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BRITISH PRIME MINISTERS

1721 – 2020

The definitive
framed signature
collection

British Prime Ministers provides a snapshot of the history of politics from 1721 to the present day. This unique collection has been painstakingly put together over a considerable number of years and affords you the opportunity to own a magnificent piece of British history – *the only one of its kind*. With meticulous attention to detail and stunning imagery, the showcased works include the signatures of all British Prime Ministers to date - a broad range of significant characters, demonstrating the diversity of British politics throughout the course of the last three centuries.

No 10 Downing Street was given by King George II to Sir Robert Walpole, First Lord of the Treasury, and effectively the first British Prime Minister. Sir Robert declined the property as a personal gift but instead asked the King to make it an official residence for him and future First Lords of the Treasury – starting the tradition that continues today.

The most important decisions affecting Britain over the last 299 years have been made behind that famous black door. The First and Second World Wars, the Falklands War, the Gulf War and the War on Terror following 9/11 were directed from Downing Street, as were key decisions about the end of the Empire, the building of the British nuclear bomb, the handling of economic crises from the Great Depression in 1929 to the great recession, the building up of the welfare state and Brexit.



Walpole



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1721 - 1763

- 1721** Sir Robert Walpole became the first Prime Minister
- 1727** George I died
- 1739** Britain declared war on Spain and the 'War of Jenkins's Ear' began
- 1743** George II became the last British Monarch to lead his army into battle
- 1745** 'Bonnie Prince Charlie' landed in Scotland to claim the British throne
- 1756** Seven Years' War between Britain and France began



Sir Robert Walpole As First Lord of the Treasury for over twenty years, Sir Robert Walpole is often viewed as the first British Prime Minister and the longest serving Prime Minister in history (20 years, 315 days). Described by his contemporary opponents as the 'Screen-Master General', Sir Robert was extremely adept at pulling political strings.

During his time in office, he played a vital role in restoring government credit after the South Sea Bubble financial crisis. Support from the King helped him survive a serious crisis over his tax plans in 1733, but a combination of opposition from the Prince of Wales and a deteriorating foreign political situation forced his resignation in 1742.

George II made him Earl of Orford and he remained a close confidant of the King until his death in 1745.

1763 - 1783

- 1768** Captain James Cook led his first expedition to the Pacific
- 1771** Britain's first cotton mill opened
- 1772** Slavery was outlawed in England
- 1773** Boston Tea Party caused tensions in North American colonies
- 1775** American War of Independence
- 1781** Americans defeated the British at Yorktown, Virginia

Augustus Fitzroy His Grace the 3rd Duke of Grafton became the 11th Prime Minister of Great Britain in October 1768 at the age of 33 and was the youngest person to have held the office until the appointment of William Pitt the Younger, 15 years later. He is one of only a handful of Dukes to have served as Prime Minister.

Augustus Fitzroy was a colourful figure whose complex private life overshadowed his time as Prime Minister. His short period of office was taken up with issues surrounding America. He attracted scandal for his indiscreet personal life and love of pleasure, but his career was saved by his wife's own indiscretions, which allowed him to divorce her.





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1783 - 1827

- 1787** First fleet of convicts set sail for Australia
- 1789** The French Revolution began with the storming of the Bastille
- 1793** Britain went to war with France
- 1801** The Act of Union created the United Kingdom
- 1805** The Royal Navy defeated a French and Spanish fleet at the Battle of Trafalgar
- 1807** Britain abolished the slave trade
- 1812** Spencer Perceval was assassinated in the lobby of the House of Commons. The only British Prime Minister to have been murdered
- 1815** Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington, defeated Napoleon at Waterloo
- 1825** World's first steam locomotive passenger service began

William Pitt The Younger At just 24 years old, William Pitt The Younger was the youngest Prime Minister in history. His ministry was dominated by the consequences of the French Revolution and the outbreak of war with France in 1793.

