

## CHRONOLOGY

### Web Appendix to *The Kit-Cat Club*, by Ophelia Field (2008)

Key events in the leading Kit-Cats' lives and the history of the Club; selected Kit-Cat productions and publications (**Public/international events and cultural landmarks in bold**).

1660

Jacob Tonson 4 years old.

**The Restoration of Charles II.**

1661

**Harrington imprisoned for leading the republican Rota Club.**

1664

John Vanbrugh baptized in London.

1665

**The 2nd Dutch War.**

**The Plague.**

1666

Vanbrugh family move to Chester.

**The Great Fire.**

1669

John Somers enrolls at Middle Temple.

1670

Birth of William Congreve in Ireland.

**Secret Treaty of Dover signed with France.**

1671

Tonson bound apprentice to a stationer.

1672

Birth of Richard Steele in Ireland.

Birth of Joseph Addison.

**3rd Dutch War.**

1673

**The Test Act.**

1674

Gottfried Kneller (Godfrey Kneller) arrives in England.

**Parliament prorogued for 2nd time.**

**First Italian opera performed in London.**

1675

Charles Montagu enters Westminster School, where he befriends Matthew Prior.

1676

Death of Steele's father. George Stepney enters Westminster School.

**2nd Secret Treaty signed with France.**

1677

**Commission for Trade and Plantations first founded.**

1678

Tonson's first publication; establishes shop at the Judge's Head, Chancery Lane.  
Montagu meets John Somers at Middle Temple.

**The Popish Plot.**

1679

**1st Exclusion Parliament.**

**1st lapse of the Licensing Act.**

1680

**2nd Exclusion Parliament.**

1681

Matthew Prior re-enters Westminster School; spends at least a year there with Charles Montagu and George Stepney.

**Charles II dissolves Oxford Parliament.**

**Shaftesbury arrested for treason.**

1682

**Formation of the United Theatre Company.**

1683

Vanbrugh visits France to study architecture.

Steele sent to England to live with aunt and uncle.

Montagu, Stepney and Prior ('Lord Dorset's Boys') together at Cambridge.

**The Rye House Plot.**

1684

Steele enters Charterhouse School.

Death of Addison's mother.

**Titus Oates' trial.**

1685

**Monmouth rebellion.**

**Death of Charles II.**

**James II accedes to throne.**

1686

Vanbrugh given commission as ensign in the Earl of Huntingdon's regiment but soon resigns.

Addison enters Charterhouse and befriends Steele.

Congreve enters Trinity College Dublin.

1687

Addison elected to Queen's College, Oxford.

Charles Montagu and Matthew Prior write 'The Country Mouse and the City Mouse' poem.

**James II's 1st Declaration of Indulgence.**

**Tyrconnel becomes Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.**

1688

Somers defends the seven bishops who resist James II's pro-Catholic policies.

Vanbrugh imprisoned as a spy by the French at Calais.

Montagu marries the Dowager Lady Manchester.

**The Glorious Revolution (5 November: landing of William of Orange).**

**Abdication of James II.**

**Tonson republishes Milton's *Paradise Lost*.**

1689

Somers appointed Solicitor General; becomes Tonson's drinking companion (seed of future Kit-Cat Club).

Dorset appointed Lord Chamberlain.

Congreve flees to England and stays with his grandfather in Staffordshire.

Steele elected to Christ Church, Oxford.

Election of Addison to fellowship at Magdalen College, Oxford.

**War of the Two Kings commences, following landing of Catholic forces loyal to James II in Ireland.**

**Joint accession of William III and Mary II.**

**General election victory claimed by the Whigs.**

**The 'Convention Parliament' adopts the Bill of Rights, the anti-Catholic Test Acts and the pro-Dissenter Toleration Act.**

**England joins the War of the League of Augsburg against France.**

1690

Steele tries and fails to gain preferment at Christ Church.

Prior a diplomat in The Hague; Stepney a diplomat in Brandenburg and Berlin until 1692.

Montagu's 'Epistle to the Rt Hon Charles, Earl of Dorset . . .'

**General election victory claimed by the Whigs.**

**Battle of the Boyne won by William III.**

**Publication of John Locke's *Two Treatises of Government*.**

1691

Vanbrugh transfers to Vincennes prison.

Steele transfers to Merton College.

Congreve befriends Abraham Stanyan, Richard Temple and Arthur Maynwaring while studying at the Inns of Court.

