

THE

NATIONAL

ARCHIVES

**N**ottingham

# Archives Live: Tudors - Student resource pack

What can five original documents  
reveal about the Tudor period?

**S**er et Annuales Valores om  
et singulorum domoz Manerizorum terrarum et tene  
mancuz spualium n econ  
num ac aliozum proficuo  
lne qz seperalibz com sub  
rioratibz et domibz religio  
elne collegiat Rectoris h  
ibz quibz tunc spualium  
acum deducton et Allocac  
Fegi nunc henrico Octauo et Su  
ontribuntur  
videlicet

**D**ecanatus Nottingham

Key Stage 5 | Early modern 1485-1750

Live broadcast resource pack

16  
Decanatus sub scripto viz Decanatus Curialium de Nottingham Decanatus Curialium de  
Byngghin Decanatus Curialium de Kifford Decanatus Curialium de Newark  
Smedalibus receptis de Smedis post festum pasche et sancti Michaelis de dicto  
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# Introduction

The beginning of this pack contains some pre-reading for you to have a look at before the event. You should use this information as well as your prior knowledge to think of some questions to ask Dr Tracy Borman. This should take you approximately 15 minutes.

The middle of the pack contains everything you will need during the event – please do not look at this section before the event begins so as not to give anything away!

The end section of the pack contains resources and questions for you to complete after the event.

We hope you enjoy your experience with Dr Tracy Borman and Jenny Draper – the documents you will see from The National Archives will contribute directly to your A Level History understanding.

## Suitable for:

KS 5

## Time period:

Early modern 1485-1750

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## Before the event

### Tasks:

1. Read the information below about Dr Tracy Borman and The National Archives, then consider the following questions:

- How do you think Tracy goes about writing a new book?
- What challenges do you think Tudor historians face?
- Why would you find Victorian handwriting in the Tudor documents?
- Why do you think it's important to look at original documents?

2. Think of some of your own questions to submit to Dr Tracy Borman.

### Dr Tracy Borman



Dr Tracy Borman is a Tudor historian, author, broadcaster and joint Chief Curator at Historic Royal Palaces. Tracy has written extensively about the Tudor period, including books on Thomas Cromwell and the private lives of the Tudors. She is also a regular broadcaster, presenting television programmes like 'The Fall of Anne Boleyn.' She even used to work as a document specialist at The National Archives.

Tracy has chosen five Tudor documents, including her favourite historic record and ones that illuminate key aspects of the period. You will get the opportunity to take part in a live Q&A with Tracy and see her unboxing original documents. You will also learn more about the extraordinary collection of Tudor documents at The National Archives, housed in the State Papers. Throughout the event there will also be group discussions and palaeography challenges!

## Before the event

### The National Archives



The National Archives is the official archive for the UK Government, and for England and Wales. The Archives is the guardian of over 1,000 years of iconic national documents.

### The story of the rat

In the 1830's, a man named Sir Henry Cole worked as a civil servant. As part of his duties, he transcribed and took care of records, but was shocked at the poor condition that the country's most important documents were kept in. Henry found a dead rat with a stomach full of chewed documents and used this rat as evidence for the poor condition of records. He brandished the rat in Parliament to make the case for better record keeping and as a result, the Public Record Office Act 1838 was established. The very same rat can be viewed in the collection of The National Archives today – it is kept as a reminder of the historical value of the records and that they must be carefully preserved.

The Archives holds millions of boxes of historical documents, with each document having a unique reference code. The Victorians played a big part in





## Before the event

collating the public records – for example, they bound together documents relating to each king and queen after 1509 to form their own collection of State Papers.

### State Papers

The material in the State Papers cover Henry VIII's reign in 1509 right up until 1782, so the Tudor State Papers are the very earliest collection. The Papers are bound in large books and deal with a huge range of information that was coming in and out of the centre of London and Westminster. The State Papers contain letters, correspondence, information, news, gossip, drafts and copies of things – it's a record of the information flow in and out of the monarch's office.

The main series of state papers for the Tudor period (by reign) are:

