

# **The Curator's Brief Companion**

## **to Archival Sources for Tudor and Jacobean Patrons and Painters**

Understanding British Portraits, Tudor and Jacobean workshop  
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The following items have been selected to introduce some of the most common research sources for particular patrons and painters active in England, c.1500-1625. They include materials for London, but also those for provincial venues throughout the realm. Many exist as unpublished archives in local record offices. This highly selective list omits what might already be familiar: e.g. The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography; Stewart and Cutten's Dictionary of Portrait Painters in Britain; Erna Auerbach's Tudor Artists (1954); Mary Edmond's 'Limners and Picture-Makers', Walpole Soc., 1980); and contents of the Heinz, Witt & Conway Libraries.

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### **I. General Resources for using archives**

F.G. Emmison, Archives and Local History (1966, 1974).

Giles E. Dawson and Laetitia Kennedy-Skipton, Elizabethan Handwriting, 1500-1650 (1966).

Janet Foster and Julia Sheppard, eds., British Archives: a Guide to Archive Resources in the United Kingdom, (4th ed., 2002). THE standard guide to local archives and access to them.

E.L.C. Mullins, ed., Texts and Calendars: An Analytical Guide to Serial Publications (1958, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 1983).

### **II. General Sources: National Repositories:**

The National Archives ('TNA') A2A on-line catalogue: [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a).

The British Library ('BL'): printed books catalogue on-line: [www.bl.uk](http://www.bl.uk)  
: Manuscripts catalogue on-line: [www.bl.uk/catalogues/manuscripts](http://www.bl.uk/catalogues/manuscripts)

### **III. Correspondence, Diaries and Commonplace Books, mostly re: patrons:**

The National Archives, A2A for unpublished sources.

Various published Reports of the Historical Manuscripts Commission, published by name of owner of each manuscript collection since the 1880s.

Published record series of particular county historical societies.

To be found in county record offices of the county in question or, for London, in the Guildhall Library, etc. See Mullins (above) for contents for each volume and each series up to 1982.

### **IV. Household accounts, mostly re: patrons:**

TNA's A2A indexes.

County Record Office catalogues for unpublished sources.

County Record Publications for published sources (See Mullins above for contents of each)

### **V. Wills of patrons and painters**

Indexes to Prerogative Court of Canterbury ('PCC') Wills, particularly covering London and the Southeast, published in multiple volumes by the British Record Society.

TNA: For specific PCC wills: [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/wills](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/wills)  
For searching whole classes of wills: see lists for, e.g., PROB 11, but also for PROB 2, 5, 8, 16 and 35.

Wills proven in other jurisdictions/other parts of the realm, and not in TNA:

Diocesan court records for specific dioceses, indexes to many of which are published in the British Record Society's Index Library volumes.  
E.g., Commissary Court of the Diocese of London (London Met., Archives on film), etc.

Publications of county record societies, e.g., for Yorkshire and Co. Durham, the Publications of the Surtees Society, volumes 2, 38 and 112 for Durham; 4, 30, 45, 53 etc. for York.  
See Mullins (as above) for a guide to the contents of these.

### **VI. Inventories Post-Mortem, re: patrons and painters:**

TNA, for PCC jurisdictions, the same document classes apply as for wills plus C.131 and C.239.

Non-PCC inventories: see publications of county record societies as above.

## **VII. Apprenticeship records, freemans' admissions, etc., mostly for painters**

Minute books of particular guilds: e.g:

- The Painter-Stainers' Company of London, Court Book, 1623ff: Guildhall Lib'y 5667/1.
- The Goldsmiths, Glasiers, Plumbers, Pewterers and Painters of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, (Tyne & Wear Archive Servives, Newcastle, MS. GP2/1 from 1598).
- The Painters, Glasiers, Embroiderers and Stationers of Chester, from 1624, (Chester Record Office, MS. ZG 17/1 and /2)

Compilations of, e.g., freeman's admissions, apprenticeship records, etc., a few of which have been published county record society publications; available in county record offices.

Borough chamberlains' accounts (often recording fees for admission and payments for work) and borough minute books , which often record apprenticeships. (Local record offices).

## **VIII. Identifying English Patrons, Sitters, and Painters:**

Harleian Visitations series for genealogical records of families in specific counties.

International Genealogical Index. (On fiche in most county record offices, the Guildhall Library, or from the Church of the Latter Day Saints (Mormons)).

A2A catalogues, as above.

[Tittler, 'Painters Working in England, c. 1500-1640', an as yet unpublished, in-progress, checklist available upon enquiry from Robert Tittler at e-mail address given above]

## **IX. Sources for Alien Painters:**

R.E.G. Kirk and E.F. Kirk, eds., Returns of Aliens Dwelling in the City and Suburbs of London, c.1540-1603, (Publications of the Huguenot Society of London, 3 volumes, 1900-1907).

William A. Shaw, ed., Letters of Denization and Acts of Naturalization for Aliens in England and Ireland, 1603-1700, (Publications of the Huguenot Society of London, 1911).