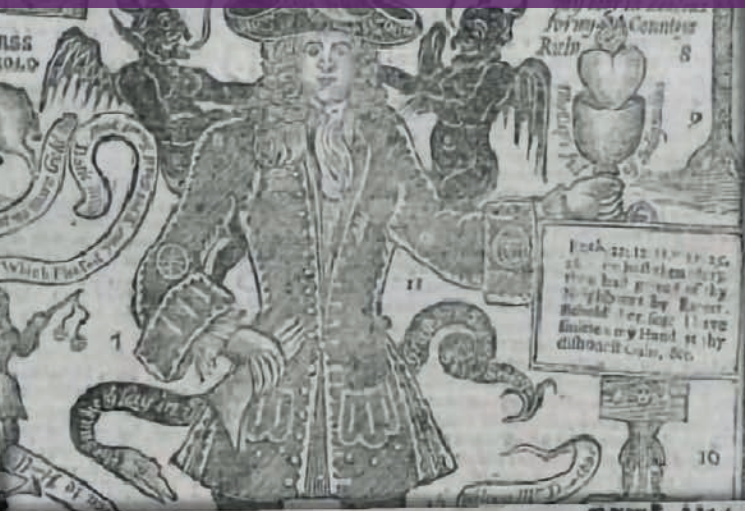


SEVENTEENTH AND EIGHTEENTH CENTURY NICHOLS NEWSPAPERS COLLECTION

ORIENTATION RESOURCES

Various source media. Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century Nichols Newspapers Collection



With the freshest ADVICES, FOREIGN and DOMESTIC

From SATURDAY, January 21. to SATURDAY, January 28.



From Tuesday March 4. to Thursday March 5. 1712.

S I R,

Edinburgh, Feb. 22.

THIS pity that those who sent you an Account of the Perth Address, with the just Reflections upon it, did not also acquaint you with a Dial, set up over one of the Gates of that City, in Form as follows-

they have writ, that Mr. H-ge's Character is too known, to be blasted by the Breath of such a scurrilous Wretch as Abel, or his Dublin Correspondent; it has the Original Letters to produce, and has shewn to Persons of the first Quality both of England and land, who know them to be Genuine; that he never own'd any thing contain'd in the said Letters, but only was reported to be in them, and in Reality was never shall be made appear in due time. Mean while, they may see what a height of Insolence the Papists and



AN HEROGYPHICK.
WILL Fole and Ensigne their own Misfortune see,
And ponder on the Fate of Henry?
Behold this Herogyphe, and admire
What Equity do's in true Soul inquire!
Whose is the Honour when we than
Because the Jesuits will Curse and
But if our Readers will that Point cap
Their Explanation we shall see display



The aim of this guide is to give you a better understanding of how to use the *Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century Nichols Newspapers Collection* archive for your research purposes. It will cover finding and filtering material as well as explore some key topics covered by the archive.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide is aimed at students and researchers who are using Gale Primary Source Archives for the first time. It will take you through the different stages of using a digital archive.

If you are unfamiliar with researching in a digital archive it is worth reading the guide through from start to finish.

If you have some experience working with digital archives and are looking for guidance on the *Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century Nichols Newspapers Collection* (*Nichols*) specifically, head straight to the KEY TOPICS section. There you will find information on some of the main historical themes addressed by the collection in this archive. There are also some critical thinking questions and useful search terms to help you start your research. The questions in green are entry level questions, the questions in red are more advanced.

If you are looking for examples of research conducted in this digital archive, the final section CASE STUDIES, will provide you with this. This section draws upon documents found in *Nichols* to show you how to use digital primary sources for research and teaching. Again, there are some critical thinking questions and useful search terms to help you start your research. The questions in green are entry level questions, the questions in red are more advanced.

LANGUAGE AND TERMINOLOGY

In this section, you will identify the language and words that will produce useful results when you are using the search function in a digital archive.

In all Gale Primary Source Archives you will find language and terminology that is old-fashioned, unfamiliar and potentially offensive. The documents and other sources held in these archives are reflective of the period in which they were written. To that end, you will need to think about the words and phrases that you choose to conduct your search.

