George Berkeley (1685–1753), Bishop of Cloyne, was an Irish philosopher and divine who pursued a number of grand causes, contributing to the fields of economics, mathematics, political theory, and theology. He pioneered the theory of ‘immaterialism’, and his work ranges over many philosophical issues that remain of interest today. This volume offers a complete and accurate edition of Berkeley’s extant correspondence, including letters both written by him and to him, supplemented by extensive explanatory and critical notes. Alexander Pope famously said, ‘To Berkeley every virtue under heaven,’ and a careful reading of the letters reveals a figure worthy of admiration, sheds new light on his personal and intellectual life, and provides insight into the broad historical and philosophical currents of his time. The volume is an invaluable resource for philosophers, modern historians and those interested in Anglo-Irish culture.

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THE CORRESPONDENCE
OF
GEORGE BERKELEY

Edited by
MARC A. HIGHT
For all my colleagues, known and unknown, who study Berkeley
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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I am grateful to those many staff members at the institutions listed above, including many people unnamed who assisted me with my work. In addition, I owe a debt of gratitude to Bertil Belfrage and David Berman, who first put me on to this project and helped start me on my way. Tom Jones at the University of St. Andrews provided some texts early in the project and my thanks to David Raynor at the University of Ottawa, who kindly made me aware of some additional letters and also gently prodded me on my progress over the years. I am thankful to Sheila Hight, Jane Holland, and Paula Parkhurst for their kind assistance on the drafts and for their moral support during its composition. Brian Burns assisted me with cover ideas and its design. My thanks to Neil Smith, who in the summer of 2010 helped search for new letters with me at the British Library; at least one previously unpublished letter appears in this volume owing to his efforts. I also acknowledge my debts to the friends
Acknowledgements

and scholars who assisted with the transcription and translation work: their names are to be found below.

Work on this project was supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (2011), a Mednick Fellowship from the Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges (2011), and by several Faculty Research Grants from Hampden-Sydney College (2009–11). I am grateful for their support, without which this volume would not have been completed.
GENERAL INTRODUCTION

The correspondence of Berkeley does justice to Alexander Pope’s famous poetic pronouncement, “To Berkeley every virtue under heaven.” The character portrait that emerges from a careful reading of his letters reveals a figure worthy of admiration not only as a philosopher and a divine, but as an individual who passionately pursued a number of grand causes. He is a figure reflective of his time, and his letters provide insight into both his own thought as well as access to broader historical and philosophical currents.

It is, I think, the not so secret desire of those who compile the correspondences of philosophers and historical notables to uncover new letters that profoundly reshape how we understand them or their thought. More often than not, however, we must settle for simply providing a service to fellow scholars, researchers, and the merely curious. In this volume it is unlikely the reader will find letters that provide new philosophical insights into Berkeley’s philosophical views. They will find, however, a much more complete collection of letters than ever previously published, including letters addressed to Berkeley. After a search of several years, this volume includes a number of previously unpublished letters written by and to him, some or all of which, I hope, will be of use to scholars.

There has been no successful prior attempt to provide a complete collection of Berkeley’s extant correspondence. A. C. Fraser published many new letters in his Life and Letters, but he excluded most of the correspondence written to Berkeley. Benjamin Rand presented most of the correspondence between Berkeley and Percival in his now aging work Berkeley and Percival (published in 1914), but he missed a number of letters in the archives and was unaware of several others that have since come to light. A. A. Luce hoped to have a complete edition of Berkeley’s letters (see Life, p. vi), but he too made the decision to not publish the vast majority of the letters addressed to Berkeley. Luce also missed letters in the archives and some new ones have since come to light, including many published here for the first time. That said, the present volume relies heavily on the excellent work done by all three of these pioneering early Berkeley scholars. The informed reader will recognize at a few points that my critical comments are drawn from these earlier works. Where something has been done accurately and properly before there is no need for

1 Alexander Pope’s epilogue to the Satires, Dialogue II, line 72.
revision. I have endeavored to check all the facts, however, and my corrections to
the previous editions are present in the notes.

