



HOUSE OF COMMONS

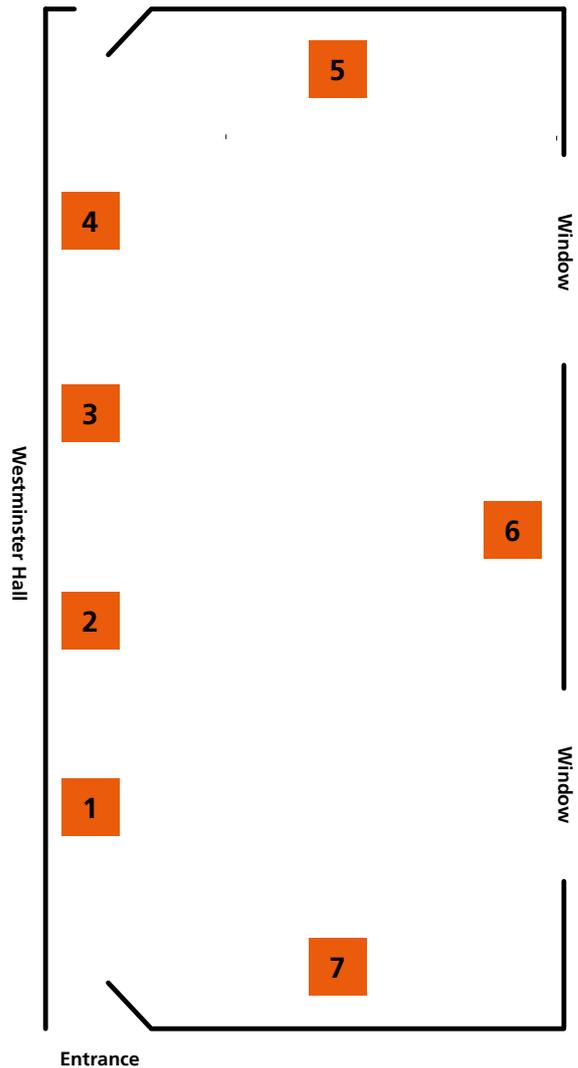
Works of Art in the Jubilee Room



The Parliamentary Art Collection is the national collection of art relating to the history of Parliament. The Collection contains images of important Parliamentary events past and present, images of people who have played an important role in making Parliament what it is today, and images which record the development over the centuries of the Palace of Westminster and the other buildings of the Parliamentary Estate. The earliest pieces date from the medieval age, with major holdings dating back to the 18th century, together with significant contemporary holdings.

Jubilee Room

Situated in the annexe of Westminster Hall and used for conferences and receptions, the Jubilee Room was established in 1977. The annexe was designed by John Loughborough Pearson (1817-1897) and completed in 1888, but a bomb planted by the IRA in 1974 caused a serious fire leaving the northern section of the building burnt out. Panelling was re-used from the Palace and the wallpaper is by A.W.N Pugin. The fireplace commemorates the Silver Jubilee of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II.



Sir John Eliot (after an original painting at Port Eliot)

Oil on canvas, after original by Paulus Van Somer I, 1628
WOA 2719

John Pym 1584-1643

Oil painting, by unknown artist
WOA 2802

Denzil Holles

Oil on canvas, by Charles Spooner after original by Jacob Huysmans
WOA 2721

Coronation Banquet of George IV in Westminster Hall

Oil on paper, by unknown artist
WOA 5870

Henry Fox, 1st Baron Holland

Oil on canvas, by Joshua Reynolds, 1763
WOA 6561

Sir Sydney Robinson

Oil on canvas by Thomas Cantrell Dugdale, 1937
WOA 1972

Philip Wharton (1613-1696), 4th Lord Wharton

7. Oil on canvas by circle of Godfrey Kneller
WOA 3780

1. Sir John Eliot (after an original painting at Port Eliot)

Oil on canvas, after original by Paulus Van Somer I, 1628 WOA 2719

John Eliot (1592-1632) grew up in Cornwall and became one of the most influential and controversial parliamentarians of the 1620s. He was imprisoned in the Tower of London numerous times by King Charles I, for advocating the rights and privileges of Parliament. Eliot was just 22 years old when he became Member of Parliament for St Germans in the 'Addled Parliament' of 1614. In 1618 he received a knighthood and a year later was appointed Vice-Admiral of Devon by the Duke of Buckingham. However in 1626 Eliot took part in impeachment proceedings against Buckingham and for this Charles I imprisoned him in the Tower of London. On his release, Eliot led the opposition to the King. He was imprisoned again in 1629 and remained in the Tower until his death in 1632. The Flemish artist, Paulus Van Somer I arrived in England from Antwerp during the reign of King James I and became one of the leading painters of the royal court.