Henry VIII (1509-1547): SP 1, SP 2

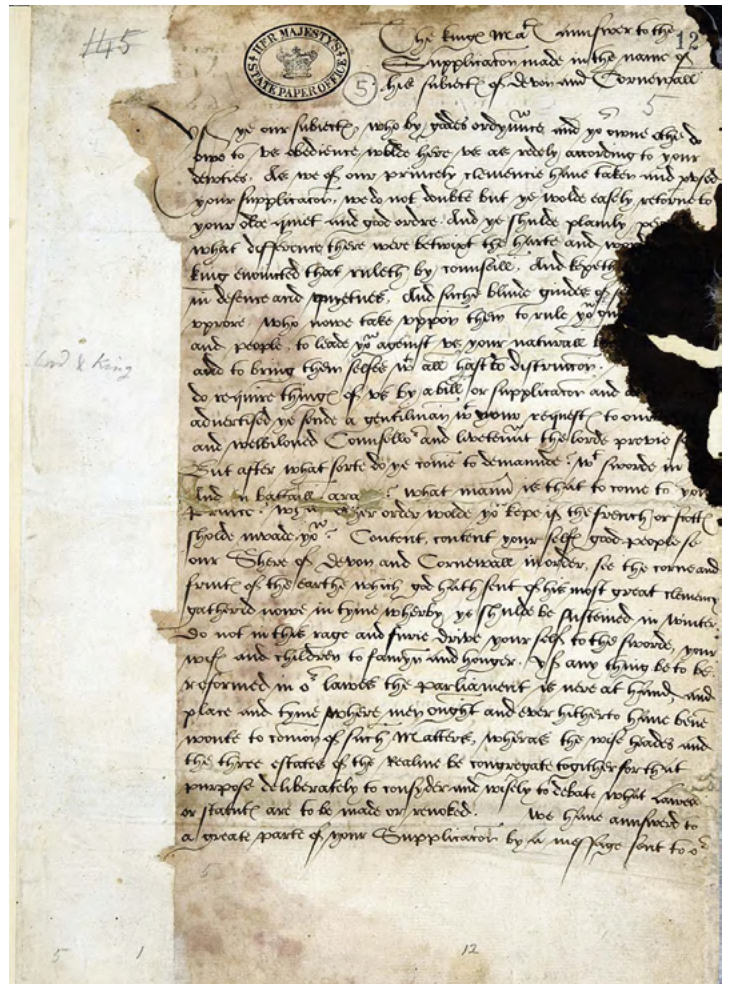
Edward VI (1547-1553): SP 10, SP 15

Mary I (1553-1558): SP 11, SP 15

Elizabeth I (1558-1603): SP 12, SP 13, SP 15

You may spot some of these document codes during the broadcast.

Many of these documents are written in English, although some are in Latin or other European languages. They are written in secretary and italic hands which may be difficult to read and dating them can sometimes be challenging.



Page from a State Paper book dated from Edward VI's reign that shows Victorian annotations. SP 10/8

# Tudor Timeline

**Henry VIII (r. 1509-1547)**

**1534** - Henry VIII appointed himself Supreme Head of the Church of England

**DOCUMENT 1:** 1536-39 - Henry VIII dissolved convents and monasteries

**Edward VI (r. 1547-1553)**

**1547** - Edward VI succeeded his father Henry at only nine years old

**DOCUMENT 2:** December 25th 1549 - Edward VI's signature following the Prayer Book rebellion

**June 1549** - Prayer Book rebellion began. This was a demonstration in Devon and Cornwall against the religious policies of Edward VI, which sought to remove all vestiges of the traditional Catholic faith.

**Mary I (r. 1553-1558)**

**January 1554** - Wyatt's rebellion broke out and was quickly suppressed. This uprising was motivated largely by anti-Spanish feeling.

**October 1553** - Mary I's First Act of Repeal reversed all the religious-aimed legislation of Edward VI

**DOCUMENT 3:** 1558 - Mary I's marriage to Philip of Spain remained unpopular throughout her reign

**Elizabeth I (r. 1558-1603)**

**1562** - Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, joined Elizabeth's Privy Council. He is often described as Elizabeth's favourite and was considered a potential suitor in the early years of her reign. William Cecil, Elizabeth's chief advisor, strongly opposed this match.

**DOCUMENT 4:** 1578-82 - Marriage negotiations began with the Duke of Anjou, brother of King Henry III of France. Her council, however, was deeply divided about the proposed Anglo-French alliance, not to mention a marriage to a Catholic. There were many political advantages to be gained from this alliance, for example, influence over French policy in the Netherlands.

**1566** - Parliament pressed Elizabeth to marry. A few years earlier she had been stricken by smallpox, prompting a crisis around succession.

**DOCUMENT 5:** 1588 - Robert Dudley letter

## During the event

Tracy's five chosen documents illuminate key aspects of the Tudor period. As well as sharing her expertise on these special documents during the broadcast, she has also written comments about each document.

### Document 1:

Valor Ecclesiasticus, 1535. (Catalogue ref: E 344/22 f21)

### Document 2:

Edward VI's letter to the Bishops, 1549. (Catalogue ref: SP 10/9/57, f.113r-114r)

### Document 3:

Image of Mary I and Philip, 1558. (Catalogue ref: KB 27/1185)

### Document 4:

Letter from Francis Walsingham to William Cecil, 1578. (Catalogue ref: SP 83/8, f.55)

### Palaeography challenge

Palaeography is the study of old handwriting. This activity will challenge you to read the handwriting found in documents written in English in the Tudor period.

At first glance, many documents written at this time look illegible to the modern reader. By using the help box and by working through each challenge, you will find that it becomes much easier to read old handwriting.

