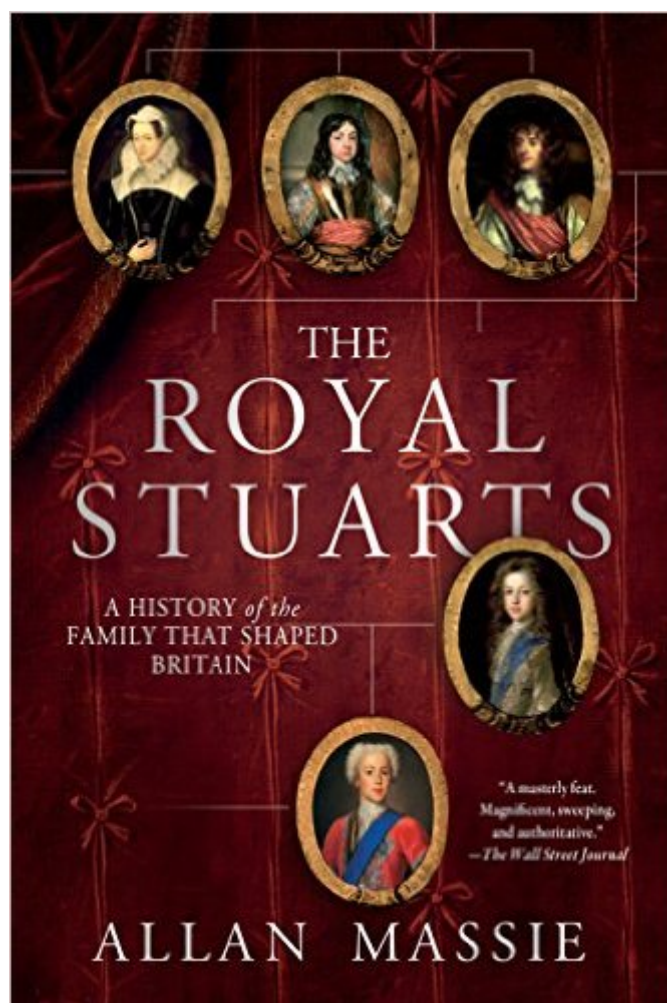


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# The Royal Stuarts: A History Of The Family That Shaped Britain



## Synopsis

"Compelling...A masterly feat...A 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, Queen of Scots, Charles I, and Bonnie Prince Charlie, uncovering a family of strong affections and fierce rivalries. Told with panache, Allan Massie's *The Royal Stuarts* is the gripping true story of backstabbing, betrayal, and ambition gone awry.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

\*\*\*\*1/2"Mr. Massie has written a magnificent, sweeping, authoritative, warm yet wry history of this flawed but never dull family. It is just a pity that there are no pictures, for on the whole the Stuarts were a handsome lot." --Allan Mallinson, WS Journal  
\*The Royal Stuarts ruled for over three centuries in Scotland and for a century as the Royal Family of Britain and Ireland. They were leading actors in the foremost political dramas of British history - the Scottish Wars of Independence, the Union of the Crowns, the English Civil War and the Restoration. The Royal Stuarts got strong affections and fierce rivalries, leaving their mark on an extended epoch of British

history, and remain a pretty controversial and divisive within the European royal families. Drawing on the accounts of past and present historians, novels and plays, Allan Massie, the Scottish novelist who wrote about many historical characters, tells the Stewarts family's full story (name changed to Stuarts by Mary Q/Sc), from the marshes of Brittany to the court politics of Scotland and England. Allan Massie's lively family portrait of the Stuarts dynasty takes us deep into the lives of Mary Queen of Scots, Charles I and Bonnie Prince Charlie, uncovering a family of the brave and competent, the lame and unwise. To tell the story of this royal family from start to end is to pass through a broad search of British history. English readers may think first of the accession of James I, when the Stuart dynasty replaced the Tudors; but the Stuarts had been ruling Scotland since the late 14th century. They moved to England originally from Brittany.

In just 53 years, certainly in the lifetime of many people now living, the English monarchy will observe the jubilee of its first 1,000 years. That would be in 2066 and remembering William the Conqueror and the Norman invasion in 1066 and all that. Sitting on the throne of the United Kingdom at the time will likely be George, who was born and christened this very year, the seventh of that royal name if he chooses to use it. It is called the United Kingdom because it includes other lands than England, paramount among them Scotland which is a crown so old that, unlike the English crown, its origin is lost in the mists of time and of mythology. This wonderful book tells the tale of the Stuarts, by far the most fascinating branch of the family tree that ruled Scotland and whose descendants rule the United Kingdom today. The Stuarts begin in 1371 with the reign of Robert II, at a time when Scots kings were more like terrible tribal warlords than monarchs with kingly dignity. The first proper Renaissance king of Scotland was James IV (1488-1513), who died in war against England at the famously disastrous battle of Flodden, where the flower of Scots aristocracy fell with him. He was followed quickly by the tyrannical James V, the famous Mary Queen of Scots that Elizabeth of England had executed for treason, and then James VI of Scotland who became James I of England and united the crowns of the two lands forever. This happened because, by way of dynastic politics, his great-grandfather James IV married Margaret Tudor, the daughter of Henry VII of England. When Henry VIII's daughter Elizabeth died never having married, James of Scotland, son of the hated Mary, became king of England and Scotland.

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