



Vorstelijk
koninklijk
keizerlijk

Archieven van
vorstenhuizen in Europa

Jaarboek 16

redactie

Yvonne Bos-Rops, Marijke Bruggeman, Gustaaf Janssens

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Redactie: Yvonne Bos-Rops, Marijke Bruggeman, Gustaaf Janssens

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Yvonne Bos-Rops

Marijke Bruggeman

Gustaaf Janssens

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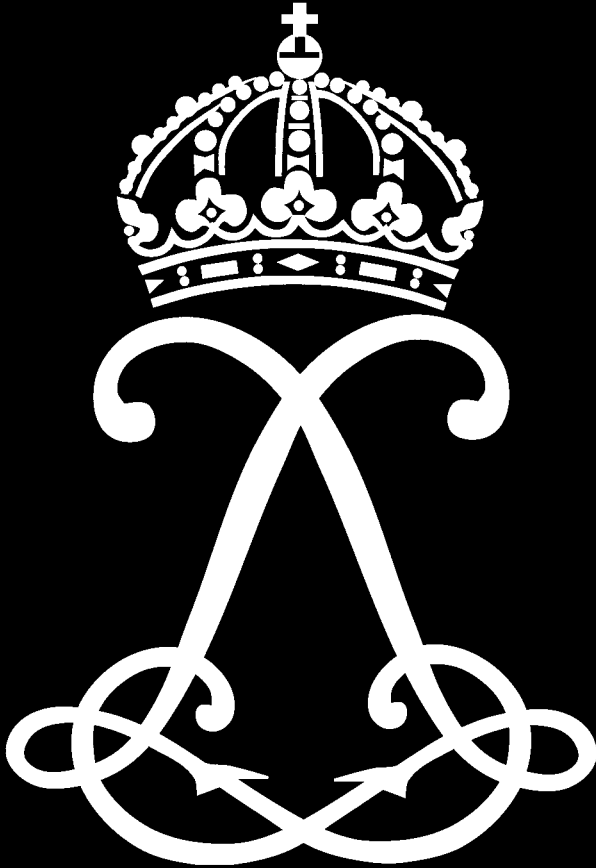
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Archieven van
regerende Europese
vorstenhuizen

The Royal Archives at Windsor Castle: Into the 21st Century

Introduction

Over one hundred years ago, during the first years of the reign of King George V, the Royal Archives was first established in the iconic Round Tower of Windsor Castle. This private archive of the British Royal Family contains an unparalleled collection of documents relating to the history of the British Monarchy over the last 250 years, including the personal and official correspondence of Sovereigns and their families, from King George III (1760-1820) onwards. From diaries and personal letters to account books and speeches, the collections held by the Royal Archives record and reflect some of the most significant moments in British history and provide a fascinating insight into the life and work of past monarchs, their families, households and residences.

As the Royal Archives enters its second century, new challenges and opportunities present themselves to the archivists in the Round Tower. A recent merger of the Royal Archives with the Royal Library, under the aegis of the Royal Collection Trust, has given the Archives new direction and focus, particularly with reference to the issue of access. Consequently, although their role as custodians continues as always, the archivists are currently engaged in significant projects to improve access to the papers in the Royal Archives. These include major digitisation programmes, the enhancement of services for visiting researchers, the creation of a dedicated website for the Archives and a strategy for ensuring all archival collections are catalogued comprehensively.

History of the Royal Archives

The need for a designated repository for the papers of the Royal Family and the Royal Household first became evident after the death of Queen Victoria in 1901. Previously, historic records had been stored in tin trunks, cupboards and storerooms in the various royal residences, with no appointed custodian to care for them; however, the legacy left by Queen Victoria's 63-year reign, in the form of a voluminous collection of official and private correspondence, required a permanent home.

Queen Victoria's son, King Edward VII, appointed Lord Esher as the first Keeper of the Royal Archives shortly after her death; a few years later, following King George V's decree that 'All the Royal Archives shall be kept in a Strong Room or Rooms in the Round Tower', work began in 1912 to create a Muniment Room in the top half of

Edward III's medieval Great Hall in the Round Tower.¹ Two years later, the papers of Queen Victoria and King Edward VII were transferred to the new Muniment Room, as were the recently-discovered papers of George III and George IV, and other archive collections previously stored in the Royal Library. The Royal Archives grew rapidly in the following decades; Queen Mary, who had a keen interest in the history of the royal family, wrote to various relatives encouraging them to deposit their papers in the Round Tower, while other collections were presented to the Archives as gifts to the Sovereign. Some documents were acquired by purchase; noteworthy acquisitions of this nature include lists of members of the Royal Household dating from the mid-1500s onwards and a list of jewels belonging to Edward I from the year 1297, which is the oldest item held by the Royal Archives.

Relatively soon after its establishment, the Archives was proving its worth as an important resource for historical research. The first researcher recorded as visiting the Royal Archives is Sir Sidney Lee who, in 1920, began consulting the papers of King Edward VII for his official biography of the monarch. By 1929, Lord Stamfordham, Private Secretary to King George V and Keeper of the Royal Archives, was reporting to the Keeper of the Privy Purse that 'Every year more people apply to examine the records'.² Recognition of the importance of competent archivists to care for and catalogue the growing number of records was also evident by this time. Following lengthy discussions between Stamfordham and the Keeper of the Privy Purse with regards to the staffing of the Archives, the former asserted that it was essential for his small staff of four to remain in the Round Tower, 'for the Archives "have come to stay" and time will not bring less work'.³

With the addition of the papers of King George V, King Edward VIII, King George VI and other members of the Royal Family, as well as the administrative records of the departments of the Royal Household, the Archives quickly outgrew the Muniment Room and spread into other rooms in the Round Tower. In the late 1980s, after a very wet winter, intervention was urgently required to reinforce the foundations of the tower which has begun to slide down the Norman chalk mound it had been built upon. During this necessary building work, the opportunity to increase the capacity of the Round Tower was seized upon. The architect Sir Jeffry Wyattville had heightened the Round Tower by nine metres in the 1820s, by a corridor's width only, as part of George IV's remodelling of Windsor Castle. A new floor was built within this top section of the tower during the works, which provided much needed temperature and humidity-controlled storage for the Royal Archives.

The Royal Archives Today

Accessions and Records Transfers

For over twenty years, the Royal Household has ensured that effective records management has been in place across all departments. This key function of the Household's administration is now maintained by the Information Assurance team, which comes under the direction of the Director of Records in the Private Secretary's Office. The Information Assurance team advises staff and management, both in the Royal Household and in the Households of other members of the Royal Family, on all aspects of recordkeeping. This section also acts as a link between the many

¹ Royal Archives (RA) GV/PRIV/AA83/4.

² RA PS/PSO/C/O/2165/14 Lord Stamfordham to Frederick Ponsonby, 20 January 1929.

³ *Ibidem*.

business functions of the Household, the Information Technology section and the Royal Archives, to ensure that records created by the Royal Household are administered efficiently and secured for long-term preservation when necessary. The Royal Household's Records Management Policy and retention schedules form the basis of the records management work carried out by Information Assurance. At present, all separate business areas of the Household have a retention schedule, of which there are 77 in total. These include the Royal Collection, the private royal estates and the smaller Households of the Royal Family members who perform public engagements on behalf of Queen Elizabeth II. The retention schedules detail all types of records and apply to both paper and electronic records; schedules are regularly reviewed and include reference to legislation governing the retention of record types, as appropriate. Series of paper records which have been designated for permanent preservation are transferred to the Royal Archives when they are no longer required for business use. All of this activity is managed by a records management database which provides location control for all paper records and tracks transfers to the Royal Archives; it also has the capacity for dealing with all electronic records designated for digital archiving. On this subject, the Royal Household has instigated a 'Work Digital Programme', which is encouraging and supporting staff to work digitally. Records created in digital formats will be archived under this programme.

Other than transfers from Royal Household departments, the Royal Archives receives accessions from a wide variety of sources. Members of the Royal Family deposit private papers on occasion and accessions can also include the discovery of long-lost volumes of papers found in locked cupboards in royal residences and in offices on the private estates. Former senior members of the Royal Household also deposit collections relating to their time in service, while members of the public sometimes send in archival items relating to the Royal Family. The Royal Archives also purchases archival lots at auction if they are felt to be of particular interest and significance; examples of recent such acquisitions include an account book for salaries and pensions paid by George, Prince of Wales between 1715 and 1716, and the papers of Harriet Walton, Housekeeper to Queen Alexandra at Marlborough House between 1895 and 1924.

Stewardship of the Royal Archives

The staff of the Royal Archives, reporting to the Librarian and Assistant Keeper of the Royal Archives, currently comprises a team of four archivists, an archives assistant, and three project staff who are involved in various digitisation programmes. Plans are in progress to increase the staffing of the Archives to meet the requirements of researchers and digitisation projects, as well as the issues of cataloguing strategy and electronic records. Volunteers also play a major role in the Royal Archives, working on cataloguing projects and answering genealogical enquiries. A number of volunteers are former members of the Archives' staff and their expertise and knowledge is a continued benefit to the current team of archivists.

The Royal Archives is fortunate enough to have a dedicated Archive Conservator based in the Round Tower, who works almost exclusively on the conservation requirements of the papers. The recent work of the Archive Conservator has included the cleaning and re-housing of documents and paper repairs, in addition to preparing items for exhibitions and providing facsimiles for State gifts. In addition, the staff in the Royal Collection's Bindery, also based at Windsor Castle,

assists with repairs to volumes, the re-binding of documents where necessary and the manufacture of bespoke folders to house papers.