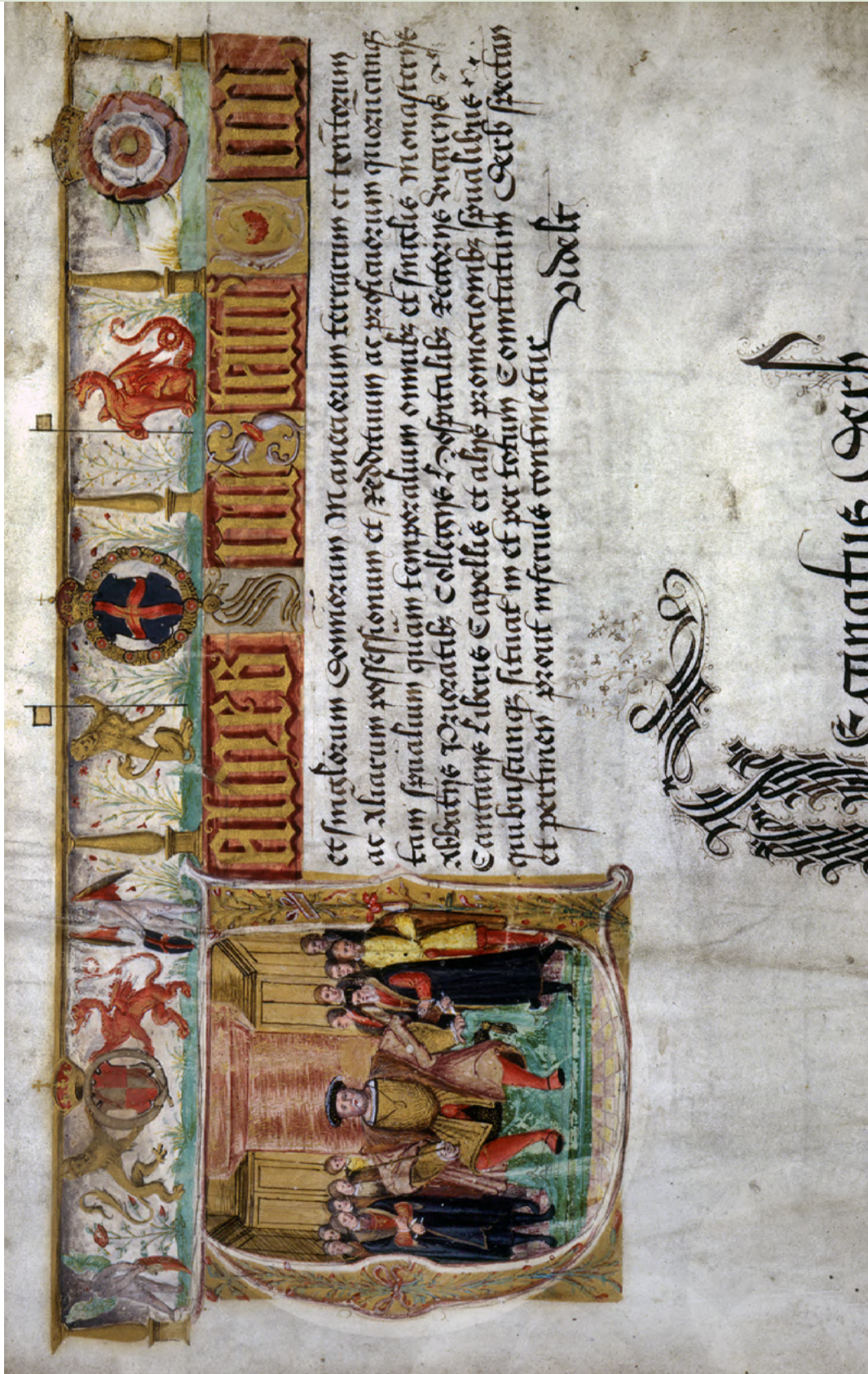
### Document 5:

Robert Dudley letter to Elizabeth I, 1588. (Catalogue ref: SP 12/215 f.114)



