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978-0-521-08880-0 - The Proclamations of the Tudor Queens

Frederic A. Youngs

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THE TUDOR QUEENS**

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FOR MY MOTHER AND FATHER

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PREFACE

The role of royal proclamations in Tudor society has been touched on in many historical studies. The greatest attention has been given to their constitutional importance, usually within the narrow focus of the meaning of the Statute of Proclamations of 1539. The debate over whether that act was intended to equate proclamations and statutes, and thus to provide the means for a would-be absolute monarch to subvert Parliament's place in the constitution, continues to this day. Other scholars have considered individual proclamations in so far as they played a part in their studies of special aspects of Tudor history. The possibility of a systematic study of the proclamations as such was considerably enhanced in the last decade by an edition of the texts by Paul L. Hughes and James F. Larkin.

This study attempts to consider not only the constitutional importance of the later Tudor proclamations, but also their impact in the areas with which their contents dealt. It concentrates particularly on their enforcement, because proclamations provide a valuable and manageable opportunity to test whether the policies of the central government were translated into effective action locally.

My investigation began as a doctoral dissertation at the University of Cambridge on aspects of the Elizabethan proclamations. It has been expanded by considerable additional research in libraries and archives, particularly in local record offices. It has also been broadened to include the proclamations of Mary I, so that it would complement the study by Dr Rudolph W. Heinze of the proclamations of 1485–1553. We have taken some poetic license with the titles of the respective studies: his *The Proclamations of the Tudor Kings* is strictly correct, but my title slights the kingship of Philip. It is an omission which Mary would not have liked, but which many of her subjects would have appreciated.

Dr Heinze and I have tried to integrate our approaches, but it became apparent that a parallel presentation was not possible. His chronological treatment was dictated by the greater number of

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monarchs and the prevalence of individual advisers; his constitutional focus was naturally on the Statute of Proclamations. The Council was more fixed in composition in the latter half of the century, and Elizabeth's use of proclamations as temporary legislation differed from the earlier period, so that this became the constitutional focus for my study.

Two difficulties have arisen in the course of this work. To evaluate the impact of the proclamations required a presentation of the contexts in which they were issued. No one can be a master of the complexities of the economy, or of the religious situations, or of the politics of the moment, but I have considered it worth the risk to present my understanding of the particular settings in order to evaluate the proclamations' impact, even if in some cases my appreciation of the situation might be found incomplete. The second problem was in the manner of presentation, because the 446 proclamations vary so greatly in content. Part I attempts to consider them as a whole, as a prelude to and a summation of the individual studies in Parts II, III, and IV.

It is particularly pleasant to acknowledge those who have been so involved in my graduate training. Professor Paul L. Hughes directed my master's work and kindly made the typescripts of the Elizabethan proclamations available at an early stage. Professor George Abernathy painstakingly guided my first work in the proclamations. Above all, I am appreciative of Professor G. R. Elton who directed my doctoral work at Cambridge, sharing so generously his learning and many, many personal kindnesses. Professors Joel Hurstfield and J. J. Scarisbrick examined the dissertation, offering useful suggestions and encouragement.

Professors Rudolph W. Heinze and James F. Larkin have been unstinting in sharing their learning and friendship, and my understanding of proclamations owes much to long discussions with them. A period of additional work in local archives in England was supported by a grant from the California State University, Long Beach Foundation, and by a travel grant from the American Philosophical Society. Professors Elton, Hurstfield, Larkin, and Wallace MacCaffrey served as referees. Parts or all of the manuscript were read by Professors Elton, Heinze, and Larkin, and I appreciate their useful suggestions.

One is fortunate to have worked with many librarians and archivists who share learning as well as facilities, and while all are

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deserving of thanks I would in particular express my appreciation to the staff of the Henry E. Huntington Library in San Marino. Among the friends who have been so helpful are Professors Eugene L. Asher, Walter C. Richardson, Leland H. Carlson, and James I. Miklovich. Of course above all else my greatest appreciation is to my wife.

FREDERIC A. YOUNGS, JR

ABBREVIATIONS

Proclamations are cited by the number assigned by Hughes & Larkin, followed by an oblique, followed by the number assigned by Steele. Items not in one or the other are indicated by —.

