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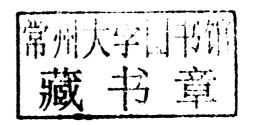


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ENGLISH HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS

1558 - 1603

Edited by
IAN W. ARCHER AND
F. DOUGLAS PRICE





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Ian W. Archer is Fellow of Keble College, Oxford, and has published widely on early modern social history.

F. Douglas Price was a historian of Elizabethan England and Fellow of Keble College, Oxford from 1949 to 1982.

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PREFACE

OUGLAS PRICE (1915-99), my predecessor as early modern tutor in History at Keble, was originally commissioned by Eyre & Spottiswoode to edit this volume in 1950, as part of the original English Historical Documents team recruited by the medievalist David Douglas. Its fruition after just sixty years must make the contract one of the longest running in the history of History publishing. Douglas had recently taken up a post as Tutorial Fellow at Keble, and he was to remain there until his retirement in 1982. An undergraduate at Keble (1933-6) he was taught by the reformation historian A.G. Dickens, and stayed on to conduct research under Dickens on the diocese of Gloucester during the Reformation. His academic career was interrupted by military service, including a spell on the staff of SHAEF, but resumed after the war, when he taught at the University College of the South-West (where David Douglas was his patron) and the University of Glasgow before taking up the Keble post in 1949. He was the old-style bachelor don, resident in college for most of term time, committed wholeheartedly to teaching, college administration, and the welfare of his pupils, seeking weekend diversion in his garden in the rural retreat of Wigginton. His diaries reveal that he worked intermittently on the EHD volume, but he was all too easily diverted into college affairs, and the project stalled when he became overwhelmed by the sheer volume of his transcriptions and proved unable to make the cuts the publisher required. The volume was still incomplete on his retirement in 1982, and it seems to have been abandoned.

When Douglas died on Christmas Day 1999, I joined Ken Lovett, who as Bursar of Keble had been nominated executor, to examine the remaining papers. It was wonderful to recover his meticulously kept diaries and undergraduate essays marked by Dickens, but the greatest surprise came when in a corner cupboard I found a typescript corrected in Douglas' own hand of 1.5 million words. It seemed to me a pity to see all this work go to waste, and my original plan was to 'dump', as it were, the whole thing on the internet, in retrospect a rather naive notion. When I approached Taylor & Francis, the publishers to which the series had descended, I was pleasantly surprised to find that the *EHD* project was still very much alive, as they were in the process of commissioning volumes to fill the gaps; they were very keen to see it in print, and I accepted their invitation to edit it.

That meant confronting some awkward facts. First the text was way over length, and lacked any of the necessary critical apparatus. The selection and arrangement of materials reflected the research agenda of the 1960s: it was strong on ecclesiastical history (in the institutional sense), much weaker on social and cultural history. It also reflected the conventional thematic divisions of the *EHD* volumes where religion, politics, society, and economy were assigned to separate sections with the result that the interactions between the different elements were occluded. It was necessary therefore not only to prune Douglas' text radically, but also to add documents, and to reorder the entire selection. I adopted an approach dividing the reign into three phases, 1558–72, 1572–88, and 1588–1603, seeing the northern rising and the plots

around Mary in 1569–72 as one climacteric, and the execution of Mary and the Armada in 1587–8 as another. Within these sections I have retained the conventional divisions into religious and political themes but with the hope that the proximity of the texts will enable the connections to be drawn more readily; the commentaries are designed to draw students' attention to the interaction of religious and political forces. I have placed the 'structural' sections – on political institutions and the shaping social, economic and cultural forces – in the middle, looking backwards and forwards.

Given its genesis this is inevitably a volume of compromises. Archival purists will note that many of the transcriptions are drawn from the nineteenth-century editions on which Douglas relied; I have in some cases added my own transcriptions where issues of coverage demanded, but it has not been possible to return to the original manuscripts to verify the reliability of earlier transcriptions. Although sub-optimal, the transcriptions are sufficiently accurate to provide acceptable points of entry to the source materials for students. In terms of coverage, cultural themes remain underrepresented, and I have deliberately excluded extracts from the literary products of the period as these are so well anthologised in other collections (e.g. Payne and Hunter 2003). But I have endeavoured to ensure that a broad range of source types and genres are represented: pamphlets, indictments, censuses, and depositions have been added to the letters, speeches, statutes, and proclamations which formed the backbone of Douglas' original selection. I am grateful to Martin Ingram for permission to use some of his transcriptions from the Wiltshire church courts (190i).

