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978-0-521-55439-8 - The Stuart Court and Europe: Essays in Politics and Political Culture

Edited by R. Malcolm Smuts

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This interdisciplinary collection examines the multiple ties that connected the Stuart court to Europe, and the ways in which these shaped English politics and political culture. Together, the essays demonstrate that even the domestic history of the period can only be understood fully by taking into account the international horizons, concerns and affiliations of the British ruling elite.

The opening essay by Jonathan Scott develops a provocative overview of the whole period. The remaining contributions examine topics including the European roots of common-law thought; the role of the international aristocratic language of honour in early Stuart politics; the highly problematic and fluid nature of national identity; the use of art and other forms of visual display in conveying the grandeur of kingship; the dissemination of radical French epicurean culture by exiled royalists during the Restoration; the religion of Charles II; and the crucial role of Charles's French mistress, the duchess of Portsmouth, in English and international politics. A concluding chapter by Geoffrey Parker suggests several new avenues for placing the British Isles within a European perspective.

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Essays in politics and political culture

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R. Malcolm Smuts

University of Massachusetts at Boston



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Contributors

MARTIN BUTLER is Reader in English Renaissance drama at the University of Leeds. He is the author of *Theatre and Crisis* (1984), and is currently completing an edition of *Cymbeline* and a book, *Courtly Negotiations: the Stuart Masque and Political Culture 1603–41*.

CAROLINE HIBBARD is Associate Professor of History at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champagne. She is author of *Charles I and the Popish Plot* (1983) and numerous articles on seventeenth-century England. She is now working on a study of the household of Queen Henrietta Maria.

RONALD HUTTON is Reader in British History at the University of Bristol and author of seven books, the most recent of which are his studies of the ritual year in Britain, *The Rise and Fall of Merry England* and *The Stations of the Sun*.

RICHARD C. MCCOY is Professor of English at Queens College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York and the author of *Sir Philip Sidney: Rebellion in Arcadia* (1979) and *The Rites of Knighthood: the Literature and Politics of Elizabethan Chivalry* (1989). He is currently working on a study of changing views of sacramental kingship in the Renaissance and Reformation.

NANCY KLEIN MAGUIRE is Scholar-in-Residence at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, DC. She is author of *Regicide and Restoration: English Tragicomedy, 1660–1671* (1992) and has contributed essays on the relationship of theatre and politics to *The Journal of British Studies*, *English Literary Renaissance*, *The Appropriation of Shakespeare: Post-Renaissance Reconstructions of the Works and the Myth* (1991) and *Culture and Society in the Stuart Restoration* (1995). She is editor of *Renaissance Tragicomedy: Explorations in Genre and Politics* (1987) and is currently working on Anglo–French relations during the reign of Charles II.

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GEOFFREY PARKER is Professor of History at Yale University and author of numerous books and articles on early modern Europe, including *The Army of Flanders and the Spanish Road* (1972), *Philip II* (1978), *The Military Revolution* (1988) and *The Dutch Revolt* (1989).

ANNABEL PATTERSON is the Karl Young Professor of English at Yale University. Among her publications are *Marvell and the Civic Crown* (1978), *Censorship and Interpretation* (1984, 1990), *Pastoral and Interpretation: Virgil to Valery* (1988), *Shakespeare and the Popular Voice* (1989), *Reading Between the Lines* (1992) and *Reading Holinshed's Chronicles* (1994), which won the John Ben Snow Prize for that year. She is currently working on a study of early modern liberalism.

JONATHAN SCOTT is Fellow and Director of Studies in History at Downing College, Cambridge. His publications include *Algernon Sidney and the English Republic 1623–1677* (1988) and *Algernon Sidney and the Restoration Crisis* (1991). He is currently working on a book entitled *England's Troubles 1603–1702*, a study of English political and intellectual history in its European context.

CHARLES KAY SMITH is Professor of English at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. He has been working for a number of years on the relationship of seventeenth-century English literature to epicurean philosophy and science.

R. MALCOLM SMUTS is Associate Professor of History at the University of Massachusetts Boston. He is author of *Court Culture and the Origins of a Royalist Tradition in Early Stuart England* and several articles on the early Stuart period. He is now at work on a book, *Culture and Politics in England, ca. 1585–1685*.

J. P. SOMMERVILLE is Professor of History at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. His writings include *Politics and Ideology in England 1603–1640* (1986) and *Thomas Hobbes: Political Ideas in Historical Context* (1992).

HANS WERNER is a writer working on a book about English drama and the Thirty Years War. He has at other times been an actor, a playwright, an art critic, book reviewer, journalist, literary translator and has on occasion written speeches for Canada's Secretary of State for Africa and Latin America. Interim findings from his researches have been published regularly in *Notes and Queries* since 1991.

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