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Massachusetts Imprint of Famed “Royal Proclamation”  
Displayed on its 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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Transported under state police guard from the Massachusetts Archives to the Old State House, a rare surviving imprint of the “Royal Proclamation” of 1763 is now on display at the Bay State’s historic colonial capitol building—in the very Council Chamber where such official government documents were housed 250 years before.

A landmark of colonial history, the 1763 Proclamation set forth ambitious plans for ruling vast North American territories Britain acquired as a result of victories over France and Spain in the just-concluded “French and Indian” or Seven Years War. Attempting to reconcile the demands of settlers with the rights of Native peoples living on these ceded lands, the Proclamation raised questions about the coexistence of sovereign Native nations and European empires—and their U.S. and Canadian successor states—that still resonate today.

The Massachusetts copy of the Proclamation will be on display at the Old State House as part of the exhibition “1763: A Revolutionary Peace,” on view through October 7—the very day the Proclamation was issued in British King George III’s name 250 years ago.

Exploring the Proclamation’s significance and legacies will be a roundtable discussion at the Old State House on Friday, October 4 at 5:15 PM presented by the University of Pennsylvania’s McNeil Center for Early American Studies.

The Proclamation is being displayed alongside Britain’s signed copy of the 1763 treaty of Paris and related treasures, including a 1760s wampum belt on loan from Oxford University and two examples of the famous “Happy While United” medal marking peace between Native nations and the British Crown. Records indicate that Britain’s copy of the 1763 Paris treaty has never before been displayed on these shores.



**Project Committee**

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FRENCH & INDIAN WAR  
COMMEMORATION

*250 years*

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“The rare union of these historic documents – one from Britain, the other from the Massachusetts Archives – serves to demonstrate once again that the history of Massachusetts is the history of America” said Secretary of the Commonwealth William F. Galvin.

“We are proud to be able to display in the Massachusetts Archives’ imprint of this famous and important document alongside the Paris treaty of 1763” said Brian W. J. LeMay, Bostonian Society President. “This represents an important partnership between the Commonwealth and The Bostonian Society, and we are grateful to Commonwealth Secretary of State Galvin for making it possible.”

“The collections of the Massachusetts Archives include seminal elements of our nation’s documentary heritage of which the Royal Proclamation of 1763 is an important example,” said Michael Comeau, Mass Archives and Commonwealth Museum Executive Director. “The Archives is honored to partner with the Bostonian Society in publicly displaying this historic document, made all the more impactful by its pairing with the 1763 Treaty of Paris in such a fitting location.”

“As an advisor to both the 1763 commemoration and the Old State House, I am gratified to see the Massachusetts imprint of the ‘Royal Proclamation’ exhibited in the Council Chamber alongside an original signed copy of the 1763 Treaty of Paris,” said Robert J. Allison. “The issues of war, peace, and the future of the empire these documents raised were discussed and debated in this very building 250 years ago.”

Presented by the University of Pennsylvania’s McNeil Center for Early American Studies, the Royal Proclamation roundtable will be chaired by the Center’s director, Prof. Daniel K. Richter, and features Dartmouth historian of Native America Prof. Colin Calloway; Dr. Karl Hele, Director of First Peoples Studies at Concordia University and a member of the Garden River First Nation Anishinaabeg; and Atlantic and British imperial historian Dr. Heather Welland of Binghamton University.

This event is free and open to the public, but registration at <http://1763proclamationroundtable.eventbrite.com> is required. A light reception sponsored in part by the UMass-Boston Department of History will follow.

#### **About the Mass Archives:**

The Massachusetts Archives is the repository of the non-current, permanent records of state administration. In it are almost four centuries of Massachusetts history. Among its treasures are the royal charters that established the Massachusetts Bay Colony, original copies of the Declaration of Independence and Bill of Rights, and the Massachusetts Constitution of 1780.

The collection holds artifacts as well as documents, including Paul Revere’s copper plate engraving of the Boston Massacre. The research room is a popular resource for genealogical study. Among its holdings are passenger lists for the port of Boston and records of naturalization, births, marriages, and deaths.

**About the Bostonian Society:**

The Bostonian Society was established in 1881 to preserve colonial America's most historic public building - the Old State House - and to illuminate the stories these halls tell of how Boston gave rise to our country's most powerful founding ideas. Since 2005, the Bostonian Society has raised over \$3.4 million for the preservation and interpretation of the Old State House, on behalf of the City of Boston. Each year, it spends over \$400,000 to maintain the building and to open it to the public. In 2013, the Bostonian Society invites America to join it in celebrating the 300th anniversary of this national treasure.

**About the 1763 Peace of Paris Commemoration:**

Institutionally hosted by The Bostonian Society, the 1763 Peace of Paris Commemoration has been organized to present programs and activities marking the 250th anniversary of the treaty ending the "French and Indian" or Seven Years War in North America. The centerpiece of this initiative has been the exhibition "1763: A Revolutionary Peace," displaying the signed British copy of the 1763 Paris treaty and related treasures in the Old State House's Council Chamber from May 25 through October 7, 2013.

Among the distinguished historians advising the 1763 initiative are Robert Allison (Suffolk University), Fred Anderson (University of Colorado, Boulder), David Bell (Princeton), Colin Calloway (Dartmouth), and Eliga Gould (University of New Hampshire). The project director is Donald C. Carleton, Jr.

Leadership support for the project has been provided by the Ruby W. and LaVon P. Linn Foundation; the Society of Colonial Wars, led by Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, and the General (national) Society; and by the National Endowment for the Humanities—Division of Public Programs.

Other essential supporters and partners include Boston National Historical Park, the Massachusetts Historical Society, the Mapping Boston Foundation and Norman B. Leventhal, The Governor's Academy, the Trustees of the Lowell Institute, Mass Humanities, the Omohundro Institute of Early American History & Culture, the John Carter Brown Library at Brown University, The Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy, French & Indian War 250, Fort Ligonier, the New England Historic Genealogical Society, the Friends of Wilkes, the Societies of Colonial Wars in the States of California, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, and in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati, the British Consulate General Boston, the Consulate General of Canada in Boston, the Cultural Service of the French Consulate in Boston, the Ministère des Affaires Étrangères/Archives Diplomatiques, the Mouvement national des Québécoises et Québécois, the Québec Government, the Massachusetts and Rhode Island Societies of the Order of the Founders and Patriots of America, and a group of generous private individuals.