

# Symposium on Rethinking the State Trials: The Politics of Justice in Later Stuart England

Thursday and Friday, April 10 – 11, 2014

## Thursday, April 10

### Keynote address at Northwestern University

Tim Harris, Munro-Goodwin-Wilkinson Professor  
in European History, *Brown University*

## Friday, April 11

### Presentations at the Newberry Library

Brian Cowan, *McGill University*

Justin Irwin, *McGill University*

Newton Key, *Eastern Illinois University*

Mark Knights, *University of Warwick*

John Marshall, *Johns Hopkins University*

Paul Monod, *Middlebury College*

Annabel Patterson, *Yale University*

Scott Sowerby, *Northwestern University*

Stephen Taylor, *Durham University*

Elliott Visconsi, *University of Notre Dame*

Melinda Zook, *Purdue University*



Great Seal of James I, King of England, 1616.  
Newberry Wing MS ZW 1 .616

State trials, the quintessential media events of later Stuart England, served as pivot points in the relationship between the governors and the governed. Later Stuart England has long been known among legal historians for a series of key cases in which juries successfully asserted their independence from judges. In political history, the government's shaky control over political trials in this period has been taken as a sign of the waning power of the crown and the rise of constitutional liberties. More recently, historians have turned to the study of political culture and asked new questions about the means by which a vibrant, highly partisan, and increasingly dynamic public sphere developed in late seventeenth- and early eighteenth-century England. This symposium aims to assess these new developments in political, legal, and cultural history and chart a new research agenda for the study of the English state trials.

*Cosponsored with the Alumnae of Northwestern University, the Chabreja Center for Historical Studies at Northwestern, the Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities at Northwestern, and the Department of History at Northwestern.*

This program is free and open to the public, but space is limited and registration is required. **Register online by 10:00 am Thursday, April 10, at:**

[www.newberry.org/renaissance](http://www.newberry.org/renaissance)