British Government Publications for the Historian
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1 Introduction

This guide is intended as a companion to British government publications, which is available in electronic form at the following URL:

http://www.york.ac.uk/library/collections/government-publications/british/

British government publications provides a short and discursive introduction to the organisation of British government publications after 1921, and to their arrangement in the Library, while British government publications for the historian treats of British government publications before that date, providing a list of the Library's holdings of the publications themselves and their relevant indexes. A terminal date of 1921 has been chosen for this guide as it was then that British government publications were divided into what have become known subsequently as Parliamentary publications and Non-parliamentary publications, the first group including the sessional papers (the papers presented to Parliament for discussion, the records of what is said and done there, and the final legislation); and the second group including all documents produced by government departments not specifically for use in the parliamentary context.

1.1 Abbreviations

EEBO Early English Books Online, an online database which is available from the E-resources Guide

JBML J. B. Morrell Library

RBL Raymond Burton Library
2 Guides and indexes

2.1 Introductory guides

*Bibliography of English history to 1485* ... ed. by E. B. Graves (Oxford, 1975). Library location: RBL Q 42.0016 GRA


*Bibliography of British history: Tudor period, 1485–1603* ... ed. by C. Read. 2nd ed. (Oxford, 1959). Library location: RBL Q 42.05 BIB


*Bibliography of British history: Stuart period, 1603–1714* ... ed. by M. F. Keeler. 2nd ed. (Oxford, 1970). Library location: RBL Q 42.06 BIB


*Bibliography of British history: the eighteenth century, 1714–1789* ... ed. by S. Pargellis and D. J. Medley (Oxford, 1951). Library location: RBL Q 42.07 BIB


*Bibliography of British history, 1789–1851* ... ed. by L. M. Brown and I. R. Christie (Oxford, 1977). Library location: RBL Q 42.07 BIB


*A bibliography of British history, 1851–1914* ... comp. and ed. by H. J. Hanham (Oxford, 1976). Library location: RBL Q 42.081 BIB


House of Commons Information Office Fact Sheets.

‘House of Commons Information Office Factsheets provide brief informative descriptions of various facets of the House of Commons’, and are available, along with many other useful guides, at the following URL:
http://www.parliament.uk/about/how/guides/factsheets/


### 2.2 Sessional papers: official indexes


Catalogue of the bills, reports from committees, and accounts and papers collected by Speaker Abbot in the early nineteenth century.

A general index to the reports from committees of the House of Commons, 1715-1801; forming the series of fifteen volumes of reports ([London], 1806; repr. Bishops Stortford, 1973). Library location: RBL – Government Publications

It also has a list of those committee reports inserted in the Journals.


The three volumes cover Bills; Reports of Select Committees; Accounts and Papers, Reports of Commissioners, Estimates, etc. They are numbered 2, 3, and 5 respectively in the I.U.P. General Index series.


Reprinted by I.U.P. as General Index volumes 4, 6, 7, and 8.

General index to the bills, reports and papers printed by order of the House of Commons ... 1900 to 1948-49 (London, 1960). Library location: RBL – Government Publications


The volume covering the years 1801-59, reprinted by Oceana Publications in 1976, also contains a checklist of House of Lords sessional papers, 1801-1859; supplementary index entries; and a reel guide to the Oceana microfilm edition.

The last volume of the sessional papers for each parliamentary session contains an index. For instance, that in the 1865 session—1865 (466) lviii, 1—has this title-page, which reflects its contents: List of the bills, reports, estimates, and accounts and papers, printed by order of the House of Commons, and of the papers presented by Command, session 1865; with a general alphabetical index thereto. The level of indexing in these volumes is clearly greater than that to be found in the official indexes listed above. Later index volumes also contain tables and indexes to the Public General Acts passed in the particular session.
2.3 Sessional papers: non-official indexes

BOPCRIS (British Official Publications Collaborative Reader Information Service)

URL: http://www.southampton.ac.uk/library/ldu/projects.html#Ford

‘BOPCRIS (British Official Publications Collaborative Reader Information Service) aims to save researchers wasting valuable research time and effort finding relevant British Official Publications over the period 1688-1995 by providing a Web-based bibliographic database which enables them, from their own desktops, to search and browse for relevant documents without having to visit libraries to consult hard-copy reference tools, or needing to seek assistance from reference librarians; read abstracts, and view detailed consistent subject indexing, of key documents so they can assess whether they need to see the full document or not; find out the nearest location of relevant documents if they decide they need them; read the digitised full-text version of a limited number of documents.’


An invaluable list arranged in sessional order. Full information on the locations of items in the Journals, Abbot Collection, etc.


An introduction to, and list of, the sessional papers in the Scholarly Resources 145- volume set covering the period 1715-1800 including also locations in the Abbot Collection.


