

INTRODUCTION

'You might as well ask me to build a tree,' said Lord Holland when asked to devise a constitution for Murat's Kingdom of Naples. This book list, *King and Parliament*, has been prepared for those who wish to learn more of the tree which is the British Constitution. It is not by any means a comprehensive bibliography on the Constitution — to be that it would need to be very large indeed — for several important works on constitutional law and history will not be found in it which would be essential to a full treatment of the subject. It is not a comprehensive bibliography at all. Its purpose is, by selected references, to guide British readers, and readers from other countries who are visiting Great Britain, to an understanding of the parts played by the King and by Parliament in the government of our country. It is a select book list on the Crown and those who have worn it, and on Parliament, on the way it has grown, and the way in which it works.

King and Parliament offers, within its own limitations of space, as complete a picture as possible of the Royal House — its dynastic history, its ceremonial and pageantry, and its palaces; against this is set a picture of Parliament — its history, its procedure and its Houses. It is unrealistic if not impossible to study the lives of the Sovereigns without reference to their Parliaments, and, especially since the time of Henry VII, quite valueless to study the development of British Parliamentary democracy without relating it to the Kings and Queens who first controlled it and later were controlled by it. For this reason, it would be wrong to suggest that a reader should begin at the beginning of this list and work through the books in Part I, making his way through the lives of the Kings, before turning to select the works he wishes to read on Parliament in Part II. The works listed in Part I under the dynasties and names of the Sovereigns need to be read along with those in Part II. The history of all but the earliest Kings is the history of Parliaments; the history of Parliaments is largely the history of the Sovereigns. The history of both should be studied together.

Part III of *King and Parliament* consists of books which constantly both emphasize this and make it clear. This last Part, more than any other, is the basis of a bibliography on constitutional history; it is in itself a book list on the King and Parliament as well as on the King in Parliament. The works in Part III, however, have this in common, that they lay emphasis on the constitutional conflict — and its later and happy resolution — between King and Parliament. Parts I and II of *King and Parliament*, then, complement each other; Part III coalesces the other two. There is unavoidably some overlapping from one section into another because books so rarely bow to the logic of a simple classification; but on the whole the arrangement is reasonable and, it is hoped, helpful. [See also *NBL Note on p. 32*]

PART I

THE KING

The people of England will not ape the fashions they have never tried, nor go back to those they have found mischievous on trial. They look upon the legal hereditary succession of their crown as among their rights, not as among their wrongs: as a benefit, not as a grievance: as a security for their liberty, not as a badge of servitude. They look on the frame of their commonwealth as it stands to be of inestimable value: and they conceive the undisturbed succession of the crown to be a pledge of the stability and perpetuity of all the other members of our constitution.

EDMUND BURKE *Reflections on the Revolution in France 1790*

In this section is a selection of biographies of the Sovereigns of England and Scotland. The works on the English Sovereigns are arranged chronologically in the Dynasties as they succeeded each other, those on the Scottish Sovereigns before the Union of the Crowns are placed together in alphabetical order of the authors' names. This saves a great deal of space. Towards the end of this Part of the list, biographies of Consorts are added after those of the Sovereigns, and, at the end, reference is made to works on the life of H.R.H. the Princess Elizabeth, the Heiress Presumptive to the Throne.

DYNASTIC HISTORY

SOVEREIGNS OF ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND

GENERAL WORKS

Their Genealogy

Most of the political histories of the United Kingdom give genealogical tables of the Sovereigns, but few of them are complete. The two best collections of genealogical tables are the following:

Cambridge Modern History Edited by A. W. Ward and others [Cambridge University Press 1902-1912 13 vols.] See Vol. XIII *Genealogical Tables and Lists* [Cambridge University Press 1934 8s 6d]

This volume includes tables of the Houses of Tudor and Stuart, and of the Hanover and the Saxe-Coburg and -Gotha lines.

GEORGE, HEREFORD B. *Genealogical Tables illustrative of Modern History* Edited by J. R. H. Weaver [Oxford University Press 1930]

Has tables of the Saxon line before the Conquest, the line of the Anglo-Danish Kings with the House of Godwine, the line from William the Conqueror to Edward I, the Plantagenet, Tudor, Stuart, Hanover and Saxe-Coburg Houses. For Scotland it gives the descendants of Duncan I down to the accession of the House of Stuart, and that House to the Union of the English and Scottish Crowns. [The sixth edition revised and enlarged]