**The Treaty of Limerick.**

**Smallpox epidemic in Oxford.**

1692

Vanbrugh transfers to Bastille.

Congreve's novella *Incognita*.

Congreve and John Dryden collaborate on translation of Juvenal, and on Congreve's first play, *The Old Batchelor*.

Steele leaves Oxford and enlists in the Life Guards.

Vanbrugh released on parole in Paris.

Somers promoted to Attorney General.

Montagu made a Lord of the Treasury and a Privy Counsellor.

**The Glencoe Massacre in Scotland.**

**The battle of La Hogue.**

**Beginnings of English national debt.**

1693

Steele's regiment garrisoned at Whitehall.

Addison takes his Masters degree; his first contact with Dryden and Tonson.

Vanbrugh returns to England.

Somers appointed Lord Keeper.

Opening of Congreve's *Old Batchelor* at Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

Tonson moves home to Fleet Street, where Congreve becomes his lodger.

Congreve begins pursuing the actress Mrs Bracegirdle.

Tonson publishes translation of Juvenal and Persius.

Opening of Congreve's *The Double Dealer*.

### 1694

Steele sees active service in Flanders.  
Vanbrugh sees action in the naval battle of Camaret Bay.  
Four poems by Addison included in Tonson's *Miscellany*.

**Bank of England chartered.**

**The Triennial Act limits Parliament to duration of 3 years.**

**Death of Queen Mary, followed by closure of theatres.**

### 1695

Vanbrugh becomes captain in Lord Berkeley's marine regiment.  
Addison acts as Tonson's agent in Oxford, and is introduced, via Congreve and Tonson, to patrons Montagu and Somers.

Steele transfers to Coldstream Guards and is made a captain; posted as security guard at royal palaces.

Congreve granted sinecure for licensing of hackney and stagecoaches (-1705).

James Stanhope fights at the siege of Namur.

Stepney, Prior, Congreve, Steele and Addison all publish poems that commemorate Queen Mary's death.

Opening of Congreve's *Love for Love* (text published by Tonson).

**Defection of Betterton and others away from the United Theatre Company.**

**General election victory claimed by the Whigs.**

**2nd lapse of the Licensing Act.**

### 1696

Somers establishes a new Commission for Trade and Plantations.

Prior appointed Secretary to the embassy at Ryswick.

*The Relapse and Aesop*, both by Vanbrugh, open at Drury Lane.

**Recoinage of the realm ends in disaster.**

**Nationwide economic unrest.**

**The Fenwick trial.**

### 1697

Kneller paints portrait of Dorset: probably the inspiration for later Kit-Cat series.

Congreve's tragedy *The Mourning Bride* opens at Lincoln's Inn Fields theatre.

Congreve granted income from the Malt Lottery.

Dorset resigns as Lord Chamberlain.

Vanbrugh's *The Provok'd Wife* opens at Lincoln's Inn Fields theatre.

Montagu appointed First Lord of the Treasury.

Vanbrugh's *Aesop Part II* at Drury Lane.

Somers promoted to the peerage and given an estate to support it.

Lord Manchester (and Abraham Stanyan) posted at Venice embassy.

Steele serving as private secretary to Lord Cutts.

8-year-old Mary Pierrepont attends a meeting of the Kit-Cat Club.

Kit-Cats lead subscribers to Dryden's translation of *The Works of Virgil* published by Tonson.

Prior's *A New Answer to An Argument against a Standing Army*.

Congreve's poem *The Birth of the Muse*.

**Treaty of Ryswick, ending the War of the League of Augsburg.**

**Parliamentary and press debates on the retention of a standing army.**

**William III decides to form a more Whig ministry.**

**First service held in St Paul's.**

### 1698

Vanbrugh's *The Country House* opens at Drury Lane.

Elizabeth Tonson has an illegitimate daughter by Steele.

As result of Jeremy Collier's attack on the theatre, Middlesex Justices prosecute Congreve and Tonson for writing/printing *The Double Dealer*.

Tonson opens his shop at Gray's Inn Gate (-1710).

Maynwaring, Stanhope, Compton and others traveling in France during peace of Ryswick.  
Vanbrugh's *Vindication of The Relapse etc* in answer to Collier.

**Fire destroys Whitehall Palace.**

**Jeremy Collier publishes *A Short View* and launches movement to reform and censor the stage.**

**General election victory claimed by the Whigs.**

1699

Addison leaves Magdalen College.

