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0521026512 - Royal and Republican Sovereignty in Early Modern Europe: Essays in Memory of Ragnhild Hatton

Edited by Robert Oresko, G. C. Gibbs and H. M. Scott

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This substantial collection of specially commissioned chapters addresses the theme of sovereignty and the sources and variety of political power in seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Europe, from Russia to Spain and from the Italian peninsula to the Dutch Republic.

A unifying theme, taken up in a substantial editorial introduction, is the determination to move away from clichés such as ‘the rise of the modern state’. Instead, emphasis is placed upon the composite nature of early modern political structures and upon the significant number of bodies and individuals who were recognised as possessing, or who exercised, sovereignty. One particularly notable and novel feature is the attention paid to the potential of visual material for this subject: many of the chapters are accompanied by striking and often little-known illustrations. Topics are as diverse as international relations and the control of foreign policy, the cultural policies and political ambitions of representational monarchy, urban developments, and the personalities of those who exercised authority. These diverse themes were all illuminated by the writings of Professor Ragnhild Hatton (1913–95), to whose memory this collection is dedicated.

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Ragnhild Hatton's last public lecture as Professor of International History
at the London School of Economics

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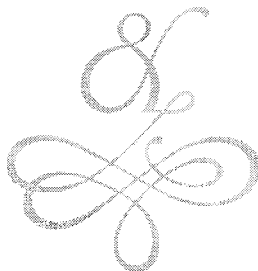
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*Essays in memory of
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PREFACE

The completion of this volume has been unusually delayed, due both to its size and complexity, and to the problems which often seem to beset collections of this kind. It is a particular source of regret that Professor Hatton died while the volume was still in preparation, though it is some comfort that she was aware of its contents and had provided much of the material for the bibliography of her own writings. The editors are grateful for the continuing support which they have received from the contributors during this period. They have also been sustained by the encouragement and unfailing professionalism of the staff of Cambridge University Press, particularly William Davies, Lyn Chatterton, Jayne Matthews, and Margaret Sharman, who meticulously copy-edited a complex manuscript.

Ragnhild Hatton placed specific and distinct importance upon the choice of illustrations and the interpretation of their meanings for historical scholarship. In addition to those scholars whose contributions have been acknowledged in individual chapters, the editors wish to thank most warmly, for their help in assembling the illustrations to this volume: Professor Ferdinando Arisi (Piacenza); Dr Edward Corp (Université de Paris-VII); Dr Janet Hartley (London School of Economics); Colin Harrison (Ashmolean Museum, Oxford); Bart de Groof (Het Katholieke Universiteit, Leuven); Dr Christopher Lloyd (The Royal Collections, St James's Palace, London); Susanna Kerr (Scottish National Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh); and Dr William Ryan (Warburg Institute, London). Their help, along with that of many other scholars who are thanked elsewhere in this collection, has played a major role in shaping this collaborative tribute to the work of Ragnhild Hatton, and the participation of so many distinguished historians underscores the breadth and the strength of her intellectual legacy.

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CONTRIBUTORS

PETER BARBER is Deputy Map Librarian at the British Library, London. His publications include *Diplomacy: The World of the 'Honest Spy'* (London, 1979); *Tales from the Map Room* (with C. Board) (London, 1993), and a series of important articles on cartography, notably in David Buisseret (ed.), *Monarchs, Ministers and Maps: The Emergence of Cartography as a Tool of Government in Early Modern Europe* (Chicago, 1992).

DEREK BEALES is Professor of Modern History in the University of Cambridge, where he is a Fellow of Sidney Sussex College. His publications include: *England and Italy 1859–60* (London, 1961); *From Castlereagh to Gladstone 1815–85* (London, 1969); *The Risorgimento and the Unification of Italy* (London, 1971); *Joseph II: In the Shadow of Maria Theresa, 1741–1780* (Cambridge, 1987); *Mozart and the Habsburgs* (Reading, 1993); and, edited with Geoffrey Best, *History, Society and the Churches: Essays in Honour of Owen Chadwick* (Cambridge, 1985). He is a Fellow of the British Academy.

T. C. W. BLANNING is Professor of Modern European History in the University of Cambridge, where he is a Fellow of Sidney Sussex College. His publications include: *Joseph II and Enlightened Despotism* (London, 1970); *Reform and Revolution in Mainz, 1743–1803* (Cambridge, 1974); *The French Revolution in Germany* (Oxford, 1983); *The Origins of the French Revolutionary Wars* (London, 1986); *The French Revolution* (London, 1987); *Joseph II* (London, 1994); and *The French Revolutionary Wars* (London, 1996). He is a Fellow of the British Academy.

ROHAN D'O. BUTLER was Emeritus Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford, and was for many years Historical Adviser to the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and Editor of *Documents on British Foreign Policy (1919–39)*. He was the author of *The Roots of National Socialism* (London, 1941) and of *Choiseul, I: Father and Son 1719–1754* (Oxford, 1980). Rohan Butler died in October 1996 as this book was going to press.

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HUGH L. A. DUNTHORNE is a Lecturer in Modern History at the University College, Swansea. His publications include *The Maritime Powers: A Study of Anglo-Dutch Relations in the Age of Walpole 1721–40* (New York, 1986); *The Enlightenment* (London, 1991); and articles on Dutch and Anglo-Dutch history.

G. C. GIBBS is Reader Emeritus in the University of London, where he taught for many years at Birkbeck College. His publications include many articles on eighteenth-century British foreign policy and on early modern Dutch and Huguenot history.

