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0521443415 - The Reign of Elizabeth I: Court and Culture in the Last Decade

Edited by John Guy

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This book is about the politics and political culture of the 'last decade' of the reign of Elizabeth I, in effect the years 1585 to 1603. It argues that this period was so distinctive that it amounted to the second of two 'reigns'. It also invites readers, at times provocatively, to take a critical look at the declining Virgin Queen.

Many teachers and their students have failed to consider the 'last decade' in its own right, or have ignored it, having begun their accounts in 1558 and struggled on to the defeat of the Armada in 1588. Only two major political surveys have been attempted since 1926. Both consider mainly the war with Spain and the politics of war, and each allots inadequate space to Crown patronage, puritanism and religion, society and the economy, political thought, and literature and drama. This book, written by some of the leading scholars of their generation, will be indispensable to a fuller understanding of the age.

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# The reign of Elizabeth I

## Court and culture in the last decade

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*Edited by*

John Guy

*University of St Andrews*

Published in association with the  
Folger Institute, Washington, DC



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## Preface

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Many of the papers in this volume were first presented at a workshop held at the Folger Institute, Washington, DC, on 4–5 October 1991. The theme of the workshop was ‘Court and Culture during the Reign of Elizabeth I: The Last Decade’. Not all the contributors on that occasion wished to publish their papers, while at the same time some highly relevant studies were being undertaken by scholars who had been unable to attend. The outcome is that four scholars were recruited to reinforce the ‘original’ team: Paul E. J. Hammer, Natalie Mears, Hiram Morgan and Jim Sharpe. I am extremely grateful for their contributions, and for those of the participants in the original workshop. The workshop was sponsored by the Folger Institute Center for Shakespeare Studies and was supported by a grant from the Education Division of the National Endowment for the Humanities. I would like to express gratitude to the Folger Institute staff, in particular Barbara A. Mowat (Chair), Lena Cowen Orlin (Executive Director), Carol Brobeck (Program Assistant), Ivy Gilbert (Program Assistant) and Molly Haws (Administrative Assistant).

The editorial work was undertaken at the University of St Andrews. My secretary, Lorna Harris, helped with correspondence and retyped the bulk of the contributions to enable inconsistencies to be resolved. I am grateful for her heroic support which was forthcoming at the time when I was exceptionally busy as Head of the School of History and International Relations. Rachel Guy assisted with the initial copy-editing and the preparation of the index. I remain irretrievably in her debt. I also wish to thank Richard and Emma, who patiently observed the proceedings and showed more tolerance and interest than I could reasonably expect. Last but not least, I wish to express my thanks to William Davies and the editorial and production staff of Cambridge University Press for their courtesy and efficiency.



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## Abbreviations

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<i>AgHR</i>	<i>Agricultural History Review</i>
<i>APC</i>	<i>Acts of the Privy Council of England</i> , ed. J. R. Dasent <i>et al.</i> (new series, 46 vols., London, 1890–1964)
<i>BIHR</i>	<i>Bulletin of the Institute of Historical Research</i>
BL	British Library
<i>CSPD</i>	<i>Calendar of State Papers, Domestic</i> , ed. Robert Lemon (vols. i, ii, 1547–90); ed. M. A. E. Green (vols. iii–vi, 1591–1603, and addenda, and vols. vii, xii, and addenda, 1566–1625; London, 1856–72)
<i>DNB</i>	<i>Dictionary of National Biography</i> , ed. Leslie Stephen and Sidney Lee (63 vols., London, 1885–1900)
<i>EcHR</i>	<i>Economic History Review</i>
<i>EHR</i>	<i>English Historical Review</i>
HA	Historical Association
<i>Hj</i>	<i>Historical Journal</i>
<i>HLQ</i>	<i>Huntington Library Quarterly</i>
HMC	Historical Manuscripts Commission
<i>JBS</i>	<i>Journal of British Studies</i>
<i>JHI</i>	<i>Journal of the History of Ideas</i>
LPL	Lambeth Palace Library
<i>MLN</i>	<i>Modern Language Notes</i>
MS	Manuscript
PRO	Public Record Office, London
<i>SB</i>	<i>Studies in Bibliography</i>
SP	MS State Papers, at the Public Record Office
<i>SP</i>	<i>Studies in Philology</i>
<i>STC</i>	<i>Short-Title Catalogue of Books Printed in England, Scotland, and Ireland, and of English Books Printed Abroad, 1475–1640</i> , A. W. Pollard, G. R. Redgrave, <i>et al.</i> (London, 1926, repr. 1946)

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*STC2* *Short-Title Catalogue of Books Printed in England, Scotland, and Ireland, and of English Books Printed Abroad, 1475–1640*, A. W. Pollard, G. R. Redgrave, *et al.*, second edition revised by W. A. Jackson, F. S. Ferguson and Katharine F. Pantzer (3 vols., London, 1976–91)

*TRHS* *Transactions of the Royal Historical Society*

*Wing* *Short-Title Catalogue of Books Printed in England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, and British America, and of English Books Printed in Other Countries, 1641–1700*, D. G. Wing (New York, 1945–51)

In giving dates, the Old Style has been retained, but the year is assumed to have begun on 1 January.