The wartime situation made it very difficult for Pitt to pursue reforms and was also financially challenging. To raise the vast sums necessary to sustain the war effort, he introduced Britain's first income tax. Pitt established the Act of Union of 1800, a major triumph, which saw the United Kingdom of Britain and Ireland come into being on 1 January 1801. Pitt resigned in 1801.

In 1804, despite ill health, Pitt returned as Prime Minister. Nelson's victory at Trafalgar in 1805 was a rare moment of success in his continental war strategy, but exhausted by the demands of office, and of the continued threatening international situation which frustrated many of his political goals, he died aged just 46.





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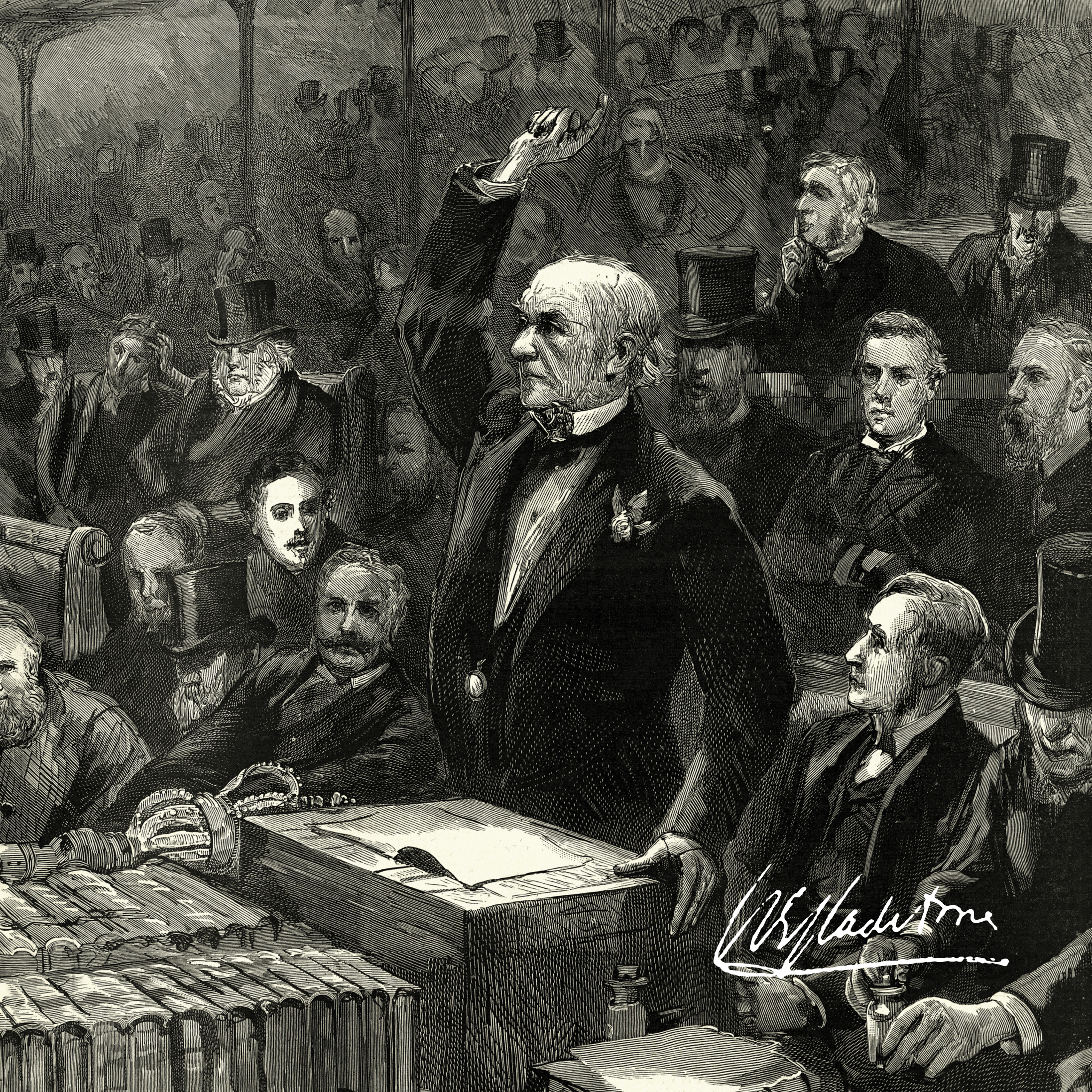
1827 - 1846