Add. MSS	Additional Manuscripts, British Library
<i>Add. Procs.</i>	Frederic A. Youngs, Jr, ‘Additional Marian and Elizabethan Royal Proclamations’, <i>BIHR</i> , XLVIII (1974), 234–44
<i>Agrarian Hist.</i>	<i>The Agrarian History of England and Wales</i> , Vol. IV: 1500–1640 (ed. Joan Thirsk; London, 1967)
<i>Annals Ref.</i>	John Strype, <i>Annals of the Reformation...</i> (new ed.; 4 vols.; Oxford, 1824)
APC	<i>Acts of the Privy Council of England</i> (ed. John Roche Dasent; 32 vols.; London, 1890–1907)
App.	Appendix
BIHR	<i>Bulletin of the Institute of Historical Research</i>
Bk	Book
BL	British Library
Bristol AO	Bristol Archives Office
Camden	William Camden, <i>The History of the Most Renowned and Victorious Princess Elizabeth</i> (4th ed.; London, 1688)
Cardwell	Edward Cardwell (ed.), <i>Documentary Annals of the Reformed Church of England</i> (new ed.; 2 vols.; Oxford, 1844)
Chamb. Accts	Chamberlains’ Accounts
Chester CRO	Chester City Record Office
CJ	<i>Journals of the House of Commons</i> (1803ff.)
Corp.	Corporation

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ABBREVIATIONS

Corp. London RO	Corporation of London Record Office
<i>CSP Foreign</i>	<i>Calendar of State Papers Foreign</i>
<i>CSP Spanish</i>	<i>Calendar of State Papers Spanish</i>
<i>CSP Venice</i>	<i>Calendar of State Papers Venice</i>
Ct	Court
Devon RO	Devon Record Office
<i>Eccl. Mem.</i>	John Strype, <i>Ecclesiastical Memorials, Relating Chiefly to Religion...</i> (rev. ed.; 3 vols.; Oxford, 1822)
<i>EcHR</i>	<i>Economic History Review</i>
ed(s).	editor(s)
<i>EHR</i>	<i>English Historical Review</i>
Essex RO	Essex Record Office
E. Sussex RO	East Sussex Record Office
Flenley	Ralph Flenley (ed.), <i>A Calendar of the Register of the Queen's Majesty's Council in... Wales...</i> (London, 1916)
fo(s).	folio(s)
GLC (Middx) RO	Greater London Council (Middlesex Records) Record Office
Harl. MSS	Harleian Manuscripts, British Library
Heinze	Rudolph W. Heinze, <i>The Proclamations of the Tudor Kings</i> (Cambridge, 1976)
Hil.	Hilary (law term)
<i>Hist. J.</i>	<i>Historical Journal</i>
HLRO	House of Lords Record Office
<i>HMC</i>	<i>Historical Manuscripts Commission</i> (report)
Hughes & Larkin	Paul F. Hughes and James F. Larkin (eds.), <i>Tudor Royal Proclamations</i> (3 vols.; New Haven, 1964, 1969)
Kent AO	Kent Archives Office
Lansd. MSS	Lansdowne Manuscripts, British Library
Libr.	Library
<i>LJ</i>	<i>Journal of the House of Lords</i> (London, 1846ff.)
m(m).	membrane(s)
Machyn	Henry Machyn, <i>The Diary of Henry Machyn...</i> (ed. John Gough Nichols; Camden Society, XLII; London, 1848)

ABBREVIATIONS

Mich.	Michaelmas (law term)
no(s).	number(s)
Norf. & Norw. RO	Norfolk and Norwich Record Office
PRO	Public Record Office
Proc(s).	Proclamation(s)
pt	part
<i>r</i>	<i>recto</i>
Raine	Angelo Raine (ed.), <i>York Civic Records</i> , Vols. v–viii (Yorkshire Archaeological Society, cx, cxii, cxv, cxix; York, 1946, 1948, 1950, 1953)
Rcvrs Accts	Receivers' Accounts
Read, <i>Burghley</i>	Conyers Read, <i>Lord Burghley and Queen Elizabeth</i> (London, 1960)
Read, <i>Cecil</i>	Conyers Read, <i>Mr. Secretary Cecil and Queen Elizabeth</i> (London, 1955)
Rpt	Report
Southampton CRO	Southampton Civic Record Office
<i>STC</i>	<i>A Short-Title Catalogue of Books Printed in England... 1475–1640</i> (ed. A. W. Pollard and G. R. Redgrave; London, 1926)
Steele	Robert Steele (ed.), <i>A Bibliography of Royal Proclamations of the Tudor and Stuart Sovereigns and of others published under authority 1485–1714</i> (2 vols.; vols. v and vi of <i>Bibliotheca Lindesiana</i> ; Oxford, 1910)
<i>Stiffkey Papers</i>	<i>The Official Papers of Sir Nathaniel Bacon of Stiffkey, Norfolk, as Justice of the Peace 1580–1620</i> (ed. H. W. Saunders; Camden Society, 3rd series, xxvi; London, 1915)
Stow	John Stow, <i>The Annales of England</i> (London, 1605)
<i>TRHS</i>	<i>Transactions of the Royal Historical Society</i>
Trin.	Trinity (law term)
<i>v</i>	<i>verso</i>
VCH	<i>Victoria Histories of the Counties of England</i>
Wriothesley	Charles Wriothesley, <i>A Chronicle of England During the Reigns of the Tudors, from A.D. 1485 to 1559</i> (ed. W. D. Hamilton; 2 vols.; Camden Society, new series, xi, xx; London, 1875, 1877)
York CA Dept	York City Archives Department