For example, if you are exploring news related to the Ottoman Empire you might begin with the search term 'Ottoman'. By reading some of the articles produced by this initial search, you will find contemporary words and phrases in the articles to suggest new searches, such as 'Infidel', 'Janisaries' and 'Sublime Porte'.

The more time you spend in the archive looking for sources the more familiar you will become with the variety of terms that might be relevant to your topic, as well as their idiosyncrasies. Non-standard spelling is also to be expected. Wild-card searches can help to work around this and expand your search to catch variations on a spelling. An asterisk (*)

stands for any number of characters, including none, while an exclamation mark (!) stands for one or no characters. For example:

Searching 'Parliament*' will run a search on any word beginning with Parliament, thereby finding results for 'Parliamentary' or 'Parliamentarian' as well.

Searching 'heretic!' will also find 'heretick' and 'heretics'.

'Lady Day' Dating

'Lady Day' dating refers to the dating system used before the calendar reform of 1752, when Britain moved from the Julian Calendar to the Gregorian Calendar and adopted 1st January as the first day of the year. Prior to this, the new year started traditionally on the 25th of March, or Lady Day. As other countries adopted the new system earlier, the practice spread unevenly in England resulting in different newspapers printing different years for the same day. As all documents in *Nichols* were published before the change in calendar, dates are displayed using the Julian calendar to ensure correct chronological display of all documents within the archive.

BASIC SEARCH AND FILTERING

In this section, you will perform a basic search using keywords in *Nichols*. It will also cover how to filter your results, and the steps needed to find a useful and comprehensive set of sources tailored to your research questions.

When you enter a search term it will be used to scan both the content of the sources and the tags that have been applied to said sources. In *Nichols* your search is being applied across individual articles of the thousands of newspapers, newsletters and pamphlets in the collection.

Let's start with a key movement in this period:

Jacobitism

Jacobites were the supporters of the exiled Stuart dynasty after 1688. Two large Jacobite risings took place in the first half of the eighteenth century, both originating in Scotland, in 1715 and 1745. Both times the Jacobite cause was defeated by the reigning Hanover kings, and the would-be Stuart monarch fled Britain. The Old Pretender (the Jacobite James III) and his son, the Young Pretender (best known as Bonnie Prince Charlie) were real threats to the order and stability of the Hanover dynasty.

- Search your key term, Jacobite, in *Nichols*. You will receive over two thousand results.
- Filter your results. Using the filter buttons on the right of your results list you can refine your list. You can use these filters to help ensure the source material you are using relates directly to your research question. For example, you can limit by date to only show results from 01/01/1715 - 01/01/1716, in order to find articles published around the Jacobite Rising of 1715.
- Assess your results. It is important to remember throughout that these searches are the starting point of your research and as such will provide you with a very broad range of documents. Once you have filtered your results you will still need to analyze them to assess their relevance to your topic. In this search, you will need to read the articles to ascertain which are specifically about the Jacobite rising.
- Iterate on your search. As you become more familiar with your topic you may also need to go back to your earlier searches and re-assess material you previously discounted. You may also need to undertake new searches using terms you have learnt during your research process. For example, after searching for mentions of Jacobites you may wish to explore the Jacobite point of view.
- In this case, Jacobite writers themselves may not be using the term 'Jacobite'. In order to discover Jacobite points of view you may need to approach your search differently by exploring known Jacobite publications, for example those of Nathaniel Mist. Information on publishers can be found through the 'Browse' feature for each title:

Mist's Weekly Journal

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

1728 ▾

August 31, 1728, Issue 176

August 24, 1728, Issue 175

August 17, 1728, Issue 174

August 10, 1728, Issue 173

August 3, 1728, Issue 172

July 27, 1728, Issue 171

July 20, 1728, Issue 170

Title: Mist's Weekly Journal

Place of Publication: London, England

Format: Newspaper

Publication Frequency: Weekly (published on Saturday)

Language: English

Description: Paper published: no. 1, 1 May 1725-no. 179, 21 Sep 1728. Edited by Nathaniel Mist (NCBEL II: 1323) Continuation of: The Weekly Journal, or Saturday's Post - Continued by: Fog's Weekly Journal

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Advanced Search

The 'Advanced Search' function allows users to refine their search for multiple terms and apply the filtering process at the beginning of your search. This can be useful for when you have a very specific research question or in the latter stages of your research project when you have a more defined idea of the source material you are looking for.