The only subject classification of the whole of the nineteenth-century parliamentary papers and intended for use with the Chadwyck-Healey microfiche edition which the Library has for the years 1731-1961/2.

The checklist, which is meant to be used in conjunction with the original General indexes, is divided into three sections:

1. A chronological list of all the papers reprinted by I.U.P., with their locations in the 1000-volume set.
2. An alphabetical subject list of these papers.
3. An index to chairmen of committees and authors of individual reports and papers.


Bagwell, P.S. Industrial relations (Dublin, 1974).


Steeds, D. and Nish, I. China, Japan and 19th century Britain (Dublin, 1977).

Sutherland, G., and others. Education (Dublin, 1977).

There are also copies of these commentaries available for loan, the Library locations of which can be found from the Online Catalogue.
Index to British Parliamentary papers. Library locations: RBL – Government Publications

These index the papers in the respective subseries of the I.U.P. 1000-volume series in very great detail, giving the location there and the original citation.


*Canada and Canadian boundary, 1800-1899* (Dublin, 1974).

*Children’s employment* (Dublin, 1973).

### 2.4 Sessional papers: breviates and select list

A series, compiled by P. and G. Ford, parallels the official indexes. The breviates contain abstracts of reports and other material issued by committees and commissions inquiring into economic, social and constitutional questions, but are not comprehensive. The *Select list* does not contain summaries.


2.5 Sessional papers: special indexes


Gives a complete citation for each command paper.


Incorrectly cites all command papers as Cd. A list of correct prefixes has been added on a front flyleaf of the copy in the RBL.


A list of serials by issuing department. Also includes a history of each department up to 1968.

2.6 Sessional papers: guides to a particular subject or geographical area

Annual lists and general index of the parliamentary papers relating to the East Indies (i.e., India) published during the years 1801 to 1907 inclusive. Library location: RBL – Government Publications. Sessional papers 1909 lxiv, 757

Haythornthwaite, Jo A. *Scotland in the nineteenth century: an analytical bibliography of material relating to Scotland in parliamentary papers, 1800–1900* (Aldershot, 1993). Library location: JBML Library Q 41.08 HAY

Jones, R. H. *The American Civil War in the British sessional papers: catalog and commentary* (New York, 1964). Library location: JBML Quarto Q 73.7 JON


Contains a chapter entitled 'South African imperial blue-books'.

Ragatz, L.J. *A guide for the study of British Caribbean history, 1763-1834, etc.* (Washington, 1932). Library location: RBL Q 72.97 RAG

Part V, pp. 91-135 treats of bills, reports, accounts and papers printed by order of the House of Commons, and the House of Lords.


"The ... aim of this book ... [is] to give a list of the titles of Foreign Office Blue Books from Castlereagh to Grey, and to add the dates on which they were laid before Parliament." (Preface).

### 2.7 Parliamentary debates


"The bibliography assembles most of the printed sources for the spoken proceedings of Parliament likely to be sought by students [and it] ... provides a brief bibliographical description of each work ... [and a] cautious evaluation of certain items." (Foreword).
2.8 Journals


2.9 Statutes


‘The Table lists in their chronological sequence all those Acts passed by the Parliaments at Westminster between 1797 and the end of 1994 which have come to be generally described as local Acts, and the orders confirmed by local Provisional Order Confirmation Acts in the sequence in which they are scheduled to their confirming Acts. Until 1797 there were two official series of Acts - Public and Private - but in that year the Public Acts were divided into two further series of Public General Acts and Public Local and personal Acts. The Table is confined to the successive categories of Public Local and Personal Acts, etc.’


URL: http://www.opsi.gov.uk/chron-tables/private/index.htm

“In 1974 the Statute Law Committee authorised the Law Commission and the Scottish Law Commission to prepare a chronological table covering the 26,000 Local Acts passed between 1797 and the end of 1973 and the 11,000 Private, later described as Personal,
Acts passed between 1539 and the end of 1973. Both Tables have been published (HMSO and TSO respectively), as updated on the dates of publication by the Law Commissions. The text is now updated on this site to December 2005.”

*Chronological table of the statutes ...1235 ... to the end of 2001* (London 2004). 2 vols.
Library location: RBL – Government Publications

'The Chronological Table of Statutes is in four Sections:-

1. Section 1 comprises the Acts of the Parliaments of England, Great Britain and the United Kingdom from 1235 to the end of 1994, and lists
   a. the Acts printed in the edition of the Record Commissioners, known as *Statutes of the Realm*, so far as it extends (to the end of the reign of Queen Anne (13 Queen Anne) in 1713);
   b. the Acts printed in Ruffheads [sic] Edition (by Serjeant Runnington) so far as it extends (to the end of the session of the 25th year of the reign of King George the Third (25 Geo. 3) in 1785);
   c. thenceforth all Acts printed by the King’s or Queen’s Printer as Public Acts or (since 1797) Public General Acts.

