"CompellingA masterly featA magnificent, sweeping, authoritative, warm yet wry history." --The Wall Street Journal In this fascinating and intimate portrait of the Stuarts, author Allan Massie takes us deep into one of history's bloodiest and most tumultuous reigns. Exploring the family's lineage from the first Stuart king to the last, The Royal Stuarts is a panoramic history of the family that acted as a major player in the Scottish Wars of Independence, the Union of the Crowns, the English Civil War, the Restoration, and more. Drawing on the accounts of historians past and present, novels, and plays, this is the complete story of the Stuart family, documenting their path from the salt marshes of Brittany to the thrones of Scotland and England and eventually to exile. The Royal Stuarts brings to life figures like Mary, Queens of Scots, Charles I, and Bonnie Prince Charlie, uncovering a family of strong affections and fierce rivalries. Told with panache, this is the gripping true story of backstabbing, betrayal, and ambition gone awry.

Each of these lavishly illustrated books serves up a brief and manageable portion of the Fraser-edited and much-touted Lives
of the Kings and Queens of England. A set of six jewels for Fraser's crown.

Publisher Description

Studies of conditions and personages of Stuart times including James I, Charles I, Lady Arabella Stuart, Monmouth's rebellion and witchcraft.

Discover the history behind the facts


This work is a review of England from the accession of James I to the death of Queen Anne. It is illustrated by contemporary material exhibited in the Ashmolean Museum. The era encompassed civil war, revolution, the first steps towards industrialization and the establishment of colonies.

From princesses to country girls to actresses...the loves of Charles II come to life. Ten years after Charles I was deposed and executed, his son, Charles II, regains the throne after many years in exile. Charles is determined not only to restore the monarchy but also to revive a society that has suffered under many years of Puritan rule, when everything from theater to Christmas festivals was illegal. As king, Charles II throws himself into the gaiety of court life, becoming a patron of the arts and a consummate lover of women. He first secures a strong dynastic alliance by marrying Catherine of Braganza, a shy, plain Portuguese princess who falls in love with her handsome husband and brings him great wealth, but can never give him the son
he longs for. For many years, his “untitled queen” is a bold and sensual older woman—Barbara, Countess of Castlemaine—whose husband is routinely paid to look the other way. But when the politically ambitious Lady Castlemaine becomes too powerful, she is replaced by Louise de Kéroualle, a baby-faced French noblewoman who may have been sent to Charles’s court as a spy. His other great love, and Louise’s rival, is Nell Gwyn, a stage actress who rises from the streets of London to become the king’s favorite and a hero of the working class. Court intrigue and affairs of the heart weave together in this unforgettable page-turner.

Offers an irreverent take on the royal family that united Great Britain, chronicling the trials and triumphs of a dynasty that oversaw the rise of English Protestantism and the evolution of modern British democracy.

This book was originally published in 1998. From Roman times until this century the business of government has been largely carried out by the writing of letters, either in the form of instructions or of authorisations to deliver information orally. These documents were addressed to the recipient and authenticated by a seal or signature, often having a greeting and a personal conclusion. The messengers who took them also carried copies of laws and regulations, summonses to courts and whatever else was needed for the administration of the country. Without a means of speedy delivery to all concerned there could be no effective government. Separate postal services developed to meet the needs of nobles, the church, merchants, towns and the public. This book discusses three meanings of the word ‘post’: the letters, those who carried them, and the means of distribution. It shows that there is some continuity from Roman times and that the postal service established throughout England after the conquest of 1066 continued until 1635 when it was officially extended to the public, thus starting its amalgamation with the other services.

'While Germany boasts her Reformation and France her Revolution, England can point to her dealings with the House of Stuart.' - G.M. Trevelyan, from the Introduction England Under the Stuarts is an outstanding and highly engaging account of English history in the years between 1603 and 1714, charting England's path from nation to empire. G. M. Trevelyan's masterful narrative explores the major events of this period, which witnessed the upheavals of the Civil War, the Restoration and the Glorious Revolution. While never neglecting to examine the social, economic and religious conditions of English life, Trevelyan highlights the epic struggle between the threats of absolutism and despotism and the staunch political liberty and
toleration that emerged during these years. He also gives the reader a vivid sense of what it was like to be there at the time, conveying a rich and dramatic flavour of events. As such, England Under the Stuarts remains certain to inform and delight anybody with an interest in this period of English history. This Routledge Classics edition includes a new Foreword by Peter Gaunt.

I bet you've never even heard of the Stuarts. They don't sound very terrible, do they? But did you know some slimy Stuarts ate toads, snails and fleas?

Spanning from the inauguration of James I in 1603 to the execution of Charles I in 1649, the Stuart court saw the emergence of a full expression of Renaissance culture in Britain. Hart examines the influence of magic on Renaissance art and how in its role as an element of royal propaganda, art was used to represent the power of the monarch and reflect his apparent command over the hidden forces of nature. Court artists sought to represent magic as an expression of the Stuart Kings’ divine right, and later of their policy of Absolutism, through masques, sermons, heraldry, gardens, architecture and processions. As such, magic of the kind enshrined in Neoplatonic philosophy and the court art which expressed its cosmology, played their part in the complex causes of the Civil War and the destruction of the Stuart image which followed in its wake.

John Miller's book explains all there is to know about the Stuarts, their ruling ethos and their legacy.