

BRITISH RECORDS RELATING TO AMERICA IN MICROFORM  
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BRITISH PAMPHLETS RELATING TO  
THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
1764-1783

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## INTRODUCTION

This microfilm publication includes a copy of every available British and Irish pamphlet relating to the American Revolution that was printed in Great Britain between January 1st 1764 and December 31st 1783. The importance of these pamphlets has been long appreciated and the richness of their contents suspected but heretofore they have not all been readily accessible and some have been virtually unknown. A few of these tracts have been reprinted in England in whole or in part; those that were also printed in America appear in the Early American Imprints series. This edition brings them together for the first time; there are 1161 in all.

The working definition of a pamphlet is adapted from the Oxford English Dictionary. It is a treatise usually occupying fewer sheets than a book but composed, and printed, as a separate work and generally issued unbound with or without paper covers; in particular it is a treatise on a subject of current interest, whether personal, social, political, ecclesiastical or controversial, on which the writer desires to appeal to the public. Most items in the microfilm conform to this definition, but the scope of this publication has been widened in two respects in the interests of comprehensiveness and usefulness to readers. Insofar as possible, broadsides have been included in that they conform to the content definition; similarly a number of full-length books have also been included because they would have been read as part of the pamphlet literature. Among the pamphlets whose publication was stimulated by that question of intensely controversial concern, the American Revolution, can be found examples of a multitude of interests: imperial organization, grand strategy, civil and political liberty, morality, ecclesiastical organization, economics, diplomacy and personal reputation. Almost all the tracts reproduced in this series were published for general sale, but a few privately printed pieces are included because they were distributed informally.

## PRINCIPLES OF SELECTION

The pamphlets included in this series are selected from those listed in Thomas R. Adams, The American Controversy: A Bibliographical Study of the British Pamphlets about the American Disputes, 1764-1783. All pamphlets, broadsides and controversial books that are relevant to the various aspects of the American Revolution, whether devoted in their entirety to the subject or simply containing a paragraph or more, or frequent scattered references, appear on the microfilm. The editors have sought to be comprehensive, and where the content of a particular tract lies on the borderline of relevance, that tract has been included. Also included are two publications that lie outside the chronological limits of The American Controversy (one from 1763 and another from 1784) in order to complete a series of tracts on a common theme. In addition to British and Irish pamphlets, those American and European pamphlets that were reprinted in Britain between 1764 and 1783 fall within the scope of this microfilm compilation, as do British parliamentary speeches that were published for outside readers and public reports and papers (though not government documents such as royal proclamations and parliamentary bills and acts).

Among the tracts listed in The American Controversy that have been omitted from the microfilm are those relating to trade, the domestic affairs of a particular colony and those concerned exclusively with the West Indies. Pamphlets concerning Quebec, however, are included as the debate over its administration and government impinged on the pre-war disputes between Britain and the American colonies. All periodical literature has been excluded and so have those pamphlets provoked by the Palliser-Keppel affair which was, at best, peripheral to the American Revolution.

A small number of pamphlets have been omitted because no copy could be located, or none was available or suitable for filming. Any pamphlet that becomes available later will be published in due course in a supplementary microfilm.

#### EDITORIAL METHOD

In general only one edition of each pamphlet has been filmed. Normally the first edition has been selected, though a later edition has been chosen if it contains additional editorial material or if the first edition could not for any reason, be filmed. Similarly, where a tract was initially published in America or on the continent, the first British edition has usually been filmed. Although every effort has been made to locate and photograph pamphlets that are bibliographically complete this has unfortunately proved impossible where all identified copies of a particular pamphlet have had their preliminary and advertising pages removed during binding; however, in these cases very little if any, editorial material has been lost.

The pamphlets have been filmed in the same sequence as listed in The American Controversy: that is, chronologically by year of publication, and alphabetically within each year by author, title in the case of anonymous tracts, and originating institution in the case of public documents. American library usage is followed; thus, peers are listed by title rather than family name, but bishops are listed by name rather than by their see. Where the only edition filmed is a second or subsequent edition, it is included within the year of first publication. Where more than one edition has been filmed, each edition is included in its particular year of publication. Pamphlets initially published in America or in Europe are listed by the date of their first British printing, even if the copy filmed is an overseas edition first printed in an earlier year. Titles first printed before 1764 are located in the year of first publication during the period covered by this edition.