2. Section 2 comprises the Acts of Parliaments of Scotland from 1424 to 1707.


There is also a table of the variances between *Statutes of the Realm* and Ruffhead’s Edition on pages 1-7.


   pp. 287–320. The classification and publication of statutes.

* A list and index of eight volumes of enclosure acts* (York, 1980). Library location: RBL – Government Publications


3 Holdings in the J.B. Morrell Library

3.1 Sessional papers

Two major electronic resources supercede many of the print and microform holdings listed below them.

_Eighteenth Century British Official Parliamentary Publications Portal 1688-1834._
http://www.southampton.ac.uk/library/ldu/projects.html#18C

Electronic access to core 18<sup>th</sup> century official Parliamentary publications which include Sessional Papers, Journals and Proceedings of both Houses of Parliament, Parliamentary Registers, Private Bills, Private Acts and Local and Personal Acts.

_Nineteenth Century House of Commons Parliamentary Papers._
http://parlipapers.chadwyck.co.uk/

Electronic access to House of Commons Bills, Papers and Command Papers 1801-1900.


The section covering the years 1731-1800 is restricted to surviving copies of separately printed papers, most of them in the Abbot Collection. Copies of the papers for this period surviving only in the Journal of the House of Commons are not included.


The set is complete but for the subseries (of the Education series) covering the British Museum (4 vols.). The papers are classified by subject e.g. Agriculture, Anthropology, Colonies, Crime and punishment, etc. Various indexes specifically related to this collection of papers are listed above. It should be emphasised that this series is not comprehensive for the period covered.

3.2 Parliamentary debates

Should they appear there, items in this section have been given their numbers in the bibliography compiled by Woods (listed above), from which the annotations are also largely taken.

[The old parliamentary history.] *The parliamentary or constitutional history of England; being a faithful account of all the most remarkable transactions in Parliament from the earliest times. Collected from the journals of both Houses, the records... by several hands* (London, 1751-1761). 24 vols. Library location: RBL – Government Publications; Eighteenth Century microform collection

Period: 1066-1660. House of Commons and House of Lords [hereafter HC and HL respectively]. Woods 1 (with a note on the sources upon which it is based in Woods, Appendix I). ‘Until recent times a standard authority. It is now more or less superseded by modern editions of parliamentary diaries for debates. It does, however, contain reprints of scarce pamphlets.’

This series is also available on microfilm, as part of the Eighteenth Century Microform Collection.


Period: 1066-1803. HC and HL. Woods 2. (Some sources peculiar to Cobbett are noted in Wood, Appendix II.) ‘Still the best single source for parliamentary debates, particularly in the eighteenth century. It is not, however, a definite collection, and it sometimes silently suppresses material to be found in its sources.’


Period: 1542-1764. HC and HL. Woods 3. (Some sources peculiar to Cobbett are noted in Wood, Appendix II.) “This is a careful compilation of what was said and done in British Parliaments—Ireland and Scotland are included—with regard to America. It is based on both manuscript and printed material. Where accounts differ, all are printed. The introductions contain valuable discussions of the sources.”
[D’Ewes’ journals.] D’Ewes, S. *The journals of all the parliaments during the reign of Queen Elizabeth, etc.* (London, 1682). Library location: EEBO; Special Collections Quarto Q 42.055 DEW


[Townshend’s collections.] *Historical collections: or, An exact account of the proceedings of the four last parliaments of Q. Elizabeth ... Wherein is contained the compleat journals of both Lords & Commons, etc.* (London, 1680). Library location: EEBO; Mirfield Quarto SC 28-5-3-9

Period: 1588-1601. HC and HL. Woods 5.


Period: **1743-1774**. HC. Woods 11.


Period: **1775-1802**. HC and HL. Woods 13


Period: **1794-1799**. HC and HL. Woods 15

[Hansard.] *Parliamentary debates*. 1st-5th series. 1803 - 21 November 1918, 6 November 1928 - 6 October 1938 (New York: Readex Microprint). There is an incomplete printed set for the years 1919 - 1928.

Period: **1803-1918**. HC. Woods 17. ‘It was not until 1909 that Hansard became a strictly verbatim report. The method of compiling the work for a considerable time was to choose what seemed to be the best newspaper report and to send it to the speakers for their corrections. If no corrections were forthcoming the report was printed as it stood. There is therefore no special authority attaching to Hansard until after 1909.’ Woods 17.


3.3 Parliamentary debates: diaries and proceedings

 Period: 1558-1601. HC and HL.

 Period: 15 October to 2 December 1586. HL. Woods 63.