Despite my wish that this volume include all of the correspondence of Berkeley,
it is necessarily defective on at least two accounts. First, the best it could hope to
achieve is to be the complete collection of the known and extant correspondence of
Berkeley. There are references to many other letters, including a presumably
healthy exchange of letters with Jonathan Swift, some of which are said to have
been burned and others simply lost.2 As an additional example, we know that
Berkeley corresponded with Edwin Elphin on the strength of a letter written by
Elphin to Berkeley’s son on 26 January 1753 (see British Library Add. m.s 39311, fol.
70). The list of persons that corresponded with Berkeley where there are no
surviving letters is long. Second, I have reason to believe that there are additional
letters extant but held by private collectors. Finding these letters is difficult at best
and even taking out advertisements in various venues produced small return. Luce
and others occasionally make reference to letters “privately held” without any
additional information, and in most cases those letters have been impossible
to track down. It is my hope that any collectors who have letters penned by or to
Berkeley and who read this introduction will seek to contact me and allow me to
transcribe and preserve them.

When compiling and adding the notes to this volume, I have endeavored to use
as a model a graduate student starting work on a thesis. Historians might not know
details philosophers would take for granted, and philosophers might not know
facts considered commonplace to early modern historians. I have thus erred on the
side of caution; if some of the notes are deemed “too obvious,” then I can only beg
the reader’s pardon and ask for indulgence. I have worked scrupulously to remove
myself, and especially my philosophical predilections, from the letters as much as
possible. There are no notes with philosophical comments and I have assiduously
endeavored to make the texts free of any taint associated with particular readings
of Berkeley, whether of a personal or a philosophical nature. The present volume
is also not a diplomatic edition; after consulting with a number of colleagues in the
fields of early modern history and early modern philosophy, the consensus was
for an edition of the letters that is accessible and easy to use. As a result, I have
standardized and modernized some of the language where it is both absolutely
clear what is in the text and when doing so improves readability. My conjectures or
notes about textual matters are marked by square brackets throughout the vol-
ume. To keep the text reasonably clean and uncluttered, insertions and deletions
have been noted but generally moved to footnotes where possible.

51, section C (1945/46): 85. Apparently there were photographs of Berkeley–Swift letters as
late as 1910, but according to Luce, by 1946 all trace of them had been lost.
DESCRIPTION OF MAIN MANUSCRIPT REPOSITORIES

**Bodleian Library, Rhodes House, Oxford University.** The archives of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts (SPG), now the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, are held at Rhodes House in Oxford. Catalogues of SPG correspondence, letterbook copies of official correspondence, and some original autographed letters are available, although one letter unfortunately went missing when the materials were rebound. SPG catalogue, C/AM9, A24. ser. B vol. 15 (letter 191 missing), 191a, 249.

**British Library, London.** The Berkeley Manuscripts are bound volumes containing notes, reflections, and other materials by Berkeley and others in his family. British Library (BL) Add. MSS 39304, 39305, 39306, and 39311 include a number of letters and drafts of letters, many in Berkeley’s hand. Also present at the British Library are the Egmont Papers. These records were formerly housed at the Public Records Office in London but have since been moved to the British Library. They include John Percival’s records and letterbooks that contain copies (typically in a secretary’s hand) of much of his correspondence with Berkeley, along with some correspondence between Percival’s son (also named John) and Berkeley. The volumes in the Egmont Collection (BL Add. MSS 46964–47213) with letters include BL Add. MSS 46986, 46997, 46998, 47000, 47012B, 47013B, 47014A, 47025, 47026, 47027, 47028, 47029, 47030, 47031, 47032, and 47033. The letter to Sloane comes from the Sloane Manuscripts (BL Sloane ms 4040) and two other volumes contained letters as well: BL Add. MSS 32710 and 46688.

**Beinecke Library, Yale University.** ms Vault File Berkeley and the Johnson Family Papers (MS 305) both have loose autographed letters of Berkeley along with other miscellaneous Berkeleiana. Two additional letters are present in the Osborn Files “B” folders 1118 and 1184.

**Butler Library, Columbia University.** The Johnson Papers are held here. They contain a number of letters and copies of letters between Johnson and Berkeley. The collection includes three bound volumes and a box of loose materials. The library also has two autograph collections with one Berkeley letter each, the Edwin Seligman Special Collection and the David Eugene Smith Special Collection.
Textual introduction

Cambridge University Library, Cambridge, UK. The letterbooks of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge (SPCK) are now housed at Cambridge University Library. Copies of letters to and from Berkeley (Henry Newman is the principal correspondent) are present in bound volumes: ms D4/23, ms D4/24, ms D4/28, ms D4/29, ms D4/41, and ms D4/42.

