



NEW! The Cecil Papers

- Original manuscripts from Elizabethan & Jacobean England now digitised for a worldwide audience
- Essential to the study of the politics, religion, social, and economic history of the Early Modern period

"I am genuinely pleased with our acquisition of The Cecil Papers and I know that our historians and archivists are very excited. We are all in agreement that our founding Librarian, James Hardiman, would have been delighted to acquire such a prestigious collection."

Neil O'Brien, Collection Management Librarian, National University of Ireland, Galway.

The Cecil Papers

The Cecil Papers, a unique collection of primary source documents from the Elizabethan & Jacobean period, are now available for research and study around the world.

ProQuest has partnered with Hatfield House to digitise the privately-held collection of almost 30,000 documents gathered by William Cecil, Lord Burghley, one of Elizabeth I's closest advisers and his son Robert Cecil, First Earl of Salisbury.

- 30,000 primary source manuscript documents (pp.150,000) never before accessible by a worldwide audience
- Public documents and private letters provide a unique insight into the inner workings of Elizabethan & Jacobean England
- Full colour, high-quality images can be explored and read in detail using sophisticated search and viewing tools
- The detailed records from *The Calendar of Cecil Papers* form the bibliographic spine of the resource for easy search and retrieval of documents
- Many calendar records include transcripts or summaries to aid understanding

Who were the Cecils?

One of Elizabeth I's closest advisers, William Cecil was both her Lord High Treasurer and her Secretary of State – a position also held by his son Robert who continued to serve Elizabeth and her successor, James I. These two men were at the heart of events during one of the most dynamic periods in Western history.

State papers, despatches, treaties and more...

The Cecil Papers contain a variety of handwritten and hand-drawn documents including illuminated manuscripts, rolls of genealogy, common-place books, maps, political memoranda, and legal documents.

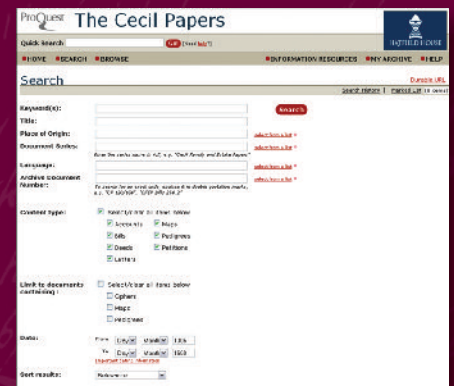
From love letters and poems, to pleas for clemency and execution warrants...

The Cecil Papers relate to key domestic and international events from the 16th and 17th centuries:

- The questions of Elizabeth's marriage and the succession to the throne
- The imprisonment and execution of Mary Queen of Scots (including two of the famous 'casket letters')
- Scottish affairs and the accession of James I to the English throne (1603)
- The Tudor re-conquest of Ireland (and plantation of Ulster)
- The Spanish Armada (1588)
- Drake and Hawkins' expedition to the West Indies (1595)
- The Gunpowder Plot (1605)

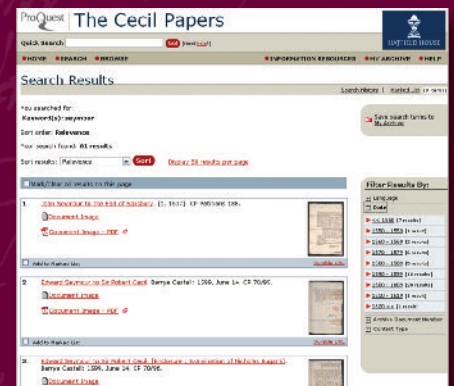
Among the highlights:

- Princess Elizabeth (Elizabeth I) defends her honour in a letter to the Lord Protector
- Love letters between Elizabeth and her suitors, including 'The Frog of Anjou'
- Sir Walter Raleigh pleads with James I/VI for his life, whilst awaiting execution
- Epigram verses penned by Ben Jonson (in his own hand) and addressed to the Earl of Salisbury
- Draft copy of Elizabeth's warrant for the execution of Mary, Queen of Scots – penned by Burghley



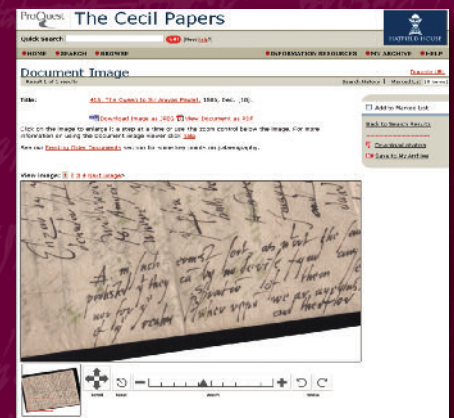
Search

- Search across a range of fields and select from lists of limited terms
- Limit by content type or feature
- Detailed date searching, includes a note on dating conventions in C16th/17th England



Filter

- Title links to Calendar Record or users can go direct to document images
- Users can dynamically filter their results
- Thumbnails of first pages allow for quick visual recognition of documents



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