Each pamphlet is preceded, in the microfilm, by a target card which contains brief details of title, authorship and publication. It also includes the serial numbers in both the microfilm and The American Controversy and the location of the copy filmed (see the list of locations for the standard symbols used). The target cards themselves are available in hard copy and are designed in a format suitable for inclusion in library card-catalogues. Users of the microfilm/target cards should refer to The American Controversy for full publication and bibliographical information.

There are four indexes to the material on microfilm:

1. An index of pamphlet numbers on each reel of microfilm.
2. A short-title index in chronological sequence (listing pamphlets by year and alphabetically within each year).
3. A short-title index in alphabetical order (by author, originating institution or, in the case of anonymous tracts, title).
4. A comparative numerical index of reference numbers in Adams The American Controversy and pamphlet numbers on the microfilm.

#### PROVENANCE

The titles filmed have been drawn from libraries in Great Britain, The United States and Canada. Although a few major research libraries in these countries hold large numbers of pamphlets, none possesses more than forty to sixty-five per cent of the total listed in The American Controversy. Many of the American libraries' holdings are based on collections assembled on their behalf by the nineteenth-century Vermont bookseller, Henry Stevens, who spent many years in London. Over the years, these libraries have continued to pursue an active buying policy to supplement their collections. A large proportion of the Bodleian Library's pamphlets, including the Patriot(ic) tracts, originally formed part of the Loyalist Jonathan Boucher's collection, while the British Library's copies came from several sources, among which was the library assembled by King George III. Many pamphlets were donated to the British Library by Thomas Hollis who, as one of the colonists' doughtiest champions in England, considered it as his contribution to the preservation and advancement of liberty to arrange for the reprinting and distribution of pamphlets originally published in America.

For the most part copies were filmed at The British Library, London, the John Carter Brown Library, Providence, R.I., The Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., and the Bodleian Library, Oxford. Other libraries that provided several copies - and, in some instances, considerable numbers - were The Henry E. Huntington Library, Yale University Library, The Newberry Library, The Lilly Library, University of Indiana, Boston Public Library, Harvard University Library, The William L. Clements Library, University of Michigan, The New York Public Library, The Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, The Library Company of Philadelphia and the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, London.

Single copies were filmed in Britain at Aberdeen University Library, Berkshire County Library, Derbyshire County Library, Essex County Library, Liverpool City Library, Norwich Public Library and the Nottingham Free Public Library; in the United States at the American Antiquarian Society, Brown University Library, Columbia University Library, the Garrett Theological Seminary, Texas University, Austin and Tulane University; and in Canada at Toronto Public Library.

The editors warmly thank the above libraries and their staffs for their invaluable assistance in preparing this microfilm publication. They also thank the libraries for granting permission to film the copies in their possession; acknowledgement of permission to publish particular pamphlets is made by including a location symbol on each target card.

#### LOCATIONS AND SYMBOLS

—	Aberdeen University Library
—	Berkshire County Library, Reading
BL	British Library, Reference Division, London
Bod	Bodleian Library, Oxford
CSmH	Henry E. Huntington Library, San Marino, California
CaOt	Toronto Public Library
CtY	Yale University Library, New Haven, Connecticut
—	Derbyshire County Library, Matlock
DLC	Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
—	Essex County Library, Colchester
ICN	Newberry Library, Chicago
IEG	Garrett Theological Seminary, Evanston, Illinois
InU	Indiana University, Lilly Library, Bloomington
—	Liverpool City Library
LNHT	Tulane University, Howard Tilton Memorial Library, New Orleans
MB	Boston Public Library
MBAt	Boston Atheneum
MH	Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts
MiUC	William Clements Library, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
MWA	American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Massachusetts
NN	New York Public Library
NNC	Columbia University Library, New York
—	Norwich Public Library
—	Nottingham Free Public Library
PHi	Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
PPL	Library Company of Philadelphia
RPB	Brown University Library, Providence, R.I.
RPJCB	John Carter Brown Library, Providence, R.I.
SPG	The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, London
TxU	University of Texas, Austin

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