I have fleshed out the social and economic sections to catch the changing historiographical currents, but the selection probably retains an institutional bias. I make no apologies for that. There have been remarkable advances in the fields of social and cultural history in recent years, but sometimes historians would have benefited from a clearer understanding of the administrative, judicial, and political processes which generated the records underlying their studies. Although the tide has turned against supposedly narrow 'Eltonian' approaches to the period, and projects of administrative history are hardly high up on the funding agenda, it is striking how a compilation such as this volume reveals serious gaps in our knowledge. Topics such as the institutional basis of the royal court, financial administration, and many aspects of the legal system are only understood at a rudimentary level. As for the choice of an analytical spine emphasising the connections between politics and religion, that is done in the belief that the confessionalisation of politics that followed the reformation shaped the course of the reign. Although religion was not the only determinant in the complex grid of allegiance, and its role was possibly diluted in the 1590s, it was a major element. This explains my inclusion of some of the great set-pieces like Grindal on prophesyings, Wentworth on free speech, and Throckmorton on the bill and book, but I have sought to add material to reflect Catholic preoccupations, so Robert Persons, largely ignored by Douglas, receives his due. Another lacuna revealed in surveying the landscape of Elizabethan history is the lack of decent biographies of leading figures, many of whom are ripe for reassessment in the light of advances in our understanding of the ideological and cultural framework of politics.

Finally, this remains a collection of *English* historical documents; there is no attempt to cover the internal politics of Ireland and Scotland, and in so far as there is any British agenda, it is a relational one: the focus is on the implications of Scottish

politics for the succession question, and on the problems posed by Ireland to Elizabethan administrators. Likewise there is no attempt to cover foreign policy comprehensively; rather I have selected a series of key decision points – intervention in Scotland (1559–60), the Anjou match (1578–81), and the decision to intervene in the Low Countries (1584–5) – to bring out the framework within which decisions were made and the range of available options.

The critical apparatus is relatively light touch. I have sought to use the introductory commentaries to provide a basic context to the documents for those less familiar with the period: the aim is to explain something of both the changing historiographical landscape, and the ways in which it has been shaped by different types of source. Each section is accompanied by a brief guide to further reading which identifies the key elements of the secondary literature, as well as printed editions of primary sources. Previous volumes in the series took their bibliographic obligations very seriously. As the Academic Editor of the online Bibliography of British and Irish History (BBIH), I am acutely aware of the contingent nature of any print bibliography, and would refer readers wishing for updates to the electronic resources.

A volume so long in gestation has inevitably incurred many debts, but I can only really speak for my own. The initial scanning of Douglas' typescript was undertaken by Computing Services at the University of Hertfordshire and generously paid for by Keble College. The laborious process of turning the scanned documents into workable Word files was only made possible by the help of several research assistants, and I am very grateful for the labours of Ben Coates, Jennifer Melville, and Rosemary Sgroi. Later in the project Fleur Richards worked with prodigious but quiet energy to check transcriptions. I have also had help from successive Fellows' Secretaries at Keble, notably Danielle McCallium and Ruth Dry, and I have dragooned some Keble undergraduates into supporting the book in its closing stages. I am very grateful to Jenni Cutting, Kabir Bhalla, and Rob Cranston for their input. Vicky Peters and her colleague Emily Kindleysides at Taylor & Francis have shown remarkable tolerance with my delays. Catherine Wright stepped in at the eleventh hour to compile the index.

Successive publishers have lived with this book for a lifespan, but multiple generations of Keble historians have also endured it, and it is to them, the Keble historians past, present, and as yet unborn, that it is dedicated.

Ian W. Archer Fellow, Tutor and University Lecturer (CUF) in History Keble College, Oxford

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ABBREVIATIONS

- APC Dasent, J.R., et al., eds. 1890–1964. Acts of the Privy Council of England. 46 vols. London: HMSO.
- BL British Library
- CSP Calendar of State Papers (various series listed in bibliography of primary sources
- GL Guildhall Library
- HMC Historical Manuscripts Commission (individual volumes listed in bibliography)
- LMA London Metropolitan Archives
- ODNB The Oxford dictionary of national biography, ed. H.C.G. Matthew and Brian Harrison. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004. On-line edition edited by Lawrence Goldman, 2008.
- SR Statutes of the Realm, ed. Alexander Luders. 12 vols. London: Record Commission, 1810–28.
- STC A.W. Pollard and G.R. Redgrave, with W.A. Jackson, F.S. Ferguson, and Katharine M. Pantzer, eds. A short title catalogue of books printed in England, Scotland, Ireland, and of English books printed abroad, 1473–1640 (2nd edn). 3 vols. London: Bibliographical Society, 1986–91.
- TED Tudor economic documents, ed. R.H. Tawney and E. Power. 3 vols. London and New York: Longmans, 1924.
- TNA The National Archives
- TRP Tudor royal proclamations. 2: The later Tudors, 1553–1587; 3: The later Tudors, 1588–1603, ed. Paul L. Hughes and J.F. Larkin. New Haven (CT) and London: Yale University Press, 1969.
- Wing D. Wing, ed. A short title catalogue of books printed in England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, and British America and of English books printed in other countries, 1641–1700 (2nd edn). 4 vols. New York: Modern Language Association of America, 1992–8.

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