- 1829** Robert Peel founded the Metropolitan Police
- 1832** The Great Reform Act changed parliamentary representation
- 1834** New Poor Law reformed Britain's social security system
- 1834** The Tolpuddle Martyrs were sentenced to transportation for trade union activities
- 1835** The Municipal Corporations Bill created town councils
- 1837** Victoria came to the throne following the death of William IV
- 1838** Slavery was abolished throughout the British Empire
- 1842** Income tax was introduced for the first time during peacetime
- 1845** The Irish potato famine began

Arthur Wellesley - Duke of Wellington is more famous for leading the British to victory at Waterloo in 1815 than he is for being Prime Minister. Following the Battle of Waterloo, he became Commander in Chief of the army in occupied France. Upon his return, he joined Lord Liverpool's government in 1819. In 1828, the Duke of Wellington was finally invited by King George IV to form his own government.

He was a very conservative Prime Minister, known for repressing reform. One success was overseeing Catholic emancipation in 1829. The Duke persuaded the King only by his threat of resignation. He had a much less enlightened position on parliamentary reform and defended rule by the elite, refusing to expand the political franchise.





1846 - 1885

- 1849** The Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood was established
- 1854** Crimean War began
- 1858** Britain's first permanent symphony orchestra was founded
- 1869** The Suez Canal opened
- 1876** Victoria was declared Empress of India
- 1880** Education became compulsory for children under 10
- 1880** The First Boer War began
- 1881** Electric lamps were used for the first time

William Gladstone became leader of the Liberal Party in 1867 and Prime Minister the following year. In 1874, following a heavy defeat at the General Election, Gladstone retired as leader of the Liberal Party, but remained an intimidating opponent. In 1880, he became Prime Minister for a second time, much against Queen Victoria's will, as she strongly disliked him.

Gladstone resigned in 1885 when the government's budget was defeated. In February 1886, he became Prime Minister for the third time. Working with the Irish Nationalists, he immediately introduced an Irish Home Rule Bill, proposing a parliament for Ireland. It was defeated, and he lost the General Election in July 1886.

For the next 6 years, Gladstone campaigned for the British electorate to grant Home Rule. The Liberals won the 1892 election, and he returned for a fourth administration. He once more introduced the Irish Home Rule Bill, but it was rejected by the Lords. He resigned in March 1894, having failed to retain the support of his Cabinet.





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1885 - 1922

1897 The Women's suffrage campaign gained momentum

1899 The Second Boer War began

1901 Queen Victoria died

1908 The Olympic Games were held in London

1912 The Titanic sank

1913 Suffragette Emily Davison was killed by the King's horse

1914 Britain declared war on Germany and subsequently the Ottoman Empire

1916 The Battle of the Somme began

1917 Russian revolution

1918 Limited numbers of women were given the vote for the first time

1918 Spanish Flu killed more than 200,000 in Britain

1918 World War One ended

David Lloyd George Known as one of the 20th century's most famous radicals, David Lloyd George was the first and only Welshman to hold the office of Prime Minister.

Lloyd George accepted an invitation to form a government in December 1916. His strength and determination ensured he was regarded as exactly what Britain's war effort needed and he was acclaimed as the man who had won the war. He signed the Treaty of Versailles in 1919, which established the League of Nations and the war reparations settlement.





