
Koopman Rare Art

**Director's Choice – Timo Koopman
The Glorious Silver & Silver-Gilt Collection of Ernest
Augustus, The Duke of Cumberland**



The Shield of Achilles

London, 1823, by Philip Rundell for Ernest Augustus the Duke of Cumberland, later the King of Hanover

Available at Koopman Rare Art

[*The Royal Shield of Achilles*](#)

Some of the finest plate ever to be commissioned in the early 19th century was that once found in the extensive collection of Ernest Augustus, Duke of Cumberland, fifth son of George III. On the death of William IV in 1837, as the eldest surviving male child of George III, the Duke of Cumberland succeeded to the crown of Hanover.

Ernest Augustus took with him to Hanover a considerable quantity of the English Royal silver, in addition to his own personal silver. A claim by his niece, Queen Victoria, for the return of certain Royal plate was ignored and the property was engraved with the initials E.A.F.s, for Ernest Augustus Fidekommiss, meaning the silver was entailed to his estate. Sometimes the plate was



George Dawe: Ernest Augustus, Duke of Cumberland and King of Hanover (1771-1853). National Portrait Gallery, London.©

Born in 1771, of all Queen Victoria's "wicked uncles" he was perhaps the most unpopular of the six royal dukes, largely on account of his professed dislike of "liberal notions." Unlike his brothers however, his lifestyle was decidedly moral, and he had no long-standing or publicly acknowledged mistresses. On the death of William IV in 1837, as the eldest surviving male child of King George III, he succeeded to the crown of Hanover on account of the Salic law, which prevented the young Queen Victoria from inheriting that throne. His approach to kingship was more paternalistic than enlightened, and he was also a patron of the arts.

As a soldier he was respected, and unlike many of his contemporaries, showed genuine concern for those under his command. His early ambition had been to command the armed forces in Hanover, something which his elder brother, the Duke of York as Commander-in-Chief, refused to allow. In 1801 however, he had been appointed Colonel of the 15th Light Dragoons, which, in accordance with the changes in military fashion taking place at the time, created a Hussar regiment in 1807. The Duke was an enthusiastic Colonel and commanded the regiment in person on manoeuvres and reviews, as well as taking a passionate interest in the minutiae of uniforms, ceremony and insignia. Around this time an order was issued: "His Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland directs that until further orders officers will discontinue to wear mustachios, it being difficult to preserve uniformity in this respect from the frequent leaves of absence granted when they are generally cut off." Nevertheless, the Duke himself felt no compunction in keeping his luxuriant side whiskers, which helped hide the scars he had received in his assassination attempt.

Princess Charlotte had dubbed him "Prince Whiskerandos," while the gutter press spoke of his "chin like muffy, grizzled and tufty."

The 15th Light Dragoons, also known as Elliott's Light Horse, was founded in 1759. On July 16th 1760, the regiment captured five battalions of infantry and nine pieces of artillery at the Battle of Emsdorf. which became one of the honours in their colours.

Ernest Augustus took with him to Hanover a considerable quantity of the English Royal silver, some of it dating from the time of the Stuarts in addition to his own personal collection of silver. A claim was made by Queen Victoria for the return of the Royal Plate and jewels, which was successfully ignored for most of her reign. On the death of Ernest Augustus, his son George Frederik, succeeded to Hanover but was deposed during the Seven Weeks War in 1866. The story is often repeated how the Prussian troops sacked Herrenhausen, the Royal Palace just outside Hanover, but failed to find the Royal plate which had been hidden in a vault in the grounds and covered with lime and debris (see E. Alfred Jones, "The Duke of Cumberland's Collection of Old English Plate," *The National Review*, January, 1920, pp. 679-685). Subsequently, the family adopted the title Duke of Brunswick.

At Koopman Rare Art, we have been most fortunate to have been custodians of a number of magnificent objects that formed part of the Duke of Cumberland's service. We have highlighted a few of these glorious jewel-like objects to form a better picture of how magnificent the collection at Hanover must have truly been.