KEY TOPICS

This section will introduce you to key subject areas covered by *Nichols*. These subject areas were chosen because they relate directly to the documents that make up *Nichols*, as well as reflecting historiographical debates and key teaching areas. There are also questions designed to help guide your research into these topics in the archive. You will also find lists of further useful search terms which will assist you in broadening your knowledge of these subjects. These terms have already been tested via the *Nichols* search function so should provide you with helpful results.

Church and State

One of the most divisive issues in the British Isles of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries was religion, in particular the hostility and intolerance between Catholics and Protestants. Although the Declaration of Breda, issued by Charles II on his Restoration, promised a right to liberty of conscience and religious tolerance this was only to be in matters that did not 'disturb the peace of the kingdom'. The subsequent passing in the 1660s of the series of penal laws that came to comprise the Clarendon Code effectively prevented non-Anglicans from holding civil or military office and undermined the ability of dissenting religious groups to meet or hold services.

High profile Catholics such as the Duke of York (the future James II) and Charles II's mistress, the French Duchess of Portsmouth, further fuelled popular anxiety. In the broader context of Europe, the major Powers of France and Spain were both fiercely Catholic, and England, in a deeply unpopular alliance with France, was at war between 1672-1674 with the Protestant Dutch Republic (the Third Anglo-Dutch War). It was against this background that a great popular panic erupted in 1678, when Titus Oates & Israel Tonge produced their claims of a 'Popish Plot' by Jesuits to kill the king, a fabrication which ultimately led to the execution of at least 35 innocent men.

Although Titus Oates was discredited and subsequently convicted of perjury and imprisoned in 1685, anti-Catholic feeling, and fears of an attack on the Church of England were a driving force behind the Glorious Revolution in 1688 and the removal of King James II and his Catholic heirs.

There was also anger amongst Anglicans at increased toleration of dissenting Protestant groups such as Presbyterians, Anabaptists and other Nonconformists. This was the central topic of the inflammatory sermons of Henry Sacheverell in 1710, for which he was arrested and tried. This sparked riots in London that particularly targeted Presbyterian meeting houses.

- Why were the claims of Titus Oates taken seriously at the time?
- How was the Church of England tied to a sense of an English national identity?
- Were the Sacheverell protests motivated more by politics or religion? How far are these spheres differentiated in the reports of the time?
- Discuss whether the Popish Plot damaged the succession of the future James II, despite the claims being false.

Other search suggestions: Popery, Romish, papists, Jesuits, Bishop of Rome, Protestant succession, Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Quaker, shaker, Covenanters, nonconformists, heresy, Jacobites, Pretender, Established Church, Sacheverell, Atterbury, recusant.

The Role of the Monarchy

Restoration and Revolution

The Restoration of the exiled Stuarts under Charles II in 1660 was widely celebrated, and his reign was marked by a removal of some of the harsher restrictions of the Protectorate. However, on the death of Charles II and the ascension of his Catholic younger brother, James II, issues of religion and the relationship between James and Parliament saw the removal of James from the throne in the 'Glorious Revolution' of 1688. He was replaced by his Protestant daughter Mary and her husband, William of Orange. Throughout this period, the role and rights of the monarchy, religious issues, and the power of Parliament were a constant presence in political and popular discourse.