Winston Churchill



BRITISH PRIME MINISTERS

1922 - 1955

- 1926** Australia, New Zealand, Canada and South Africa were recognised as autonomous
- 1928** Women over the age of 21 were give the right to vote
- 1928** Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin
- 1929** Wall Street Crash sparked the Great Depression
- 1939** Britain declared war on Germany in response to the invasion of Poland
- 1940** The Battle of Britain began
- 1941** Japan attacked Pearl Harbour
- 1943** Dambusters raid by the RAF
- 1944** Allied forces landed in Normandy on D-Day to liberate France
- 1945** Britain celebrated VE Day
- 1945** United Nations was created with Britain as a founder member
- 1947** India gained independence
- 1948** The NHS was established
- 1948** London hosted the Olympic Games
- 1952** Elizabeth II succeeded to the throne
- 1953** DNA was discovered

Winston Churchill was chosen to succeed Neville Chamberlain as Prime Minister of an all-party coalition government in 1940. He also made himself Minister for Defence and was energetic and determined in executing the British war effort. He was credited with boosting British morale during exceptionally hard times with his speeches.

Churchill was re-elected in 1951 at the age of 77. Suffering with ill health and often conducting his duties from his bedside, his second term of leadership was not as resolute as during the war.

Voted the greatest Briton of all time in a nationwide poll attracting more than a million votes, Sir Winston Churchill died in 1965 and was honoured with a state funeral.



1955 - 1979

- 1956** Britain switched on its first nuclear power station
- 1956** Britain and France invaded Egypt following nationalisation of the Suez Canal
- 1958** The first motorway system opened
- 1965** The death penalty was abolished
- 1966** England won the football World Cup
- 1969** Concorde made its maiden flight
- 1971** Decimalised currency replaced pounds, shillings and pence
- 1973** Britain joined the European Economic Community
- 1978** The 'Winter of Discontent' – strikes paralysed Britain
- 1979** Margaret Thatcher became Britain's first female Prime Minister
- 1979** The IRA killed Lord Mountbatten

Edward Heath was elected to Parliament in 1950, was elected leader of the Conservative Party in 1965 and became Prime Minister in 1970.

Having overseen the decimalisation of British coinage in 1971 and implementing reforms to Britain's system of local government in 1972, Edward Heath led Britain into the European Economic Community in 1973.

Heath's election manifesto was to transform the nation's fortunes and he established a number of policies that would later become identified with 'Thatcherism'.

Miners' strikes in 1972 and 1974 damaged the government considerably and caused the implementation of a Three-Day Week to conserve energy.





1979 - 2019

- 1981** Prince Charles married Lady Diana Spencer
- 1982** Argentina invaded the Falkland Islands
- 1984** Miners Strike
- 1989** The World Wide Web was invented
- 1991** Allies launched Operation Desert Storm to liberate Kuwait
- 1997** Britain handed Hong Kong back to China
- 1997** Diana, Princess of Wales, died in a car crash
- 1998** The Good Friday agreement was established
- 2001** 9/11 – terrorists attacked the USA
- 2003** Britain joined the US in an invasion of Iraq
- 2011** Osama Bin Laden was killed
- 2012** London hosted the Olympics
- 2016** The UK voted to leave the EU

Margaret Thatcher was not only the longest serving Prime Minister of the 20th Century, but also the first female to hold office.

Her quick response to the South Atlantic conflict and swift victory against the Argentinians led to a surge in her popularity and subsequent re-election in 1983. She would go on to serve until 1990.

Her government were responsible for privatisation and deregulation, reform of the trade unions, tax cuts and the introduction of market mechanisms into health and education.

She died on 8 April 2013 and received a ceremonial funeral including full military honours.



2019 -

- 2019** Fire devastated Paris's historic Notre Dame Cathedral
- 2019** Allied leaders marked the seventieth anniversary of D-Day
- 2019** Theresa May resigned and was succeeded by Boris Johnson
- 2019** The U.S. House Impeached President Donald Trump
- 2020** The United Kingdom's membership of the European Union ended after 47 years
- 2020** The coronavirus outbreak. The World Health Organisation declares the outbreak of COVID-19 as a Public Health Emergency

Boris Johnson became an MP in 2001 and in the May 2015 General Election he was elected MP once again and served as Foreign Secretary until 2018.