The cataloguing of papers held in the Royal Archives is a priority for staff, as it improves knowledge of the collections and in turn facilitates greater access. However, as is the case in most archive services, staff and time resources do not match the ever-increasing influx of material into the Round Tower, and inevitably a backlog of cataloguing work has accumulated over time. Many of the collections have contemporary card indexes, such as those produced by the offices of the Private Secretary and Privy Purse during the reigns of King George V and King George VI. Other collections have writer and addressee card indexes compiled by previous archivists, while subject indexes, again in card form, exist for a number of other collections, most notably the Victorian papers, the diary of George V and his Private Secretary's series of confidential papers. Various indexes to members of the Royal Household have also been created over previous decades.

Archivists now catalogue on the CALM archives management system, in accordance with the ISAD(G) cataloguing standard, to great effect; the system is also used to administer accessions and conservation work, to track document production for researchers and to log enquiries and associated filing. CALM software is regarded as a benchmark in the UK archives domain, and in conjunction with the records management software used by the Royal Household, this system allows the Royal Archives to electronically import metadata relating to records transfers from departments in the Royal Household. The CALM system can also export catalogue entries for online use, which is planned for the near future. The digitisation of records, discussed in more detail below, is an effective way of both cataloguing large tranches of papers and making them accessible to the public; and such projects will be a high priority strategy for dealing with the cataloguing backlog as the Royal Archives moves forward.

Access and Research

Although the Royal Archives at Windsor is essentially a private family archive, research access is facilitated where appropriate, and a substantial number of enquiries are answered, as fully as possible, each year. Queries received by the Archives range from those of a genealogical nature to serious academic enquiries, while staff also assist with queries from official and professional sources, as well as those received from commercial and media organisations. Royal Household departments frequently ask the Archives for assistance with matters such as learning projects, property issues and queries regarding patronages and former personnel, all of which can require research of historical papers. The organisation of royal functions by the Household can also benefit from archival research, as records relating to previous such occasions provide guidance and ideas for those coordinating events today.

In 2014, the Royal Archives received nearly 1140 queries, encompassing the eras of the Stuarts and Georgians through to the reign of Queen Elizabeth II. A myriad of topics are covered by these enquiries, including ancestors in royal service, engagements and visits carried out by past and present members of the royal family, royal bounties, overseas royal tours, royal warrant holders, works of art, and royal residences and estates, to name just some examples. Essentially non-royal themes, such as those of a political, social, cultural, diplomatic and military nature, are also covered by papers in the Archives and are frequently the subject of enquiries.

With regards to physical research visits to the Round Tower, 65 people visited the Royal Archives between January and December 2014 carrying out 306 research days. These investigations in the Archives included work on biographies of Queen Victoria, Queen Alexandra and Princess Paul of Yugoslavia, the 1745 Jacobite Rebellion, royal visits to Australia and Canada, the Royal Family in World War One, the origins of the British Commonwealth and the Garden Pavilion in Buckingham Palace

At present, the reading room facilities in the Round Tower are constrained by space limitations; however, the number of researchers who can be accommodated in the Royal Archives will be increasing in 2016. A major refurbishment project in the Round Tower will double the amount of reading room seats from three to six and will also enhance the services offered to researchers during their visit, in terms of document production, computer access and the provision of Wifi. As part of these improvements, reading room hours will also be extended from those offered at present. The access policy of the Royal Archives is constantly under review, and it is hoped that the increased facilities will allow more categories of researchers to visit the Archives in person.

Members of staff from the Royal Household also visit the Royal Archives to carry out research in person; curators from the Royal Collection frequently consult the records to establish provenance of works of art (particularly those purchased by George IV and Queen Victoria) and to find documents of interest for inclusion in the many high-profile exhibitions staged by the Royal Household and Royal Collection. The Royal Archives are particularly closely linked to the historic Photographs section of the Royal Collection, which was formerly under the management of the Archives and is still based in the Round Tower. Curators from Historic Royal Palaces (which cares for Hampton Court Palace and Kensington Palace amongst other royal residences) also find the archival collections of immense value for the light they throw on the palaces in their custodianship, in terms of the buildings themselves, the furniture, furnishings and works of art they contain, and the lives of the former royal occupants.

Exhibitions and Outreach Projects

Access to the collections held by the Royal Archives can be achieved, to some extent, through the public display of archival items; thus a considerable part of the work of the Archives staff focuses on exhibitions. The Archives play a significant role in the displays organised by the Royal Collection at Windsor Castle, Buckingham Palace and the Palace of Holyroodhouse. A particular example is the exhibition staged at Buckingham Palace during its annual summer opening; this display is one of the highlights of the Royal Collection's calendar and features items on a specially chosen theme from all departments of the Collection, including works of art, paintings, photographs, prints and drawings and archival documents. In 2014, the subject of this popular visitor attraction was 'A Royal Childhood' and the Royal Archives contributed a number of documents to the display, including a bill for items supplied to the Royal Nursery in 1846 and letters written by Queen Victoria and George VI as children. The exhibition for 2015's summer opening, on the theme of 'A Royal Welcome', featured menus and State Visit programmes from the Archives.

The displays staged by the Royal Collection in the dedicated exhibition spaces of the Queen's Galleries at Buckingham Palace and Holyroodhouse and the Drawings

Gallery at Windsor Castle tend to run for several months, and frequently include items from the Royal Archives which complement and illuminate the other Royal Collection exhibits on show. For example, the recent London exhibition ‘The First Georgians: Art and Monarchy 1714-1760’ included a letter on ‘how to be a King’ written by Frederick, Prince of Wales, to his son, the future George III in 1749, and a letter from Prince James Francis Edward Stuart to his son, Prince Charles Edward Stuart, about the failure of the 1745 Jacobite rebellion. ‘Cairo to Constantinople’, a striking exhibition focusing on the early photographs of the Middle East taken by Francis Bedford during the Prince of Wales’s tour of the region in 1862, featured the Prince’s detailed journal of his experiences. This journal was digitised as part of the project and is still available to view online on the Royal Collection website. Currently, a display at Windsor celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo and an exhibition at the Queen’s Gallery in London, showcasing the comic art of the caricaturist Thomas Rowlandson, also include items from the Royal Archives.

Smaller, more exclusive, displays are often required for events hosted by The Queen and members of the Royal Family, and the Royal Archives contributes to these as a matter of course. These include exhibitions tailored for incoming State Visits, special receptions (such as those to celebrate the bicentennial of the birth of Charles Dickens in 2012 and the work of the British Film Institute in 2013), as well as those displays required for private royal occasions. Archival documents occasionally feature in gifts presented by The Queen, such as the specially-bound album of facsimiles relating to Queen Victoria’s visit to France in 1855 which was given to the French President during his State Visit in 2014. Similarly, an album of archival facsimiles pertaining to Malta was presented to the Maltese President during the 2015 meeting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government in Valletta.

Documents from the Royal Archives are also loaned to other institutions for inclusion in public displays, thus allowing items from the Royal Archives to reach new audiences. Documents from the papers of the exiled Stuarts were recently loaned to the National Library of Scotland for its exhibition ‘Game of Crowns’, which marked 300 years since the first Jacobite rebellion in 1715, while in the last twelve months exhibitions in Kew Palace, Kensington Palace and Hanover have also benefited from the inclusion of original archival items from Windsor.

To celebrate its centenary in 2014, the Archives took centre stage for the first time with the publication of *Treasures from the Royal Archives*. This illustrated book features over 100 highlights from the archives, selected and described by the archivists who work in the Round Tower. The treasures, many of which had not previously been published, reflect the wide variety of subjects and themes covered by the papers in the Royal Archives, such as the business of government, arts and sciences, war and conflict and family life. As an accompaniment to *Treasures from the Royal Archives*, an app, now available from the Apple Store and Google Play, was created which uses augmented reality technology to bring to life one of the documents in the book, John Chard’s eyewitness account of the defence of Rorke’s Drift in 1879. This was presented to Queen Victoria by Chard after the Anglo-Zulu War, in which Rorke’s Drift was a key battle. In conjunction with the book, a number of the featured treasures from the Archives went on show in the Drawings Gallery at Windsor Castle for eight months from May 2014. This popular display was the first time the Royal Archives has been the subject of an exhibition in its own right.

Although the Royal Archives is not generally open for public tours, a number of group visits to the Round Tower are hosted each year, in which visitors enjoy a tour around the Archives and an opportunity to view an exhibition in the Muniment Room, which is usually tailored to meet their particular interests. Over the last two years, groups from the Historic Houses Archivists' Group and the Society of Finnish Archivists have visited the Royal Archives, as have guides, wardens and residents of Windsor Castle. The Archives also feature on the busy itinerary of the attendees of the annual Royal Collection Studies course.

The web pages of the Royal Archives are currently limited to a small section on the British Monarchy website; but the Royal Household's Digital Engagement team are always keen to include items from the Archives on the main pages of the Monarchy website, as well as on the British Monarchy's Facebook, Twitter and Flickr accounts, to highlight anniversaries and significant functions involving the Royal Family. The Archives have thus contributed many images of relevant documents, with contextual information, on subjects such as World War One, D-Day and the Olympic and Commonwealth Games. The Royal Archives was also heavily involved in the special microsite created to mark the 60th anniversary of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, by contributing a timeline of the coronations of Sovereigns from George III onwards, using mostly previously unpublished documents from the Archives.