The Protestant Succession

William and Mary signed the 1689 Bill of Rights in December of that year. This Act introduced new conventions requiring regular parliaments and free elections, as well as preventing the Crown from raising taxes or mobilizing armies without Parliamentary support. It furthermore secured the Protestant Succession as far as Queen Anne, until the Act of Settlement of 1701 confirmed the succession of Sophia of Hanover and her descendants, stating that no Roman Catholic could inherit the throne. Thus Sophia's son George became George I of Great Britain and Ireland in 1714 as the first Hanoverian monarch. Under Anne, England (including Wales) and Scotland became unified into one United Kingdom with the passing of the Acts of Union (1707), although the two countries had been ruled by the same monarch since 1603 with the succession to the English throne of James I and VI. This ensured that Catholic claimants were also excluded from the Scottish throne.

- How was Charles I's execution reconsidered after the Restoration of the Stuarts?
- How were William and Mary regarded in 1688?
- How was the replacement of James with William and Mary justified?
- Assess English attitudes towards Scotland and Ireland as shown in this collection. Why might a closer Union with Ireland not have been as sought after for England?

Other search suggestions: Monmouth, Hanover Succession, Happy Revolution

Censorship and Freedom in the press

The *Nichols* collection catches the press at a key point in its evolution, as a new popular medium with ill-defined rights, responsibilities and privileges. Pseudonymous writings, double-talk and satire were everywhere at this time, alongside serious reports on events and political in-fighting. Actions for libel were not uncommon, with other papers reporting gleefully on the downfall of their rivals or political foes as writers and publishers continually tested their power and freedom, pushing against the government while the government pushed back. However, the Licensing Act, which had given the Stationers' Company the responsibility and right to enforce censorship as well as granting them a monopoly on print publications, lapsed in 1695 and was not renewed, allowing anyone to set up a newspaper.

As the number of publications grew, so did the breadth of topics covered, with periodicals and journals printing essays, poetry, letters and fiction. [The Hermit](#) (1711-1712), for example, printed essays on 'Liberty of Printing', 'Rebellion and Regicide' and 'Inhumane Treatment of the Blacks'.

Women were also able to work in the burgeoning industry, both as publishers and as writers. In *Nichols* you will find [The Female Tatler](#), the first known periodical with a female editor, and all four issues of [The Ladies Mercury](#) in 1693, an early example of a periodical aimed at women.

- What can the newspapers aimed at women tell us about women's lives at the time?
- What can they tell us about the feminine ideal at the time?
- How much can the representation of women tell us about the anxieties of men and society in general?
- What does the frequency of libel claims tell us about the relative freedom of the press?
- Which topics are shown to be most controversial?
- Why might the Licensing Act not have been renewed in 1695?

Other search suggestions: Libel, seditious, loyal, essay, ladies, Company of Stationers, freedom of the press

Trade and Colonialism

England was, by the seventeenth century, one of several European powers sending ships, merchants and men out to the edges of maps in search of land, resources and riches. From the busy ports of London, Liverpool, Bristol and Glasgow, ships sailed to India, China, the Americas, the West Indies, Africa and the South Pacific, laden with enslaved people, sugar and spices and more. Large trading companies fuelled the economy and made many people rich – sometimes, as with the South Sea Company and the bursting of the 'Bubble' in 1720, they made a lot of people poor. The Levant Company (1592-1825), the Royal African Company (1660-1752) and its successor on the West Coast of Africa, the African Company of Merchants (1752-1821), and the East India Company (1600-1874) all brought wealth and goods to the United Kingdom. The Royal African Company was set up and run by the Stuart dynasty under Charles II, with James, then Duke of York and later James II, at the company's head. The majority of its business was the movement of enslaved people from West

Africa to the Americas. Many of the people shipped out of Africa were branded with either 'RAC', the Company's initials, or 'DY' for the Duke of York.

Britain gained land as well as wealth through its navies and merchants. Most notably, the sub-continent of India was under 'Company Rule' for a century before it passed to the direct control of the British Crown in 1858. The English had settled territories in the West Indies in the seventeenth century, and owned profitable plantations, run with slave labour imported through the Transatlantic slave trade, on islands including Saint Kitts, Barbados, Jamaica, Antigua and Montserrat.

- How are the benefits of growing Imperial power experienced in society?
- How were the moral implications of the slave trade discussed?
- How far does the representation of the world beyond Europe rest on Otherness and exoticism?
- Discuss the impact of continental wars on trade and colonial ambitions.

