks who lived in this monastery and the rule that they lived under. The last few pages are left to describe the ruins of the site and the antiquities that have been preserved by the abbey.

A countryside view of Evesham is engraved on the two pages before the publication page. Between pages 40 and 41 is a drawing of the Abbot’s Tower. Between pages 104 and 105 is a representation of the Church windows. Between pages 133 and 134 is a drawing of the ruins of the Abbey arch. Between 142 and 143 are drawings of some antiques found in the local borough.

STENTON LIBRARY--LH/04- Monasticon anglicanum: a history of the abbeys and other monasteries, hospitals, frieries, and cathedral and collegiate churches, with their dependencies, in England and Wales; also of all such Scotch, Irish and French monasteries, as were in manner connected with religious houses in England
Dugdale, William, Sir, (1605-1686.) Published in London, 1846. This is a second edition of an earlier volume published in the 1640’s that was entirely in Latin.

This massive eight volume set is a collection of charters, registers and letters that outlined the planning, construction and maintenance of several abbeys, cathedrals, churches, nunneries and monasteries in England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland and France. The work was first complied by William Dugdale and then added upon by other historians in subsequent editions.

The documents (most of which are seen here in the original Latin, Middle English, and, occasionally, Saxon) are supplemented by copies of floor plans, flow charts depicting clerical succession, diagrams, drawings of antiquities and copper plates that illustrate the interior and exterior of these buildings or their ruins.

The first four volumes are dedicated to Benedictine monasteries, the fifth, to Cluniac and Cistercian, the sixth to Carthusian and the Order of St. Augustine and the last two volumes are a hodgepodge of the buildings that were constructed by a number of different orders.

Each volume is Approx. 500-600 pages in length, not including illustrations.
STENTON LIBRARY--AO/10-  **History of the Cathedral church of Wells : as illustrating the history of the cathedral churches of the old foundation**

Freeman, Edward Augustus, (1823-1892.) Macmillan and Co., London, 1870. Freeman was an historian and prolific writer who revolutionized the study of history with his emphasis on the importance of using primary documents.

This book is a publication of three lectures which were given to the Wells historical society.

Before the body of the book is a list of bishops of Somersetshire and Bath. The first lecture starts with the first mention of the church in historical documents, when it was the Church of St. Andrew. During this lecture, given to amateur historians, he gives the true meaning of the word cathedral along with its etymology and the evolution of the common use of cathedrals as the seat of a bishopric going back to antiquity. He starts with St. Andrew’s inception being built in a location that had a pagan reputation as a holy well, through renovations that occurred pre-Conquest. The second lecture focuses largely on changes that occurred as a result of new Norman rule, both to the edifice itself and to the ecclesiastical hierarchy. The last lecture begins halfway through the 13th century and continues until the present day.

A floor-plan of the Cathedral showing its additions from the 13th to 15th century comes before the publication information.

199 pages.

STENTON LIBRARY--FX/12-  **The cartulary and historical notes of the Cistercian abbey of Flaxley : otherwise called Dene abbey, in the county of Gloucester**

Crawley-Boevey, Arthur William. Printed by William Pollard and Co.; Exeter, 1887. The introduction summarizes the importance of Flaxley Abbey during the reign of Edward IV and his successors.

The actual history begins with its foundation between 1148 and 1154. The purpose of this work is not only to bring to light the history of the abbey itself, but gives special emphasis on the charters being used to extrapolate that history. Therefore, the history unfolds as the author explains these charters and what their contents meant for the abbey.

The next set of charters and other documents relates specifically to the abbots and the rule under which they governed. He uses these documents to ascertain what the abbey looked like before it fell into ruin.

Crawley-Boevey documents the archaeological findings of the old monastery and uses this discovery to explain what it would have looked like.

Countryside view of Flaxley Abbey before publication page.

Illustration of what the cloister room would have looked like between pages 90 and 91.

Drawing of what the ceiling in the abbot’s room may have looked like between pages 90 and 91.

Drawings of artifacts found at the dig site between 92 and 93.

Plan of the chapter house complete with remains as drawn by someone on the archaeological dig between pages 92 and 93.

Illustration of an arch in the west cloister between 92 and 93.

Plan of the arrangement of the old monastic foundation between pages 94 and 95.

The appendix take up half of the book and includes charters, patent roles and registers that the author used to gain his insights.

App, 100 pages without appendix.
The history and antiquities of the Collegiate Church of Southwell


This work was a collaborate effort between an artist at the historian Killpack. There is a strong emphasis of using architectural style as an aide to help the historian discern what was built when. Killpack compares certain techniques that were used on other famous edifices at the same to assess the different influences that the architects used to design the church and to determine when it was designed. Illustrations of various parts of the building are sprinkled throughout the text to help expand on the points that the author is making.

He begins with the history of the overall structure and then focuses on certain parts (the chapter house, the tombs, the monuments.) Rather than merely catalogue what he sees, he gives an analysis of the different aspects of each work.

He lists the various members of clergy, along with brief biographies.

The last part of the book is a general description of the layout of the church which acts as a prologue to the multitude of plates that follow. These plates consist of floor plans, diagrams and cross-sections along with illustrations of the interior and exterior of the church.

Frontal view of the cathedral before publication page.
East front of the organ screen before publication page.
50 pages not including pictures.