Vanbrugh visits site of the future Castle Howard (as well as Kiveton, Chatsworth, Burley-on-the-Hill, etc.).

Addison travels to France on state stipend; stays briefly in Paris, then settles at Blois for a year.

Charles Montagu forced to resign his offices (Chancellor of Exchequer etc.), after failure to prevent passing of the Disbanding Bill.

Manchester (and Stanyan) running the Paris embassy, visited by Addison.

**Vanbrugh tells Manchester he has received the Castle Howard commission from Carlisle.**

***The Dispensary* by Dr Samuel Garth (first edition – revised until 1718).**

**The Disbanding Act.**

**Literary paper war between Richard Blackmore and Dryden's circle at Will's Coffee House.**

**1st Partition Treaty secretly signed.**

1700

Kit-Cat Club sponsors Falstaff theatre production; first incontrovertible manuscript reference to the Club's meetings.

Congreve's *The Way of the World* opens at Lincoln's Inn Fields theatre.

Parliament votes to force King William to dismiss Somers.

Vanbrugh's version of *The Pilgrim* opens at Drury Lane.

Dryden's funeral sponsored by the Kit-Cat Club.

Steele wins a duel in Hyde Park.

Vanbrugh lays foundations of Castle Howard.

Vanbrugh permitted to build house on site of destroyed Whitehall Palace.

Congreve given sinecure as Customer of the Poole Port (–end 1703).

Congreve on Continent traveling until mid-December.

Addison visits Paris embassy, then spends summer touring central France with Edward Wortley; embarks on tour of Italy.

Robert Walpole inherits family estates, marries and commences political career.

Charles Montagu created Baron Halifax.

**2nd Partition Treaty.**

**Death of Princess Anne's only child, Gloucester.**

**Death of Carlos II of Spain.**

**Sidney Godolphin appointed First Lord of the Treasury.**

**Start of the Great Northern War between Russia, Denmark-Norway, Saxony and Sweden and the Ottomans (–1721).**

1701

Impeachment charges against Somers voted through by the Commons; Prior votes against his friends.

Steele's *Christian Hero* published by Tonson.

Impeachment charges against Somers dropped.

Steele writing *The Funeral* in Wandsworth.

Congreve's *The Judgment of Paris: A Masque*.

Stepney posted as Envoy to Imperial Court in Vienna.

Addison in Rome and Florence; reaches Geneva by year's end.

Vanbrugh building his 'Goose Pie' house in Whitehall.

Steele's *The Funeral* opens at the Drury Lane theatre.

**General election victory claimed by the Whigs.**

**Whig Rose Club fails to organize Commons vote against Robert Harley becoming Speaker.**

**Act of Settlement establishes succession on the Protestant heirs of Sophia of Hanover.**

**Marlborough appointed Commander-in-Chief.**

**Death of James II in exile; Louis XIV recognizes James' son as 'James III' ('The Pretender' or 'The Old Pretender').**

**The Grand Alliance (between England, Holland and Austria) to prevent Louis XIV from gaining the Spanish throne.**

**General election victory claimed by the Tories.**

1702

Vanbrugh and the actors of *The Provok'd Wife* prosecuted for indecency.

Vanbrugh's *The False Friend* opens at Drury Lane.

Steele made a captain of the 34th Foot Guards; spends following years posted near Harwich.

Report of the Punch Club (a Kit-Cat spoof document).

Queen Anne purges many Kit-Cats from government.

Tonson arrives in Holland, having leased a property at Barn Elms before he left England.

Vanbrugh appointed Comptroller of the Board of Works by Carlisle; roofing Castle Howard in the autumn.

Addison awaits orders from Halifax in Geneva; his career hopes dashed by death of William III; travels to Vienna in summer and remains there until winter, when he visits Hamburg.

Kit-Cat Club subscription to build a clubhouse in Hampstead.

Kneller begins to paint the Kit-Cat portraits.

**Louis XIV's troops seize Dutch fortresses, violating the Treaty of Ryswick.**

**Death of William III. Accession of his sister-in-law Queen Anne.**

**Establishment of the first Godolphin–Marlborough ministry.**

**Anne declares war against France; War of Spanish Succession commences (–1713).**

**General election victory claimed by the Tories.**

1703

Prior's poem 'Celia to Damon' presented to the Club.

Walsh's poem *The Golden Age Restor'd*.

Tonson in The Hague with the Duke of Grafton; in Amsterdam by June.