# Document 1: Valor Ecclesiasticus, 1535.

Catalogue Ref: E 344/22 f21



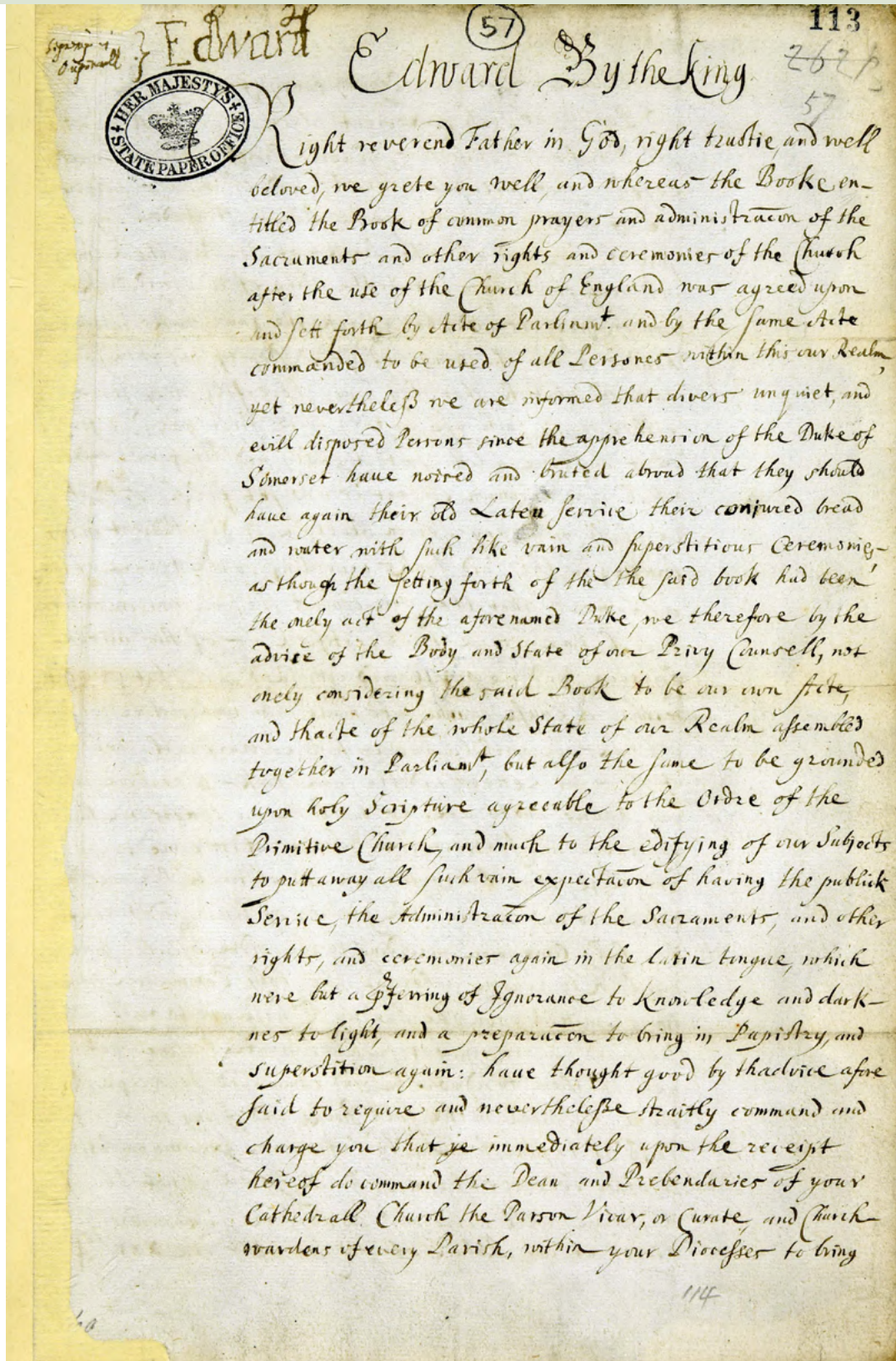
"This visually striking document represents a pivotal turning point in English history. For the first time, the monarch knew exactly how much wealth the church had, making this a crucial tool in the English Reformation."

- Tracy



## Document 2: Edward VI's letter to the Bishops, 1549.

Catalogue Ref: SP 10/9/57, f.113r-114r



"The boyish signature at the top of this document incapsulates something about the personality of the young King. Far from being the sickly child that history has often portrayed him as, he had strong opinions and put his stamp on some of the most significant religious reforms that England has ever seen."

- Tracy

## Document 2

### Transcript

Right reverend Father in God, right trusty and well beloved, we greet you well, and whereas the book entitled the book of common prayers and administration of the sacraments and other rights and ceremonies of the Church after the use of the Church in England was agreed upon and set forth by Act of Parliament and by the same Act commanded to be used of all Persons within this our Realm, yet nevertheless we are informed that divers unquiet and evil disposed persons since the apprehension of the Duke of Somerset have noised and bruted [bruted: spread a rumour] abroad that they should have again their old Latin service their conjured bread and water with such like vain and superstitious ceremony as though the setting forth of the said book has been the only act of the afore named Duke. We therefore by the advice of the body and state of our Privy Council, not only considering the said book to be our own Act, and that of the whole state of our realm assembled together in Parliament, but also the same to be grounded upon holy scripture agreeable to the order of the primitive Church, and much to the edifying of our Subjects to put away all such vain expectation of having the public service the administration of the sacraments, and other rights, and ceremonies again in the Latin tongue, which were but a preferring of Ignorance to Knowledge and darkness to light, and a preparation to bring in Papistry [the Roman Catholic Church] and superstition again: have thought good by the advice afore said to require and nevertheless straightly [directly] command and charge you that ye immediately upon the receipt here of do command the Dean and prebendaries [clergyman supported by the revenues from an estate or parish] of your cathedral church the parson, vicar or Curate and Church wardens of every Parish, within your Diocese to bring and deliver to your or your Deputy every of them for their Church and Parish at such convenient place, as ye shall appoint, all antiphones [a verse or song to be chanted or sung in response] missalles [books containing all instructions and texts necessary for the celebration of Mass], grayles bressionalls [breviaries: books that contained daily psalms, prayers, hymns necessary for reciting the office] manuals, Legends, pies, portasses, journals, and ordinalles [These are all different sorts of texts and books used for divine service in the pre-Reformation period] after the use of Sarum, Lincoln, York Bangor, Herford, or any other private use and all other books of service, the keeping whereof should be a let to the using of the said Book of Common prayers, and that yet take the same books into your hands or into the hands of your deputy and then so deface and abolish that they never hereafter may serve either to any such use as they were first provided for, or be at any time & let to that godly and uniform order which by a common consent is now set forth. And if ye shall find any person stubborn or disobedient in not bringing in the said books according to the tenor of these our letters that then you commit the same person toward to such time as ye have certified us of his misbehaviour, and we will and command ye that ye also search or cause search to be made from time to time whether any book be withdrawn or hid contrary to the tenure of these our letters, and the same books to receive into your hands and to use as in these our letters we have appointed, and furthermore whereas it is come to our knowledge, that divers forward and obstinate persons do refuse to pay towards the finding of bread and wine for the holy communion according to the order prescribed in the said book by reason whereof the holy Communion is many times omitted upon the Sunday, These are to will, and command you to convey such obstinate persons before you and them to admonish and command to keep order prescribed in the said Book, and if any shall refuse so to do to punish them by suspension excommunication or other censures of the Church, fail ye not thus to do, as ye will