Other suggested search terms: merchant, Americas, Guinea trade, Port news, China trade, Negroe-trade, East Indies, slavery.

Europe: The Balance of Power

Maintaining a balance of power in Europe was a paramount concern for both Britain and other European nations and was frequently explicitly addressed by writers across this time period. Rival religions, frequent wars, and conflicting territorial ambitions on the continent and further afield, meant there was a widespread fear of any one country gaining too much power.

The eighteenth century began with the War of the Spanish Succession (1701-1714), and the peace treaties that ended this conflict had as one of their chief aims the neutering of the dominance of Spain and the Bourbons, in order to maintain the balance of power. A crucial outcome of the war was the ascension of Philip V (House of Bourbon) to the Spanish throne on condition of his removal from the French line of succession, and the agreement that the two thrones would never be united. The threat of an alliance between these two great Powers and Portugal, through the Bourbon *pact de famille*, was a spectre that haunted British foreign policy in the period, along with the potential of Catholic support for the exiled Jacobite monarchs. The War of the Quadruple Alliance (1718-1720) saw these fears realised, as Spain provided support to a 1719 Jacobite Rising.

- What sort of foreign news stories were English audiences interested in during this period?
- How were continental wars seen as threatening to ordinary people living in Britain?
- What does the attitude in newspapers to rulers of other European countries tell us about prevailing views on monarchy?

Other suggested search terms: Treaty of Utrecht, House of Austria, Universal monarchy, Protestant league, States General, Treaty of the Hague, Triple Alliance, Alberoni

CASE STUDIES

These case studies provide some examples of the sorts of material found in *Nichols*. They will show you how the source material found in *Nichols* relates to some of the key topics discussed above. They will also introduce you to the kinds of specific questions you can use to interrogate individual sources. If you are interested in the topics discussed in these case studies, at the end of each study you will find suggestions on how to investigate further.

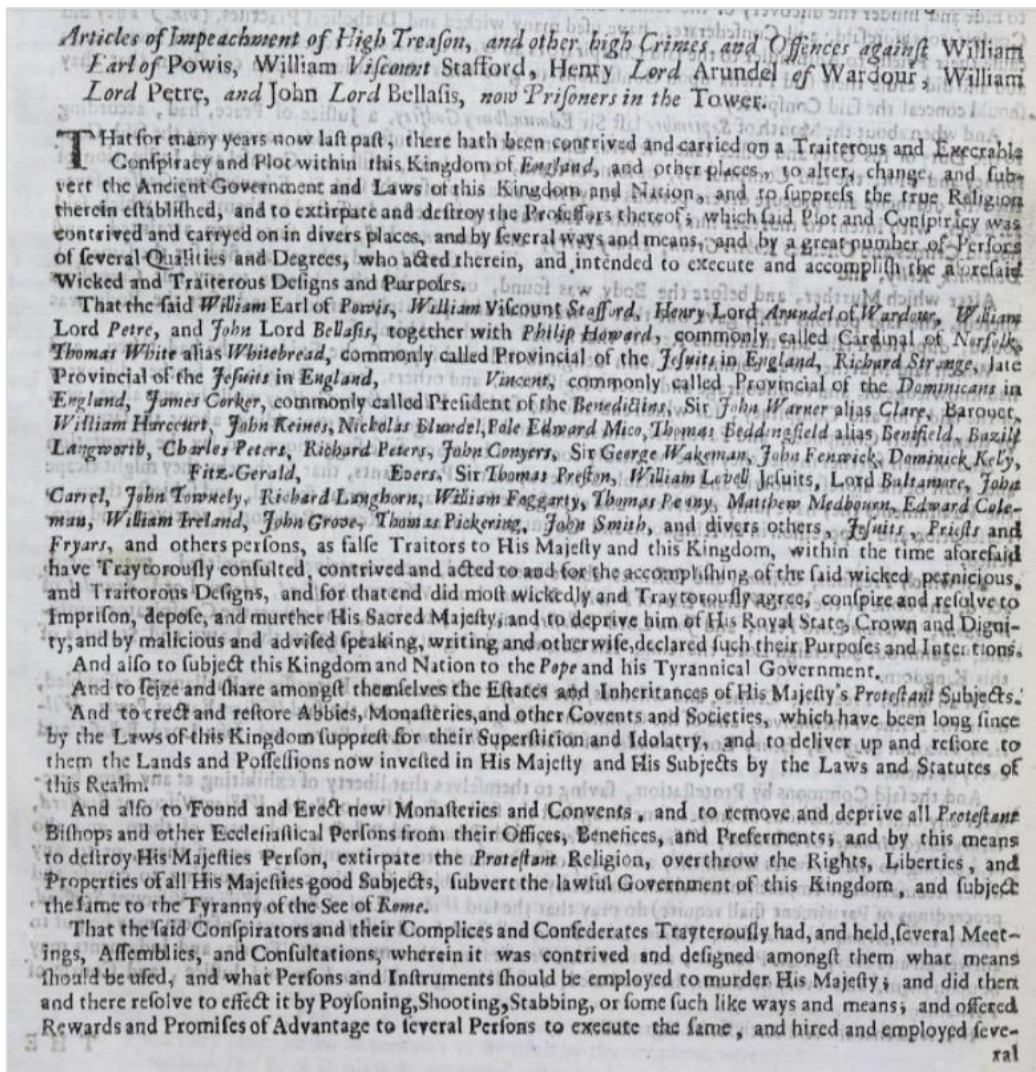
These case studies can also be used as a teaching tool. They can be used to help educators explain using digital primary sources to new users. Together with the instructions above (Basic Search and Filtering), they can help in explaining to new users how to navigate a digital archive. They also provide clear examples of the source materials in *Nichols*, and the kinds of critical thinking that need to be applied to these sources.

