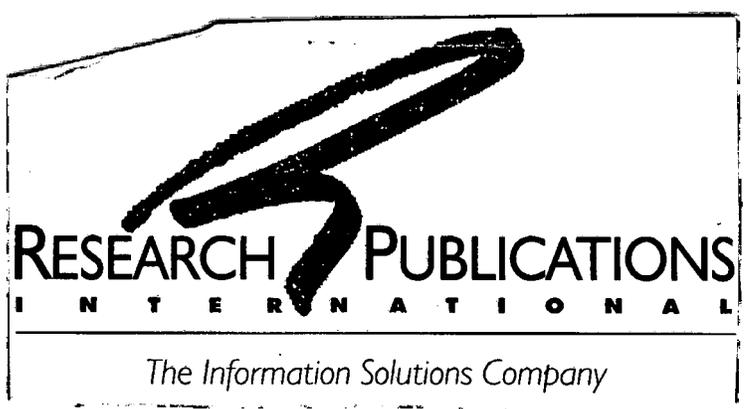


**COMPLETE  
STATE  
PAPERS  
DOMESTIC  
1509 - 1702**

**UNIT 35: William III and Mary 1689-1702**  
**Also including King Williams' Chest 1670-1702**



### A Note on The Series

The Complete State Papers Domestic 1509 - 1702 has been hailed as one of the most welcome manuscript micropublishing projects of all time. Professor Robert Kenny, in Microform Review, has described its publication as "a monumental service", and Professor Lawrence Stone has commented "the series makes possible serious archival research on English political and religious history from the resources of any major library."

Series I of the Complete State Papers Domestic made available the years between 1547 and 1625. Series II documents the reigns of Charles I (1625-1648), the Interregnum (1649-1660), Charles II (1660-1685), James II (1685-1688) and William and Mary (1689-1702). The papers of Henry VIII will be published over two years, beginning late 1993.

In 1990 the publishers decided to unitize the material of both series into a continuous sequence for reasons of practicality. This unit sequence is listed on the following page. In the listing, the publishers have kept a reference to the initial series classification in order to avoid confusion for customers already used to this classification system.

Three units of the Complete State Papers are published yearly, at approximately 23 reels each. However each new unit is a coherent entity bearing relevant information with regard to unit number (eg. Unit 30) and series classification (eg: State Papers Domestic Series I or Series II, Part 20). Libraries will benefit from the regularity of the established publishing schedule of the entire project.

Michael Hawkins, Reader in History, University of Sussex is the General Editor for the entire project.

All units consist of primary source material from the Public Record Office.

THE COMPLETE STATE PAPERS DOMESTIC

Unit	Original Series/Part	Reign/Years	Extent
UNIT 1:	SPD Series I, Pts 1 & 2	Edward VI, Mary I and Elizabeth I, 1547-1568	27 Reels
UNIT 2:	SPD Series I, Pt 3	Elizabeth I, 1569-1575	23 Reels
UNIT 3:	SPD Series I, Pt 4	Elizabeth I, 1576-1585	26 Reels
UNIT 4:	SPD Series I, Pt 5	Elizabeth I, 1586-1592	24 Reels
UNIT 5:	SPD Series I, Pt 6	Elizabeth I, 1593-1603	23 Reels
UNIT 6:	SPD Series I, Pt 7	James I, 1603-1608	18 Reels
UNIT 7:	SPD Series I, Pt 8	James I, 1608-1617	23 Reels
UNIT 8:	SPD Series I, Pt 9	James I, 1618-1623	24 Reels
UNIT 9:	SPD Series I, Pt 10	James I, 1624-1625	21 Reels
UNIT 10:	SPD Series I, Pt 11	Addenda, 1547-1625	18 Reels
UNIT 11:	SPD Series II, Pt 1	Charles I, 1625-1627	27 Reels
UNIT 12:	SPD Series II, Pt 2	Charles I, 1628-1630	28 Reels
UNIT 13:	SPD Series II, Pt 3	Charles I, 1631-1633	23 Reels
UNIT 14:	SPD Series II, Pt 4	Charles I, 1634-1635	22 Reels
UNIT 15:	SPD Series II, Pt 5	Charles I, 1636-1637	27 Reels
UNIT 16:	SPD Series II, Pt 6	Charles I, 1638-1639	27 Reels
UNIT 17:	SPD Series II, Pt 7	Charles I, 1640-1642	25 Reels
UNIT 18:	SPD Series II, Pt 8	Charles I, 1643-1648	27 Reels
UNIT 19:	SPD Series II, Pt 9	Interregnum, 1649-1652	17 Reels
UNIT 20:	SPD Series II, Pt 10	Interregnum, 1653	19 Reels
UNIT 21:	SPD Series II, Pt 11	Interregnum, 1654	17 Reels
UNIT 22:	SPD Series II, Pt 12	Interregnum, 1655-1656	18 Reels
UNIT 23:	SPD Series II, Pt 13	Interregnum, 1656-1657	21 Reels
UNIT 24:	SPD Series II, Pt 14	Interregnum, 1658-1660	16 Reels
UNIT 25:	SPD Series II, Pt 15	Charles II, 1660-1662	23 Reels
UNIT 26:	SPD Series II, Pt 16	Charles II, 1662-1665	23 Reels
UNIT 27:	SPD Series II, Pt 17	Charles II, 1665-1666	23 Reels
UNIT 28:	SPD Series II, Pt 18	Charles II, 1666-1668	23 Reels
UNIT 29:	SPD Series II, Pt 19	Charles II, 1668-1670	23 Reels
UNIT 30:	SPD Series II, Pt 20	Charles II, 1671-1672	23 Reels
UNIT 31:	SPD Series II, Pt 21	Charles II, 1672-1674	23 Reels
UNIT 32:	SPD Series II, Pt 22	Charles II, 1675-1678	23 Reels
UNIT 33:	SPD Series II, Pt 23	Charles II, 1678-1683	23 Reels
UNIT 34:	SPD Series II, Pt 24	Charles II, 1683-1685, James II 1685-1688 and William III and Mary 1689-1702	20 Reels
UNIT 35:	SPD Series II, Pt 25	William III and Mary 1689-1702 and King William's Chest 1670-1702	11 Reels