Following the resignation of Theresa May, who resigned as Prime Minister after repeated rejection of her Brexit withdrawal agreement, Boris led the Conservative Party to their biggest victory since 1987, and the largest percentage vote share of any party since 1979. After becoming Prime Minister on 24 July 2019 he began the process of leading the United Kingdom out of the European Union.

On 31 January 2020 at 11pm the United Kingdom's membership of the European Union ended 47 years after it joined.





Framed collection one

1721 – 1763

Sir Robert Walpole

Lifetime: 1676 - 1745
Party: Whig
Term in Office: 4 April 1721 - 11 February 1742

Spencer Compton *(1st Earl of Wilmington)*

Lifetime: 1673 - 1743
Party: Whig
Term in Office: 16 February 1742 - 2 July 1743

Henry Pelham

Lifetime: 1694 - 1754
Party: Whig
Term in Office: 27 August 1743 - 6 March 1754

Thomas Pelham-Holles *(1st Duke of Newcastle)*

Lifetime: 1693 - 1768
Party: Whig
Term in Office: 16 March 1754 - 16 November 1756
02 July 1757 - 26 May 1762

William Cavendish *(4th Duke of Devonshire)*

Lifetime: 1720 - 1764
Party: Whig
Term in Office: 16 November 1756 - 25 June 1757

John Stuart *(3rd Earl of Bute)*

Lifetime: 1713 - 1792
Party: Tory
Term in Office: 26 May 1762 - 8 April 1763



Framed collection two

1763 – 1783

George Grenville

Lifetime: 1712 - 1770
Party: Whig
Term in Office: 16 April 1763 - 13 July 1765

Charles Watson-Wentworth *(2nd Marquess of Rockingham)*

Lifetime: 1730 - 1782
Party: Whig
Term in Office: 13 July 1765 - 30 July 1766
27 March 1782 - 1 July 1782

William Pitt The Elder *(1st Earl of Chatham)*

Lifetime: 1708 - 1778
Party: Whig
Term in Office: 30 July 1766 - 14 October 1768

Augustus Fitzroy *(3rd Duke of Grafton)*

Lifetime: 1735 - 1811
Party: Whig
Term in Office: 14 October 1768 - 28 January 1770

Frederick North *(Lord North)*

Lifetime: 1732 - 1792
Party: Tory
Term in Office: 28 January 1770 - 22 March 1782

William Petty *(2nd Earl of Shelburne)*

Lifetime: 1737 - 1805
Party: Whig
Term in Office: 4 July 1782 - 2 April 1783



Framed collection three

1783 – 1827

William Cavendish-Bentinck *(3rd Duke of Portland)*

Lifetime: 1738 - 1809
Party: Whig
Term in Office: 2 April 1783 - 19 December 1783
31 March 1807 - 4 October 1809

William Pitt The Younger

Lifetime: 1759 - 1806
Party: Tory
Term in Office: 19 December 1783 - 1 January 1801
10 May 1804 - 23 January 1806

Henry Addington *(1st Viscount Sidmouth)*

Lifetime: 1757 - 1844
Party: Tory
Term in Office: 14 March 1801 - 10 May 1804

William Wyndham Grenville *(1st Baron Grenville)*

Lifetime: 1759 - 1834
Party: Whig
Term in Office: 11 February 1806 - 31 March 1807

Spencer Perceval

Lifetime: 1762 - 1812
Party: Tory
Term in Office: 4 October 1809 - 11 May 1812

Robert Banks Jenkinson *(2nd Earl of Liverpool)*

Lifetime: 1770 - 1828
Party: Tory
Term in Office: 8 June 1812 - 9 April 1827



Framed collection four

1827 – 1846

George Canning

Lifetime: 1770 - 1827
Party: Tory
Term in Office: 10 April 1827 - 8 August 1827

Frederick John Robinson *(1st Viscount Goderich)*

Lifetime: 1782 - 1859
Party: Tory
Term in Office: 31 August 1827 - 21 January 1828