[Montagu’s journals (I)]. Historical Manuscripts Commission, Report on the manuscripts of the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry..., III, 78-93 and 107-122. Library location: JBML Quarto Q 42 HIS


 Period: 1610. HC and HL.

Period: 5 April - 7 June 1614. HC. Woods 25.

[Holles’s summary.] Historical Manuscripts Commission, The manuscripts of His Grace the Duke of Portland, preserved at Welbeck Abbey, IX, 132-139. Library location: JBML Quarto Q 42 HIS

Period: 5 April - 7 June 1614. HC. Woods 26.

[Huntingdon’s diary.] Historical Manuscripts Commission, Report on the manuscripts of the late Reginald Rawdon Hastings of Manor House, Ashby-de-la-Zouche, IV, 230-286. Library location: JBML Quarto Q 42 HIS

Period: 5 April - 7 June 1614. HL. Woods 27.


Period: 5 April - 7 June 1614. HC.


Period: 1618-1649. HC and HL. Woods 64.

[Commons debates, 1621.] W. Notestein, ed. Commons debates, 1621 (New Haven, 1935). 7 vols. Library location: JBML Q 42.061 PAR


Period: 20 November - 19 December 1621, 12 February 1623/24 - 29 May 1624, 1-12 August 1625, 1 November 1640 - 1 February 1640/41. HL. Woods 32.


Period: 23 February 1623/4 - 29 May 1624; 6 February 1625/6 - 15 June 1626. HL. Woods 33.


Period: 1624


Period: 18 June - 12 August 1625. HC. Woods 34.


Period: 18 June - 12 August 1625. HC and HL.


Period: February - March 1625/6. HC. Woods 35

Period: 6 February - 15 June 1626. HC and HL.


Period: 17 March - 26 June 1628. HC and HL.

[Speeches, 1628-9]. T. Fuller, ed. *Ephemeris parliamentaria, or, A faithfull register of the transactions in Parliament in the third and fourth years of the reign of our late Sovereign Lord, King Charles* (London, 1654). Library location: EEBO

Period: 1628-1629. HC and HL. Woods 65


Period: April-May 1640. HC and HL.


Period: 3 November 1640 - 20 March 1641. HC.

[Speeches, 1640-1641.] *Speeches and passages of this great and happy parliament from the third of November 1640 to ... June 1641, etc.* (London, 1641). Library location: EEBO; Special Collections Q 42.062 PAR

Period: 3 November 1640 - June 1641. HC and HL. Woods 67.

[Diurnall occurrences.] *The diurnall occurrences, or dayly proceedings of both Houses* (London, 1641). Library location: EEBO

Period: 3 November 1640 - 3 November 1641. HC and HL. Woods 68.


Period: 12 October 1641 – 10 January 1641/2. HC. Woods 42.


Period: November–December 1641. HC. Woods 43.


Period: 3 January – 17 September 1642. Includes the journals and diaries of Sir Simonds D’Ewes, Framlingham Gawdy, Roger Hill, John Moore, and Sir Thomas Peyton. HC.

Period: 3 September 1654 – 22 January 1654/5. HC. Woods 44.


Period: 1656-1659. HC. Woods 45.


Period: 1660-1678. HC. Woods 70.


Period: 18 September 1666 to 8 May 1668. HC. Woods 46.


Period: 1667. HC. Woods 72.


Period. October - November 1667. HC. Woods 47.


Period: 1670-1673. HC. Woods 49.
[Votes and addresses.] *Votes and addresses of the Hon. House of Commons ... made this present year 1673* ([London?], 1673). Library location: EEBO

   Period: **1673**. HC. Woods 74.

[A relation.] *A relation of the most material matters handled in Parliament: relating to religion, property and the liberty of the subject* ([Netherlands : s.n.], 1673). Library location: EEBO

   Period: February to November **1673**. Woods 73


   Period: **1675**. HL. Woods 75.


   Period: **1675**. HC and HL. Woods 76.

[Imprisonment of the Lords.] *A narrative of the cause and manner of the imprisonment of the Lords*; by J. E. [Amsterdam, 1677]. Library location: EEBO

   Period: **1676-1677**. HL. Woods 77.


   Period: 15 November **1680**. HL. Woods 78.

[Collection of speeches.] *A collection of the substance of several speeches and debates made in the Honourable House of Commons, relating to the horrid popish plot* (London, 1681). Library location: EEBO

   Period: **1680-1681**. HC. Woods 79.

   Period: 1680-1680/81. HC. Woods 80.

[Historical collections.] Historical collections, or, A brief account of the most remarkable transactions of the two last Parliaments held and dissolved at Westminster and Oxford (London, 1681). Library location: EEBO

   Period: 1680-1681. HC and HL. Woods 81.