Chatsworth House, Derbyshire. The Devonshire Collection ref. 364.0 contains a single autographed letter (see Letter 366).

Christ Church Library, Oxford. This library holds most of the correspondence of Archbishop William Wake, including one autographed letter written by Berkeley (see Letter 132).

Harvard University Library, Cambridge, MA. In the Orrery Papers one bound volume has a copy of a letter (see Letter 359).


Lambeth Palace Library, London. The Fulham Papers at Lambeth hold a single letter from Berkeley to the then Bishop of London, Edmund Gibson (see Letter 210) and a second autographed letter in their manuscript collection (see Letter 333).

National Library of Ireland, Dublin. Only a few letters are held at the National Library. ms 2979 contains a single letter (see Letter 325) and ms 987 is a bound volume with a letter from Dorothea Annesley and a reply from then Bishop Berkeley (see Letters 391–92). Microfilm copies of letters held elsewhere are usefully present as well (Microfilm 2510 and 2761).

Redwood Library, Newport, RI. The Roderick Terry Jr. Autograph Collection contains a single autographed letter by Berkeley (see Letter 388).

Representative Church Body of the Church of Ireland Library, Dublin. D6/150/6: a single autographed letter by Berkeley (see Letter 250).

Rhode Island Historical Society Library, Providence, RI. ms 294 in the Gabriel Bernon papers is a “scrapbook” with two letters in French from Berkeley (see Letters 178 and 183).

Royal Irish Academy Library, Dublin. There are no letters penned by Berkeley here, but ms 3D8 contains two letters between a George Berkeley and Nelson in 1721. Swift Johnston effectively established that these letters are not by the relevant Berkeley and, having examined the originals, I concur. See Swift Johnston, “Supposed Autograph Letter of Bishop Berkeley in the Library of the Royal Irish Academy,” Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy 6.2 (January 1901): 272–78. The library does contain a complete collection of the Academy’s Proceedings and other period pieces.
Southampton Civic Centre, Southampton. D/M1/2 contains a letterbook of Samuel Molyneux with copies of four letters from Berkeley. The letterbook also holds copies of other letters received by Molyneux.

Trinity College Library, Dublin. In addition to other Berkeleiana, including multiple drafts of his letter about the cave of Dunmore, several original letters are preserved in bound volumes: TCD ms 1186, 2167, and 4309.

University of Amsterdam Library, Amsterdam. J3b: two original letters, loose but well preserved, from Berkeley to LeClerc.

DESCRIPTION OF NON-MANUSCRIPT SOURCES

As many of the original letters are lost, often our best sources for the letters are copies preserved in other ways, frequently as copies in previously published works. The following is a list of those non-original manuscript sources (organized by title) from which letters have been drawn for this volume.


Berkeley Studies (formerly Berkeley Newsletter). One letter that was auctioned in 1979 and is now in (unknown) private hands was transcribed and published in the Berkeley Newsletter immediately before its sale by David Berman (see Letter 173).

Correspondence of Sir Thomas Hanmer, Bart., by Sir Henry Bunbury (London: Edward Moxon, 1838). One letter to Hanmer from Berkeley appears in the text, original unknown (see Letter 314).

L’Adamo, ovvero il Mondo Creato, by Tommaso Campailla (Rome: Rossi, 1728). In the preface, Campailla reproduces two letters sent to him by Berkeley (see Letters 91 and 120).

Life and Correspondence of Samuel Johnson, by E. Edwards Beardsley (New York: Hurd & Houghton, 1874). Beardsley reproduces a number of letters to and from Johnson for which we have originals, and generally does so accurately. At least one of the originals (Letter 373), however, has been lost and this volume is our only source.

Life and Letters of George Berkeley, D.D., by A. C. Fraser (Oxford: Clarendon, 1871). Some of the letters Fraser published in this volume are no longer extant, making his book the best source that remains to us (especially several exchanges with Johnson). See Letters 246, 253, 259, 271, and 272, where Fraser’s transcriptions are the only records that remain. The work is also valuable for checking the accuracy of letters lost but published elsewhere.

Textual introduction

to Lloyd concerning the preaching of John Wesley in Berkeley’s bishopric (see Letters 368–69).

*Literary Relics: Containing Original Letters*. . . , by George Monck Berkeley (London: T. Kay, 1789; reprinted in a corrected 2nd edn., 1792). Many of the letters to Thomas Prior are originally preserved only in this volume. In the preface the younger Berkeley (the grandson) says he received the Berkeley letters from Mr. Archdale, but there is no hint as to where the originals might be located at the present, if they survive.

