

State Papers Online

Eighteenth Century, 1714-1782



Unprecedented access to British government records during the Age of Enlightenment



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State Papers Online: Eighteenth Century, 1714-1782

State Papers Online: Eighteenth Century, 1714-1782 is a three-part series that extends Gale's widely acclaimed British *State Papers Online* programme into the eighteenth century. This searchable digital series streamlines research by offering users intuitive and easy access to British government records during the Age of Enlightenment.

State Papers Online: Eighteenth Century, 1714-1782 represents the final section of the State Papers series from The National Archives, Kew, UK before the series was closed and replaced by the Home Office and Foreign Office series in 1782. For the first time researchers can search and explore online hundreds of thousands of manuscripts - scanned in colour - that expose the behind the scenes, day-to-day running of government during the eighteenth century. Covering the reigns of the Hanover rulers George I (1714-1727), George II (1727- 1760) and part of the reign of George III (up to 1782), the series offers unique insights into how these 'foreign' monarchs and their governments managed the many domestic and foreign threats to Hanoverian rule. Researchers can explore in depth the on-going vulnerability of the Hanover dynasty's grip on the British throne and the relationship between the monarch and parliament as Britain developed into a major economic and military powerhouse that would come to dominate the world. As such *State Papers Online: Eighteenth Century, 1714-1782* is vital to any understanding of the political, social and economic history of Britain and the world during this turbulent period and an essential collection of primary sources for any scholar or student studying the eighteenth century.

The *Eighteenth Century* series is cross-searchable with the original *State Papers Online* series, harnessing all the same sophisticated search technology to streamline the research process. The *Eighteenth Century* series serves as the ideal complement to the manuscripts in *State Papers Online 1509-1714*, the books in *Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO)* and the wealth of Home Office records that can be found in *Nineteenth Century Collections Online (NCCO)*. The series offers scholars an invaluable tool to further enrich their study and research into the British and European eighteenth century.

Key events covered in the series include:

- 1716: Failure of "The Fifteen" Jacobite rebellion
- 1720: South Sea Bubble – the 18th Century's most significant financial crisis
- 1722-1723: Atterbury Plot
- 1743: Battle of Dettingen in War of Austrian Succession
- 1746: Battle of Culloden in Jacobite Rebellion
- 1756: Start of Seven Years' war with French
- 1760: Death of George II. Succession of George III at age of 22
- 1773: Boston Tea Party
- 1775: Start of American War of Independence

Part I: State Papers Domestic, Military, Naval and Registers of the Privy Council

Size: 1,121 volumes/boxes, c. 300,000 folios

Manuscript series: The National Archives, UK: SP 35, 36, 37, 38, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 54, 55, 56, 57, 63, 67 and PC 2, 4, 5, 6, 13

The first part of the series supports research on British domestic politics and society in an age punctuated by Jacobite plots and rebellions. Much in the State Papers relates to crime and the care taken to prevent unrest and treason. Aside from the many internal and external threats to Hanoverian rule, users can also search and browse across a rich range of reports, petitions and correspondence relating to the general administration and constitution of England; law and order; trade and shipping; and the founding of an empire abroad that extended to North America in the west and the Indian subcontinent in the east. The collection is invaluable for uncovering the routines of government which rarely feature in the major narratives of the eighteenth century - for example, the management of Privy Council business, especially appointments, minutes of Cabinet meetings and excise and revenue. Consequently, the collection contains enormous potential for fresh historical discoveries.

Part I contains documents which provide evidence for the extent and nature of decisions taken by government and, more importantly, who was making those decisions. The records serve to illustrate the personal style of the secretaries of state who, with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, controlled almost the entire life of the nation. Researchers can examine the differing ways in which the three Hanover monarchs conducted the business of the monarchy, and develop perspectives on the King's changing role in political and administrative history.

Part I will be followed by *Part II: State Papers Foreign: Eastern Europe, Scandinavia and the Netherlands* and *Part III: State Papers Foreign: Western Europe and Barbary States* which cover the extensive 'foreign' government records that documents Britain's relations with its colonies, European neighbours and Russia.

To view a complete listing of manuscript series visit gale.cengage.co.uk/statepapers

George I

The documents reveal the clear development of Cabinet government as it faced the turbulent events of the early years of George I's reign.

Researchers can trace the rise of the most dominant figure in eighteenth century politics, Robert Walpole, whose influence and careful intelligence gathering can be seen repeatedly as he emerged as a new type of prime minister acting as the primary channel between government business and the King.

George II

The Jacobite rising of 1745 dominates the State Papers of the reign of George II. Researchers can trace the full arc of the 'Second Jacobite Rebellion', from the landing of Charles Edward Stuart ('Bonnie Prince Charlie') in Scotland to the rebels' bloody defeat at Culloden the following year.

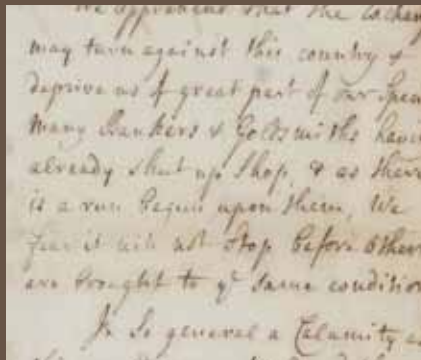
The surviving correspondence between George II during his periods in Hanover and the Regency Council and 'Select Lords' working in London, provide us with insight into discussions and decisions which normally would have occurred face to face (see SP 43).