[Faithful register.] The faithful register; or, the debates of the House of Commons in four several Parliaments (London, 1689). Library location: EEBO

   Period: 1680-1685. HC. Woods 82.


[Debates on the word 'Abdicated'.] The debate at large, between the Lords and Commons ... Relating to the word, abdicated, and the vacancy of the throne, in the Commons vote; 2nd ed. (London, 1710). Library location: EEBO

   Period: 1688. HC and HL. Woods 85.


   Period: 1689-1697.


   Period: 1691-1693. HC.
[Debates on corruption.] A collection of the debates and proceedings in Parliament, in 1694, and 1695. Upon the inquiry into the late briberies and corrupt practices (London, 1695). Library location: EEBO
   Period: 1694-1695. HC. Woods 86.

   Period: 1697-1699. HC.

[Cocks’ diary.] D. W. Hayton, ed. The parliamentary diary of Sir Richard Cocks, 1698-1702 (Oxford, 1996). Library location: JBML Q 42.06 COC
   Period: 1698-1702. HC.

[Proceedings on occasional conformity.] Proceedings of both Houses of Parliament, in the years 1702, 1703, 1704, upon the bill to prevent occasional conformity (London, 1710). Library location: EEBO / Eighteenth Century Microform Collection
   Period: 1702-1704. HC and HL. Woods 87

[Debate on the right of electors.] Debates of the House of Commons, in January 1704. Upon the great question, Whether an action lies at common law for an elector who is denied his vote (London, 1721). Library location: Eighteenth Century Microform Collection
   Period: January 1703-[1704]. HC [Ashby versus White]. Woods 88

   Period: 1705/6. HC.

   Period: 1710-1721

   Period: 1722-1730. HC.


Period: 1734–1744


Period: 1735-1751


Period: 1764–1767. HC.


Period: 1770–1802. HC.


Period: 1795–1829. HC. Woods 55.


Period: 1833. HC. Woods 91.
   Period: **1857–1882**. HC.

   Period: **1858–1865**. HC.

   Period: **1868–1873**. HC.

   Period: **1874–1885**. HC. Woods 57

### 3.4 Parliamentary debates: periodicals, 1711-1894

   Reports debates from July **1714** - January **1716**. Woods 94 (a)

*The historical register* (London, 1717-1738). 23 vols. Library location: Special Collections Q 42.071 HIS; Eighteenth Century Microform Collection.
   Woods 94 (b)

*Political state of Great Britain* (London, 1711- ). Library location: Eighteenth Century Microform Collection
   Reports debates from **1711** to **1743**. Woods 94 (c)

Reports debates from **1733 to 1746**, in 1749 and in 1752-53. Woods 94 (d)

*The annual register* (London, 1758- ). Library location varies according to format

‘Reports debates **after 1762**, but is most important for the eighteenth century.’ Woods 94 (f).

### 3.5 Journals


### 3.6 Statutes


Period: **1225-1713**. Based on the editions of Pickering and Ruffhead (listed below), which it supersedes for the period covered. Excludes all Private Acts from 1540 onwards.
The statutes at large from Magna Charta to ... 1761, carefully collated and revised ... by Danby Pickering (Cambridge, 1762). 24 vols. Library location: RBL – Government Publications

Period: **1225-1761.** Continued to 1806 in a further 22 vols. [i.e. vols. 25–46]. There are, in a uniform binding, further volumes numbered 47–80 covering the period 1806–1840.


Period: **1225–1800.** Vols. 1-14 ed. by Owen Ruffhead..

The statutes of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, 1801- . Library location: RBL – Government Publications

Period: **1801–.** The Library has complete coverage although the editions vary.


A collection of 166 acts, mainly enclosure acts, other subjects including roads, bridges, and river navigation. There is a printed index.
### 4 Supplementary information

#### 4.1 Holdings of sessional papers in selected Yorkshire libraries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>BLDSC</th>
<th>Hull U. L.</th>
<th>Leeds U. L.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>House of Commons</td>
<td>Original papers</td>
<td>1866-1920 (incomplete)</td>
<td>1900-1921 (incomplete)</td>
<td>1801-1865 (incomplete); 1866 onwards (complete)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House of Commons, reprint (hard copy)</td>
<td>Scholarly Resources. <em>House of Commons sessional papers of the 18th century</em></td>
<td>complete</td>
<td>complete</td>
<td>complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House of Lords, reprint (hard copy)</td>
<td>Oceana Publications. <em>House of Lords sessional papers, 1714-1805</em></td>
<td>complete</td>
<td>complete</td>
<td>complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House of Lords, reprint (microfilm)</td>
<td>Oceana Publications. <em>House of Lords sessional papers, 1806-1859</em></td>
<td>complete</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parliament of Ireland, reprint (microfilm)</td>
<td>Oceana Publications. <em>The printed records of the Parliament of Ireland, 1613-1800</em></td>
<td>complete</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.2 Information concerning series not available in the University of York Library


Below is reproduced the publisher’s promotional material.

