

BRITISH GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS  
AT THE NEWBERRY

The Newberry has an excellent collection of British government documents to 1900. These include a complete run of Parliamentary Debates from the earliest period of their recording to 1964 for both Commons and Lords; Parliamentary Sessional Papers to 1900 which include reports, command papers, accounts, estimates and a variety of other materials; Parliamentary bills; Statutes of the Realm from the time of Henry III; Journals of both Houses from the 16<sup>th</sup> century through the 19<sup>th</sup> century which include petitions and records of the daily business of government, calendars of bills presented, and some flavor of early debate; and a host of miscellaneous documents such as proceedings in Chancery in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, escheat records from the time of Henry III, and many others.

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES AND PROCEEDINGS

There are many recountings of the debates in both the Commons and the Lords before 1803. None of them are particularly accurate or reliable. For a good account of these various volumes and other parliamentary materials see:

Ref J            Frank Rodgers and Rose B. Phelps, A Guide to British Parliamentary  
301.R634            Papers 1967.  
1967

The Newberry has most of the early reports of the parliamentary debates. A number of them are listed below:

- +K145.34        Journals of the House of Lords, beginning Anno Primo Henrici Octavi.
- +K145.32        House of Commons Journals from November the 8<sup>th</sup>, 1547, to August the  
14<sup>th</sup>, 1885. 142 volumes. (1817-1836)
- +K145.32        A general index ... commencing with the first parliament of King Edward  
the Sixth. 7 volumes. (1832)  
The Lords and Commons Journals comprise a calendar of the bills  
and business of the two houses. They do not contain verbatim  
speeches, but some do include heads and main arguments of more  
important speeches.
- K145.3            Anchitell Grey, Debates of the House of Commons, 1667-1694. 10  
volumes. (1763)

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES AND PROCEEDINGS (Continued)

- K145.31      History and Proceedings of the House of Commons from the Restoration To the Present Time. 14 volumes. (1743). Covers the period, 1660 to 1743. There is another copy in 8 volumes that only goes to 1734. (K145.309).
- K145.338      History and Proceedings of the House of Lords etc. 8 volumes. Covers the Lords from 1660 to 1743.
- K145.379      Cobbett's Parliamentary History of England from the Norman Conquest in 1066 to the Year, 1803. 36 volumes. Goes to 12 August 1803. By all accounts this is the most frequently used and important of the early works on parliamentary debates.
- J445.66      Parliamentary or Constitutional History of England from the Earliest Times to the Restoration of Charles II. 24 volumes. (1762-63)
- K145.41      The History, Debates, and Proceedings of Both Houses of Parliament of Great Britain from the year 1743 to the year 1774. 7 volumes. (1792).
- K145.411      The Parliamentary Register; or, History of the Proceedings & Debates of The House of Commons. 77 volumes in 3 series covering the Years 1774 to 1801. Also includes the debates in the Lords.
- A51  
.5335      London Magazine; or, Gentleman's monthly intelligencer. April 1732 to June 1785. Reports debates in the Commons and Lords, beginning in 1732.
- K145.39      The Mirror of Parliament. ed. John Henry Barrow. November 15, 1837 to October 7, 1841. The journal that employed Charles Dickens for a time.
- K145.38      Hansard's Parliamentary Debates. 1803 to April 24, 1964. 5 series. When ordering a session, be sure to specify that the index be included. There is an index for each session. Beginning with the 1909 session the Commons and the Lords debates were divided into separate volumes. They are in separate locations on the shelves. Be sure to specify Lords or Commons debates after 1909.

A number of more recent works are valuable for the care and scholarship they bring to the Tudor and Stuart parliamentary debates. I will mention several here, but the reader can find them in the card catalog under the heading:







ACTS OF PARLIAMENT AND MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS (continued)

- K045            Standing Orders of the House of Commons, relating to private bills,  
.3641                            and other matters, 1852-1853 (1853).
- +K49            Calendarium Inquisitionum Post Mortem sive Escatarum. 4 volumes  
.372                            (1806). Each volume is separately indexed. These are Escheat  
1806                            (death duties) records from the reign of Henry III through the third  
                                 year of Richard III.