George III

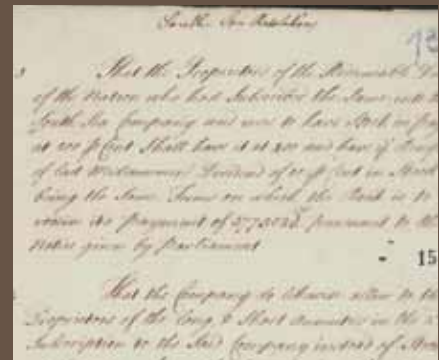
Researchers can mine a wealth of material on George III's disastrous decision to oust the Elder Pitt and the Duke of Newcastle from government; the crucial 1763 Paris Peace Treaty ending Britain's support for Frederick the Great; and the riots and protests that surrounded libertarian politician John Wilkes. As the American war dragged on, the government's inept handling of the colonies alienated many of George's subjects who disapproved of the American war. British Prime Minister, Lord North, was forced out of office in 1782, and the American colonies won their independence. These events ushered in a new phase in British government and in the life of George III.

South Sea Bubble

George I's reign was not without its financial scandals - the 'South Sea Bubble' being the most infamous. *Part I* contains numerous documents on the Hanoverian régime's involvement in the affairs of the South Sea Company that went bankrupt in 1720 leaving large numbers of stockholders ruined.



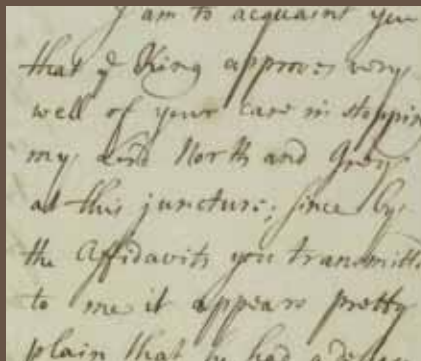
Lord Justices to the King
Informing George I of the situation surrounding the South Sea Company, September 21 1720.
SP 35/23 f. 99-100. Reproduced by kind permission of The National Archives of the UK



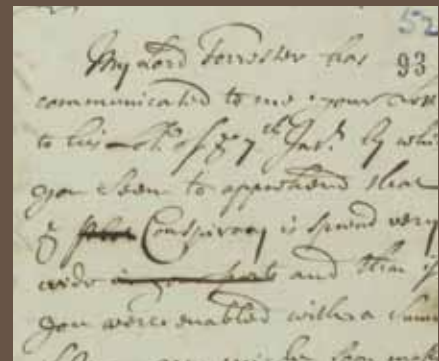
South Sea Resolutions
Resolutions reached by the South Sea Company, September 1720.
SP 35/23 f. 152. Reproduced by kind permission of The National Archives of the UK

Atterbury Plot

Users can explore a wealth of Jacobite insurrection material including the Atterbury Plot (1722-1723). Centering upon Francis Atterbury, Bishop of Rochester, the plot attempted to overthrow George I and replace him with the 'Old Pretender', James III. Various prominent men were involved in the scheme, including Lord North and Grey.



Townshend to Colonel Morgan
Signifying the King's approval of the arrest of Lord North and Lord Grey, September 25 1722.
SP 35/33 f. 143. Reproduced by kind permission of The National Archives of the UK



Townshend to W. Stirling
Townshend engaging W. Stirling to obtain information concerning the conspiracy, September 18 1722.
SP 35/33 f. 93. Reproduced by kind permission of The National Archives of the UK



King George I
Studio of Sir Godfrey Kneller
© National Portrait Gallery, London



Caroline Wilhelmina of
Brandenburg-Ansbach
after Sir Godfrey Kneller
© National Portrait Gallery, London



King George II
by Thomas Hudson
© National Portrait Gallery, London



Robert Walpole, 1st Earl of Orford
by Sir Godfrey Kneller
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King George III
Studio of Allan Ramsay
© National Portrait Gallery, London

The series offers new pathways into researching and teaching key eighteenth century topics:

- Political liberty and trade
- Britain's role as dominant colonial power
- Urban growth and industrialisation
- Parliamentary monarchy
- Rise of the professional classes
- European Enlightenment
- Development of press and political associations
- Foreign travel, economic migration and deportation

Streamlining research

Built on the same platform as *State Papers Online, 1509-1714*, and cross-searchable with it, *State Papers Online, Eighteenth Century* expands the research possibilities for scholars offering multiple options for finding and viewing manuscripts to suit different research needs:

- Basic and advanced search
- Useful and time-saving limiters, allowing users to limit results by date, reign, collection segment, Calendar or manuscript volume, language, illustrations and maps
- Browse through a single volume of either Calendar or manuscripts, or jump from volume to volume
- View Calendar entry with manuscript image
- View two manuscripts or two Calendar entries side by side for comparative analysis
- Link from each manuscript to its Calendar entry with fully searchable Calendars
- View manuscript with a virtual note pad that allows users to make transcriptions, annotations and personal notes
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- Marked Items and Mark List
- Print, save or email manuscript folio links to colleagues

For teaching and learning

- Introductory essays by the General Editor as well as essays by leading historians on key subjects, with links to the documents
- Additional research tools including lists of abbreviations, glossary, chronologies, details of dates, weights and measures, as well as holders of the main offices of government
- Key Documents – a selection of useful documents for teaching
- Links to online palaeography and Latin courses and other selected sites of value to users
- Image Library – a collection of contemporary portraits, illustrations and maps

Academic Adviser and General Editor: Professor Jeremy Black, University of Exeter

National Archives Adviser: Dr Katy Mair



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For more information, or to request a free trial
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Email: emea.galereply@cengage.com

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