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*Special Feature*

**JAMES II  
AT THE  
TERCENTENARY**

# JAMES II AT THE TERCENTENARY A Reassessment

Anne Barbeau Gardiner  
*Special Feature Editor*



The following essays commemorate the death of James II in 1701 by reassessing his reign from various perspectives. Andrew Barclay provides evidence that the king's court in 1685-1688 was not as "Catholic" as has been thought, but instead preponderantly Anglican. Next, using a vast number of primary texts that have been overlooked in this discussion, Paul Hopkins maps out the long, complex, and ambivalent relationship between James II and William Penn, the Quaker on whom James, when still Duke of York, had bestowed the proprietorship of Pennsylvania. Then Edward Corp ascertains the king's sincerity by examining his private advice to his son about how to rule England and measuring his secret words against his public statements. In his turn, Lionel Glassey examines county records and determines that the king's sudden absence in 1688 did not exactly result in a Hobbesian state of nature but rather in a temporary vacuum of legal authority at the local level. My own essay presents a close reading of Pierre Bayle's passionate and gratuitous defense of James II, in the *Avis aux Réfugiés* (1690).