Vanbrugh inspects work at Barn Elms; created Carlisle Herald as payment for Castle Howard; begins work on the Queen's Theatre in the Haymarket.

Tonson meets with Addison in Holland. Addison fails to secure job as tutor to the Duke of Somerset's son; hears news of his father's April death and so returns to England.

The actress Mrs Oldfield becomes Maynwaring's mistress; Henrietta, Countess of Godolphin becomes Congreve's mistress.

Mr Cat living on Shire Lane; Kit-Cat Club meeting at the Fountain tavern on the Strand.

Steele's *The Lying Lover* opens at Drury Lane.

**The Great Storm.**

1704

Addison joins the Kit-Cat Club.

Addison commissioned to write 'The Campaign' to celebrate battle of Blenheim; appointed Commissioner for Appeals and Regulating the Excise as reward.

Vanbrugh, Walsh and Congreve's *Squire Trelooby* performed at Lincoln's Inn Fields theatre.

Foundation stone of the Queen's Theatre in the Haymarket laid.

Vanbrugh visits works at Castle Howard.

Addison meets the Countess of Warwick, via Halifax.

Queen attends concert at unofficial inauguration of the Haymarket theatre.

Duke of Marlborough approaches Vanbrugh regarding design of a house.

Kit-Cat Club starts meeting at Tonson's Barn Elms villa.

James Stanhope and Spencer Compton invite Robert Walpole to lead younger Junto Whig MPs (the 'Kitlings').

**Defeat of French and Bavarians at battle of Blenheim.**

**English capture Gibraltar.**

**Occasional Conformity Bill debated; Tory clubs formed to support the Bill.**

**Whig opposition to the 'Tackers', which defeats the Occasional Conformity Bill.**

**Isaac Newton's *Opticks*.**

**Jonathan Swift's *Tale of a Tub* published anonymously.**  
**Alexander Pope introduced into London literary society.**

1705

Vanbrugh visits Woodstock and is commissioned to build Blenheim Palace; foundation stone laid.  
The Queen's Theatre formally opens under management of Vanbrugh and Congreve.  
Steele's *The Tender Husband* opens at Drury Lane.  
Congreve appointed Commissioner for Licensing Wine (–Dec 1714); resigned commission for licensing coaches); resigns from theatre at end of year.  
Steele marries Margaret Stretch (Barbados heiress); resigns from army; borrows £400 from Addison; joins Kit-Cat Club.  
Matthew Prior expelled from Kit-Cat Club?  
Stanyan posted as Envoy to Switzerland.  
Addison appointed a Commissioner of Appeals (–1708) and also an Undersecretary of State.  
Election of John Smith as Commons' Speaker.  
Vanbrugh's *The Confederacy* and *The Mistake* open at the Queen's Theatre.  
Addison's *Remarks on Several Parts of Italy*  
**General election victory claimed by the Tories.**  
**The 'Invitation Crisis' and partisan parliamentary debates on 'The Church in Danger'.**

1706

Death of Dorset.  
Vanbrugh, Halifax, Addison and Dorset's son Lionel on Court (and Club) mission to Hanover.  
Loosening of Vanbrugh's ties with the Queen's Theatre, which he leases to Sweeney.  
Steele receives Court post as Gentleman Waiter to Queen's husband.  
Death of Steele's first wife.  
Somers, Wharton, Carlisle, Halifax and others involved in negotiation of legislative union with Scotland.  
**The Regency Act.**  
**Negotiations on Act of Union begin in Whitehall's Cockpit.**  
**Battle of Ramillies.**  
**Earl of Sunderland replaces Sir Charles Hedges as Secretary of State for the South, against Queen Anne's wishes.**

1707

*The Muses' Mercury* edited by Garth and Steele.  
Addison's opera *Rosamund* opens.  
Vanbrugh's *The Cuckold in Conceit* opens.  
Steele created Gazetteer.  
Lord Manchester employs Vanbrugh to restore Kimbolton Castle; Vanbrugh visits this house and also Castle Howard.  
Addison lodging with Steele for the summer, then visits patrons at their country seats.  
Steele marries Mary Scurlock ('Prue').  
Death of George Stepney.  
Kit-Cat Club raises subscription for three comedies.  
Addison publishes an anonymous pamphlet: *The Present State of the War*.  
The Steeles move to Bury Street.  
**Act of Union with Scotland.**  
**Run on Bank of England funds.**

1708

Tom Hopkins, Under-Secretary of State, joins the Kit-Cat.  
Addison working to implement state of national emergency during Jacobite invasion attempt.  
Queen's Theatre in trouble; no performances 20 May–14 December.  
Addison elected MP for Lostwithiel in Cornwall (but does not take seat until Commons reassembles in autumn).  
Addison spends summer at Sandy End in Fulham; Steeles and Halifax live nearby.

