

Bibliographical Note

No one source or type of source was used predominantly in compiling the information presented in this book. Rather the problem was to extract relevant material from a wide range of available sources. And this book is therefore the product of a large number of others. Variety of sources does not much matter in compiling lists of names: the greater the number of sources the greater the possibility of completeness and the less the chances of omission. But it does present serious difficulties for compiling data of appointment to office, since a range of possible days can be considered to be the date of appointment. Different sources cite different dates.

In compiling the lists of Ministries it proved uncommonly difficult to discover precisely when a man was appointed to an office and for how long he held it. In order to reduce this confusion and to standardise as far as possible the basis for the dates given in this book, the following plan was adopted. Wherever possible the date of appointment cited is that given by the *London Gazette* as the date of appointment to the office. The *Gazette* recorded the bulk of major appointments. It noted also appointments of junior Lords of the Treasury, of Officers of the Royal Household and (less regularly) of the Law Officers of the Crown.

The *London Gazette* was preferred to *The Times* as a source of appointments to office for various reasons. For the century as a whole it is more comprehensive. For the first part of the period *The Times* itself extracted its information from the *Gazette*, which is therefore more up to date. Further, in the matter of appointments *The Times* tended to confuse speculation with fact, as when it announced the appointment of Cobden to the Presidency of the Board of Trade in 1859. Trollope pertinently observed the shortcomings of *The Times* as a source of information on political appointments:

The Times, in its second edition on the Thursday, gave a list of the Cabinet, in which four places out of fourteen were rightly filled. On the Friday it named ten places aright, and indicated the law officers, with only one mistake with reference to Ireland; and on the Saturday it gave a list of the Under Secretaries of State, and Secretaries and Vice-Presidents, generally with wonderful correctness as to the individuals, though the offices were a little jumbled. (*Phineas Finn*, Chapter IX)

There is a final reason for preferring the *Gazette* to *The Times*: for the nineteenth century the *Gazette* has a reasonably complete and accurate index. Palmer's *Index to 'The Times'* is impossible to use successfully in compilation work.

Unfortunately not all appointments were gazetted. Many junior Ministers went unrecorded. Therefore wherever possible official publications have been used to supplement the *Gazette*. The most valuable of these were:

The *Foreign Office List* (annually from 1806), the *Colonial Office List* (annually from 1862) the *War Office List* (annually from 1862) and the *India Office List* (annually from 1858). Additional information about the Post Office was derived from *The Post Office: An Historical Summary* (HMSO, 1911). Under-Secretaries at the Home Office were taken from Sir F. Newsam, *The Home Office* (London, 1954). The Prime Minister was gazetted as a Lord Commissioner of the Treasury. Dates cited in this book are those of the kissing of hands, and are taken from the *Letters of Queen Victoria*.

Three works in particular proved of immense and continuous value. Joseph Haydn's *The Book of Dignities* (London, 1890) is the only comprehensive work on appointments for this period; and despite errors and omissions remains the best single work of reference on offices and office-holders. Frederic Boase, *Modern English Biography: containing many thousand concise memoirs of persons who have died between the years 1851-1900* (Truro, 1892-1921), has concise and accurate information on a whole range of political appointments, and is especially strong on minor office-holders who are seldom recorded elsewhere. For certain appointments, additional information can be found in Haydn's *Book of Dates* (London, 1910). F. M. Powicke and E. B. Fryde's *Handbook of British Chronology* (London, 2nd ed. 1961) lists English Officers of State, some Irish and Scottish appointments, and very many ecclesiastical dignitaries. For reasons explained above, dates of appointment given in the *Handbook* often differ by a few days from those provided in this book.

Five other major sources were found on examination to be insufficiently precise for the purposes of compiling the lists of Ministries: *Whitaker's Almanac* (published annually from 1869); *Dod's Parliamentary Companion* (annually from 1832); the *Annual Register* (annually from 1758); *Who's Who* (annually from 1847) and the *Dictionary of National Biography*.

Valuable information on particular offices was found in the *Whitehall Series* and *New Whitehall Series* of monographs on Government Departments. The following in particular contain lists of office-holders: Sir J. Winnifrith, *The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food* (London, 1962); Lord Bridges, *The Treasury* (London, 1964); Sir D. Milne, *The Scottish Office* (London, 1957); and Sir H.

Llewellyn Smith, *The Board of Trade* (London, 1928). Additional information on the Admiralty was found in J. M. Briggs, *Naval Administration 1832-97* (London, 1897) and in a Return published in *Commons Papers* 1854, XLII 95. Appointments to the Board of Customs, and to the Inland Revenue are in *Commons Papers* 1878, LXI 161.

Lists (not always accurate) are also to be found in Oliver and Boyd's *Edinburgh Almanac* (annually); Thom's *Dublin Directory* (annually); the *Royal Kalendar for 1871* (London, 1871); and in A. H. Dyke Acland and C. Ransome, *Handbook to Politics* (London, 1883).

Very detailed and exact information on certain offices and their employees is to be found in the following works on *Office-Holders in Modern Britain* compiled by J. C. Sainty:

- I *Treasury Officials 1660-1870* (London, 1972)
- II *Officials of the Secretaries of State 1660-1782* (London, 1973)
- III *Officials of the Boards of Trade 1660-1870* (London, 1974).

Information on Parliament came from the *Lords Journals*, the *Commons Journals*, and various well-known works of Parliamentary history. Statistics on the sittings, etc., of the House of Commons were published at intervals throughout the nineteenth century and conveniently collected in *Commons Papers* 1881, LXXIV 109. Additional information is to be found in the so-called *Black Book* of the House of Commons compiled in 1913 by A. A. Taylor and generously made available by the Librarian of the House of Commons. Statistics on Parliamentary Questions are to be found in D. N. Chester and N. Bowring, *Questions in Parliament* (London, 1962).

The following works were of some value for specific pieces of information: *The British Imperial Calendar*; *Local Government Directory* (from 1872); *Constitutional Year Book*; F. C. Carr-Gomm, *Handbook of the Administration of Great Britain 1801-1900* (London, rev. ed. 1901); the *Liberal Year Book*; *Eminent Persons: Biographies reprinted from 'The Times' 1870-94* (London, 1892-7); the *Statesman's Year Book* (annually from 1864).

Despite all efforts, the date of some appointments to office proved impossible to determine. This explains various gaps in the lists. For the sake of clarity, *n.a.* ('not available') has been inserted in some cases, but not in all.