Unit	Year of Publication	Reign
UNIT 36	1993	Henry VIII
UNITS 37-39	1994	Henry VIII
UNITS 40-41	1995	Henry VIII

THE COMPLETE STATE PAPERS DOMESTIC, 1509-1702

PART 25 The State Papers Domestic for  
the years 1689-1702 of the reign of William III and  
Mary and also including King William's Chest 1670-1702

SP 33/A-D

SP 8/1-18

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Berkshire RG1 8LJ  
England

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12 Lunar Drive  
Woodbridge  
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U.S.A.

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Attention should be drawn to the nature of the original material. Manuscript documents within the Public Record Office sometimes consist of faintly legible correspondence and records written with a variety of inks and pens and on paper which has become severely discoloured or stained, or which is so thin that there is show-through that renders the original document difficult to read. Occasionally volumes have been tightly bound and documents are obscured in the inner margin. It is also necessary to use image turn for certain folios. These original characteristics present difficulties of image and contrast which stringent tests and camera alterations cannot entirely overcome. Every effort has been made to minimise these difficulties though there are some few pages or documents which have proved impossible to reproduce satisfactorily. Conscious of this we have chosen to include these pages in order to make available the complete volume, bundle or file. We have also taken the opportunity to film some items several times at varying exposures to enable all parts of certain documents to be easily legible.

## **PUBLISHER'S NOTE**

### **Unit 35: William and Mary, 1689-1702 and King William's Chest 1670-1702**

Unit 35 of the Complete State Papers Domestic consists of two distinct parts: the eighteen volumes of S.P. 8, known as 'King William's Chest', and the four cases which comprises S.P. 33.

King William's Chest mainly includes very significant foreign correspondence, frequently addressed to the King himself, mostly during the first nine years of his reign in England, the period up to 1698. The letters of William's continental allies, German princes and others such as the Elector of Bavaria, the Dukes of Brunswick and Lorraine, the Count of Flodrop and the Prince of Waldeck, throw much light on the conduct of the war and European diplomacy. There is also a significant volume of material on military logistics, details of recruitment, the size and cost of William's armies, assessments of military prospects and needs, plans of fortifications and battles and accounts of campaigns in Flanders and elsewhere. Specific items concern for example Danish infantry at Plymouth. A number of parallel documents illuminate the navy. There are also details of suspected French plots and plans for invasion. Other documents throw light on the state of French Protestants after the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes and on Swiss refugees. As a whole the collection is indispensable both for the study of 'King William's War' and for the subsequent peace, as it includes details of peace proposals in 1696 and the negotiations leading to the Treaty of Ryswick in 1697.

After the Peace the collection continues for a year with further military details and foreign correspondence. It includes letters between Louis XIV and William III, and also regular reports to the King from Lord Portland, his ambassador in Paris. It ends with Portland's return to England in June 1698.