*Memoirs of George Berkeley: Late Bishop of Cloyne in Ireland*, by Joseph Stock (London: J. Murray, 1784), and Stock’s preface to the *Works of George Berkeley* (London, 1784). Both works contain extracts of letters penned by Berkeley, most of which fortunately overlap with other published collections (such as George Monck Berkeley’s *Literary Relics* and Fraser’s *Life and Letters of George Berkeley, D.D.*).

*Poems by the late George Monck Berkeley* (London: J. Nichols, 1797). The preface, written by Eliza Berkeley, reproduces one letter to Benson (see Letter 375).

*Siris: Grundliche Historische Nachricht vom Theer-Wasser*, by D. W. Linden (Amsterdam and Leipzig: Peter Mortier, 1745). In the preface to the work Linden reproduces his letter to Berkeley (see Letter 317).


Lastly, I have relied on the following journals in which letters have appeared: *Daily Gazetteer, Dublin Journal, Gentleman’s Magazine, Guardian, Newcastle Journal*, and *Philosophical Transactions*.

**PRINCIPLES OF INCLUSION**

This is an edition of letters to and from George Berkeley. I have not attempted to include letters that merely mention Berkeley. Aside from that easy exclusion, it can be difficult to ascertain what counts as a letter and what does not. Not everything with a signature is a letter, and many items without one would be of interest to scholars. I have followed two general guidelines in assembling this volume. First, if previous scholarship has treated a piece of work as a letter, I have preserved that tradition independently of any reservations I might have. Second, I have otherwise tried to include only those letters that are genuinely intended to be correspondence, as opposed to a political or polemical statement. There are a number of “letters” that were published and addressed to Berkeley but in no way
constitute correspondence. For instance, an anonymous letter (from a “Gentleman in the Army”) was published in the *Harleian Miscellany*, vol. III (1745) addressed to Berkeley. The letter is a long and rambling Tory rant in broad support of Berkeley’s claims made in his *Discourse Addressed to Magistrates*. As the author did not expect a reply, it is not genuinely correspondence and thus is not included here. On the other hand, a few similar “letters” are included only because they have been traditionally classified as letters. Thus, following my first principle above, *A Word to the Wise*, some of the Guardian essays, and some presentations to academic societies are included.

Of all of his works, *Siris* arguably provoked the greatest response, but his tracts on mathematics and political economy also generated interest in literate society. Many of these responses are styled as letters but take the form of polemical pamphlets and have thus been excluded on the above-mentioned grounds. I here provide a brief representative sample of some of the responses Berkeley provoked, all available in the British Library.


“A Letter to the Right Reverend Bishop of Cloyne, Occasioned by his Lordship’s Treatise on the Virtues of Tar-water, Impartially Examining how far that Medicine Deserves the Character his Lordship has Given It” (no author, presumably a physician), 2nd edn. (London: Jacob Robinson, 1744). This is a stridently negative account of tar water. See BL catalogue 1171.h22/4.


“A Letter to Dion, occasioned by his book called *Alciphron or the Minute Philosopher*,” by the author of the *Fable of the Bees* (London: J. Roberts, 1732). See BL catalogue 702.g.4 (4).

**Principles of Transcription**

Whenever possible I have used originals for the transcription of the manuscripts. For many of the letters, however, this is simply not possible. Often a period copy is all that we have. In a number of cases we cannot even do that well; what remains are published versions of letters for which no original or period copy remains. In those cases we must rely on the good work of earlier scholars.
Since the content of most of the letters is fairly mundane, the likelihood that someone would intentionally fabricate a letter is quite low. Thus even where we only have a copy or a transcription from a secondary source, I have included those letters unless I have evidence to think the letter is not by or intended for Berkeley.

Before I began this project I canvassed a number of scholars, mainly early modern philosophers and historians, and asked what would be most useful to them. There was a broad consensus for a volume that made the content of the letters easily accessible. I have thus partially modernized the language and spelling (but not correcting for British English). I am fortunate that there are no cases in Berkeley’s letters where such changes present any danger of altering the content or meaning of the text. For clarity I have replaced “&c” with “etc.” but have left the ampersand in cases where “and” is intended. The ligatures æ and œ are presented as “ae” and “oe” respectively. Unambiguous contractions (e.g., ’tis) have been expanded. For consistency, I have adopted the American style of capitalization for the titles of works in the notes, but left mention of titles as they were written in the actual letters. I have clarified contractions and modernized the spelling, but did not otherwise change the grammar or text. Letters in a language other than English I have left as I found them in the original, providing a translation that favors a more literal reading.