‘Mr F. William Torrington, the editor of this project, has had 30 years experience as a librarian dealing with parliamentary and antiquarian material. He is conversant with parliamentary procedure, microform techniques, and the bibliographical problems encountered by research scholars. This experience has particularly suited him for such a broad and complex project which has entailed extensive research and travel all over the world.

A few years ago Mr Torrington was appointed as special consultant to the Department of Trade and Industry Library to co-ordinate an attempt to sort out as many sets of House of Lords papers as possible. Several institutions actively co-operated in pooling or making available in other ways their own partially complete sets. The House of Lords Library, the British Library, the Bodleian Library, the National Library of Scotland, and several government departments such as the Treasury, the Home Office, and the Department of Trade and Industry, took part in an unprecedented co-operative project. It is from the knowledge gained through this project that we are able to present our set. The resources and staff of all these institutions and libraries all over the world have contributed to the assembling of the material, especially for the period from 1714 to 1805.

The sessional papers

The sessional papers of the House of Lords are that body’s working papers. These include bills or legislative drafts, reports, minutes of evidence, and other miscellaneous accounts and returns, including numerous statistical tables and engravings of maps, diagrams, etc. Each paper was ordered to be printed by the House and displays a license denoting the official order. These papers were originally published individually for the instruction of members of committees and others concerned. It was only as an afterthought that sessional sets of these papers were compiled and bound together in the nineteenth century.
Duplication

One of the primary contributing factors to the previous neglect of the House of Lords Sessional Papers has been the belief that they largely duplicated the House of Commons set. Some duplication naturally does occur but before 1859 the amount of unique material amongst the House of Lords papers is proportion to the more independent and important role of the House of those times.

The most important and informative group of parliamentary papers is the bills or legislative drafts. These have been largely ignored in projects such as ours until now. There is very little strict duplication of these bills with the bills as they appear in the Commons papers. If, for instance, a bill was originated in the House of Commons, the printing which appears in the Commons papers is of the bill as it was presented to the House. All the amendments made by the House of Commons appear in the Lords copy however, as it is this revised form in which the bill is laid before the Lords. Conversely, if a bill was originated in the Lords, which was by no means a rare occurrence even in dealing with extremely important matters, the Lords version is the only original copy of the form in which the bill was laid, the Commons copy being the original plus the Lords amendments. Sometimes these bills were defeated before ever teaching the Commons, leaving the only existing text preserved amongst the Lords papers. Thus the Lords version is an important and necessary complement to the Commons copy. The bills are the essential papers of parliament as they reveal the changing thoughts and attitudes of parliament in the law making process.

One source of information employed by parliament in order to direct its making of laws were the reports of its committees. The reports and minutes of evidence given before House of Commons committees have been published and used quite extensively. Each House had its own select committees, however, and while the Commons usually communicated its findings to the Lords, the opposite did not necessarily follow and in several important instances did not. Even when the Commons did publish a report or the minutes of evidence of a committee it is often only an abstract where the full text is supplied in the Lords papers.

As well as the bills and reports, the Lords papers contain other unique materials such as Reports of Commissioners, Minutes of Proceedings, Sovereigns’ Speeches to Parliament, Lords Commissioners’ Speeches to Open Parliament, Rolls of Lords, Spiritual and Temporal, and Standing Orders of the House of Lords, Reports of Trials of Peers, Divorce Cases and Peerage Cases, etc.
Some of the unique material includes:

- the massive report of the trial of Warren Hastings - nearly 5,000 pages
- two reports of the Board of Trade on the American Colonies
- a report by a select committee of the House of Lords on the disturbances in Boston in 1774
- the famous report of the Aylesbury Election Case, a milestone in the development of electoral law
- papers relating to the union of England and Scotland in 1706/7
- the union of Great Britain and Ireland in 1800
- the trials of the leaders of the Jacobite rebellions in 1715 and 1745
- numerous bills on industrial, commercial, economic subjects and the reports, bills, minutes of evidence relating to the slave trade
- report on the coal trade of the UK (1830)
- state and condition of the children employed in cotton factories (1819)
- regulation of chimney sweepers and their apprentices (1834)
- preservation of the health and morale of apprentices employed in cotton mills and factories (1818)
- Fourdrinier. Invention for making paper by means of machinery (1807)
- minutes of evidence on the bill for establishing the Great Western Railway (1835)
- report of the poor law commissioners on an inquiry into the sanitary condition of the labouring population of Great Britain (1824) in 3 vols.’