A Pair of Royal George III Tazzas

*London, 1804, Maker's mark of Diby Scott & Benjamin Smith II
Bearing the coat-of-arms of Ernest Augustus Duke of Cumberland
Also stamped with the royal retailer's mark of Rundell Bridge & Rundell
Engraving attributed to Walter Jackson*

The stepped pedestal trumpet feet with acanthus leaves and acorn border. The sloped borders of the tazzas with cast and applied vine leaves, tendrils and bunches of grapes edged by reeded bands. The flat surface engraved and chased with a band of Vitruvian scrolls within a string of pearls. The centre beautifully engraved with the royal coat-of-arms of Ernest Augustus the Duke of Cumberland.

The underside further engraved with the initials E A F's for Ernest Augustus Fideikommiss (heirloom).



An Important Pair of Royal George III Wine Coolers
Silver-gilt, London 1801. Maker's mark of Joseph Preedy
Available at Koopman Rare Art

[*An Important Pair of Royal Wine Coolers*](#)

Each wine cooler heavily cast and chased with fluted and laurel bases. The bodies with acanthus-decorated lower bodies below friezes of Bacchanals, openwork grapevine garlands and the rim linking rams' head handles.

Each with detachable fluted collars and liners. The bases engraved with the Royal garter below a Royal Ducal coronet for Ernest Augustus the Duke of Cumberland, later the King of Hanover.

Six coolers and stands of this model from the Cumberland plate were shown by Crichton, London, in 1924.

The figures of Bacchus and Silenus as being taken from Bernard de Montfaucon's *L'Antiquité Expliquée and Représentée en Figures* (Paris, 1719/24), while the small putti are drawn from the designs of Lady Elizabeth Templetown, an amateur artist who supplied designs to Wedgwood and Bentley, and the dancing figure with a tambourine from one of the Marlborough Gems, published in 1788.



Ernest Augustus, Duke of Cumberland's Wine Coasters

*A set of four Royal George III silver-gilt coasters, Digby Scott & Benjamin Smith,
London, 1805-1806
Diameter: 13.5cm, 5½in.*

The sides pierced and chased with fruiting vines, the silver base plates engraved with royal ducal armorials, stamped for Rundell, Bridge & Rundell, and further engraved EAFs on the rims,

Provenance:

Ernest Augustus, 1st Duke of Cumberland and Teviotdale, from 1837 King of Hanover (1771-1851), and by descent to Ernest Augustus, Crown Prince of Hanover, 3rd Duke of Cumberland and Teviotdale (1845-1923), sold to Crichton Brothers in 1923 and subsequently purchased by either Urban Huddleston Broughton, 1st Lord Fairhaven (1896–1966) or his brother Henry Rogers Broughton, 2nd Lord Fairhaven (1900-1973), both at that time of Anglesey Abbey, Cambridgeshire, thence by descent.

Literature:

H. Avray Tipping; *The English Silver Plate of the Duke of Cumberland*; *Country Life*; 2 February 1924, p.162
The arms are those for Ernest Augustus, 1st Duke of Cumberland and later King of Hanover (1771-1851).

Benjamin Smith and Digby Scott began to produce wine coasters in various similar fruiting vine patterns in 1803. An 1804 set of four wine coasters in one of these patterns, is engraved with the badge of the Duke of Cumberland's brother the Duke of Sussex and illustrated in *The Glory of the Goldsmith: Magnificent Gold and Silver from the Al Tajir Collection*, 1989, fig. 116, p. 154.

It was reported in June 1923 that the Duke of Cumberland was negotiating with several groups of dealers, 'each of them as quietly as possible, for even part of the collection would be regarded as a great prize.'⁽¹⁾ This prize was to be won by the London silver dealer Lionel Alfred Crichton (né Lionel Alfred Solomon, 1865-1938), and with the English part of the Hanover/Cumberland silver secured. Crichton opened their first selling exhibition on 20 November 1923 which coincidentally was just a week after

silver secured, shipment opened with inspecting examination on 20 November 1828, which coincidentally was just a week after Cumberland's death. (2) The exhibition was such a success, Crichton purchased another tranche of silver from Hanover for an exhibition stage the following year.