I have standardized the presentation of the letters. Each letter is numbered, labeled by author and recipient, and includes the place (if available) and date of its writing. To the right I have included the provenance. Typically that is a reference to the original letter or a contemporary copy, but where no such originals exist, I cite what my work has revealed to be the earliest and/or most reliable source. Where the provenance of the letter is more complicated, I have appended a note. The dates have been standardized for clarity and ease of use. Any additional information, like a date at the end of a letter, has been left as in the original.

Berkeley’s handwriting varies in terms of its legibility. He has a number of peculiarities in the formation of his letters, especially his rs, which are often incompletely formed and resemble other letters (notably vs and ns). His es at the end of words drop off and can be hard to separate from a variety of other letters. The handwriting of his correspondents predictably varies from immaculate to difficult, but there were seldom problems transcribing them. Where the letters are damaged or illegible, I use square brackets to record transcriptions where the text is damaged but the word is clear from context. Where I have a reasonable guess about an uncertain text, I use square brackets but append a question mark. Variations in the spellings of names I mark by placing the alternate in rounded parentheses. There are relatively few complicated cases with respect to the transcription of the letters, and so in such rare cases I have used footnotes to clarify matters.
TRANSLATIONS

The letters are written mostly in English, but there are a few in Latin, French, and German. I have included those letters in their original language but appended my translations immediately after them. The translations are mine in the sense that any defects therein should be attributed to me, but to the extent that they are quality translations, I owe a considerable debt to a number of colleagues. I aimed for slightly more literal readings and consulted multiple experts to supplement my own (often insufficient) skills. For the letters in Latin, Daniella Widdows, Douglas Jesseph, and James Arieti provided invaluable service. Jesseph also provided the transcription for the letter to Sloane (Letter 2). With the French letters I had the assistance of Sébastien Charles, Renée Severin, and Salif Traoré. Dirk Johnson and Uli Wilson assisted me with the German letters, and Patrizia Johnson rendered assistance on a few clauses in Italian. I am most grateful for their time and effort on behalf of myself and this project.

REFERENCES

I have not attempted to provide a comprehensive bibliography, either of work contemporary to Berkeley or of scholarship since. In the former case the information that one might provide would be too voluminous, and in the latter any attempt to provide a comprehensive list of recent scholarship lies beyond the scope of this endeavor. Since I have consciously sought to remove any philosophical bias from the presentation of the letters and their content, I have refrained from directing the reader to recent scholarship not directly related to the publication or transcription of the letters. The bibliography thus contains works cited in the text and editorial material only.

DATES

The Old Style Julian calendar was used in England until after Berkeley’s death, although the New Style Gregorian calendar was increasingly popular. The Old Style calendar was ten days behind the Gregorian and typically placed the start of the new year on 25 March. England did not change to the new system until 1752, when the Calendar Act of 1750 officially set the start of the new year as 1 January. Berkeley uses both dating styles, but like many of his contemporaries was consciously shifting to the New Style. As a result, I use the New Style as the default dating system. But as the dating of some of the letters is uncertain and depends on which style has been used, I preserve the Old Style dates as well by the use of a slash (e.g. 1724/25). Thus 20 February 1724/25 refers in modern parlance (New Style) to 20 February 1725.
Textual introduction

For consistency and ease of use, I employ a day-month-year style for the dates throughout, although I have left alternate styles unaltered inside the letters themselves.

THE BIOGRAPHICAL AND PLACE REGISTER

At the end of this work is appended a register of names and places. Included in the register are the names of all of Berkeley’s correspondents as well as many names and places that appear frequently in the text and that merit some elaboration. In order to reduce the intrusiveness of many long and repetitive footnotes, I have marked such names and places with an asterisk. These typically occur in the footnotes where references in the text are clarified. The reader should consult the register for a brief biography or discussion of the relevance of the marked name or place to Berkeley. There are exceptions. References to Berkeley himself never have an asterisk. There are ample other sources for information on Berkeley and a brief biographical sketch with a chronology is provided in this volume. References to some prominent persons are excluded, since the reader can easily obtain biographical information elsewhere. Each of the biographical entries seeks to provide the reader with only a brief outline of the individual and any relationship the person has to Berkeley. The point is to provide nothing more than an initial context for reading and studying the letters while reducing the necessity for repetitive footnotes.
George Berkeley was born 12 March 1685 and spent most of his youth at Dysert Castle near Thomastown in the county of Kilkenny, Ireland. Of English descent, Berkeley was the eldest son of William Berkeley, a gentleman farmer. He had five brothers and one sister.

