

University of Oxford

**The City of London and the Problem
of the Liberties, c1540 – c1640**

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Preface

In the thesis that follows, dates have been left in Old Style, with the year beginning on 25 March. For dates between 1 January and 24 March, double years (e.g. 1546/7) are given to avoid confusion. In quotes from original sources, spelling has been maintained, except where u/v and i/j have been transposed to their modern uses. Abbreviations have been silently expanded and punctuation modernised.

Accurate terminology is exceedingly important when discussing the liberties. For an explanation of the term *liberty* itself, see p. 14 below. The term *precinct*, which referred to one of the administrative units of the City of London, was also used in a more general way by contemporaries, to refer to any defined area (such as a liberty). The difference should be clear contextually. While not all of London's religious foundations were monasteries, the term *post-monastic* has here been used as a catch-all for the dispossessed property of those foundations. Following modern convention, *City* is used as shorthand for the City of London. Although used sparingly, *city* should be taken to refer to the urbanised area more generally.

The intellectual debts I have rung up in the process of producing this thesis are far too numerous and extensive to ever be repaid. First and foremost, I owe thanks to Dr Ian Archer, without whose supervision and friendship I could never have formulated (let alone executed) this study. His help and guidance have made me into an historian, largely in spite of myself. Similar thanks are due to Prof. Tommaso Astarita, who drew me into history in the first instance and has proved tenaciously supportive ever since. Particular gratitude is also due to the Early Modern Britain seminar at Oxford and the Medieval and Tudor London seminar at the Institute of Historical Research, at which earlier versions of parts of this thesis were presented. Their comments and questions provided valuable perspective on the broader historical place of the liberties. Dr Toby Barnard provided welcome guidance on merging distinct case studies into a coherent whole; I can only hope that I have done his advice justice.

I owe a broader debt of gratitude to those who provided practical and tactical assistance in pursuing my research. The staff of the Upper Reading Room at Bodley's Library were particularly patient with the number of large and ungainly books I have asked them to shelve and reshelve for me over the past three years, while those in Duke Humfrey's Library and the Modern Papers Reading Room have helped me track down and consult missing or damaged materials. The staff at the Guildhall Library and Lambeth Palace Library provided sage advice on finding obscure but useful references to the liberties, for which I thank them heartily. Similarly, I must thank Dr Richard Mortimer, Keeper of the Muniments at Westminster Abbey, and Dr Karen Wolfe, the curator of manuscripts at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, for patiently enduring my presence while I pored over their respective collections.

Finally, I must thank my family and friends, who have suffered through countless conversations about early modern London and its liberties over the past three years. I am truly grateful for their forbearance and their support.

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List of Abbreviations

Add.	Additional Manuscripts
APC	Dasent, John R (ed), <i>Acts of the Privy Council</i> (46 vols, London, 1890-1964).
BL	British Library, London
CLRO	Corporation of London Record Office
CPR	<i>Calendar of Patent Rolls</i>
CSPD	<i>Calendar of State Papers, Domestic Series.</i>
Folger	Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, DC
GL	Guildhall Library, London
Harl	Harleian Manuscripts, British Library
JCC	Journals of the Common Council (CLRO)
Lansd	Lansdowne Manuscripts, British Library
Let Bk	Letter Books of the City of London
LM	Loseley Manuscripts, (SHC or Folger)
LMA	London Metropolitan Archives, London
LPFD	<i>Letters and Papers, Foreign and Domestic, of the Reign of Henry VIII: Preserved in the Public Record Office, the British Museum, and Elsewhere</i>
LPL	Lambeth Palace Library
ODNB	<i>Oxford Dictionary of National Biography</i> (Oxford, 2004).
Rem	Remembrancia of the City of London (CLRO)
Rep	Repertories of the Court of Aldermen (CLRO)
SHC	Surrey History Centre, Guildford
TNA	The National Archives (formerly the Public Record Office), Kew
<i>Valor</i>	<i>Valor ecclesiasticus temp. Hen. VIII auctoritate regia institutus</i> (6 vols, London, 1810-34).
VCH	<i>The Victoria History of the Counties of England: London</i> , Page, William (ed), (Reprint, London, 1974).
WAM	Westminster Abbey Muniments, London
WAC	Westminster Archive Centre, London