Vanbrugh working at Audley End.

Thomas Wharton appointed Lord Lieutenant of Ireland; appoints Addison his Irish Secretary.

Only 4 of possible 39 Kit-Cat members not receiving some form of government pay.

**Political crisis over Robert Harley's intrigues ends with his resignation.**

**Attempted invasion of Britain by The Pretender.**

**General election victory claimed by the Whigs (by a landslide).**

**Battle of Oudenarde.**

**Defeat of the Naturalisation of Foreign Protestants Bill.**

**Death of Queen's husband, Prince George.**

## 1709

Birth of Steele's daughter Elizabeth.

Wharton and Addison arrive in Dublin as new Irish governors; remain until September.

First issue of *The Tatler* (-1711)

Steele arrested for debts.

Vanbrugh in dispute with Duchess of Marlborough over Woodstock Manor; spends summer at Castle

Howard and building house for himself at Chargate.

Club meeting hosted by Sir Henry Furnese.

Addison elected MP for Malmesbury.

Tonson publishes Rowe's edition of Shakespeare's plays and backs the first Copyright Act.

**The Great Frost.**

**Barrier Treaty signed with Holland.**

**Peace negotiations with France fail.**

**Proposal to bring Palatine refugees to Ireland**

**Battle of Malplaquet.**

**Dr Henry Sacheverell preaches in St Paul's.**

**Mrs Manley's *New Atalantis* published, attacking many Whigs.**

## 1710

'The Paper War': Maynwaring edits *The Whig Examiner* defending the government (vs. *The Examiner* of the Tories).

Steele and Jonathan Swift break relations.

Steele receives a commission in the Stamp Office; but again arrested for debt.

Expulsion of Duke of Somerset from Kit-Cat Club for siding with Robert Harley.

Birth of Steele's son, with Halifax as godfather.

Addison in Ireland until autumn; returns to London and contributes to *The Tatler* and Maynwaring's *Whig Examiner*.

Steele resigns as Gazetteer.

Kit-Cats occupying 19 seats in Commons and 17 seats in Lords prior to fall of the Whig ministry.

Addison re-elected at Malmesbury despite overall Tory landslide in general elections.

Tonson moves his shop from Gray's Inn to the Strand.

**Impeachment of Dr Sacheverell.**

**Four Iroquois chiefs meet Queen Anne and are given a tour of London.**

**Dismissal of 3rd Earl of Sunderland, and Tories sweep to power; general election victory claimed by the Tories.**

**Formation of the ultra-Tory 'October Club'.**

**Handel arrives in London.**

## 1711

The last *Tatler* issue; first *Spectator*.

Partisan elections of directors at the Bank of England and United East India Co.

Addison wins £1,000 in national lottery; finances Mr Button to set up a coffee house in Covent Garden.

**Formation of South Sea Company.**

**The Landed Property Qualification Act passed.**

**Duchess of Marlborough resigns her posts.**

**Premiere of Handel's *Rinaldo* at Queen's Theatre.**

**Henry St John forms the Tory ‘Brothers Club’.**  
**Anti-Tory street demonstrations are prevented on 17 November.**  
**Passing of Occasional Conformity Act.**  
**Swift’s *Conduct of the Allies*.**  
**Marlborough dismissed from all his offices.**

1712

Walpole committed to the Tower by the Tories (released in July).  
Steele’s *Englishman’s Thanks to the Duke of Marlborough*.  
Addison’s *Spectator* series on Milton’s *Paradise Lost*.  
Addison buys Bilton Hall, near Rugby.  
Steeles move to Bloomsbury Square and Haverstock Hill; their 3<sup>rd</sup> child, Eugene, is born.  
Blenheim works halted.  
Tonson joins Samuel Buckley as publisher of *The Spectator*.  
The fictional Spectator Club is disbanded; last *Spectator* of its first series on 6 December.  
Deaths of General Tidcomb, Arthur Maynwaring, Lord Mohun and Sir Henry Furnese.  
Foundation of the Hanover Club (satellite of Kit-Cat) and beginnings of Button’s Coffee House.  
**Prince Eugene of Savoy arrives in London.**  
**Foundation of the ultra-Tory ‘March Club’.**  
**Peace Congress underway at Utrecht.**  
**Baron de Bothmar joins the negotiations from Hanover.**  
**The Stamp Act.**  
**Royal Society publishes its vindication of Newton over Leibniz as the inventor of the Infinitesimal Calculus.**