## Document 2

avoid our displeasure given under our signet [one of the royal seals] at our Palace of Westminster the 25th of December the third year of our Reign.

## Document 3: Image of Mary I and Philip, 1558.

Catalogue Ref: KB 27/1185



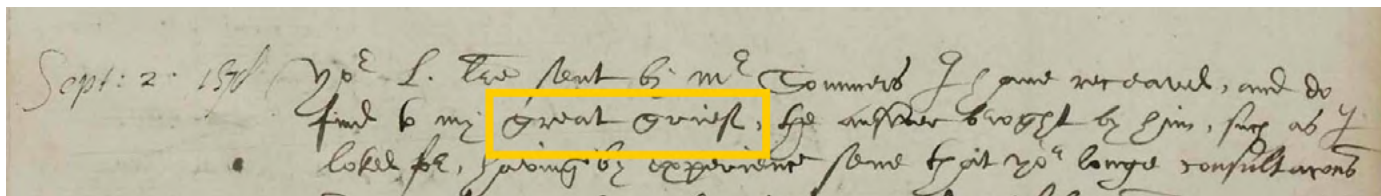
"An extraordinary example of Tudor propaganda, this image reveals how Mary I attempted to control the narrative about her unpopular marriage to Philip of Spain and her intention to rule alongside him. "

- Tracy



## Document 4: Paleography challenge

### Challenge One

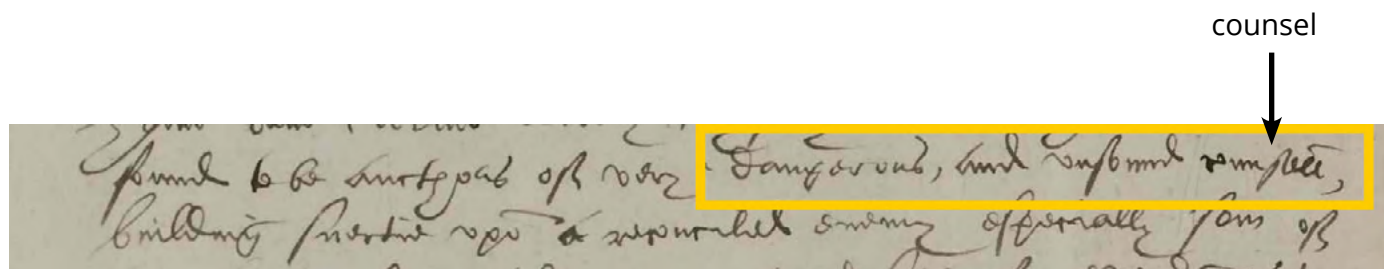
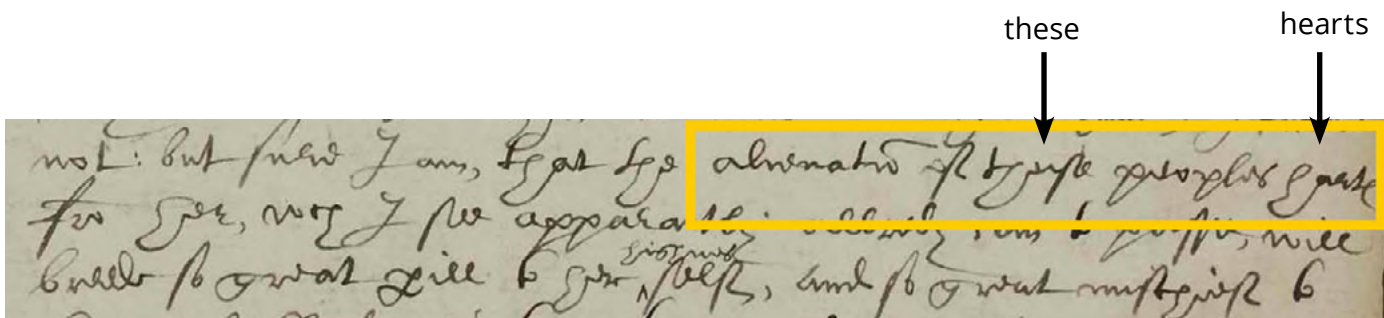


What does this phrase say?