Plans are currently in progress to expand and enhance the online presence of the Archives; a postgraduate student studying Public History has spent a year's placement researching the content, format and potential audience of this exciting online project. The new website or web pages, which will include more information about the holdings of the Royal Archives and, in time, an online catalogue, as well as details of how to gain access to the collections, links to digitised sources, learning resources and highlights from the papers.

The Royal Collection has a very active Learning department which provides educational resources to schools, families and adults, both online and as part of the visitor experience at the royal residences. The Royal Archives often assists the Learning team through the research and provision of copies of archival documents to be used as resources by, for example, visiting school groups learning about Queen Victoria or the Georgians. A recent online learning project on the Royal Mews, created in conjunction with the London Grid for Learning, also used numerous items from the Royal Archives relating to the history of the Mews.

In the Diamond Jubilee year of 2012, the Royal Archives was keen to produce an educational resource to appeal to the general public, which could also be utilised by schoolchildren and would complement the academic and genealogical digitised resources made available by the Archives in the same year. The result was 'Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee Scrapbook',⁴ which was well received following its launch in April 2012. This online resource allows users to learn about all aspects of Queen Victoria's life and reign, from her childhood as a young Princess to her Diamond Jubilee celebrations in 1897, from her role as Queen of Britain and Empress of its wider dominions to her domestic life as a wife and mother, as well as the Royal Household and the inventions and improvements of the Victorian era. The 'Scrapbook' features significant documents from the Royal Archives, in addition to paintings and photographs from the Royal Collection, audio and film clips, and relevant facts and learning activities for children.

⁴ Available at <http://www.queen-victorias-scrapbook.org>.

Digitisation Projects at the Royal Archives

In the last five years, the digitisation of records has become a priority for the Royal Archives; projects of this nature allow the collections to be consulted by a wide audience without the need for physical access to the Round Tower, which in turn reduces the handling of archival documents and the burden on available space and resources.

The first digitisation project undertaken by the Archives, in conjunction with the Bodleian Libraries of the University of Oxford and the digital publishers Proquest, focused on the 141 volumes of Queen Victoria's Journal. The Queen kept a detailed diary from 1832, when, as a thirteen-year-old Princess, she was given a book by her mother, the Duchess of Kent: 'This book, Mamma gave me, that I might write the journal of my journey to Wales in it'.⁵ were the first words entered in the Journal, which she wrote almost daily until her death in 1901.

Queen Victoria's youngest daughter, Princess Beatrice, took on the task of editing and transcribing the Journal following her mother's death; this manuscript, abridged, version amounts to 111 volumes. Thirteen volumes of the original Journal, dating from 1832 to 1836, survive, as do four volumes of drafts written by Queen Victoria, all of which relate to visits to and from various members of European royal families. Finally, a typescript version of the Journal, amounting to 13 volumes, covers the years 1832 until February 1840 and Queen Victoria's marriage to Prince Albert. This typed transcript of the Queen's original Journals was made for Lord Esher, the first Keeper of the Royal Archives, as part of his research for his biographical work *The Girlhood of Queen Victoria*, published in 1912. This version, when compared to Princess Beatrice's volumes, illustrates just how extensive Queen Victoria's journal entries originally were, in contrast to the edited copies produced by her daughter.

The Journals are an extremely rich resource for academics and historians of all levels and disciplines, for Queen Victoria wrote in detail, not only about household and family matters, but also about affairs of state and diplomacy, meetings with politicians and other eminent figures, her visits around the United Kingdom, and key military, cultural and international events occurring during her reign. The Queen's comments on literature and the many plays, operas and dance performances she saw during her lifetime are also extremely valuable. All of this information is now available on the website 'Queen Victoria's Journals',⁶ which features images of all the pages from the four different versions of the Journal, as well as comprehensive transcripts, which are fully searchable. The names of key places and individuals mentioned in the Journals are indexed, complete with summary biographical and descriptive information in many cases. The website is complemented by the addition of many of Queen Victoria's sketches, taken from both the Journals and her collection of sketchbooks now kept in the Royal Collection's Print Room. A number of specially commissioned essays on the life and reign of the Queen, written by leading academics, also feature on the website, as does an interactive timeline which provides contextual information on the life and times of Queen Victoria and the Royal Family from 1800 to 1901.

This unique digitised resource was launched by Queen Elizabeth II in 2012 on 24 May, the anniversary of Queen Victoria's birthday, and for the first twelve months the site was freely available to users around the globe. To accompany the launch, a Twitter account was created, 'VictoriaRI', which tweeted extracts and images from

⁵ RA VIC/MAIN/QVJ/1832: 31 July.

⁶ <http://www.queenvictoriasjournals.org>.

the Journals, culminating in the entry written by Queen Victoria on her Diamond Jubilee in 1897. By the end of this two-week project, 'VictoriaRI' had nearly 10,000 followers. At present the 'Queen Victoria's Journals' website is available free to users in the United Kingdom, and via overseas institutions (many of which are based in Commonwealth countries) which have obtained a subscription to the site. Statistics of traffic to the 'Journals' website show that the site has been extremely popular over the last three years, with very positive feedback received from users of all levels. Moreover, the consultation of the physical Journals themselves, by both staff and researchers, has decreased, which will ensure the long-term preservation of these valuable items.

In the Diamond Jubilee year of 2012, another exciting digitisation project reached fruition: in partnership with the genealogical website 'Find My Past', records relating to Royal Household employees between 1526 and 1924 were digitised and made available online as part of the site's Royal Archives Collection. The names of those in royal service listed in these documents are fully indexed and searchable, and results can also be narrowed down by years of birth and death, as well as by year of entry to the Royal Household. The collection featured on Find My Past represents those individuals employed within the Household departments of the Lord Chamberlain, the Lord Steward (later the Master of the Household), the Royal Mews and the Privy Purse and includes establishment lists from the sixteenth century through to the 1900s, name index sheets from 1660 to 1901, and payment, employment and pension lists dating from 1715 to 1924. On account of the many different types of records featured in this digitised resource, the names of individuals can appear more than once: the information listed about a Household employee can include a combination of name, age, occupation, dates of employment, salary or wages, pension details, career history and date of death. In some cases, it is also possible to discover information about an individual's service in World War One, reasons for the termination of their employment and, on occasion, even original signatures of those employed in royal service.

This resource, which is subscription-based, has proved to be a tremendous asset for genealogical researchers tracing their ancestors in Royal service, and to those researching the career paths of certain members of the Royal Household. This digitisation project has allowed previously unindexed records to become available for research by both staff of the Royal Archives and the general public, and its significance as a research tool cannot be underestimated.

Following on from the success of the digitisation of Queen Victoria's Journals and records of members of the Royal Household, the Royal Archives is now engaged in two other major digitisation projects, both of which will be of great importance to the academic world and to anyone with an interest in the history of the 'long eighteenth century'. The first project concerns the Stuart and Cumberland Papers, which are currently in the process of being digitised in partnership with Gale (a part of Cengage Learning). These two collections, which will be described in more detail subsequently, are currently available on microfilm in a number of academic institutions, while calendars to part of the Stuart Papers (published in the early 1900s) can be obtained through research libraries. The necessary preparation and conservation of the Stuart and Cumberland Papers and the scanning process itself will take approximately a year to complete. The images of the documents and relevant metadata will then be hosted as a stand-alone subscription-based online archive: 'The Royal Archive: The Stuart and Cumberland Papers' which will also be

part of, and cross-searchable, with ‘State Papers Online’⁷ and it is hoped this important project will be launched in September 2017.

The second, and most ambitious digitisation project to be undertaken by the Royal Archives to date, concerns the extensive collection of Georgian papers. This project was launched by The Queen in April 2015; and in partnership with King’s College London, and in collaboration with institutions such as the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture, and the William and Mary College in the USA, the Royal Archives intends to make available online the historic manuscripts it holds relating to the Georgian monarchy. This huge collection, the provenance and content of which will be described in due course, totals more than 350,000 pages, of which only about 15% have previously been published. Most of these papers relate to George III and to a lesser extent, George IV, although papers from the reigns of George I, George II and William IV will be digitised, as will those relating to other members of the Royal Family from the Georgian period.

The outcome of this project will be a substantial and in-depth web resource, accessible to universities, schools, academics, authors and the general public alike, both in the United Kingdom and overseas. The website will facilitate the presentation of images of the digitised Georgian papers and allow them to be searched and evaluated effectively by users at all levels. Metadata will be added by project staff working in the Royal Archives, as well as by academics and specialists in the field of Georgian history, whose expertise will help to interpret and contextualise the documents. As with the Queen Victoria’s Journals website, it is intended that other resources will be made available on the site to assist users in their research, including information on people, places and themes connected to the Georgian papers and academic essays and interactive applications.

This high-profile project, which is still in its early stages, is due for completion in 2020. Alongside the digitisation and cataloguing work, a series of Georgian history fellowships, sponsored by the collaborating institutions, will further the research into the Georgian period and, it is hoped, stimulate scholarly debate. Seminars, lectures, teaching sessions, media programming and publishing projects will also arise from the project and it is hoped that all these many facets of this digitisation programme will transform the understanding of Georgian Britain and its monarchy at a time of such great cultural, political, economic and social change, which has shaped the world we live in today.