1713

Steele’s mother-in-law dies and leaves Steeles’ property; Steeles have 4th child, Mary.  
Steele’s *Guardian* published by the Tonsons.  
Premiere of Addison’s play *Cato*.  
Steele’s *Englishman* (1st series); Steele’s pamphlet *The Importance of Dunkirk Consider’d*.  
Vanbrugh’s patent as Comptroller is terminated.  
Steele elected MP for Stockbridge, Hampshire; turns over writing of *Guardian* to Addison who contributes 51 issues (and 24 papers to the revived *Spectator*).  
Tonson in Paris (–early 1714).  
**Signing of the *asiento*.**  
**Treaty of Utrecht, ending the War of Spanish Succession.**  
**General election victory claimed by the Tories.**  
**‘The Scriblerus Club’ begins meeting regularly.**

1714

Steele’s pamphlet *The Crisis*.  
Steele’s *Ladies Library* and *The Lover* (nos. 10 and 39 by Addison) and *The Reader*.  
Steele’s expulsion from the House of Commons by Harley’s ministry, on charges of sedition; defended by Stanhope and Walpole, and supported by Addison.  
Addison’s appointment as Secretary to the Lord Justices (regents until arrival of George I).  
Vanbrugh knighted by George I.  
Kit-Cat promotions commence under George I, including Wharton as Keeper of Privy Seal and James Stanhope as Secretary of State for the South.  
Addison reappointed as Irish Secretary (under Sunderland).  
Congreve made an Undersearcher of Customs and Secretary of Jamaica; end of his financial worries.  
Steele leases 26 St James’s Street; publishes his memoir, *Apology for Himself and His Writings*.  
Vanbrugh sells Chargate to Lord Clare, who renames it ‘Claremont’.  
**Break in Tory government ranks after failure to persuade The Pretender to renounce Catholicism.**  
**Harley (Lord Oxford) resigns as Lord Treasurer.**  
**Death of Queen Anne.**  
**George I arrives at Greenwich and is later crowned in Westminster Abbey.**

### 1715

Vanbrugh reappointed as Comptroller of the Board of Works; working on Claremont (–1720).

Steele elected MP for Boroughbridge, Yorkshire.

Death of Wharton.

Death of Halifax.

Steele knighted and granted patent to the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

Garth's poem *Claremont*.

Steele's entertainment at York Buildings on King George's birthday.

Vanbrugh appointed Surveyor of Gardens and Waters.

Walpole appointed Chair of Committee on Secrecy, prosecuting Jacobite rebels.

Prior placed under house arrest.

Sunderland's resignation leaves Addison unemployed until his appointment to Commission of Trade and Plantations.

Steele's 2nd series of *The Englishman*; Steele's *Town-Talk*, in a *Letter to a Lady in the Country* and Addison's *Freeholder*.

**First Hanoverian Parliament with large Whig majority; ministry led by Walpole and Charles Townshend.**

**Death of Louis XIV.**

**'The Fifteen': Jacobite rebellion in Scotland, defeated at Preston.**

**British navy deployed in the Baltic (in the Great Northern War).**

### 1716

Walpole pushing for execution of Derwentwater and other Jacobite rebels.

Steele's *Chit-Chat* (3 issues).

Death of Somers.

Steele loses a son and suffers a stroke; made a Commissioner for Forfeited Estates in Scotland; his wife goes to Wales.

Addison marries Countess of Warwick; moves to Holland House, Kensington.

Vanbrugh spends summer in northern England; succeeds Wren as Surveyor to Greenwich Hospital.

The 'Summer Court' at Hanover: rise of Stanhope in King's favour.

Addison's honeymoon in France.

Vanbrugh's quarrel with the Duchess of Marlborough over negotiations for her granddaughter's marriage to Newcastle.

Vanbrugh resigns as architect of Blenheim.

Steele tries to launch his 'Fishpool'.