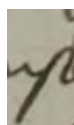
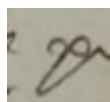
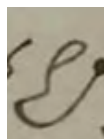
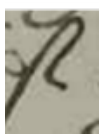
- a) Gift giving
- b) Great grip
- c) Great grief
- d) Giant grouse

### Challenge Two

Try reading the circled sentences and write down your guess. We've provided some words to help



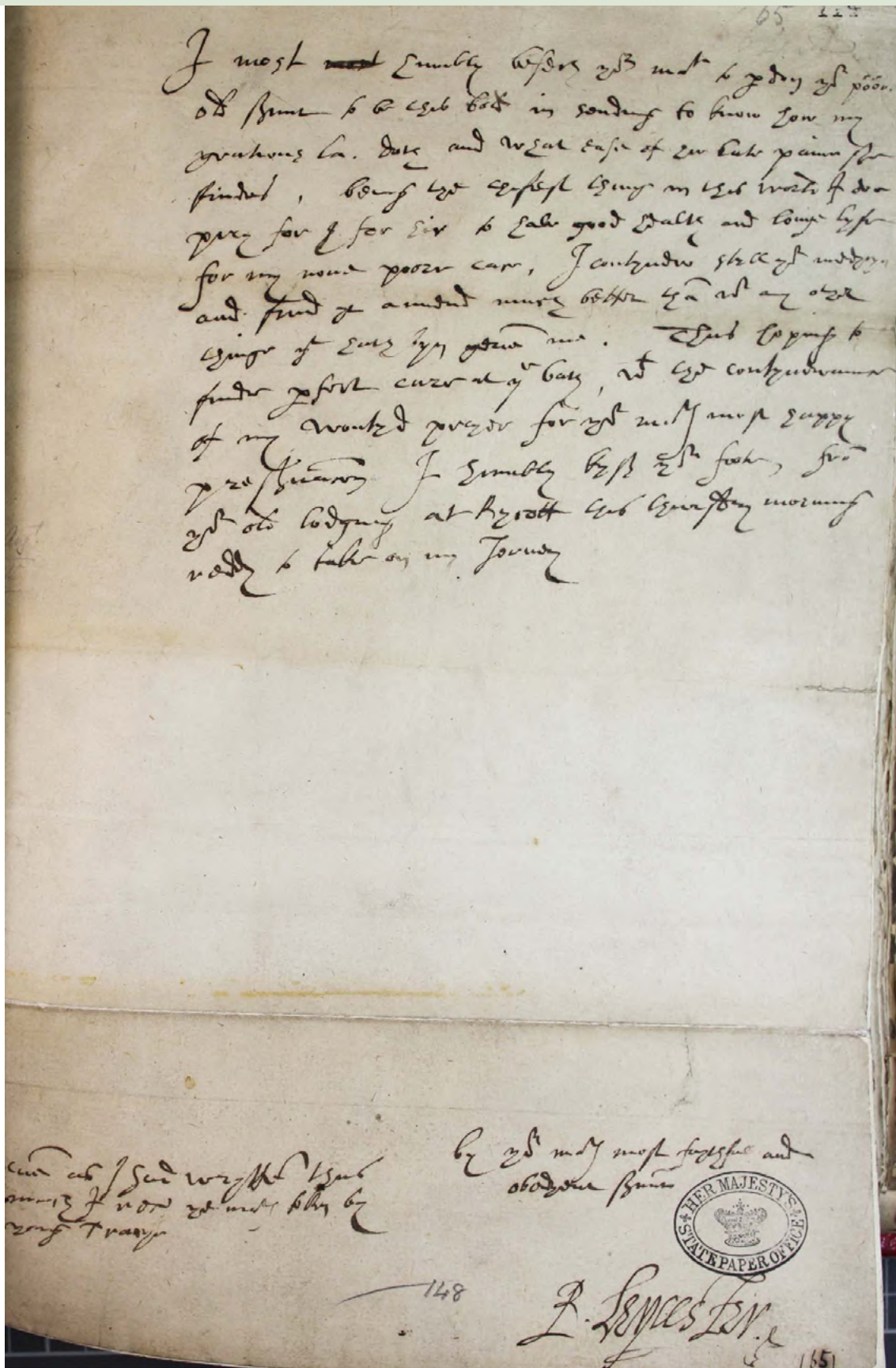
### Help box



f	h	p	s
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# Document 5: Robert Dudley letter to Elizabeth I, 1588.

Catalogue Ref: SP 12/215 f.114



“Elizabeth kept this letter in a locked casket next to her bed for the rest of her life - I think that tells us a great deal. This is my favourite document at The National Archives.”

- Tracy



## Document 5

### Transcript

'I most humbly besech your majeste to pardon your poore old servant to be this bold in sending to know how my gracious lady doth and what ease of her late paine she findes, being the chefest thinge in the world I doe prey for & for hir to have good health and longe lyfe/ for my none poore case, I contyndue still your meddycyn [medicine] and finde yt amended much better than with any other thinge that hath byn given me. Thus hoping to finde perfect cure at the bath, with the contynduance of my wontyd preyer for your majesty's most happy preservacion. I humbly kyss your foote. From your old lodging at Rycott this Thursday morning reddy to take on my Journey.

by your most faythful and obedyent servant. R Leycester.

[postscript] Even as I had wrytten thus much I receyved your majesty's token by young Tracye.