As part of this work, and for the benefit of all future projects, the Royal Archives has recently invested in new equipment for a dedicated digitisation studio in the Round Tower itself. An imaging technician has also been appointed to the Archives staff so that going forward, digitisation work can be carried out ‘in-house’, rather than be out-sourced. Such an investment signifies the value and importance the Royal Archives places on the digitisation of its papers as a way of facilitating access to its collections by a much wider audience.

Collections in the Royal Archives

The Wardrobe Papers

The oldest series of papers in the Royal Archives is the Great Wardrobe accounts, which cover the period 1660 to 1749. This collection was presented to King George V in 1914 by the Duke of Buccleuch, whose ancestors, the Dukes of Montagu, kept these records in their role as Masters of the Great Wardrobe. The numerous volumes

⁷ See <http://gale.cengage.co.uk/state-papers-online>.

of Great Wardrobe accounts, which are arranged in three parallel series of warrants, bills and receipts, relate to the purchase of furniture and furnishings for royal residences and to the provision of royal liveries and ceremonial robes, such as those worn by the Yeoman of the Guard and by officers of the College of Arms. Another set of Great Wardrobe accounts covering the years 1560 to 1920 are held by The National Archives at Kew.

Stuart Papers

Although there are a small number of medieval documents in the Royal Archives, the oldest collection held in the Round Tower is rather incongruously not of royal provenance, but is instead the papers of the exiled Stuarts. These papers, which comprise over 100,000 documents in 541 bound volumes, several boxes of additional material and a number of contemporary manuscript volumes, all document the attempts of the Stuart pretenders to regain the British throne in the eighteenth century, most significantly through the Jacobite risings of 1715 and 1745-1746. This important collection dates from the exile of James II to France following the Glorious Revolution of 1688 and contains correspondence of the exiled King and his descendants, Prince James Francis Edward Stuart, the 'Old Pretender', and Prince Charles Edward Stuart, the 'Young Pretender', or 'Bonnie Prince Charlie', as he is more commonly known. Aside from letters and memoranda written by the Princes themselves, their family members and secretaries, the Stuart Papers also contain documents written by their Jacobite supporters ('Jacobite' being derived from the Latin 'Jacobus' for 'James') from all over Europe. The intrigue and plotting behind the failed attempts of the pretenders to recapture the British throne are evident in the numerous intelligence reports, complete with pseudonyms and secret codes, found in this collection.

The Stuart Papers end in the early 1800s, with the death of Henry Benedict Stuart, Cardinal York, grandson of James II and last member of the Stuart line, in 1807; these later papers mainly relate to Cardinal York's relations with the Vatican. Following the Cardinal's death, the papers were purchased in Italy at the request of the Prince Regent, later George IV, and, for fear of their being impounded by either the French or Roman authorities, were successfully smuggled to England in two consignments. The collection was later housed in the new Royal Library founded by William IV at Windsor Castle between 1832 and 1834, until they were moved to the Royal Archives in 1914.

As mentioned above, the Stuart Papers are currently the subject of a major digitisation project, through which images of documents in the collection will be made available online.

Cumberland Papers

One other major collection joined the Royal Archives from the Royal Library in 1914; the papers of William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland, third and youngest son of George II. The Duke's papers mainly relate to his military career as Captain-General of His Majesty's Land Forces, an appointment he was granted by his father in 1745. As Captain-General, the Duke of Cumberland was responsible for leading the campaign against the Jacobite uprising of 1745, which culminated in the bloody defeat of the Jacobite army at the Battle of Culloden on 16 April 1746. The Duke's papers include documents captured from Jacobite supporters, and in conjunction

with the Stuart Papers described above, provides a unique perspective of both sides of the campaign.

The Cumberland Papers also contain material relating to the Duke's military career after the Battle of Culloden, most notably his campaigns in the Low Countries and his involvement in the opening stages of the Seven Years War, both in Europe and North America. These documents, in addition to more general papers relating to the administration of the British Army, both domestically and overseas, make the Cumberland Papers a rich source of information for military historians. The Duke also kept an important collection of military maps, which is now housed in the Royal Collection's Print Room.

Following his retirement from military life in 1757, the Duke of Cumberland returned to his home at Cumberland Lodge in Windsor and his position as Ranger of Windsor Great Park, an appointment he held from 1746 until his death in 1765. The Duke's later accounts and papers reflect his tenure as Ranger and demonstrate his great interest in the management and development of the Great Park; for example, designs of innovative equipment for forestry management, details of experiments in plant cuttings and lists of trees and shrubs to be planted in the Great Park, some of which were imported from America, can all be found in the collection. The Duke's passion for horse breeding and racing is also evident in his papers. The Cumberland Papers are to be digitised alongside the Stuart Papers in the project referred to above, which is due for completion in the autumn of 2017. These two collections, albeit of very different provenance, complement each other due to the narrative they provide of the 1745-1746 Jacobite rebellion and therefore their joint digitisation will create an invaluable online resource for researchers of the period.

George III

The papers of George III (1738-1820) and George IV (1762-1830) entered the Royal Archives when it was first established. The survival of this apparently long-lost collection was most fortuitous: the papers were found in the basement of Apsley House, the London residence of the Duke of Wellington, in 1912, nearly a century after they had been placed there by the first Duke, the principal executor of George IV, labelled 'To be destroyed unread'. Fortunately, this instruction was never carried out and the fourth Duke of Wellington was able to present the papers to King George V (1865-1935).

The re-discovery of this collection means that George III is the first Sovereign whose papers are held in the Royal Archives. Any surviving official papers of earlier monarchs can generally be found in government records held by The National Archives at Kew; however, George I (1660-1727) and George II (1683-1760) left little in the form of a written legacy. George I in particular had poor command of English and most government business was carried out by word of mouth during the reigns of the first two Sovereigns of the House of Hanover. Nonetheless, in the collection of George III, there is a small amount of his grandfather's and great-grandfather's papers, as well as some belonging to his mother and father, Frederick and Augusta, Prince and Princess of Wales, and his siblings.

The papers of George III form three distinct series: his official papers, his private papers, which include some Privy Purse accounts, and his correspondence with his siblings and children. The King's official correspondence forms a voluminous collection, thanks to his diligence in making copies of his own letters until he succumbed

to illness in 1788. Thereafter, the King continued to file his correspondence until his failing eyesight forced him to abandon this practice in 1809; by this time, he had been granted the services of a Private Secretary, Sir Herbert Taylor; George III was the first Sovereign to be permitted such an appointment in the Royal Household. The King's official papers shed light on political matters and foreign affairs, principally between 1765 and 1810, before his illness forced the establishment of a Regency. In the form of correspondence, ministerial reports, Cabinet meetings and proceedings of Parliament, these records deal with civil, military and ecclesiastical matters, as well as the varied political issues of the time, and all reflect George III's interest and knowledge of such topics. Foreign affairs are particularly well covered by the papers, including such subjects as the American War of Independence, European treaties and alliances, political dealings and trading links with China and tempestuous relations with Russia and revolutionary France.

George III's private papers, which date between 1755 and 1810, contain some Privy Purse accounts for his reign, of which there are regretfully few. However, this collection does demonstrate the King's wide variety of interests and passions in such diverse subjects as agriculture (which earned him the nickname 'Farmer George'), science, astronomy, arts and literature and contains correspondence with many great contemporary figures in these fields.

For example, the King's memoranda on the transit of Venus across the sun and directions for mounting a pocket watch are notable instances of his keen fascination in all matters of science and technology. The papers also refer to George III's instrumental role in the foundation of the Royal Academy in 1768 and in his acquisition of Consul Smith's extensive collection of both works of art (many of which remain in royal ownership), and books (which now form the 'King's Library' in the British Library).

The correspondence George III maintained with his immediate family is also preserved in the Royal Archives. There are relatively few letters from his consort Queen Charlotte as they spent little time apart; however those that do exist bear testimony to their loving marriage. Letters from the King's seven sons and six daughters form a significant collection (the King and Queen had fifteen children in total, although two sons died in infancy) and these illustrate the close relationship the King had with his children and the concern he felt for their welfare and worthy conduct. Most of the Princes were sent away to Germany to study at a young age and then went into military and naval careers; their regular missives to their father often seek to reassure him of their good behaviour and intentions. There are fewer letters from the Princesses to the King as they all remained unmarried and at home until relatively late in life (only two of his daughters, Charlotte, Princess Royal, and Princess Elizabeth, eventually married), however, this correspondence also displays the fondness and affection with which the King's daughters regarded him.

This family correspondence also contains letters to George III from his royal relatives in Europe, including those from Queen Caroline Matilda of Denmark, his ill-fated sister. She died in exile in Hanover in 1775, after having had a love affair and an illegitimate child with a member of the household of her husband, King Christian VII, and her letters to her brother chart her unfortunate situation. The King's familial connections with the House of Orange-Nassau in the Netherlands and with the German territories of Hesse, Saxe-Gotha, Mecklenburg and Prussia are also represented in the papers, as is his association with the House of Brunswick, most notably through his sister, Augusta, Duchess of Brunswick.