Notes

1. The Times, London, Thursday, 21 June 1923, p. 13g
2. The Times, London, Tuesday, 20 November 1923, p. 11b



The Duke of Cumberland's Tureen

A Royal George III Soup Tureen on Stand, London, 1798-99, Maker's mark of Robert Sharp

The oval tureen half-fluted with gadrooned borders, the conforming stand with raised centre. The tureen and stand both engraved twice with the Royal coat-of-arms, the cover with the Royal badge, the finial formed as a Royal Ducal coronet. The tureen also with its original liner and engraved 'EDC & EAF' together with scratch weights 152=18 to the tureen and 56=10 to the

stand.

Exhibited:

Chrichton Brothers, London, 1924 "Old English Silver from the Duke of Cumberland's Collection."

The silver collection went with the exiled Kings to Vienna in 1866, and part was sold through the Chrichton Brothers, London 1924. A related pair of circular soup tureens of this model by Robert Sharp dating to 1792 also with the Cumberland arms and 'EAF' came through the estate of Pauline Woolworth and sold by Sotheby's New York 19th October 1994 lot 290.



A Highly Important Set of Four George III Royal Candlesticks

Silver-gilt London, 1814. Maker's mark of Paul Storr

Available at Koopman Rare Art

[*An Important Set of Four Silver-Gilt Royal Candlesticks*](#)

Provenance:

Princess Augusta Sophia, (1768-1840), second daughter of George III HRH.

Ernest Augustus, Duke of Cumberland and King of Hanover

Literature:

"Old English Plate from the Duke of Cumberland's Collection," *The Connoisseur*, November 1924, p.253.

Exhibited:

"Exhibition of Old English Royal Plate, Silver and Silver-gilt, formerly the property of The Late Duke of Cumberland," Chrichton Brothers., London, 4th-28th November 1924. (two)





The Duke of Cumberland Service

A pair of George III entrée dishes and covers

London 1806. Maker's mark of Richard Cooke

Each shaped rectangular, with gadrooned borders, the dishes engraved on each side with the garter motto and with a Royal duke's coronet above, the domed cover engraved on each side with a label for difference within the Garter motto and with Royal duke's coronet above, with shell and gadroon handle.

The dishes engraved EAFs and EDC A.

Provenance:

H.R.H. Ernest Augustus, Duke of Cumberland and King of Hanover (1771-1851), fifth son of George III.



Hanoverian Royal Plate on display in Vienna, 18th February 1868, the silver wedding anniversary of King George V and Queen Mary. The King of Hanover's shield of Achilles can be seen in the centre of the right-hand alcove of the buffet display. (Image courtesy of the Historisches Museum Hanover)

Ernest Augustus (German: Ernst August; 5 June 1771 – 18 November 1851) was King of Hanover from 20 June 1837 until his death in 1851. As the fifth son of George III of the United Kingdom and Hanover, he initially seemed unlikely to become a monarch, but none of his elder brothers had a legitimate son. When his elder brother William IV, who ruled both kingdoms, died in 1837, his niece Victoria inherited the British throne under British succession law, while Ernest succeeded in Hanover under Salic law, which barred women from the

succession, thus ending the personal union between Britain and Hanover that had begun in 1714.

Ernest was born in London but was sent to Hanover in his adolescence for his education and military training. While serving with Hanoverian forces near Tournai against Revolutionary France, he received a disfiguring facial wound. He was made Duke of Cumberland and Teviotdale in 1799. Although his mother, Queen Charlotte, disapproved of his marriage in 1815 to her twice-widowed niece Frederica of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, it proved happy. The eldest son of George III, the Prince of Wales (later George IV), had one child, Charlotte, who was expected to become the British queen, but she died in 1817, giving Ernest some prospect of succeeding to the British and Hanoverian thrones. However, his elder brother Prince Edward, Duke of Kent and Strathearn, fathered the eventual British heir Victoria in 1819, shortly before the birth of Ernest's only child, George.