Arthur Wellesley *(1st Duke of Wellington)*

Lifetime: 1769 - 1852
Party: Tory
Term in Office: 22 January 1828 - 16 November 1830
14 November 1834 - 10 December 1834

Charles Grey *(2nd Earl Grey)*

Lifetime: 1764 - 1845
Party: Whig
Term in Office: 22 November 1830 - 9 July 1834

William Lamb *(2nd Viscount Melbourne)*

Lifetime: 1779 - 1848
Party: Whig
Term in Office: 16 July 1834 - 14 November 1834
18 April 1835 - 30 August 1841

Sir Robert Peel *(2nd Baronet)*

Lifetime: 1788 - 1850
Party: Conservative
Term in Office: 10 December 1834 - 8 April 1835
30 August 1841 - 29 June 1846



Framed collection five

1846 – 1885

John Russell *(Lord John Russell / 1st Earl Russell)*

Lifetime: 1792 - 1878
Party: Whig
Term in Office: 30 June 1846 - 21 February 1852
29 October 1865 - 28 June 1866

Edward Smith-Stanley *(14th Earl of Derby)*

Lifetime: 1799 - 1869
Party: Conservative
Term in Office: 23 February 1852 - 19 December 1852
20 February 1858 - 11 June 1859
28 June 1866 - 27 February 1868

George Hamilton-Gordon *(4th Earl of Aberdeen)*

Lifetime: 1784 - 1860
Party: Whig
Term in Office: 19 December 1852 - 30 January 1855

Henry John Temple *(3rd Viscount Palmerston)*

Lifetime: 1784 - 1865
Party: Liberal
Term in Office: 6 February 1855 - 19 February 1858
12 June 1859 - 18 October 1865

Benjamin Disraeli *(Earl of Beaconsfield)*

Lifetime: 1804 - 1881
Party: Conservative
Term in Office: 27 February 1868 - 1 December 1868
20 February 1874 - 21 April 1880

William Ewart Gladstone

Lifetime: 1809 - 1898
Party: Liberal
Term in Office: 3 December 1868 - 17 February 1874
23 April 1880 - 9 June 1885
1 February 1886 - 20 July 1886
15 August 1892 - 2 March 1894



Framed collection six

1885 – 1922

Robert Gascoyne-Cecil *(3rd Marquess of Salisbury)*

Lifetime: 1830 - 1903
Party: Conservative
Term in Office: 23 June 1885 - 28 January 1886
25 July 1886 - 11 August 1892
25 June 1895 - 11 July 1902

Archibald Primrose *(5th Earl of Rosebery)*

Lifetime: 1847 - 1929
Party: Liberal
Term in Office: 5 March 1894 - 22 June 1895

Arthur Balfour

Lifetime: 1848 - 1930
Party: Conservative
Term in Office: 11 July 1902 - 5 December 1905

Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman

Lifetime: 1836 - 1908
Party: Liberal
Term in Office: 5 December 1905 - 3 April 1908

Herbert Henry Asquith

Lifetime: 1852 - 1928
Party: Liberal
Term in Office: 5 April 1908 - 5 December 1916

David Lloyd George

Lifetime: 1863 - 1945
Party: Liberal
Term in Office: 6 December 1916 - 19 October 1922



Framed collection seven

1922 – 1955

Andrew Bonar Law

Lifetime: 1858 - 1923
Party: Conservative
Term in Office: 23 October 1922 - 22 May 1923

Stanley Baldwin

Lifetime: 1867 - 1947
Party: Conservative
Term in Office: 23 May 1923 - 16 January 1924
4 November 1924 - 5 June 1929
7 June 1935 - 28 May 1937

James Ramsay MacDonald

Lifetime: 1866 - 1937
Party: Labour
Term in Office: 22 January 1924 - 4 November 1924
5 June 1929 - 7 June 1935