Church and State: the 'Popish Plot'

This document details some of the Parliamentary proceedings around the 'Popish Plot'. This extract is the third page of a 12-page account.

Looking at this extract, consider the following:

- What are the benefits to presenting this information in a printed format?
- What can we say about the intended audience for this account? What sort of impact might it have had?
- How does the language used help emphasize the perceived threat of Catholic plotters?
- What conclusions can we draw about the 'Popish Plot' and about the panic surrounding it by reading the list of accused?



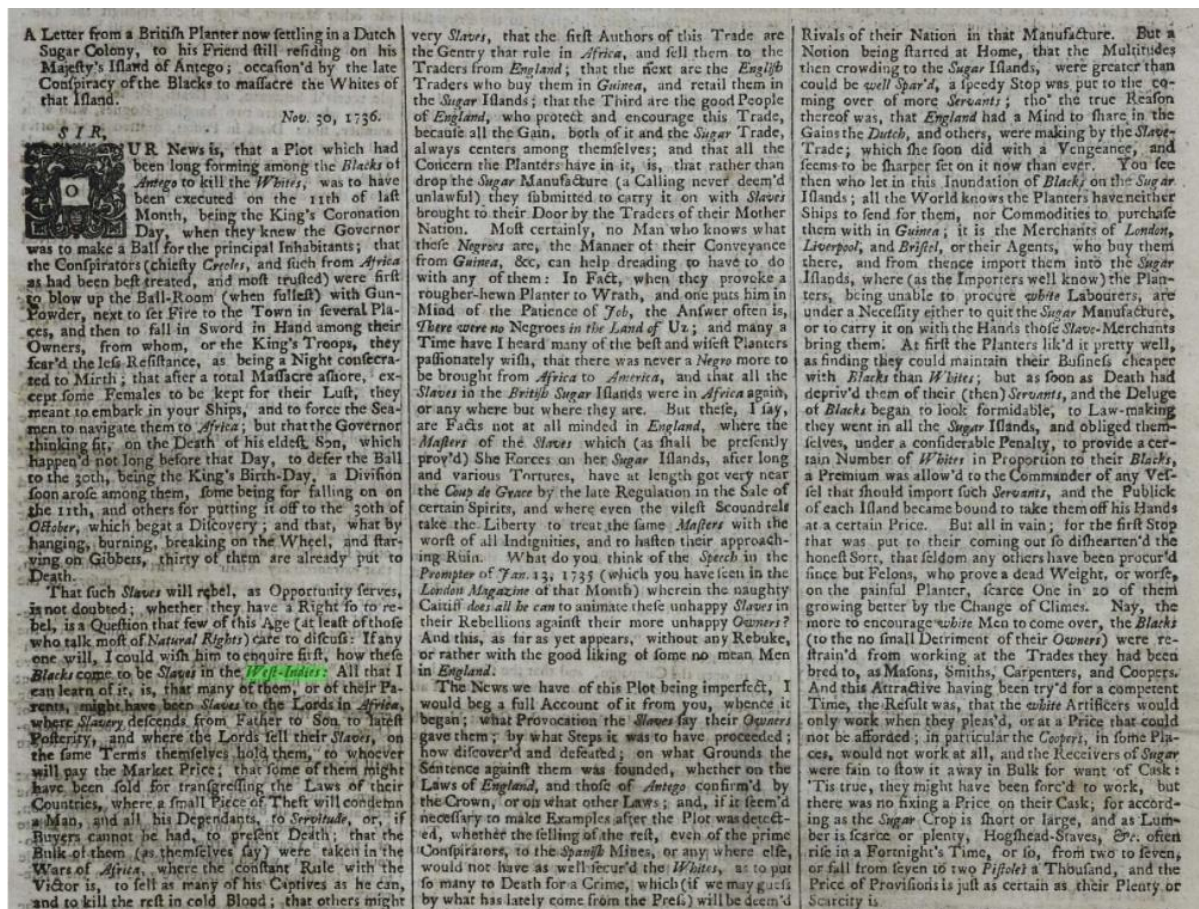
An Impartial Account of Divers Remarkable Proceedings The last Sessions of Parliament Relating to the Horrid Popish Plot, &c. (Viz.) The Manner of Choosing their Speaker. N.p., 1679. Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century Nichols Newspapers Collection, <https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/FSRJG1681128914/NICN?u=webdemo&sid=NICN&xid=99748abe>. Accessed 2 Oct. 2020.

More on this topic...

You can find out more about religion and the press in some of the essays supporting this product:

- [The Nichols Collection, 1666–1737: Religion, Regulation and the Development of the Metropolitan Press](#), by Daniel Reed, Oxford Brookes University
- [London Newspapers and Domestic Politics in the Early Eighteenth Century](#), by Professor Hannah Barker, University of Manchester
- [The English Press in the Long Eighteenth Century: An Introduction, Change Amidst Continuity](#) by Professor Jeremy Black, University of Exeter

This letter is attributed to a British planter in a Dutch sugar colony, about a slave rebellion on Antigua in 1737.



"A Letter from a British Planter now settling in a Dutch ..." Fog's Weekly Journal, 26 Mar. 1737. Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century Nichols Newspapers Collection, <https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/QGHHYU427269642/NICN?u=webdemo&sid=NICN&xid=f2c01259>. Accessed 2 Oct. 2020.

Using this article, consider the following questions:

- What does this letter tell us about plantation life in the West Indies?
- What can the elements of British society that have been transplanted tell us about the sense of a British identity in colonial settings?
- How are Africans perceived by the writer of this letter? What does the letter suggest about how they are perceived by the planter class in general?
- How does the writer represent ideas of class and race? How are they connected?
- How does the writer approach the morality of the slave trade? How does he consider individual vs. collective blame?
- What might this letter tell us about anti-slavery rhetoric and debate at the time?

More on this topic...

If you are interested in finding out more about the slave trade or British colonial interactions with indigenous people, useful search terms include:

- Slavery
- Royal African Company
- Negroes
- Africa*
- Missionaries
- Virginia
- New England
- Planters
- Cherokee
- Indians
- Conversion
- Pocahontas

CITATION

CITATION GOES HERE