PARLIAMENTARY HISTORY

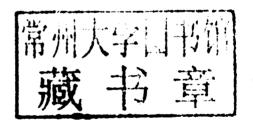
Institutional Practice and Memory:
Parliamentary People, Records and Histories.
Essays in Honour of Sir John Sainty



Edited by Clyve Jones

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WILEY Blackwell

for

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Registered Office

John Wiley & Sons Ltd, The Atrium, Southern Gate, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 8SQ, United Kingdom

Editorial Offices

350 Main Street, Malden, MA 02148-5020, USA

9600 Garsington Road, Oxford, OX4 2DQ, UK

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Institutional practice and memory : parliamentary people, records and histories : essays in honour of Sir John Sainty / edited by Clyve Jones.

pages cm

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-118-52198-4 (pbk.: alk. paper) 1. Great Britain. Parliament—History–17th century. 2. Great Britain. Parliament—History–18th century. 3. Great Britain—Politics and government—1603–1714. 4. Great Britain—Politics and government—1714–1820. I. Jones, Clyve, 1944— author, editor of compilation. II. Sainty, John Christopher, honouree. III. Parliamentary History Yearbook Trust, issuing body.

JN534.I67 2013 328.4109-dc23

2012049361

A catalogue record for this title is available from the British Library Set in 10/12pt Bembo by Toppan Best-set Premedia Limited Printed and bound in Singapore by Hó Printing Pte Ltd

1 2013

Institutional Practice and Memory: Parliamentary People, Records and Histories



Sir John Sainty KCB

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

Jan Broadway was technical director of the Centre for Editing Lives and Letters at Queen Mary, University of London. She has recently published a biography of William Dugdale, and among her other recent publications is 'No Historie so Meete': Gentry Culture and the Development of Local History in Elizabethan and Early Stuart England (Manchester, 2006).

Richard Cust is professor of early modern history at the University of Birmingham. He is the author and editor of a number of books and articles on early Stuart politics and political culture, including *Charles I: A Political Life* (2005).

Robin Eagles is a senior research fellow in the House of Lords, 1660–1832 section of the History of Parliament. He has written on various aspects of parliament and the peerage in the 17th and 18th centuries, previous publications including *Francophilia in English Society* 1748–1783 (2000), "No More to be Said"? Reactions to the Death of Frederick Lewis, Prince of Wales', *Historical Research*, lxxx (2007), and 'The House of Lords, 1660–1707', in *A Short History of Parliament*, ed. Clyve Jones (2009). He is currently working on an edition of the diaries of John Wilkes for the London Record Society. An article relating to Prince Frederick's parliamentary interests is forthcoming in *Parliamentary History*.

Alasdair Hawkyard is a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and of the Royal Historical Society. For 14 years he was co-editor and principal research assistant under Professor S.T. Bindoff on the House of Commons, 1509–58 section of the History of Parliament. He is currently completing *The House of Commons* 1509–1558, which is to be published in Parliamentary History's Texts & Studies series.

D.W. Hayton is professor of early modern Irish and British history at Queen's University Belfast. He worked for the History of Parliament between 1975 and 1994 and was joint editor of *The History of Parliament: The House of Commons, 1690–1715* (2002). He is currently preparing a biography of Sir Lewis Namier.

Clyve Jones is an honorary fellow of the Institute of Historical Research and has been the editor of the journal *Parliamentary History* since 1986. Previously he was reader in modern history in the University of London and collection development librarian in the Institute of Historical Research. He has published extensively on the history of the house of lords and of the peerage in the early 18th century. His main publications are editions of *The London Diaries of William Nicolson, Bishop of Carlisle, 1702–1718*, with Geoffrey Holmes (Oxford, 1985), and *Tory and Whig: The Parliamentary Papers of Edward Harley, Third Earl of Oxford, and William Hay, M.P. for Seaford, 1715–1754*, with Stephen Taylor (Woodbridge, 1998). He has also edited a festschrift for his mentor, Geoffrey Holmes (1987), and essays in memory of his friends, Philip Lawson (Woodbridge, 1998), John A. Phillips (Edinburgh, 2005) and, again, Geoffrey Homes (Oxford, 2009).

Hannes Kleineke is a senior research fellow at the History of Parliament. He is the author of a number of books on the political and parliamentary history of late medieval England, including *Parliamentarians at Law* (Oxford, 2008), *Edward IV* (2009), and editor of *Parliament, Personalities and Power: Papers Presented to Linda S. Clark* (Woodbridge, 2011).

Charles Littleton is a senior research officer in the House of Lords, 1660–1832 section of the History of Parliament. His work in this volume comes from his work on the Bruce family, earls of Ailesbury, for the forthcoming house of lords volumes of the *History*. Previously he had worked as chief researcher and (for a time) website designer for the Robert Boyle Project, directed by Professor Michael Hunter, for which he transcribed Boyle's 'work-diaries' and coded them into XML for publication on the web.