In addition to the three main series of George III's papers, the King's essays form an extremely valuable collection which amounts to over 2000 documents. This series, written by George III or by his mentor, Lord Bute, formed an important part of the education of the Prince and future King and demonstrate his wide interests, knowledge and intelligence. The subjects covered by these pieces of writing include agriculture, architecture, art, law and foreign affairs; this latter subject produced one of the King's most notable essays, on the loss of the American colonies in 1783, beginning with the memorable sentence 'America is lost! Must we fall beneath the blow?'

The papers of George III, along with all the other material in the Georgian papers, are to be digitised in a major five-year project, previously referred to in the context of the current work of the Royal Archives.

Regretfully, the papers of Queen Charlotte, consort of George III, were destroyed after her death in 1818. A few of the Queen's account books have survived, which show overall payments to tradesmen for items purchased for both the royal nursery and herself, as well as a very few volumes of her diary from the years 1789 and 1794. These latter volumes provide a unique record of the Georgian period from the perspective of a member of the royal family, shedding light on the public life of George III and Queen Charlotte, as well as the quiet country-house domesticity enjoyed by the royal couple and their children away from society.

George IV

In his will, George IV instructed his executors to review his papers and to preserve or destroy them as they saw fit. Given the unrestrained lifestyle he led as Prince of Wales, Prince Regent and as King, it is perhaps unsurprising that few of his private papers have survived in the Royal Archives.

The surviving material dates from his years as Prince of Wales and includes correspondence with his parents, which reflect both the affection and disaffection of their sometimes turbulent relationship. Letters between the Prince and his brothers and sisters have also been preserved; these demonstrate the closeness of their bond and provide insights into the closeted lives of the Princesses and the relative freedom enjoyed by his male siblings. This collection also charts the all too public failure of the Prince's marriage to Princess Caroline of Brunswick, and includes papers concerning the upbringing and eventual marriage of their only daughter, Princess Charlotte.

George IV's official papers, which date from his time as Regent between 1811 and 1819 and as King from 1820 to 1830, do provide information on some aspects of the contemporary political climate, yet due to his comparative lack of interest in matters of state and foreign affairs, his official correspondence is far from voluminous or as rich in information as that of his father, George III.

The accounts of George IV, however, are particularly significant and valuable, illustrating his passion for amassing expensive works of art and his extravagant tastes in furniture and furnishings. Dating from the 1780s, when the young Prince first began collecting, to the King's death in 1830, when his executors were faced with numerous unpaid bills, these Privy Purse accounts were meticulously kept and amount to thousands of documents. Purchases of paintings by artists such as Sir Thomas Lawrence, Thomas Gainsborough and Caravaggio, works of art in gold and silver plate, porcelain, jewellery, clocks, sculpture, furniture and furnishings all feature in the King's accounts. As well as commissioning new works of art, the King

purchased older items, and the Royal Collection owes much to his taste as a collector. Other purchases recorded in the papers include books and newspapers, prints and enamels, uniforms, arms and armour, and musical and optical instruments, to name but a few examples of his obsessive spending. The papers also provide details of the upkeep and luxurious decoration of George IV's residences during his lifetime – Brighton Pavilion, Carlton House, Royal Lodge and Windsor Castle – and accounts relating to his interest in horses and racing.

Additional Georgian Papers

Following the presentation of the George III and George IV papers to the Royal Archives, several other smaller collections have been acquired over the years and therefore these are not included in the main Georgian series. These include additional papers of George III and George IV and papers of other members of the Royal Family, including, most notably, some of the children of George III and Queen Charlotte. A particularly significant collection is that pertaining to the separation and divorce of Queen Caroline and George IV, which culminated in her very public 'trial' for adultery. These records, which comprise a substantial amount of boxes, include such items as witness statements concerning Queen Caroline's alleged adultery, material relating to her defence in her 'trial' and associated printed propaganda.

Papers of individuals who were associates of the Royal Family, such as Lady Charlotte Finch, governess to the royal children, and General Budé, governor to the younger Princes, can also be found in the Georgian additional series, as well as papers of some notable figures from the period. These include the artists Sir Thomas Lawrence and Joseph Farington; 1st Baron Stuart de Rothesay, British Ambassador to France; the agriculturalist Nathaniel Kent and Lord Liverpool, Prime Minister between 1812 and 1827.

The additional series also contains miscellaneous inventories, Privy Purse papers and accounts.

William IV

The papers of William IV (1765-1837) were kept in good order during his reign by his Private Secretary, Sir Herbert Taylor, and his Keeper of the Privy Purse, Sir Henry Wheatley; but after the King's death in 1837, they were regrettably destroyed. Under the terms of his will, William IV had left his papers in the custodianship of Taylor and Wheatley, and had made no obvious request for their destruction; indeed, Sir Herbert Taylor had spoken to the Prime Minister, Lord Melbourne, about making a selection of the King's papers for preservation. However, Taylor's death in early 1839 left Sir Henry Wheatley with sole responsibility for the collection, and despite Queen Victoria's protestations, his fear (as he had only daughters) that the papers could fall into other people's hands, led to his fateful decision to burn them in their entirety. Queen Victoria wrote in her Journal on 8 December 1839 that she thought it 'wrong that Wheatley burnt all those letters, which the late King left and which are in fact public papers; the correspondence with the Ministers'.⁸ Two days later, she talked with Lord Melbourne again 'of those papers of the late King's, which I begged Lord M. to speak to Wheatley about, and which we agreed ought to have been kept in the Family'.⁹ Queen Victoria's stance on the importance of keeping official

⁸ RA VIC/MAIN/QVJ/1839: 8 December.

⁹ RA VIC/MAIN/QVJ/1839: 10 December.

and private papers for posterity, expressed in her Journal so early in her reign, was maintained throughout her lifetime and was reflected in the careful management of her own papers.

The papers of William IV's consort, Queen Adelaide (1792-1849), who outlived her husband by 12 years, were also destroyed following her death in 1849. The Royal Archives has, however, a copy of Queen Adelaide's diary for the years 1830 to 1831, which throws some light on domestic life and social engagements; while vouchers relating to the Queen's household accounts from 1830 to 1849 have survived in the Archives, as have a very few letters written by her.

Despite Sir Henry Wheatley's wholesale destruction of both William IV's correspondence and Privy Purse papers, a surprising number of the King's papers have found their way into the Royal Archives. In terms of his financial records, a 1793 account book of the then Duke of Clarence has survived, as has a Privy Purse account book, kept by Sir Henry Wheatley between 1833 and 1836. A significant collection of Privy Purse vouchers from William IV's reign, presented to the Royal Archives by Coutts, the bank which preserved them, also provides details of the King's financial affairs.

The main Georgian series contains a small group of William IV's official papers, and documents of a military nature dating from 1830 to 1833. In addition, a significant amount of private correspondence, including letters to his father George III, and brother, George IV, and to other courtiers and associates, has survived, while the Howick Papers and Melbourne Papers (discussed below) contain numerous letters written by William IV.

The correspondence of Dorothea Jordan, companion and mistress of the King for twenty years, provides evidence of his personal affairs, as do the letters to the royal family of George FitzClarence, 1st Earl of Munster, the eldest of William IV and Dorothea Jordan's ten illegitimate children. The King's celebrated naval career is represented by a log book of HMS *Queen*, kept by the then Prince between 1783 and 1785, while the papers of Captain Sir William Hoste, relating to HMY *Royal Sovereign* in the late 1820s, also contain letters written by the Duke of Clarence.

The Howick and Melbourne Papers

Despite the destruction of William IV's ministerial papers, two collections have been presented to the Royal Archives that offer an insight into the King's reign of 1830 to 1837 which would otherwise be unavailable.

A series of correspondence from William IV to his Prime Minister, Charles, 2nd Earl Grey, was presented to the Royal Archives in 1956 by the latter's descendant, the 5th Earl Grey. The collection, known as the Howick Papers after the Grey baronetcy of Howick, covers Lord Grey's term as Prime Minister from 1830 to 1834, and is particularly significant for the information it contains on the political and social issues of the first years of William IV's reign, notably correspondence relating to the passage of the Great Reform Act in 1832, the organisation and increased power of the Trades Unions and the Irish Tithe War of 1830 to 1836, as well as matters of foreign affairs.

The official papers of William, 2nd Lord Melbourne, who served as Prime Minister during the reigns of both William IV and Queen Victoria, were presented to Queen Elizabeth II and are an extremely valuable addition to the Royal Archives.

The collection contains Lord Melbourne's correspondence as Home Secretary from 1830 to 1834 and from his two terms as Prime Minister in 1834 and 1835 to 1841, as well as a significant amount of royal correspondence with the two Sovereigns he served. As with the Howick Papers, the Melbourne Papers provide a welcome insight into the political issues of William IV's reign, such as the Tolpuddle Martyrs of 1834 and international affairs in the 1830s.

Queen Victoria and Prince Albert

Queen Victoria's papers, which ultimately led to the creation of the Royal Archives in the early 1900s, still occupy the Muniment Room today. Much of the collection remains in the filing scheme devised by her husband Prince Albert, whose interest in matters of government was restricted, in his role as Consort, to serving as unofficial Private Secretary to the Queen. Soon after their marriage in 1840, the Prince introduced a practical subject-based filing system complete with drafts, copies, summaries and annotations in his own hand. As a result, in addition to the series of letters written to Queen Victoria by prime ministers and ministers, Prince Albert created other categories of correspondence, usually retrospectively, on a myriad of subjects. These included political matters such as changes in government, the Chartist movement and Irish policy; series on domestic matters, including the Royal Household, the Church, Army and Navy, as well as papers relating to education and the arts. Foreign, colonial and imperial affairs are well represented in a substantial series of correspondence arranged by country, which contains significant files on the Crimean War and the Anglo-Zulu War.