He entered Kilkenny College on 17 July 1696 and Trinity College, Dublin, on 21 March 1700. He was graduated with a BA in 1704, having studied mathematics, philosophy, and Classics. After graduation he remained at Trinity and was elected fellow on 9 June 1707. During this time he composed his Notebooks. Ordained a deacon on 19 February 1709 and a priest the following year, he remained at the college, teaching and holding a variety of appointments, from tutor and librarian to junior dean and junior lecturer in Greek. During this time he was already publishing; his Arithmetica and Miscellanea Mathematica appeared in 1707, An Essay Towards a New Theory of Vision in 1709/10, and A Treatise Concerning the Principles of Human Knowledge in 1710.

In 1713 he travelled to London for the first time, primarily to publish Three Dialogues Between Hylas and Philonous. There he met and favorably impressed a number of London literary wits, including Jonathan Swift, Joseph Addison, Richard Steele, and Alexander Pope. Swift introduced Berkeley at court and they both contributed pieces to The Guardian. In October of 1713 Berkeley was appointed chaplain to the Earl of Peterborough and traveled to Italy via France. He returned to England in the summer of 1714 and was in Dublin by February 1715.

Berkeley, having been appointed by Bishop Ashe to serve as tutor to his son, St. George Ashe, embarked on a second tour of France and Italy in 1716. He returned to London in the fall of 1720, renewing his friendships and making connections with the court. He was introduced to the Duke of Grafton, who promised him preferment when he was made lord lieutenant of Ireland in 1721. Back in Dublin at Trinity College, Berkeley secured a DD and worked for the college while pursuing preferment. In 1722 the Duke of Grafton appointed him to the deanery of Dromore, but the bishop of the diocese appointed his own candidate and a legal dispute ensued.

Sometime in 1722 Berkeley conceived of a scheme to found a college (to be named St. Paul’s College) in Bermuda to educate young men and help spread
Biographical sketch of George Berkeley

Christianity amongst the natives and slaves. His efforts were aided in 1723 when Hester Van Homrigh died, surprisingly having named Berkeley coexecutor of her estate. He did not know her well, apparently, but after several years of work to settle the estate, he profited nearly £3,000. He took the bequest as a providential sign in favor of his scheme, which he pursued with greater vigor.

Appointed dean of Derry on 4 May 1724, he resigned his fellowship at Trinity College and publicly announced his plan to found St. Paul’s College in Bermuda. Despite opposition, Berkeley managed to gather support for the plan both in the House of Commons and from King George I. The charter was granted in 1725 and approved by Parliament in 1726. Some £20,000 was earmarked for the college, which was to be funded by the sale of crown land on St. Christopher Island (St. Kitts). In expectation of receiving the grant, Berkeley arranged to travel to the American colonies to establish a farm intended to supply the college in Bermuda. Not long before he left he married Anne Forster in August 1728, sailing for America the following month.

Landing first in Virginia, Berkeley settled in Rhode Island while awaiting the grant. He purchased a farm of one hundred acres and built a house (“Whitehall”). Berkeley stayed there for just under two years and spent his time preaching and writing. *Alciphron* was composed there and he discussed philosophy with Samuel Johnson. Finally receiving word that the grant for the college, though technically approved, would not be paid, Berkeley returned to England in October 1731.

Back in London, Berkeley again sought preferment. He was nominated to the deanery of Down, but political opposition in Ireland precluded his appointment. Two years later, in January 1734, he was made bishop of Cloyne, being consecrated in St. Paul’s Church, Dublin, on 19 May 1734. From that point onward, Berkeley spent the majority of his life in Cloyne, performing his ecclesiastical duties and continuing to write. His literary endeavors then turned more towards the welfare of Ireland and its people. He worked to reform the economy and industries of Ireland, establishing a spinning school and various charities. His last large work, *Siris* (1744), made him famous for the espousal of tar water as a curative.