Ernest was an active member of the House of Lords, where he maintained an extremely conservative record. Following the death of William IV, Ernest became Hanover's first resident ruler since George I. He had a generally successful fourteen-year reign, but excited controversy near its start when he voided the liberal constitution granted before his reign and dismissed the Göttingen Seven, including the Brothers Grimm, from their professorial positions for protesting this decision. In 1848 the King put down an attempted revolution. Hanover joined the German customs union in 1850 despite Ernest's reluctance. Ernest died the next year and was succeeded by his son, George V.



Ernest Augustus, the fifth son of King George III and Queen Charlotte, was born at Buckingham House, London, on 5 June 1771, and baptised on 1 July 1771 at St James's Palace. His sponsors were Duke Ernest of Mecklenburg (his maternal uncle), Duke Moritz of Saxe-Gotha (his paternal great-uncle, for whom the Earl of Hertford stood proxy), and the Hereditary Princess of Hesse-Kassel (his father's cousin, for whom the Countess of Egremont stood proxy). After leaving the nursery, he lived with his two younger brothers, Prince Adolphus (later Duke of Cambridge) and Prince Augustus (later Duke of Sussex), and a tutor in a house on Kew Green, near his parents' residence at Kew Palace. Though the King never left England in his life, he sent his younger sons to Germany in their adolescence. According to the historian John Van der Kiste, this was done to limit the influence Ernest's eldest brother George, Prince of Wales, who was leading an extravagant lifestyle, would have over his younger brothers. At the age of fifteen, Prince Ernest and his two younger brothers were sent to the University of Göttingen, located in his father's domain of Hanover. Ernest proved a keen student and after being tutored privately for a year while learning German, he attended lectures at the university. Though King George ordered that the princes' household be run along military lines and that they follow the university's rules, the merchants of the Electorate proved willing to extend credit to the princes, and all three fell into debt.

In 1790, Ernest asked his father for permission to train with Prussian forces. Instead, in January 1791, he and Prince Adolphus were sent to Hanover to receive military training under the supervision of Field Marshal Wilhelm von Freytag. Before leaving Göttingen, Ernest penned a formal letter of thanks to the university and wrote to his father, "I should be one of the most ungrateful of men if ever I was forgetful of all I owe to Göttingen & its professors."

As a lieutenant, Ernest learned cavalry drill and tactics under Captain von Linsingen of the Queen's Light Dragoons and proved to be an excellent horseman, as well as a good shot. After only two months of training, Freytag was so impressed by the prince's progress that he gave him a place in the cavalry as captain. Ernest was supposed to receive infantry training, but the King, also impressed by his son's prowess, allowed him to remain with the cavalry.

In March 1792, the King commissioned Prince Ernest Augustus as a colonel into the 9th Hanoverian Light Dragoons. The prince served in the Low Countries in the War of the First Coalition, under his elder brother Prince Frederick, Duke of York, then commander of the combined British, Hanoverian and Austrian forces. Seeing action near the Walloon town of Tournai in August 1793, he sustained a sabre wound to the head, which resulted in a disfiguring scar. During the Battle of Tourcoing in Northern France on 18 May 1794, his left arm was injured by a cannonball which passed close by him. In the days after the battle, the sight in his left eye faded. In June he was sent to Britain to convalesce, his first stay there since 1786.