Michael McCahill has written extensively on the British nobility and the house of lords, most recently in *The House of Lords in the Age of George III*, 1760–1811 (2009), published in Parliamentary History's Texts & Studies series. The current article grows out of earlier research for that book. He is now completing an edition of the letters of Stephen Fuller, agent for Jamaica, that deal with the West Indian lobbying to counteract and defeat the campaign to abolish the slave trade. McCahill lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Ruth Paley is editor of the House of Lords, 1660–1832 section of the History of Parliament. She has published a number of articles on aspects of the history of criminal justice and is fascinated by the role of the house of lords as a court of law.

Jason Peacey is senior lecturer in history at University College London. He is the editor of *The Regicides and the Execution of Charles I* (2001), co-editor of *Parliament at Work* (2002), and editor of *The Print Culture of Parliament, 1600–1800* (2007). He is also the author of *Politicians and Pamphleteers: Propaganda in the Civil Wars and Interregnum* (2004), and recent articles include 'Cromwellian England: A Propaganda State?', *History*, xci (2006), and 'The Protector Humbled: Richard Cromwell and the Constitution', in *The Cromwellian Protectorate, 1653–9*, ed. P. Little (2007). He is currently completing a book about popular participation in parliamentary politics during the mid 17th century.

Michael Pownall studied history at Exeter University, graduating in 1971. In the same year he was appointed a clerk in the house of lords, initially working in the Judicial Office, the Public Bill Office and for the European communities committee. In 1980 he was seconded to the government as private secretary to the leader of the House (Lord Soames, later Baroness Young) and the chief whip (Lord Denham). He returned to the clerks' department in 1983 as private secretary to the chairman of committees and head of the Establishment Office. In 1988 he was appointed clerk of private bills and the overseas office and in 1991, clerk of committees. In 1997 he became reading clerk and principal finance officer and in 2003, clerk assistant. In 2007 he was appointed clerk of the parliaments and head of the house of lords' administration. As clerk, he was a trustee of the History of Parliament and the Industry and Parliament Trusts. He retired in 2011, and was appointed KCB later that year.

Stephen K. Roberts is editor of the House of Commons, 1640–60 section of the History of Parliament. He is co-editor of the journal *Midland History*, general editor of the Worcestershire Historical Society and a vice-president of the Cromwell Association. He has published extensively on English and Welsh history, 1640–60.

Paul Seaward is director of the History of Parliament. From 1988 to 2001 he was a clerk in the house of commons. His publications include an edition of Thomas Hobbes, *Behemoth* (2009), *The Cavalier Parliament and the Reconstruction of the Old Regime 1661–1667* (1989) and various books and articles on 17th-century politics and political thought and on parliament in the 20th century. He is the general editor, with Martin Dzelzainis, of an edition of the works of Edward Hyde, earl of Clarendon.

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Foreword

CLYVE JONES

'... makying true entres and recordys of the thynges doon and past'.

This quotation from the oath taken by Edward North upon his entering the office of clerk of the parliaments on 12 March 1531 (TNA, C193/1, f. 80v; see below, p. 220) seems a singularly appropriate description of the career of Sir John Sainty KCB, both as a clerk of the parliaments himself and of his contribution to English history.

If, as an historian, you have been working on late medieval and modern England, you will very likely have come across John's publications. Whether they be mainly on parliament or officeholding, John's work is likely to have impinged on aspects of your research. Much of John's academic work has being concerned with creating lists, of parliamentary sources and on voting, of the people holding both national and local offices, on peerage creations and much more. This kind of very detailed research, particularly with officeholding where it is important to create an unbroken list of personnel with accurate dates of tenure (so long as the documentation allows), is often a minor part of other historians' wider work, but can be crucial in establishing a viable foundation on which that work can stand soundly.

Though other historians have sometimes published similar work, nobody can compete with the range of areas covered by John in establishing a corpus of essential reference works for historians. Though retired for some time from his official employment, John continues to publish his historical researches, and long may he do so.

The following articles and notes come from former and present colleagues and friends who have benefited greatly from John's publications and his deep knowledge of the sources, particularly of parliamentary history, from his ideas, criticism, wisdom, and from his ever-present help, both published and in person. Without him, our own work would be much the poorer.

* * *

Sometime in the 1970s John attempted, unsuccessfully, to establish 'The Journal of Parliamentary History'. The idea of a journal devoted to such a subject inspired, in 1982, the founders of *Parliamentary History*. So it can justifiably be said that John was the godfather to the present journal, and has always been a steadfast supporter, first as a member of the editorial advisory board, and latterly, as a trustee. Thus it is entirely appropriate that his Festschrift is published by us.

* * *

As editor of this volume I would like to thank all the authors for their contributions, Alasdair Hawkyard for compiling the index, and Frances, Lady Sainty, for supplying the photograph of her husband.

April 2012

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The lists published so far are provisional and are largely confined to the post-medieval offices of the English central government and royal households, and are planned to be updated when necessary. Other lists are likely to be added in due course.