2. John Pym 1584-1643

Oil painting, by unknown artist WOA 2802

John Pym (1584-1643) entered Parliament in 1621 as Member of Parliament for Calne in Wiltshire during the reign of King James I. In 1625 Pym took the seat for Tavistock in Devon, which he represented for the first three Parliaments of the reign of King Charles I. Pym was an outspoken enemy of the Roman Catholics and a firm supporter of those who opposed Charles I's arbitrary use of his powers. Early in January 1642, the King tried to win Pym over to the Royalist cause by offering to appoint him Chancellor of the Exchequer but Pym rejected the offer. The King's attempt to arrest Pym and four other Members in the House of Commons shortly after helped to precipitate the Civil War. During the conflict between the Parliamentarians and the Royalists, Pym's leadership and policies did much to lay the foundations for Parliament's eventual victory. Pym died of cancer in 1643 and on the orders of the Commons he was given a state funeral and buried in Westminster Abbey.

3. Denzil Holles

Oil on canvas, by Charles Spooner after original by Jacob Huysmans WOA 2721

Denzil Holles (1598-1680) was named after the manor of Denzell in Cornwall, which his family owned. He entered Parliament in 1624 and joined opposition against King Charles I. He played an important role in having the King's two senior advisors, Thomas Wentworth and William Laud arrested and sent to the Tower of London. Along with John Pym (painting number 2), Holles was one of the Five Members whom Charles I attempted to arrest for high treason in January 1642. The Five Members managed to escape before the King and his army arrived. After being accused of treason again by the New Model Army in 1647, Holles was secluded from Parliament and fled to France. He returned after Oliver Cromwell's death and was a prominent figure in promoting the Restoration of the Monarchy. On the Restoration Holles was created Baron Holles of Ifield in Sussex.



4. Coronation Banquet of George IV in Westminster Hall

Oil on paper, by unknown artist WOA 5870

The Coronation of George IV in 1821, was the most lavish and extravagant Coronation ceremony ever known. The Coronation Banquet held in Westminster Hall, was attended by the nobility and gentry and was divided so that the peers sat at tables either side of the Hall, and the peeresses and gentry on the two tiers above, with the King at the far end of the Hall. The cost of the Coronation and the banquet was £250,000,

with the banquet costing more than £25,000. A huge amount of food was provided including 160 tureens of soup, with equal amounts of beef, mutton, veal, roast venison and fish, in addition to a staggering 9840 bottles of wine and 100 gallons of iced punch. During the banquet, it was traditional for the King's Champion, in armour and on horseback, to approach and challenge any person to deny the King's right to the Crown. In this painting, Henry Dymoke, the Hereditary King's Champion, is seen riding through the Hall between the Deputy Earl Marshal and the Lord High Constable. (*front cover*)

5. Henry Fox, 1st Baron Holland

Oil on canvas, by Joshua Reynolds, 1763 WOA 6561

Henry Fox (1705-1774) was a leading 18th century Whig politician. After entering Parliament in 1735, he served as Surveyor General of Works, Lord of the Treasury and Secretary of War before becoming Leader of the House of Commons in 1755. In 1757, during the war with France, Fox became Paymaster to the Forces. This portrait shows the large frame and heavy eyebrows that were the physical legacy to his famous son, Charles James Fox (1749-1806).

Reynolds painted two portrait types of Fox between circa 1762 and 1764. This portrait depicts Fox shortly before he retired from public life with the title of Lord Holland. It was customary for several versions of a significant commission to be distributed among the sitter's family and political allies. The replicas cost as much as the original, an unusual circumstance that is indicative of their quality. Lord Holland is said to have been less convinced of the painting's execution, and feeling that it had been a rushed and expensive exercise asked the artist how long he had been in painting it. Reynolds reputedly replied "*All my life, my lord*".



6. Sir Sydney Robinson

Oil on canvas by Thomas Cantrell Dugdale, 1937
WOA 1972

Sydney Walter Robinson (1876-1950) was born in Walthamstow but later chose to study at the Metropolitan College in Chicago. Robinson began his career as a building contractor and farmer in Chelmsford. He was also a Freeman of the City of London. Robinson was a member of Essex County Council for 30 years and was knighted in 1934. As Member of Parliament for Chelmsford between 1923 and 1924, Robinson was best known for his introduction of a bill to include farm workers in the National Unemployed Insurance scheme. During the 1924 general election Robinson lost his seat. The artist, Thomas Cantrell Dugdale R.A. (1880-1952) was a portrait and subject painter, book illustrator, decorator and textile designer. During the First World War he served as a Staff Sergeant in the Middlesex Yeomanry.



7. Philip Wharton (1613-1696), 4th Lord Wharton

Oil on canvas by circle of Godfrey Kneller WOA 3780

Philip Wharton (1613-1696) was a prominent politician during the English Civil Wars and the Glorious Revolution of 1688-89. He signed the Yorkshire petition against billeting soldiers on the county, something for which he was personally rebuked by King Charles I. In 1677 he was imprisoned in the Tower of London for arguing that Parliament was unconstitutional because it had been illegally prorogued for 15 months. Wharton was, according to his son's biographer, one of the greatest beaux of his times. He reputedly had particularly fine legs and took great delight in showing them when dancing. Wharton had a great taste for architecture and gardening and formed a superb collection of paintings by Van Dyck and Lely. Wharton was painted by Kneller in 1685, which is about the same time that this portrait was executed.