Ernest resumed his duties in early November, by now promoted to major-general. He hoped his new rank would bring him a corps or brigade command, but none was forthcoming as the Allied armies retreated slowly through the Netherlands towards Germany. By February 1795 they had reached Hanover. Ernest remained in Hanover over the next year, holding several unimportant postings. He had requested a return home to seek treatment for his eye, but it was not until early 1796 that the King agreed and allowed Ernest to return to Britain. Prince Ernest consulted a notable eye doctor, Wathen Waller, but Waller apparently found his condition inoperable, and no operation took place. Once back in Britain, Ernest repeatedly sought to be allowed to join the British forces on the Continent, even threatening to join the Yeomanry as a private, but both the King and the Duke of York refused him permission. Ernest did not want to rejoin the Hanoverian forces, as they were not then involved in the fighting. In addition, Freytag was seriously ill, and Ernest was unwilling to serve under his likely successor, Count von Wallmoden.



*Duke of Cumberland
Military Commander*

On 23 April 1799, George III created Prince Ernest Augustus Duke of Cumberland and Teviotdale and Earl of Armagh, and Ernest was granted an allowance of £12,000 a year, equivalent to £1.49 million in 2023. Though he was made a lieutenant-general of both British and Hanoverian forces, he remained in England and, with a seat in the House of Lords, entered politics. Ernest had extreme Tory views and soon became a leader of the right wing of the party. King George had feared that Ernest, like some of his elder brothers, would display Whig tendencies. Reassured on that point, in 1801 the King had Ernest conduct the negotiations which led to the formation of the Addington government. In February 1802, King George granted his son the colonelcy of the 27th Light Dragoons, a post which offered the option of transfer to the colonelcy of the 15th Light Dragoons when a vacancy arose. A vacancy promptly occurred and the Duke became the colonel of the 15th Light Dragoons in March 1802. Although the post could have been a sinecure, Ernest involved himself in the affairs of the regiment and led it on manoeuvres.

In early 1803, the Duke of York appointed Ernest as commander of the Severn District, in charge of the forces in and around the Severn Estuary. When war with France broke out again after the Peace of Amiens, Frederick appointed Ernest to the more important Southwest District, comprising Hampshire, Dorset and Wiltshire. Though Ernest would have preferred command of the King's German Legion, composed mostly of expatriates from French-occupied Hanover, he accepted the post. The Duke of Cumberland increased the defences on the South Coast, especially around the town of Weymouth, where his father often spent time in the summer.

Ernest met and fell in love in mid-1813 with his first cousin, Duchess Frederica of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, wife of Prince Frederick William of Solms-Braunfels and widow of Prince Louis of Prussia. The two agreed to wed if Frederica became free to marry. Her marriage to Frederick William had not been a success; her husband, seeing the marriage was beyond hope, agreed to a divorce, but his sudden death in 1814 removed the necessity. Some considered the death too convenient and suspected Frederica of poisoning her husband. Queen Charlotte opposed the marriage: before Frederica had married Frederick William, she had jilted Ernest's younger brother, Prince Adolphus, Duke of Cambridge, after the engagement was announced.

The Cumberlands moved to Germany in 1818. They had difficulty living within their means in Britain, and the cost of living was much lower in Germany. Queen Charlotte died on 17 November 1818, but the Cumberlands remained in Germany, living principally in Berlin where the Duchess had relatives. In 1817, the Duchess had a stillborn daughter; in 1819 she gave birth to a boy, Prince George of Cumberland. The Duke occasionally visited England, where he stayed with his eldest brother, who in 1820 succeeded to the British and Hanoverian thrones as George IV. George III's fourth son, the Duke of Kent, died six days before his father, but left a daughter, Princess Alexandrina Victoria of Kent. With the death of George III, Ernest became fourth in line to the British throne, following the Duke of York (who died without legitimate issue in 1827), the Duke of Clarence and Princess Alexandrina Victoria. Returning to England, his political power was again considerable, as it seemed possible that he would succeed to the throne.

In 1826, Parliament finally voted to increase Ernest's allowance. The Liverpool government argued that the Duke needed an increased allowance to pay for Prince George's education; even so, it was opposed by many Whigs. The bill, which passed the House of Commons 120–97, required George to live in England if Ernest was to receive the money.