# After the event

## Discussion questions

### Document 1:

- Why was Valor created? What was the information used for?
- Why do you think the King's book version of Valor is so visual?
- If you want to learn more about dissolution of the monasteries explore this resource: [Discover the Dissolution](https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/discover-the-dissolution/)<sup>1</sup>.

### Document 2:

- What is the tone of the document?
- What language is Edward VI using to describe Catholic practices?
- What does this reveal about his government's approach to religion?

### Document 3:

- What do you notice about what they are each holding? What do you think they might symbolise?
- Why have Mary and Philip been presented in this way?

### Document 4:

Now look at the full document on the following pages.

- What is the tone of this document?
- What is Walsingham most concerned about?
- What does this document reveal about the dynamics in Elizabeth's privy council?

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/discover-the-dissolution/>



# Document 4: Letter from Francis Walsingham to William Cecil, 1578.

Page 1/2. Catalogue Ref: SP 83/8, f.55

Sept: 2. 1578  
 Your L. This letter by me Commd J. G. sent me word, and do  
 find to my great grief, he suffereth by you, first as I  
 like for, saying by experience some of our long consultations  
 do us be possibly and not by most resolution. But we hope  
 advise you more is directed to doals so goodly. Not to be of  
 this nature depending as they do on just hope for a future  
 your favor in your extremities most likely upon a little business  
 may do more good by a million at another time. I knowe  
 not, but such I am, that the abridgement of by just resolution  
 for you, not I see apparently already run to pass, will  
 be the so great will to you, <sup>in your</sup> self, and so great must be  
 the noble service in time to you, as he will receive from that  
 which is the best of the world, upon the Ball of your hand  
 and more regard to you than the profit for that other of

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 reception it would be possible for that you are now of your  
 government. You to your satisfaction, as in some respect of duty  
 and bound: for you that looketh substantially into your main  
 state, regarding as well to your as abroad shall see by  
 the resolution resolution of danger and a strange occasion  
 as it is likely to be to blame the blunders of your main  
 course of government. And first to let me know abroad it is  
 not apparent for Spain & France (who are your  
 most neighbor) have affected towards you, and of long  
 to trust your main work for main surely by agreeing a  
 reconciliation between your England and Spain, as I knowe for  
 some time received away not sure whether they will be  
 found to be the best of our danger, and resolved to  
 building further you a reasonable enemy especially for of  
 your being so much away not to be of necessity as they  
 feared not to be drawn aside in the next degree. The  
 point and state of your now all together at your main  
 direction, among your other abandoned in your misapprehension  
 cannot but not draw your favor good will & affection, and  
 of assured friends & words most dangerous enemies, and  
 therefore I will take you me for after to have no  
 further assurance of the I do think you. And as for the  
 R. of Navarre & R. of Scotland they are to be borne by  
 the refusal of the of the lower center next to your  
 who for is your main. Some D. Stafford date of your  
 report the repairs into the state submit being your main  
 taking that sense that the day A. Propose will appear



“These negotiations provide a compelling insight into one of the most fascinating issues Elizabeth faced as a female monarch – the issue of marriage and the divisions this caused amongst her closest advisors.”  
 - Tracy



# Document 4: Letter from Francis Walsingham to William Cecil, 1578.

Page 2/2. Catalogue Ref: SP 83/8, f.55

by the same letters but for this time. To your last Scotland  
 was is the extreme case to see if myself and malice as is  
 known, and should argue us, I see if you the matter may  
 be resolved up for atime) disposed to take under conside-  
 re the safety and not to depend upon the hope of joint  
 do make little account of them, I am not disposed to see least  
 Ambassadors not so well satisfied, as I perceive by a letter  
 received for Ambassador of the West, who for the same  
 cause doth greatly lament it, and to George up the mischief  
 in full measure I have D. Gallanors ministers will  
 be returned not so well satisfaction. nor for the discontent at  
 home, if you maye would take into it, and see the mischief  
 that reigneth generally in all parts, to get men make outwardly a  
 fair show, it would then appear but for that the appearance

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of the dangerous alteration is at hand: now I do the rather fear  
 for that you will not be rest of your mind I will not say you  
 have sufficiently brought this matter under some more fully  
 substantially debated in your mind in the beginning, as in the  
 conference, and you was present at the debate of the matter. And  
 to purpose things you will not take effect, it is an argument  
 that the mischief, likely to hurt or hurt the realm, is fatal  
 cannot be avoided. The only remedy left at this time is  
 procure your consultation will take no place. According to  
 I advise I have set downe such reasons as moved us to advise  
 or at least not to mislike of the nature of the former  
 proceedings in the warre betwixt you and the States.  
 If it would please your Ma<sup>ty</sup> to give order for redempcion,  
 your displeasure should be avoided, and your ministers sure  
 not more troubled & contented. But I knowe by this  
 mislike conceits by practice of some to do not rest the  
 best affected forward me, we wish I had received very good  
 measure since my departure. I am assured by my  
 wife to tell you I my comfort I am to be your competitor  
 the sent unto you, not amonge other benefits I have received  
 at your hand, I do not esteem the best. And so desiring  
 you I to accept in good part by your faithful loving, I  
 must humbly take my leave.