Following the premature death of Prince Albert in 1861, his system for the management of Queen Victoria's papers was followed carefully by the Prince's German librarian, and then by the Queen's Private Secretary. Nonetheless, by the time of her death in 1901 there were still many cupboards full of unsorted papers covering nearly forty years of her reign. These were sorted and weeded in the early 1900s, and although some were added to the subject files, many documents were unfortunately destroyed.

Queen Victoria's correspondence is naturally not all official in nature. In addition to several volumes of papers relating to the education of the Royal children and other family matters, the Royal Archives contains a formidable amount of private correspondence. Queen Victoria was a prodigious letter-writer, and the collection includes letters between the Queen and her husband and children (letters from her eldest daughter Victoria, Princess Royal and ultimately Empress Frederick of Germany, fill sixty volumes alone) and correspondence with her extended family in Britain and Europe, with numerous members of the aristocracy and with other associates. With some forethought, Queen Victoria requested that her letters be returned following the death of the recipient, or preserved as family heirlooms. Consequently, for example, the Royal Archives holds Queen Victoria's letters to and from her uncle and mentor, King Leopold I of the Belgians, and also a series of letters from the Queen to Lord Melbourne, her first Prime Minister and advisor. Queen Victoria's celebrated Journal, written almost daily by the Queen from the age of thirteen until her death in 1901, is also a very significant part of the Victorian collection.

Sadly, the Prince Consort's own archive no longer exists for the most part, and the loss is particularly acute as he was a man of many interests, with a passion for change and reform. Some of Prince Albert's correspondence has survived and has

been absorbed into Queen Victoria's files – this mainly consists of letters to and from his relations in Germany and his letters to his mentor, Baron Stockmar. Documents relating to the Prince's involvement with the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge and the Great Exhibition of 1851 have remained in the Archives however, although the majority of records concerning the Great Exhibition were transferred to the Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851 some years ago. It is possible that Prince Albert's grieving widow ordered the destruction of his papers and with this instruction, his correspondence with scientists, musicians, artists, architects, agriculturalists and educators, to name but a few, has been lost to posterity, as have the volumes of his engagement diary, which now only survives in the form of a few summarised extracts and the published versions found in Sir Theodore Martin's biography of the Prince Consort.

King Edward VII

The private papers of King Edward VII (1841-1910) are another collection sadly lost to the Royal Archives. The vast majority of his personal correspondence was destroyed after his death in 1910 by his Private Secretary, Lord Knollys, in line with the King's views on the matter. A few family letters survive, as do his engagement diaries, which unfortunately provide relatively little information about his day-to-day life. Edward VII's ministerial and official correspondence has survived in its entirety however, and Lord Knollys ensured it was carefully sorted and filed in categories similar to those devised by Prince Albert for Queen Victoria's papers; the papers on foreign affairs from the Edwardian period are a particularly valuable resource for students of the period.

Queen Alexandra (1844-1925), the Consort of Edward VII, also instructed that her papers should be destroyed after her death. When the Queen died in 1925, her wish was carried out by her lady-in-waiting, although several volumes of her accounts have survived in the Royal Archives, as have her engagement diaries and letters between her and her son King George V.

The siblings of Edward VII are not particularly well represented in the Royal Archives, although small collections of papers belonging to those who remained in Britain with their families are in evidence, namely, Princess Helena (Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein by marriage); Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll; Prince Leopold, Duke of Albany; and Princess Beatrice. The collection of Queen Victoria's third son, Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught, is the most sizeable after that of his brother Edward VII; his papers and diaries reflect his successful military career.

Cambridge Papers

An additional collection dating from the Victorian period is that of George, Duke of Cambridge, grandson of George III, cousin to Queen Victoria and uncle of Queen Mary. His military papers from his tenure as Commander in Chief of the British Army from 1856 to 1895 were acquired for the Royal Archives by Queen Mary, and this significant collection is a much-used resource for military historians of the period.

Twentieth-Century Collections

The private papers of King George V (1865-1935) and King George VI (1902-1949), including correspondence, diaries, files of papers relating to personal interests and schoolbooks, are preserved in the Royal Archives. Queen Mary also left a significant collection of private correspondence, inventories of the many works

of art she collected, scrapbooks relating to her visits abroad and visitors books. The official documents created during the brief reign of King Edward VIII (1894-1972) were absorbed into the records of King George VI (1895-1952), however there are sizeable collections of his papers as both Prince of Wales and Duke of Windsor in the Archives. The papers of George VI as Duke of York are also held in the Archives as are the files produced by the household of Princess Elizabeth, now Queen Elizabeth II, from 1947 to 1952. The papers of other members of the Royal Family, mainly official in nature, but some private, have also been deposited in the Royal Archives; these include collections relating to Henry, Duke of Gloucester; Marina, Duchess of Kent; Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother and Princess Margaret.

Records of the Royal Household

Papers created by the Royal Household, dating from 1901 onwards, are deposited in the Royal Archives in ever-increasing amounts. The departments of the Household (the Private Secretary's Office, the Lord Chamberlain's Office, the Master of the Household's Department, the Privy Purse and Treasurer's Office and the Royal Collection), are all represented in the Archives; papers of the first four departments (the Royal Collection was only created in 1987) span the reign of King Edward VII through to the present. Files created during the reign of Queen Elizabeth II are sent to the Royal Archives when they are no longer required for current use and this material is subject to release policies and Data Protection legislation.

These departmental records cover the innumerable ways in which the Royal Household supports the Sovereign and their family in their official, and to some extent, private life. From financial accounts to trades warrants, arrangements for ceremonial events to the management of royal residences, and from the organisation of overseas tours to the administration of the Royal Collection, all aspects of royal life 'behind the scenes' are dealt with by these records. The papers of the Private Secretary's Office are particularly noteworthy: files from the reigns of King George V and King George VI shed light on the domestic political and social changes of the first half of the twentieth century, the international situation of these decades and the upheaval and impact of the two World Wars. Official correspondence with government ministers, chiefs of the armed forces and foreign representatives, as well as files on royal visits, matters of patronage, the Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force name just a few examples.

Prior to 1901, records of the Royal Household were generally deposited in the Public Record Office, now The National Archives at Kew. The reasons for this were two-fold: firstly there was no royal repository in which to store the papers, and secondly, the three ancient appointments of the Household – the Lord Chamberlain, the Lord Steward and the Master of the Horse – were regarded as political in nature and indeed until 1924, were changed with each new government. As a result, the departmental records created by these three Great Officers of the Household before 1901 were considered public records, rather than private papers belonging to the Sovereign and were deposited in the Public Record Office accordingly.

Although most of the pre-Edwardian papers of the Lord Chamberlain and Lord Steward, which relate to 'above stairs' and 'below stairs' workers respectively, are held at Kew, the Royal Archives does hold an index, arranged by surname, of all the individuals named in these records. A significant proportion of the index has recently been digitised in a major project which encompasses virtually all records

held in the Archives relating to members of the Royal Household from 1526 to 1924, which will be discussed in more detail below.

A section of the twentieth-century records of the Lord Chamberlain, whose role as senior official of the Royal Household includes responsibility for the Household in general, as well as ceremonial duties, are not held at Windsor, but are instead deposited at the British Library. These papers relate to the Lord Chamberlain's role in the licensing of theatres and theatrical performances, for the Licensing Act of 1737 gave this official the authority to veto the performance of any play when he was of the opinion that it was not fit for public view. The British Library now holds the Lord Chamberlain's correspondence with his advisors (known as Examiners of Plays), playwrights and theatre-owners, as well as submitted scripts, which covers the early eighteenth century until 1968 when the Lord Chamberlain's powers of censorship were abolished by a new Theatres Act.

Although most of the records created before the reign of King Edward VII were deposited in the Public Record Office, there are some collections of Royal Household papers which date from the Victorian period and earlier. One of the most significant of these 'exceptions to the rule' is the Privy Purse papers of Queen Victoria (on account of the fact that the Privy Purse only became a Household department in the twentieth century, having previously been considered a private function of the Sovereign). This extensive and valuable series, which dates from 1840 until the Queen's death in 1901, comprises correspondence, invoices, receipts, accounts ledgers and journals, all of which provide details of royal expenditure. Through these documents, it is possible to research payments for work carried out for the Queen (including members of the Royal Household), pensions and allowances, charitable donations to individuals and organisations, subscriptions to royal patronages and payments for items from the most ephemeral to important works of art which still remain in the Royal Collection. Queen Victoria's Privy Purse papers also contain material relating to the royal estates of Balmoral, Osborne, purchased by the Queen between 1845 and 1862. Privy Purse papers of successive Sovereigns are also held by the Royal Archives.

The papers of the Master of the Horse, the official responsible for the Sovereign's horses, motors and travel arrangements, are the oldest Royal Household records in the Royal Archives, dating from the 1760s and the reign of George III to the mid-twentieth century. This collection provides information about individuals who worked in the Royal Mews through staff lists, account books and correspondence, while the day-to-day organisation and work of the Mews department is also evident through the papers. The records provide details of horses, as well as carriages and cars used to transport the Sovereign and their family. Procession books and correspondence about the travel arrangements for ceremonial functions and other events form a very valuable part of the papers of the Royal Mews, which is now part of the Lord Chamberlain's Office.