**Oceana Publications. The printed records of the Parliament of Ireland, 1613-1800.**

Below is reproduced the publisher’s promotional material.

‘This important compilation has been gathered from a multitude of sources and is the result of considerable research on the part of the editors. Until now the full extent of the records which survive had never been described and this set provides for the first time the extant records of the Parliament in one place. The initial task of the editors had to be to establish which a complete set of records should contain, an important and difficult piece of research in itself, and then to locate what records had survived. The amount of material which we have been able to make available is surprising. Few countries have so many important contemporary records over such a long period. They form an important part of the picture of Ireland during the two centuries which bridge the 'late medieval' state of the early seventeenth century to the 'early modern' state at the beginning of the nineteenth century. Although the administration of Ireland and the membership of its Parliament consisted of the Anglo-Irish minority, still in its work on subjects such as transport, industry, welfare, finance and construction, to name just a few areas of development, the Parliament followed policies which laid the foundations of modern organisation.'
It was not only policies, however, that looked forward, but practice as well. For instance, in Dublin there was built the first properly planned Parliament House in modern Europe and there was developed by the end of the seventeenth century an impressive Public Accounts Committee system.

The original manuscript records of the Irish Parliament were destroyed during the Civil War in 1922. This microfilm collection of the printed records is the most comprehensive ever assembled and is now available as a whole collection or as individual reels.

There are six main groups of records:

   These journals are the final edition of 1795 and include all appendices of accounts, papers and reports only available in that edition, together with the comprehensive two volume index.

   This is the only edition of this important work which includes a large number of reports scattered through the text.

   Again we have used the final edition of this work and included the two volumes of index up to the union in 1800.

   While not official printed records, a selection of debates during the second half of the 18th century including the "Parliamentary Register" are in this collection.

5. Votes of the House of Commons, 1692-1800, 52 vols. in 16 reels.
   This is the oldest printed record of the Irish Parliament, a unique contemporary account of its proceedings. The collection is almost complete through the assistance of many librarians and private collectors. Certainly no similar collection of Votes exists in printed form. Many of the volumes of Votes appear to have survived in just one copy.

6. Surviving Bills, Reports and Papers, 1 reel.
   A small collection of very rare contemporary papers which are not be found reprinted in the Journals and which illustrate the workings of the Parliament.
4.3 Citation of government publications

There is no accepted standard for citing British government publications. The following is a guide to what ought to be included in a citation and will, if adhered to, provide models for the presentation of that information which is necessary to make a footnote or bibliographical entry appropriate to the requirements of any style sheet. In order that the reader can make up her or his own mind about the validity and efficacy of these citations the various authorities are footnoted. The increasing popularity of so-called punctuation, in which full stops with abbreviations are omitted, would suggest differences in citation from those quoted below; and the citations in Section 4, in particular, will need to be made uniform in this respect at the reader’s discretion.

4.3.1 Sessional papers bound in sessional order

Parliamentary papers often do not have authors or titles in the accepted sense, on account of which it has become common practice for alternative titles to be given, models for which (and for the more routine abbreviations of long titles) can be found in the Ford Select list and Breviates (details of which will be found above). For instance, the following title...

*Report from the Select Committee on Municipal Corporations; with the minutes of evidence taken before them.*

...has been abbreviated thus by Ford: Municipal Corporations. Sel. Ctte. Rep., mins. of ev.

---

1 This section is largely based on P. Ford and G. Ford, *A guide to parliamentary papers: what they are, how to find them, how to use them*; 3rd ed. (Shannon: Irish U. P., 1972), pp. 71-73.
The standard abbreviations which he uses are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Appendix</td>
<td>App.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board</td>
<td>Bd.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commission</td>
<td>Com.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee</td>
<td>Ctte.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Departmental Committee</td>
<td>Dept. Ctte.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inter-departmental Committee</td>
<td>Inter-dept. Ctte.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minutes of evidence</td>
<td>Mins. of ev.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royal Commission</td>
<td>R. Com.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select Committee</td>
<td>Sel. Ctte.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select Committee of House of Lords</td>
<td>Sel. Ctte. HL.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The form of citation of Parliamentary papers is basically that put forward by Hansard in his *General alphabetical index, 1801-1826*, where he suggested the following, given below with an example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>session</th>
<th>(paper no.)</th>
<th>volume no. (in Roman numerals)</th>
<th>volume page no.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1845</td>
<td>(602)</td>
<td>xii</td>
<td>331</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