EDWARD GREGG is an Associate Professor of History at the University of Southern Carolina at Columbia. His publications include *Queen Anne* (London, 1980); *The Protestant Succession in International Politics 1710–16* (New York, 1987); and *Jacobitism* (London, 1988).

GRETE KLINGENSTEIN is Professor of Early Modern History at the Karl-Franzens-Universität, Graz. Her publications include *Staatsverwaltung und Kirchliche Autorität im 18. Jahrhundert: Das Problem der Zensur in der thesesianischen Reform* (Munich, 1970); *Der Aufstieg des Hauses Kaunitz: Studien zur Herkunft und Bildung des Staatskanzlers Wenzel Anton* (Göttingen, 1975); and numerous articles on eighteenth-century Habsburg history. She is currently directing a project to publish the diaries of Karl Graf Zinzendorf, which will be undertaken by the 'Kommission für Neuere Geschichte Österreichs', and also writing a major study of eighteenth-century Austria.

H. G. KOENIGSBERGER is Professor Emeritus in the University of London, where for many years he was Professor of History at King's College. His publications include: *The Government of Sicily under Philip II of Spain* (London, 1951; revised edition as *The Practice of Empire* (Ithaca, 1969)); *Europe in the Sixteenth Century* (with George L. Mosse) (London, 1969; 2nd edition, London, 1989); *The Habsburgs and Europe 1516–1660* (Ithaca, 1971); *Estates and Revolutions* (Ithaca, 1971); *Politicians and Virtuosi* (London, 1986); *Medieval Europe 400–1500* (London, 1987); and *Early Modern Europe 1500–1789* (London, 1987). He is a Senior Fellow of the British Academy, and has for many years been Co-Editor of 'Cambridge Studies in Early Modern History'.

ANDREW LOSSKY is Emeritus Professor of History at the University of California at Los Angeles, where he taught from 1950 until his retirement in 1987. He is the author of *Louis XIV, William III, and the Baltic Crisis of 1683* (Berkeley and Los Angeles, 1954); a major recent study of *Louis XIV and the French Monarchy* (New Brunswick, NJ, 1994); and of numerous articles on seventeenth-century French and international history.

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ISABEL DE MADARIAGA is Professor Emerita of Russian Studies in the University of London, where she taught for many years at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies. Her publications include *Britain, Russia and the Armed Neutrality of 1780* (London, 1962); *Opposition* (with G. Ionescu) (London, 1968); *Russia in the Age of Catherine the Great* (London, 1981); *Catherine the Great: A Short History* (New Haven, Conn., 1990); and numerous articles on eighteenth-century Russian history. She is a Senior Fellow of the British Academy and a Corresponding Member of the Royal Spanish Academy of History.

DEREK MCKAY was for many years Senior Lecturer in International History at the London School of Economics, from where he has recently retired. His publications include *Prince Eugene of Savoy* (London, 1977); *The Rise of the Great Powers 1648–1815* (with H. M. Scott) (London, 1983); and *Allies of Convenience: Diplomatic Relations between Great Britain and Austria, 1714–1719* (New York, 1986). He is presently writing a study of the Great Elector.

CHARLES C. NOEL has recently retired from Thames Valley University, London, where for many years he was Senior Lecturer in Humanities. He has published a series of articles on eighteenth-century Spanish history and is preparing a study of Charles III's reign.

ROBERT ORESKO is Research Fellow of the Institute of Historical Research, London; Co-Editor of 'Cambridge Studies in Italian History and Culture'; and Consigliere culturale of the Fondazione Accorsi, Turin. His publications include an edition of *The Works in Architecture of Robert and James Adam* (1975) and a series of articles on French and Italian courts, diplomacy and etiquette in the early modern period. He is currently preparing a full-scale study on the structure of power-holding and clientèle systems at the court of Savoy from 1675 to 1690. He is a corresponding member of the Académie Florimontane, Annecy.

DAVID A. PARROTT is a Fellow and Tutor at New College, Oxford, and a University Lecturer in Modern History. He has published a series of articles on seventeenth-century French history, and is writing a study of the French army during Cardinal Richelieu's ministry.

JOHN C. RULE is Professor of History at Ohio State University. His publications include numerous articles on French and international history during the reign of Louis XIV. He is the editor of a major collection of essays, *Louis XIV and the Craft of Kingship* (Columbus, Ohio, 1969), and is currently completing studies of Colbert de Torcy and of Louis XIV.

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H. M. SCOTT is Senior Lecturer in Modern History at the University of St Andrews. His publications include *The Rise of the Great Powers 1648–1815* (with Derek McKay) (London, 1983); *British Foreign Policy in the Age of the American Revolution* (Oxford, 1990); and numerous articles on eighteenth-century international history, and as editor, *Enlightened Absolutism: Reform and Reformers in Later Eighteenth-Century Europe* (London, 1990), and *The European Nobilities in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries*, 2 vols. (London, 1995). He is currently completing a study of *The Emergence of the Eastern Powers 1756–75*. He is Co-Editor of ‘Cambridge Studies in Early Modern History’.

GEOFFREY SYMCOX is Professor of History at the University of California, Los Angeles. His publications include *The Crisis of French Sea Power 1688–1697* (The Hague, 1974); *War, Diplomacy and Imperialism 1618–1763* (New York, 1974) and *Victor Amadeus II: Absolutism in the Savoyard State 1675–1730* (London, 1983). He is preparing a study of Turin in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. He is Co-Editor of ‘Cambridge Studies in Italian History and Culture’.