The Royal Archives also holds some papers of the Lord Steward, who was in charge of the Sovereign's 'below-stairs' establishment. A change in the development of this department during the reign of Queen Victoria led to these records being deposited at Windsor, rather than in the Public Record Office. Over time, the Master of the Household took over much of the day-to-day role of the Lord Steward in running the royal residences; his constant attendance on Queen Victoria meant that many of his records became absorbed into the Queen's papers. In the 1920s, the Lord Steward

became the head of the Master of the Household's department in name only, and the records of this office continue to be deposited in the Archives. This collection includes details of the staff members employed in the Lord Steward's department and correspondence relating to staff matters and functions. In addition, an extensive set of menu books reflects the culinary tastes of the Sovereign's, while mensil volumes detail the supply of food and other provisions to the royal kitchens. These volumes date back to the Regency, and the menu book for the coronation of George IV is particularly noteworthy.

Private Royal Estates

The Royal Archives holds material relating to the private royal estates of Balmoral and Sandringham, dating from the acquisition of the properties in the nineteenth century. The records include financial and legal papers, details of staff employed on the estates and material relating to the administration and management of these royal residences and estates, including such matters as farming, horticulture and game. With regards to Windsor, a few records relating to the management of Windsor Great Park are held by the Archives, however all these collections are complemented by the Privy Purse papers concerning the estates. Privy Purse records relating to Osborne on the Isle of Wight can also be found in the Archives, covering the period from the acquisition of the estate to its presentation to the nation by King Edward VII in 1902.

Conclusion

One hundred years after its establishment, the Royal Archives has become one of the great repositories of the documentary heritage of successive British sovereigns and their families, offering researchers a fascinating and unique collection of papers which covers a multitude of themes and subjects from the 1600s through to the twenty-first century. Making these papers accessible through researcher access, exhibitions and outreach resources and, increasingly, digitisation projects, has become the main priority for the archivists and this strategic shift in policy signifies an exciting challenge in a new century for the Royal Archives at Windsor.

Over de auteurs

Dr. Frank Althoff (1963). Studium der Geschichtswissenschaften und Soziologie an der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. 1994 Promotion zum Dr. phil. mit einer Arbeit zur Kategorie des Mächtigkeitsgewichts in der Außenpolitik Friedrichs des Großen nach dem Siebenjährigen Krieg. 1997-1999. Archivreferendar im Landeshauptarchiv Koblenz. Seit 2004 Referent für die Bestände des Brandenburg-Preußischen Hausarchivs im Geheimen Staatsarchiv Preussischer Kulturbesitz (GStA PK) und Referent für Erwerbungen. Bearbeiter der Politischen Correspondenz Friedrichs des Großen.

Damien Bilteryst is universitair gediplomeerd leraar in het middelbaar onderwijs en historicus.

Yvonne Bos-Rops (1951) is archivaris en historicus. Op dit moment is zij werkzaam bij het Nationaal Archief. Eerder was zij onder andere stadsarchivaris van 's-Hertogenbosch en rijksarchivaris in respectievelijk de provincies Utrecht en Noord-Brabant. In 1993 promoveerde zij in Leiden op *Graven op zoek naar geld. De inkomsten van de graven van Holland 1389-1433* (Hilversum 1993). Zij publiceerde over uiteenlopende archief gerelateerde onderwerpen, waaronder de beroepscode voor archivariissen, en over de laatmiddeleeuwse geschiedenis van het graafschap Holland.

Han van Bree (1957) is historicus en studeerde in Utrecht, Gent en Rome. Naast zijn werk als auteur van de reeks *Het aanzien van*, ontwikkelde hij zich tot specialist in de geschiedenis van het Nederlandse en het Belgische koningshuis. Daarover schreef hij diverse boeken en artikelen, zoals *Het Huis van Oranje/The Oranges* (Rijksmuseum, 2006), *Ik ben Alexander* (Schoorl, 2007), *Beatrix – koningin der Nederlanden* (Houten, 2013) en *In dit huis heerst liefde – de schijn van Hollandse huiselijkheid bij de Oranjes in de jaren vijftig* (tijdschrift Holland, 2012 nummer 3). Ook zat hij in de kernredactie van de *Winkler Prins Encyclopedie Koninklijk Huis* (Houten, 2005). Daarnaast maakte hij voor de NOS televisiedocumentaires over leden van het koninklijk huis, zoals een biografie van prins Claus (2002) en 'Juliana en Hofmans' (2004). In juni 2015 promoveerde hij aan de Universiteit van Leiden op het proefschrift *De geest van het Oude Loo – Juliana en haar vriendenkring 1947-1957*. (www.balkon-royale.nl)

Marijke Bruggeman (1949) was universitair docent nieuwe geschiedenis en archivaliek aan de Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam. Daarnaast inventariseerde ze verschillende archieven, waaronder die van de Friese stadhouders en hun echtgenotes in het Koninklijk Huisarchief (2000-2002). Ze promoveerde aan de Vrije Universiteit op *Nassau en de macht van Oranje. De strijd van de Friese Nassaus voor de erkenning van hun rechten (1702-1747)*. Ze geeft als freelancer advies aan organisaties over hun archief en inventariseert archieven. Zo inventariseerde ze bijvoorbeeld het archief van het Hofje De Zeven Keurvorsten in Amsterdam en schreef een boekje over de geschiedenis van dit hofje. Als historisch onderzoeker werkte ze mee aan de *Geschiedenis van Scheveningen*. Haar huidige onderzoek richt zich op Maria Louise van Hessen-Kassel.

Julie Crocker is Archivist (Access) at the Royal Archives, Windsor Castle. She studied at Royal Holloway, University of London (BA (Hons) Modern and Medieval History with First Class Honours in 1999; MA Women's History with Distinction in 2001) and at the University of Aberystwyth (MSc Econ Archives Administration with Merit in 2007). Since 2015 she is Archivist (Access) at the Royal Archives. Before that she was Assistant Archivist, Royal Archives (2005-2015)

and Archives Researcher, BBC Written Archives Centre (2000-2005). She was a contributor to 'Treasures from the Royal Archives' (Royal Collection Trust, 2014) and created content for 'Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee Scrapbook' available online at <http://www.queen-victorias-scrapbook.org>

Olivier Defrance is historicus. Hij studeerde aan de Université libre de Bruxelles en is de auteur van o.a. *Léopold Ier et le clan Cobourg* (2004), *De vakanties van de graven van Vlaanderen. Een bloemlezing uit de kroniek van Amerois* (2014) en *Lilian en de Koning* (2015).

Baudouin D'hoore (1976) studeerde geschiedenis aan de KU Brussel en aan de RU Gent. Zijn licentiaatsverhandeling handelde over de Brugse ambtsadelijke familie Le Bailly in de 18de eeuw. Sinds 2002 werkt hij op het Algemeen Rijksarchief waar hij zich voornamelijk toelgt op de inventarisatie van adellijke familiearchieven. Van februari 2006 tot mei 2008 was hij als archivaris onder mandaat werkzaam op het Archief van het Koninklijk Paleis waar hij zes bestanden inventariseerde. De volgende vijf jaar werkte hij terug op het Algemeen Rijksarchief aan het gigantische familiearchief de Merode Westerloo. Dit resulteerde in een lijvige analytische inventaris voor de stukken van de persoonlijke aard. Sinds december 2013 werkt hij deeltijds op het Algemeen Rijksarchief en deeltijds op het Archief van het Koninklijk Paleis.

Gita Deneckere is hoogleraar aan de Universiteit Gent (Vakgroep Geschiedenis). Haar onderzoeksterrein betreft politieke en sociale geschiedenis na 1750, meta- en publieksgeschiedenis en gendergeschiedenis. Zij is lid van de Koninklijke Vlaamse Academie van België, ondervoorzitter en lid van de Raad van Bestuur van Amsab-Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis en lid van het bestuurscomité en het wetenschappelijk comité van het BELvuemuseum. In 2011 publiceerde zij *Leopold I. De eerste koning van Europa*.

Emmanuel Gerard is gewoon hoogleraar aan de KU Leuven (Faculteit Sociale Wetenschappen), directeur van het Onderzoeksinstituut voor Arbeid en Samenleving (HIVA) en voorzitter van het KADOC (Documentatie- en Onderzoekscentrum voor Religie, Cultuur en Samenleving). In 2000 was hij één van de vier deskundigen bij de Parlementaire Onderzoekscmissie die de Belgische rol in de moord op Congolese Eerste Minister Patrice Lumumba heeft onderzocht. Zijn onderzoeksterrein betreft politieke geschiedenis van België, geschiedenis van Belgische katholieke wereld, de dekolonisatie van Belgisch-Congo, de koude oorlog en de koningskwesitie. In 2015 publiceerde hij de resultaten van een onderzoek naar de moord, in 1950, op de Belgische communistische voorman Julien Lahaut.

Ph.D. Mats Hemström is Senior Archivist at the Swedish National Archives and Keeper of the Royal Palace Archives. His doctor's thesis was on the coup d'état of 1809 in Sweden, and was published in the field of history at the Department of History at Uppsala University, 2005. Hemström started as an archivist at the Swedish National Archives in Stockholm in 2009 and has been the Keeper of the Royal Palace Archives since 2013.

