

SOCIAL AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN THE AGE OF THE TUDORS

THE TALBOT PAPERS
from Lambeth Palace Library, London

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Primary Source Media is proud to publish the complete Talbot Papers, a unique range of material saved from the Cromwellian destruction of Sheffield Castle, and now housed as a single archive in Lambeth Palace Library, London.

The Talbot family was among the richest and most powerful Tudor nobility in England up to the civil war. Their papers comprise documents and official papers relating to high-level politics and ecclesiastical affairs, including a considerable volume of material concerned with Mary Queen of Scots, and a series of Privy Council letters from Thomas Cromwell. The extensive and wide-ranging correspondence between the Talbots, Earls of Shrewsbury, and such prominent figures as Edward Seymour, Lord Burghley, Sir Thomas More, Queen Elizabeth I, Henry VIII, and Henry IV of France details major events of the period. As a complete collection, the Talbot Papers record the public service and private living of the Talbot family and are a vital informative source for historians and students of political, ecclesiastical and social history. In 1983 the Papers were purchased by the Lambeth Palace Library in London.

Earlier, the Talbot family papers had been detailed in a A Calendar of the Shrewsbury and Talbot Papers, Volume II, The Talbot Papers at the Royal College of Arms, by G.R. Batho (Historical Manuscripts Commission Joint Publication Number 7, HMSO, 1971). In this Calendar the fifteen volumes are referenced consecutively A-P (omitting J) and run parallel to the Lambeth Palace Library volume references 3192-3206. We have used the new Lambeth Palace Library volume numbers in this microfilm edition, though at the end of each brief general description we also, in brackets, give the original Royal College of Arms volume letter references which conform to those used in the Calendar.

The condition of any collection of such a diverse range of material varies, and this particular collection is no exception. Some volumes are tightly bound, resulting in shadow in the inner margin. There is some staining, fading, water-damage and show-through. These original characteristics occasionally present difficulties of image and contrast which stringent tests and camera alterations cannot always overcome. We have sought to exercise responsible care in the production of this collection and to meet the standards established by the National Microfilm Association (NMA) and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

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