In 1752 he left Cloyne for Oxford to oversee the education of his son George, who was matriculating at Christ Church. Berkeley died in Oxford on 14 January 1753 and was buried in the chapel of Christ Church.
1685 12 March, born at Kilkenny, County Kilkenny, Ireland.
1700 21 March, matriculated at Trinity College, Dublin.
1705 Graduated BA at Trinity College, Dublin.
1707 9 June, admitted as fellow at Trinity College, Dublin.
       15 July, graduated MA at Trinity College, Dublin.
       Arithmetica with Miscellanea Mathematica published.
1709 19 February, ordained a deacon.
1710 May, A Treatise Concerning the Principles of Human Knowledge published.
1712 Passive Obedience published.
1713 January, first trip to London.
       October, appointed chaplain to Lord Peterborough and travels to
       France and Italy.
1714 August, returns to England, lives in London.
1715 Advice to the Tories published.
1716 Appointed tutor to St. George Ashe and travels to France and Italy for
       a second time; stays on the Continent for about four years.
1721 Essay Towards Preventing the Ruin of Great Britain published.
       Appointed senior fellow at Trinity College, Dublin.
       De Motu published.
       14 November, graduated DD from Trinity College, Dublin.
1722 February, appointed dean of Dromore, but the position is contested.
       Decides to found St. Paul’s College in Bermuda.
1723 June, named coexecutor of the estate of Hester Van Homrigh.
1724 4 May, made dean of Derry.
       A Proposal for the Better Supplying of Churches in the Plantations published.
1728 August, marries Anne Forster.
       September, sails for America.
**Chronology and publication of major works**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1731</td>
<td>Lucia Berkeley born; dies an infant. 30 October, leaves to return to England.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1733</td>
<td>28 September, George Berkeley born.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1735</td>
<td>11 April, John Berkeley is born; dies an infant in October of the same year. <em>A Defence of Free-thinking in Mathematics</em> published. <em>The Querist, Part I</em> published <em>Reasons for not Replying to Walton</em> published.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1736</td>
<td>10 December, William Berkeley is born.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1737</td>
<td><em>Queries Relating to a National Bank</em> published.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1738</td>
<td><em>Discourse Addressed to Magistrates</em> published. 15 October, Julia Berkeley born.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1739</td>
<td>Sarah Berkeley born; dies an infant in March 1740.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1747</td>
<td><em>A Letter to Thomas Prior</em> published. <em>Two Letters to Prior and Hale</em> published.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1750</td>
<td><em>Maxims Concerning Patriotism</em> published.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1753</td>
<td>14 January, dies in Oxford.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### ABBREVIATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Add.</td>
<td>additional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BL</td>
<td>British Library, London</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCS</td>
<td>Civic Centre, Southampton (city archives)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CU</td>
<td>Butler Library, Columbia University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EP</td>
<td>Egmont Collection (Papers), now in the British Library (BL Add. MSS 46964 passim through 47213)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fils</td>
<td>fils (French, referring to the son)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FP</td>
<td>Fulham Papers (in Lambeth Palace Archives)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRS</td>
<td>Fellow of the Royal Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hone and Rossi</td>
<td>J. M. Hone and M. M. Rossi, <em>Bishop Berkeley</em> (London: Faber &amp; Faber, 1931)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSP</td>
<td>Historical Society of Pennsylvania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lambeth</td>
<td>Lambeth Palace Archives, London</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LRIHS</td>
<td>Library of the Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence, RI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MP</td>
<td>Member of Parliament</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MS</td>
<td>manuscript</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NLI</td>
<td>National Library of Ireland, Dublin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRIA</td>
<td>Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>r</td>
<td>recto (front of a folio)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rand</td>
<td>Benjamin Rand, <em>Berkeley and Percival</em> (Cambridge University Press, 1914)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RCB</td>
<td>Representative Church Body Library, Church of Ireland, Dublin</td>
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### List of abbreviations

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Schneider</td>
<td>Herbert and Carol Schneider, eds., <em>Samuel Johnson, President of King’s College: His Career and Writings</em>, 4 vols. (New York: Columbia University Press, 1929)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPCK</td>
<td>Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPG</td>
<td>Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stock</td>
<td>Preface to Joseph Stock, <em>Works of George Berkeley</em>, 1784; BL catalogue 1602/196 (2 volumes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCD</td>
<td>Trinity College Library, Dublin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v</td>
<td>verso (back of a folio)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yale</td>
<td>Beinecke Library, Yale University</td>
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