**George I announces The Pretender is in Scotland.**

**Suspension of *habeas corpus*.**

**Pretender flees Britain.**

**The Septennial Act.**

**The Treaty of Westminster signed with Charles VI of Austria.**

**George I demotes Townshend.**

### 1717

The Whig schism splits the Kit-Cat Club into followers of Walpole (and Townshend) versus followers of Stanhope (and Sunderland).

Translation of Ovid's *Metamorphoses* published by Tonson.

Duke of Newcastle chairs meeting of the Kit-Cat Club at his London home.

Townshend's dismissal leads Walpole to resign.

New Stanhope–Sunderland ministry appoints Addison Secretary of State for the South and Newcastle Lord Chamberlain.

**Rift between King and the Prince of Wales becomes public.**

**Union of the English Freemasons Grand Lodge inaugurated.**

### 1718

Addison resigns from government due to ill-health.

Vanbrugh fails to gain post as Surveyor-General of Royal Works.  
Steele often at Hampton Court throughout the summer; Steele's argument with Newcastle begins.  
Tonson goes to France for 2 years and Kit-Cat Club ceases to convene.  
Death of Steele's 2nd wife 'Prue'.  
Vanbrugh spends Christmas at Castle Howard.  
*Remarks on Several Parts of Italy* revised by Addison.  
Complete works of Matthew Prior published by Tonson.  
**Britain and France sign secret convention to commit Charles VI to the Triple Alliance in exchange for help in the Mediterranean.**  
**War of the Quadruple Alliance (Austria, Britain, the United Provinces and France versus Spain, 1718–20).**

### 1719

Vanbrugh marries Henrietta Maria Yarbrough; begins building 'Vanbrugh Castle' in Greenwich; designs garden buildings for Stowe.  
Death of Dr Garth.  
Birth of Addison's daughter.  
Stanhope introduces The Peerage Bill, attacked by Steele in *The Plebeian* and defended by Addison in *The Old Whig*.  
Death of Addison.  
Vanbrugh again fails to become Surveyor of the Royal Works.  
Vanbrugh and Cobham design garden architecture of Stowe.  
Vanbrugh travels to Suffolk; mortgages Vanbrugh Castle to brother.  
Newcastle intrudes on Steele's authority at the Theatre Royal.  
Tonson publishes *The Works of Mr William Congreve . . . revis'd by the author*.  
**Foundation of the Royal Academy of Music.**  
**Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*.**  
**Defeat of the Peerage Bill.**  
**French 'bubble' over the Mississippi Scheme.**

### 1720

Lord Grafton made Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.  
Steele's *The Theatre*, by Sir John Edgar.  
Vanbrugh moves into 'Vanbrugh Castle'.  
Steele deprived of his patent at the Theatre Royal by Newcastle; summers in Scotland.  
Tonson's nephew entertaining the Newcastles and others at Barn Elms.  
Tonson returns from Paris and moves to The Hazels near Ledbury.  
End of the Kit-Cat Club.  
Birth of Vanbrugh's son, Charles.  
**Wharton's son founds the 'Hell-Fire Club'.**  
**Reconciliation engineered between George I and his son, the Prince of Wales.**  
**George I allows South Sea Company to assume national debt.**  
**South Sea crash.**

### Post-1720

**1721:** Wharton's son attacks Stanhope in the Lords and Stanhope dies soon afterwards. Death of Prior.  
Duchess of Marlborough sues Vanbrugh. Walpole returns to be First Lord of the Treasury (and remains in power, the first 'Prime Minister', until 1742). Walpole restores Steele's Drury Lane patent.  
**1722/3:** Steele's *The Conscious Lovers*.  
**1722: Death of Marlborough. Whigs win 2nd Hanoverian election by another landslide.**  
**1723:** Death of Kneller. Birth of Congreve's illegitimate daughter Mary.  
**1724:** Steele retires to Wales.  
**1725:** Vanbrugh, Cobham and Carlisle together at Stowe. Efforts to hold a Kit-Cat reunion.  
**1726:** Death of Vanbrugh.  
**1726:** Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*.

**1727: Death of George I.**

**1728: Pope's *Dunciad*.**

**1727–9: The Anglo-Spanish War.**

**1729:** Congreve's poem 'Epistle to Lord Cobham, or Of Improving the Present Time'. Deaths of Congreve and Steele.

**1733:** Samuel Croxall tries to write a history of the Kit-Cat Club.

**1735:** Faber's engravings of Kneller's Kit-Cat portraits.

**1736:** Death of Tonson.

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