The collection is also indispensable for the, especially domestic, political difficulties which faced William as ruler of Great Britain. Particularly valuable are the very detailed accounts from

## THE COMPLETE STATE PAPERS DOMESTIC

the Duke of Schomberg of the progress of his campaign to enforce Williamite rule in Ireland: these also include accounts of the state of Ireland in the early 1690s. Other papers relate to Irish grievances and to proposals for the settlement of Ireland after the Jacobite defeat. Parallel documents include Lord Melville's letters to the King about Scottish affairs, including details of Jacobite rebellions and conspiracy, the state of Scottish politics and Scottish ecclesiastical affairs.

The collection is not confined to foreign affairs, Ireland and Scotland. There is information on government finances, on the administrative problems caused by war, on the organisation of the Cabinet Council, and on the ecclesiastical settlement in England. Jacobite conspiracy, culminating in Sir John Fenwick's plot of 1696, is prominent. There are captured Jacobite letters, details of visitors to prisoners in the Tower, interrogations of suspects, and Fenwick's confession. The papers include many letters from leading English, as well as Dutch, politicians to the King: among the correspondents are Godolphin (including comments on the Bank of England), Shrewsbury, Devonshire, as well as Bentinck (Earl of Portland), Princess Sophia also corresponds. Finally there are the usual private petitions to the King and other documents which always illuminate social and political history: they include, for example, Lady Sunderland's plea from overseas for help, and the Earl of Sunderland's protestation of loyalty to William.

The Unit is completed by S.P. 33 which consists of four cases of documents not included, for special reasons, in S.P. 32. The material is of two types: parchment documents from the reign of William III which could not be bound with the papers in the volumes of S.P. 32, and a large number of tax assessments relating to specific counties.

With S.P. 33 Research Publications complete the main series of State Papers Domestic from the accession of Edward VI in 1547 until the death of William III in 1702. The next project will be the main series of Letters and Papers of Henry VIII in the Public Record Office.

Michael Hawkins  
October 1993

EDITORIAL INTRODUCTION BY MICHAEL HAWKINS, READER IN HISTORY,  
UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX, AND GENERAL EDITOR OF STATE PAPERS DOMESTIC  
OF THE REIGNS OF CHARLES II, JAMES II AND WILLIAM III

The State Papers Domestic from 1660 to 1702 are the main source for one of the most crucial periods of English political history. The euphoria of the Restoration gave way to increasing political difficulties in the later years of Charles II and the reign of James II, which culminated in the revolution of 1688/9. This produced new political arrangements, with an enhanced role for Parliament, but still left much room for intense political strife which was more dominated by emerging political parties. At the same time the failure to reach a religious settlement in 1660 produced increasing persecutory legislation in the 1660s (the "Clarendon Code"), paralleled by threats and rumours of uprisings by various groups of Protestant dissenters. In the 1670s and 1680s, political and religious opposition coalesced in attempts from 1679 to 1681 to exclude the king's brother, the Catholic James, Duke of York, from the throne (the "Exclusion Crisis"), attempts which were successful when he fled the country after a brief three-years' reign as James II. The Toleration Act which followed provided some relief for dissenters, but did not prevent continuing struggles between Anglican and dissenting interests with strong political overtones in the reign of William and Mary.

The period saw marked fluctuations in foreign policy, a period of relative peace with fairly short and by no means always successful wars being followed, at William III's accession, by the start of what became a quarter of a century's nearly continuous warfare with France. What appeared to be a pro-French and anti-Dutch foreign policy under Charles II and James II was transformed with the arrival of the Dutch William III to the throne into a prolonged war with France. These wars were fought in important colonial as well as European spheres.

The State Papers illuminate these aspects as well as many others of the period and are an indispensable tool of research in virtually every field of late Stuart society. As always the core of the State Papers collection is the correspondence and working papers of the Secretaries of State, who acted as a sort of clearing house for all aspects of government business. An inveterate hoarder, like Joseph Williamson in the reign of Charles II, preserved an extraordinary range of material. If there is one field in which the correspondence and papers stand out it is perhaps the naval affairs. All aspects - shipbuilding, ordnance, pay, manning,

## THE COMPLETE STATE PAPERS DOMESTIC

repairs, as well as voyages manoeuvres and engagements - receive detailed attention . There are similar papers about military matters, with the highly-charged issue of the standing army becoming very significant in the second half of the period.