Arvid Jakobsson started his work as a librarian at the Bernadotte Library in 2008. Since 2016 he is Acting Palace Librarian. Arvid Jakobsson was appointed Keeper of the Bernadotte Archive in 2014 by H. M. the King.

Gustaaf Janssens is ere-archivaris van het Koninklijk Paleis te Brussel, ere-afdelingshoofd bij het Algemeen Rijksarchief (Brussel) en emeritus hoogleraar aan de KU Leuven (Onderzoekseenheid Geschiedenis) en aan de Interuniversitaire Master na Master Archivistiek: Erfgoedbeheer en

Hedendaags Documentbeheer (VUB-KU Leuven, UGent en UAntwerpen). Zijn onderzoeksterrein betreft archiefwetenschap, monarchie en politiek in België in de negentiende en de twintigste eeuw en politieke geschiedenis van de Nederlanden ten tijde van Karel V en Filips II. Hij is lid van de Koninklijke Commissie voor Geschiedenis, van de Koninklijke Commissie voor de uitgave der Oude Wetten en Verordeningen van België, van de Raad van Adel en van het wetenschappelijk comité van het BELvuemuseum.

Thomas Just, Mag. phil., MAS. Studied history at the university of Vienna, Member of the Austrian Institute of Historical Research (IÖG). Worked as an archivist at the Vienna City Archives and the Archive of the Austrian Broadcasting Corporation (ORF). Joined the Austrian State Archives in 2001. Since 2009 Director of the department Family-, Court-, and State Archive (*Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchiv*).

Eric Ketelaar (1944) is emeritus hoogleraar Archivistiek aan de Universiteit van Amsterdam en adjunct senior research fellow aan Monash University in Melbourne. Daarvoor was hij vele jaren werkzaam binnen de Rijksarchiefdienst, onder meer als Rijksarchivaris in de provincie Groningen en als Algemeen Rijksarchivaris. Hij is jurist en rechtshistoricus. In 1978 promoveerde hij (cum laude) aan de Universiteit van Leiden op *Oude zakelijke rechten, vroeger, nu en in de toekomst*. Hij publiceerde vele artikelen en een aantal boeken, waaronder twee inleidingen over archiefonderzoek en een losbladig handboek over archiefrecht. Van 1986 tot 2012 was hij hoofdredacteur van het losbladige handboek *Archiefbeheer in de praktijk*. In 1997 werd een keuze uit zijn artikelen in het Engels, Frans en Duits gebundeld onder de titel *The Archival Image*. Zijn huidige onderzoek richt zich op de sociale en culturele context van archiefvorming en -gebruik.

Wendy Landewé-Van der Veen (1975) studeerde mediëvistiek aan de Universiteit Utrecht. Daar studeerde zij in 2000 af op het middeleeuwse kasteel als betekenisdrager. Zij was na haar afstuderen werkzaam als assistent conservator op Kasteel Amerongen en werkte een aantal jaren als directie-assistent en wetenschappelijk medewerker voor de Nederlandse Kastelenstichting. Daar was zij als coördinator onder andere betrokken bij het Nederlands Kastelenlexicon. Sinds 2008 is zij één van de twee conservatoren van Huis Doorn. Naast deze baan werkt ze aan een proefschrift over het kasteel in de creatieve cultuur van de Middeleeuwen. Sinds 2013 is zij ook bestuurslid van de Nederlandse Kastelenstichting.

Juan Jose Alonso Martín has been the director of the Royal Archives since 2008. He holds a degree in Medieval History from Complutense University (Madrid) in 1987, after which he began his doctoral thesis on urban oligarchies of Madrid in Middle Ages. He has been a member of the Corps of State Archivists since 1990. He started his career at the General Administration Archive and the National Historical Archive, and from 1991 to 1993 he was the director of the Provincial Historical Archive of Cuenca. After this, he joined the staff of the Royal Archives as senior archivist, where he has been deputy director from 2000 to 2007. Mr. Alonso Martín taught Masters of Archival Science for the National Distance Education University (UNED) between 1999 and 2010. Furthermore, he has delivered several training courses and workshops in records management. In addition, he has participated in different congresses, conferences and seminars as a result of his historical research and his professional experience. His research interests include articles related to archival holdings preserved in the Royal Archives, the protection of artistic heritage during the Spanish Civil War, the Spanish humanitarian aid in the First World War, social space in Middle Ages, and the management of cultural property and temporary exhibitions.

Dr. Sergei Vladimirovich Mironenko was van 1992 tot 2016 directeur van het Staatsarchief van de Russische Federatie. Sinds 2016 is hij daar werkzaam als hoofd onderzoek. Hij is historicus en de auteur van diverse publicaties over de geschiedenis van de 19e eeuw en over de familie Romanov.

Poul Erik Olsen (1952) MA (history), MPA, Chief Consultant and Legal Advisor to the Director of the Danish National Archives. In charge of archival legislation and general legal matters in the Danish National Archives. He has written on Danish legal and administrative history, on archival legal matters, and on the history of the Danish West Indies.

Irmgard Pangerl, Mag. Phil. Studied history at the University of Vienna. Since 1989 Archivist at the Austrian State Archives (Österreichisches Staatsarchiv) in Vienna, responsible for the fonds 'Imperial Court' and 'Habsburg family archives' at the Family-, Court-, and State Archive (*Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchiv*).

Ronald Prud'homme van Reine (1960) is historicus. In 1990 promoveerde hij aan de Universiteit van Leiden op een biografie van admiraal Jan Hendrik van Kinsbergen. Daarna schreef hij nog biografieën van de Nederlandse zeehelden Michiel de Ruyter, Cornelis en Maarten Tromp en Piet Hein. In zijn boek over de moord op Johan en Cornelis de Witt uit 2013 belichtte hij onder andere de positie van de latere stadhouder/koning Willem III.

Henny van Schie (1951) is archivaris bij het Nationaal Archief in Den Haag. Hij is werkzaam als senior medewerker/adviseur bij de afdeling Collectie en belast met het beheer van het digitaal depot en van het digitale toegangsapparaat (metadata). Hij is ook belast geweest met het verwerven en het toegankelijk maken van archieven van de rijksoverheid uit de 19e en 20e eeuw.

Frankie Schram is deeltijds universitair docent aan de Faculteit Sociale Wetenschappen van de KU Leuven (Instituut voor de Overheid), gastprofessor aan de Faculteit Rechten van de Universiteit Antwerpen en professor bestuursrecht aan de Antwerp Management School. Hij is lid en secretaris van de Commissie voor de Toegang tot en het Hergebruik van Bestuursdocumenten en lid en secretaris van de Federale Beroepscommissie voor de toegang tot milieu-informatie, beide met zetel in de Federale Overheidsdienst Binnenlandse Zaken. Zijn onderzoeksterrein betreft de privacy-problematiek en de gevolgen van de wetgeving inzake openbaarheid van bestuur met betrekking tot het gebruik van overheidsinformatie.

Esther Schreuder (1960) is kunsthistoricus. Ze werkt op dit moment aan een boek over het leven van Sideron en Cupido aan het Haagse hof. Daarnaast is zij gastcurator van een tentoonstelling met het zelfde onderwerp. Zowel het boek als de tentoonstelling zullen in 2017 gepresenteerd worden. Voor meer informatie over de publicaties en tentoonstellingen die Esther Schreuder schreef en samenstelde, zie www.estherschreuder.com

Frederik Frank Sterkenburgh (1984) studeerde militaire geschiedenis aan de Universiteit van Amsterdam en sloot deze studie in 2012 af met de scriptie *Van bufferstaat tot neutraliteit, of: de militaire carrière van prins Frederik der Nederlanden, 1813-1840*. Voor deze scriptie ontving hij in 2013 de tweejaarlijkse master-scriptieprijs van de Koninklijke Nederlandse Vereniging 'Ons Leger' en de Stichting Schouwenburg Fonds. Sinds 2013 is hij als promovendus verbonden aan het Department of German Studies van The University of Warwick, Groot-Brittannië, waar hij werkt aan het proefschrift *Monarchical rule and political culture in Imperial Germany: the reign of William I*.

Jan Velaers (1957) is gewoon hoogleraar Staatsrecht aan de Universiteit Antwerpen en Assessor in de Raad van State. Hij deed onderzoek naar verschillende vorsten, wat resulteerde in de publicaties *Leopold III. De Koning. Het land. De oorlog* (1994) en *Albert I. Koning in tijden van oorlog en crisis. 1909-1934* (2009).

Dr. Yvonne M. Ward is Honorary Research Associate at La Trobe University, Bundoora (Melbourne, Australia).

Dit jaarboek geeft inzicht in de archieven van vorstenhuizen in Europa. Van Denemarken tot Spanje, van Engeland tot onze zuiderburen. Niet alleen de huidige monarchieën komen aan bod, ook vorstenhuizen van weleer worden behandeld. De Russische tsaren, de Pruisische vorsten, de Duitse Keizer, de Habsburgers. Wat is er van hun archieven geworden en zijn zij raadpleegbaar?

Hoe zit het met de openbaarheid van de archieven? Waar ligt de scheiding tussen staat en privé? En hoe gaan de archieven om met de moderne mogelijkheden?

Naast artikelen over de collecties, organisatie en de werking van de koninklijke archiefdiensten, zijn ook verhalen van onderzoekers opgenomen die een uniek inkijkje geven in hoe vroeger en nu onderzoek gedaan wordt in de archieven van het Nederlandse en het Belgische koningshuis.