Neville Chamberlain

Lifetime: 1869 - 1940
Party: Conservative
Term in Office: 28 May 1937 - 10 May 1940

Sir Winston Churchill

Lifetime: 1874 - 1965
Party: Conservative
Term in Office: 10 May 1940 - 26 July 1945
26 October 1951 - 6 April 1955

Clement Attlee

Lifetime: 1883 - 1967
Party: Labour
Term in Office: 26 July 1945 - 26 October 1951



Framed collection eight

1955 – 1979

Sir Anthony Eden

Lifetime: 1897 - 1977
Party: Conservative
Term in Office: 6 April 1955 - 10 January 1957

Harold Macmillan

Lifetime: 1894 - 1986
Party: Conservative
Term in Office: 10 January 1957 - 18 October 1963

Sir Alec Douglas-Home (14th Earl of Home)

Lifetime: 1903 - 1995
Party: Conservative
Term in Office: 19 October 1963 - 16 October 1964

Harold Wilson

Lifetime: 1916 - 1995
Party: Labour
Term in Office: 16 October 1964 - 19 June 1970
4 March 1974 - 5 April 1976

Edward Heath

Lifetime: 1916 - 2005
Party: Conservative
Term in Office: 19 June 1970 - 4 March 1974

James Callaghan

Lifetime: 1912 - 2005
Party: Labour
Term in Office: 5 April 1976 - 4 May 1979



Framed collection nine

1979 – 2019

Margaret Thatcher

Lifetime: 1925 - 2013
Party: Conservative
Term in Office: 4 May 1979 - 28 November 1990

John Major

Lifetime: 1943 -
Party: Conservative
Term in Office: 28 November 1990 - 2 May 1997

Tony Blair

Lifetime: 1953 -
Party: Labour
Term in Office: 2 May 1997 - 27 June 2007

Gordon Brown

Lifetime: 1951 -
Party: Labour
Term in Office: 27 June 2007 - 11 May 2010

David Cameron

Lifetime: 1966 -
Party: Conservative
Term in Office: 11 May 2010 - 13 July 2016

Theresa May

Lifetime: 1956 -
Party: Conservative
Term in Office: 13 July 2016 - 24 July 2019



Framed collection ten

2019 -

Boris Johnson

Lifetime: 1964 -
Party: Conservative
Term in Office: 24 July 2019



The definitive framed signature collection

Housed in beautiful gold gilt ornate detailed frames, the collection comprises of ten frames.

The first nine frames measure 1,092 x 889mm (43 x 35”) and include six Prime Ministers in order of their date of office within each frame.

The final frame depicts the current Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, and measures 724 x 482mm (28 x 19”).

Image references

Number 10 Downing Street

Photo: Hannah Mckay
Reuters

Sir Robert Walpole

Artist: Jean-Baptiste van Loo (1684–1745) (studio of)
Government Art Collection

Augustus Fitzroy

Artist: T. Wright
Scottish National Portrait Gallery

William Pitt The Younger

Artist: George Romney (1734–1802) (follower of)
Bromley Historic Collections

Arthur Wellesley 1st Duke of Wellington

Artist: Sir Thomas Lawrence (1769-1830)
Royal Collection Trust/© Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

William Ewart Gladstone

Illustration: Vintage engraving of William Gladstone's peroration during the Home rule debate, House of Commons, 19th Century engraving
© Getty Images

David Lloyd George

Photo: Utopia Portrait Gallery
University of Texas Libraries

Sir Winston Churchill

Photo: Yousuf Karsh
Library and Archives Canada

Sir Edward Heath

Photo: Sir Edward Heath with Queen Elizabeth II at Heathrow Airport in January 1974
Yahoo Finance

Margaret Thatcher

Photo: Marion S Trikosko
U.S. News & World Report Magazine Photograph Collection

Boris Johnson

Photo: Andrew Parsons
i-Images



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