Such questions were inevitably bound up with royal finances and as always the State Papers throw much light on all aspects of revenue and expenditure, as well as the Commons' attempts to supervise government expenditure. The working of the political machine, with its heavy emphasis on patronage and the struggle for place and perquisites, is a recurrent theme. So too are royal relations with Parliament, which, after the initial enthusiasm of the Restoration, reveal increasing strains, culminating in the Exclusion Crisis. These difficulties were hardly resolved by the 1688 Revolution, the Parliament of the 1690s being marked by fierce "Country" attacks on the conduct of government and of the war, and on William III's attempt to maintain a sizeable standing army even after the Treaty of Ryswick in 1697.

Religious, economic and foreign affairs are three areas where there was continuous concern in government circles and in Parliament. Religion involved a variety of issues ranging from control of town governments (e.g.: attempts to exclude various sorts of Protestant) to rumoured or threatened risings by either Catholics on the right or a mixture of Quakers, Presbyterians and "fanatics" on the left: all these were inevitably of deep concern to the Secretaries of State and their correspondents. So too were attempts to improve the economy: the state of specific industries and trades, the regulation of overseas trading companies and the development of overseas commerce (with increasing emphasis on the re-export of colonial produce) are recurrent themes. In foreign and overseas policy, England's growing world-wide interests became much more apparent than before 1640: for example the affairs of the American Plantations and the struggle for West-Indian islands in the west and the fate of Pula Run in the east accompany the grand themes of European power-politics. In the latter England's fortunes ranged from the ignominy of the Dutch raid on the Medway in 1667 to the victories of William III's war.

As always, a wide variety of incidental topics are illustrated by the State Papers: for example, education, particularly in the universities; the early history of the Royal Society; witchcraft; literature and drama (ranging from the censorship of plays to the history of the Theatre Royal); political pamphleteering and satirical writing; official attitude to Hobbes' Leviathan; horse-racing at Newmarket; the Plague and Fire of London and the subsequent rebuilding. All these show the range of interests for scholars and researchers in these papers.

Michael Hawkins  
April 1990

**THE COMPLETE STATE PAPERS DOMESTIC, 1509-1702**

**Unit 35: William III and Mary, 1689-1702  
and King William's Chest 1670-1702**

**WILLIAM III AND MARY**

Unit 35 contains the years of the reign of William III and Mary, February 1689-1702 in SP 33/A-D on Reel 542. It also contains King William's Chest 1670-1702 in SP 8/1-18 on Reels 543-552. The reel numbering is continuous from previous units.

**CONTENTS OF REELS**

**William III and Mary**

**REEL 542**

SP 33/A	Parchment Documents.	Various dates.
SP 33/B	Duplicate Assessments, Various Counties.	Various dates.
SP 33/C	Duplicate Assessments, Various Counties.	Various dates.
SP 33/D	Duplicate Assessments, Various Counties.	Various dates.

**King William's Chest**

**REEL 543**

SP 8/1 Part 1	Letters and Papers.	1670-1684.
SP 8/1 Part 2	Letters and Papers.	1685-1689.

THE COMPLETE STATE PAPERS DOMESTIC

REEL 544

SP 8/2 Part 1	Letters and Papers.	[1670]-1684.
SP 8/2 Part 2	Letters and Papers.	1685-1689.
SP 8/2 Part 3	Letters and Papers.	1687-1695 and undated.

REEL 545

SP 8/3	Duke of York, James II.	April 1674- June 1686.
SP 8/4	Duke of York, James II.	1686-1688.
SP 8/5	Letters and Papers.	February-September 1689.

REEL 546

SP 8/6	Letters and Papers.	October 1689- February 1690 and undated.
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REEL 547

SP 8/7	Letters and Papers.	March-September 1690.
SP 8/8	Letters and Papers.	September 1690- March 1691 and undated.

REEL 548

SP 8/9	Letters and Papers.	March-30 August 1691.
SP 8/10	Letters and Papers.	September-December 1691 and undated.

CONTENTS OF REELS

**REEL 549**

SP 8/11	Letters and Papers.	1691 and undated.
SP 8/12	Letters and Papers.	January-December 1692.

**REEL 550**

SP 8/13	Letters and Papers.	1692 and undated.
SP 8/14	Letters and Papers.	January-December 1693 and undated.

**REEL 551**

SP 8/15	Letters and Papers.	1694-1695 and undated.
SP 8/16	Letters and Papers.	January 1696- March 1697 and undated.

**REEL 552**

SP 8/17	Letters and Papers and Peace of Ryswick.	April-December 1697.
SP 8/18	Letters and Papers.	1698 and later.