...which would appear thus: 1845 (602) xii, 331.
Should the title not have been given in the text, it precedes the rest of the reference and is concluded with a semi-colon:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title and description;</th>
<th>session</th>
<th>(paper no.)</th>
<th>volume no.</th>
<th>page no.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Game Law. Sel. Cttee. Rep.;</td>
<td>1845</td>
<td>(602)</td>
<td>xii</td>
<td>331</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Note that although the paper number - the one in brackets - is required for the citation, it is irrelevant for finding the paper in original sets of parliamentary papers, in the microcard/microfiche editions, or in the I. U. P. reprint of them.) If there is a citation to a particular page in a paper, the page number should follow the title and description and immediately precede the citation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of paper, printed page no.;</th>
<th>session</th>
<th>(paper no.)</th>
<th>volume no.</th>
<th>page no.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

e.g.:

Training Colleges. Elementary Education Acts Comm., answers to questions, p. 87; 1888 C. 5485, xxxvi, 1.

In this example, the Command Paper number is preferred to the paper number, which would otherwise have been cited, and does not attract brackets. There have been the following sequences of Command Papers, the first of which does not have a C number, on account of which it is always enclosed in square brackets.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Series</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Second series</td>
<td>C.1 - C.9550</td>
<td>1870-1899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third series</td>
<td>Cd.1 - Cd.9239</td>
<td>1900-1918</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth series</td>
<td>Cmd.1 - Cmd.9889</td>
<td>1919-1955/1956</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Since until 1922 Command Papers were numbered on the publications themselves within square brackets, citations to these publications also commonly appear in this way.
House of Lords Papers which do not appear in the Commons set have HL added to the paper number.

```
Title of paper; session (paper no.) volume no., volume page no.
```


Citations of reprints of House of Commons papers which have been included in the I. U. P. series should still follow the guidelines given above and any spurious reference to this series is a solecism which is to be avoided.

### 4.3.2 Debates

```
Volume no. House series date, column no.
```

e.g.: 201 H.C. Deb. 3s. 9 June 1870, col. 1821.

For written answers the column numbers must always be in italics.

### 4.3.3 Journals

```
Abbreviation for the House (C.J. or L.J.) vol. no. page no.
```

e.g.: C.J. xv. 27

L.J. xxxiii. 214

---


The half-title-pages of the Commons Journal (unlike the Lords Journals) have their volume numbers in Arabic numerals but, presumably to avoid confusion with the following page number, they too are usually cited in Roman.

### 4.3.4 Acts of Parliament

a) **Public**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Short title</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>(Regnal year)</th>
<th>Chapter no.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

e.g.: Hue and Cry Act 1584 (27 Eliz 1) c 13

b) **Private**

Private Acts passed before 1798 should be cited in the same way as Public General Acts, with the addition of <(Priv. Act)> after the chapter number:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Short title</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>(Regnal year)</th>
<th>Chapter no.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

e.g.: Heslington Inclosure Act 1761 (1 Geo. III) c. 38 (Priv. Act)

---

4 The form of citation below is taken from *Chronological table of the statutes* (London: Stationery Office, 2004), pt. 1. A slightly different form of citation can be found in *Tracing acts of Parliament* (House of Commons Information Office. Factsheet, 12). URL: http://www.parliament.uk/about/how/guides/factsheets/legislation/l12/.. There is a current divergence of practice with regard to citation between different arms of government which can be seen in the examples for public and private acts: Hue and Cry Act 1584 (27 Eliz 1) c 13, and Heslington Inclosure Act 1761 (1 Geo. III) c. 38 (Priv. Act), the former missing two full stops and having the regnal numeral belonging to the name in Arabic.

5 The forms of citation listed below are based on those suggested in Victoria History, *Handbook*, p. 52, section 194, modified according to the practice of the *Chronological table of local legislation*, which comprises a consolidated list of private acts passed between 1797 and 1994. There is no similar list for the earlier period.
Non-public Acts from 1798 on should be differentiated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1798-1802</td>
<td>Local and Personal; Private and Personal, not printed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1803-1814</td>
<td>Local and Personal; Local and Personal, not printed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1815-1858</td>
<td>Local and Personal; Private; Private, not printed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1869-</td>
<td>Local; Private; Private, not printed [up to 1873]; Private, not printed or numbered [from 1874].</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The citation of non-public Acts from 1798 onwards requires the chapter number to be given in Roman numerals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Short title</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>(Regnal year)</th>
<th>Chapter no.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>e.g.:</td>
<td>York Improvement Act 1846 (9 &amp; 10 Vict.) c. cxxiii (Local and Personal)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On account of the possible confusion in the citation of the chapter number, caused by the close proximity of the abbreviation ‘c.’ and the roman numeral ‘c’, some authorities recommend that the longer form of ‘cap.’ (both abbreviations are from the Latin word *capitulum*) be used, giving the following citation:

York Improvement Act 1846 (9 & 10 Vict.) cap. cxxiii (Local and Personal)