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## Document 4

### Transcript

Your Lordship's letter sent by Mr Sommers I have received, and do find to my great grief the answer, brought by him, such as I looked for, having by experience seen that your long consultations do most commonly end with the worst resolutions. By whose advice her Majesty is directed to deal so hardly with those of this country, depending as they do chiefly upon her favour in their (extreme?) necessity, when a little treasure may do more good than millions at another time, I know not; but sure I am that the alienation of these people's hearts from her, which I see apparently already come to pass, will breed so great peril to herself and so great mistrust to the whole realm in time to come, that she will curse them that were authors of the advice when she shall perceive that they had more regard to some private profit (for that either by

corruption it comes to pass or that they are weary of her government), than to her safety, as in duty they are bound. For he that looks substantially into her majesty's present state, weighing as well things at home as abroad, shall see by this decision so dangerous a storm drawing on as is likely utterly to blemish the blessedness of her majesty's former course of government. And first to look into things abroad it is over apparent how Spain and France (who are her nearest neighbours) are affected towards her, and if any think they may work her majesty's safety by procuring a reconciliation between her highness and them, as I know some have been carried away with such conceits they will be found to be authors of very dangerous and unsound counsel building safety upon a reconciled enemy especially some of them being so carried away with desire of revenge as they spared not their own blood in the nearest degree. The prince and states here who were altogether at her majesty's devotion seeing themselves abandoned in their (mission?) cannot but withdraw their (former?) goodwill and affection and of assured friends grow most dangerous enemies, and therefore I will take upon me hereafter to give no further assurance of the Prince's friendship. And as for the King of Navarre and Prince of Conde they are to learn by the usage of those of the low country what they have to look for as her Majesty (---?) How Duke Casimir does greatly repent his repair into these countries seeing her majesty taking that course that she does I suppose will appear

## Document 4

by his own letters unto her highness. To conclude Scotland which is the postern gate to seeing the mischief and malice as is borne and tended against us I see (though the matter may be patched up for a time) disposed to take another course for their safety and not to depend upon those whom they think do make little attempt of them having dismissed their last ambassador with so evil satisfaction as I perceive by a letter received from Alexander H they were, who for the common cause does greatly lament it and to heap up the mischief in full measure I fear the Duke of Alencon's ministers will be returned with nill satisfaction. Now for the discontent at home if her majesty would truly look into it and see the misliking that reigns generally in all states though men make outwardly a fair show it would then appear unto her that the approach

of some dangerous alteration is at hand: which I do rather fear see that your lordship with the rest of her majesty's council with whom her highness has conferred touching these country cases have most faithfully and substantially delivered your minds in that business, as Mr Sommers inform me, who was present at the debate of the matter, and therefore seeing good counsel cannot take effect it is an argument that ministers likely to light on the realm is fatal and cannot be avoided. The only remedy left unto us is prayer. When consultation will take no place According to your Lordship's advice I have set down the reasons as moved us to allow Or at least not to mislike of the number of the French Forces agreed on in the account between them and the states. Yes it would please her majesty to hear before the condemning Her displeasure would be avoided and her ministers serve With more courage and contentment. But I know these Mislikes grow by practice of some to do not just the Best affected toward me whereof I have received very hard Measure since my repair hither. I am (--) by my Wife to (--) your lordship my humble thanks for your (competable) (The) sent to her, which among other benefits I (h--- ---) At your lordship's hand, I do not (---) the least. And so (---) Your lordship to accept in good (part) (this --- ---) I Most humbly take my leave.



## Further information and resources

Enjoyed the broadcast? Here's where you can find more educational resources from TNA:

- [Spotlight On: State Papers](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Chronicles of the Dissolution](#)<sup>2</sup>
- [Discover the Dissolution](#)<sup>3</sup>
- [English Reformation c1527-1590](#)<sup>4</sup>
- [Elizabeth I's monarchy](#)<sup>5</sup>
- [Palaeography](#)<sup>6</sup>

Let us know about your experience on X here:

@UKNatArchives

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/discover-the-dissolution/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/chronicles-dissolution/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/discover-the-dissolution/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/the-english-reformation-c1527-1590/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/elizabeth-monarchy/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/palaeography/>



## Why do our hyperlinks come with footnotes?

Our resources are designed to be printed and used in classrooms, which means hyperlinks aren't always accessible digitally. We include the full link at the bottom of the page so that you can type in the address without distracting from the main text of the lesson materials.

## Did you know?

The National Archives Education Service also offers free workshops onsite in Kew and online in your classroom.

Our [Onsite Workshops](#) are available for free here at The National Archives and allow students to experience genuine original documents reflecting over 1000 years of history. From Elizabeth I's signature to the telegrams of the sinking Titanic, students love the wow-factor of being able to see real history on the desk in front of them.

Our [Online Workshops](#) allow our Education Officers to teach through your projector, leading discussions and guiding students through activities based around original documents. All you need is a computer with a projector, webcam and microphone. We'll arrange a test call before your session to check the tech is working.

---

## Find out more:

[🌐 nationalarchives.gov.uk/education](https://nationalarchives.gov.uk/education)

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