On 20 June 1837, William IV died; Victoria succeeded him as Queen of the United Kingdom, while Ernest Augustus became King of Hanover. On 28 June 1837, Ernest entered his new domain, passing under a triumphal arch. For the first time in over a century, Hanover would have a ruler living there. Many Hanoverians were of a liberal perspective and would have preferred the popular viceroy, Prince Adolphus, Duke of Cambridge, to become king, but the Dukes of Sussex and Cambridge refused to lend themselves to any movement by which they would become king rather than their elder brother. According to Roger Fulford in his study of George III's younger sons, Royal Dukes, "In 1837, King Ernest was the only male descendant of George III who was willing and able to continue the connection with Hanover."

Hanover had received its first constitution, granted by the Prince Regent, in 1819; this did little more than denote Hanover's change from an electorate to a kingdom, guaranteed by the Congress of Vienna. The Duke of Cambridge, as King William's viceroy in Hanover, recommended a thorough reorganisation of the Hanoverian government. William IV had given his consent to a new constitution in 1833; the Duke of Cumberland's consent was neither asked nor received, and he had formally protested the constitution's adoption without his consent. One provision of the constitution transferred the Hanoverian Domains (the equivalent of the British Crown Estate) from the sovereign to the state, eroding the monarch's power.

At the time the King took to the throne, the city of Hanover was a densely packed residential town, and did not rise to the grand style of many German capitals. Once the political crises of the first years of his reign had subsided, he set out to remedy this state of affairs. Ernest's support led to gas lighting in the city streets of Hanover, up-to-date sanitation and the development of a new residential quarter. He had the plans altered in 1841 after Queen Frederica's death, to leave standing the Altes Palais, where the two had lived since arriving in Hanover. Ernest's interest in and support of the railroads led to Hanover becoming a major railway junction, much to the nation's benefit. However, in 1837 when court architect George Ludwig Friedrich Laves proposed the building of an opera house in Hanover, the King initially refused, calling the proposal "this utterly absurd idea of building a court theatre in the middle of this green field." The King finally gave his consent in 1844, and the opera house opened in 1852, a year after the King's death.

Almost immediately upon going to Hanover, the King became involved in a dispute with his niece. Queen Victoria had a strained relationship with her mother Victoria, Duchess of Kent, and wanted to give the Duchess accommodation near her, for the sake of appearances—but not too near her. To that end, she asked the King to give up his apartments at St James's Palace in favour of the Duchess. The King, wishing to retain apartments in London in anticipation of frequent visits to England and reluctant to give

the Duchess. The King, wishing to retain apartments in London in anticipation of frequent visits to England and reluctant to give way in favour of a woman who had frequently fought with his brother, King William, declined and the Queen angrily rented a house for her mother. At a time when the Queen was trying to pay off her father's debts, she saw this as an unnecessary expense. Her ill-feeling towards the King increased when he both refused and advised his two surviving brothers to refuse as well, to give precedence to her intended husband, Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha. Ernest argued that the standing of the various royal families had been settled at the Congress of Vienna and that the King of Hanover should not have to yield to one whom he described as a "paper Royal Highness." The act which naturalised Albert as a British subject left the question of his precedence unresolved.

In 1843, matters came to a head when Ernest returned for what would prove to be his only visit to England as King of Hanover. He was welcomed warmly, everywhere but at the Palace. At the wedding of Princess Augusta of Cambridge, he attempted to insist on a superior place to that of Prince Albert. The prince, 48 years Ernest's junior, settled things with what Albert described as a "strong push," and carefully wrote his name on the certificate under the Queen's, so close to his wife's as to leave no space for the King's signature. The King apparently held no grudge, as he invited the prince for a stroll in the park. When Albert demurred on the grounds that they might be jostled by crowds, the King replied, "When I lived here, I was quite as unpopular as you are and they never bothered me." Shortly after the wedding, the King injured himself in a fall, with Albert writing to his brother, "Happily he fell over some stones in Kew and damaged some ribs." This injury spared him further contact with Victoria and Albert. During his visit, the King found time to take his place as Duke of Cumberland in the House of Lords. Victoria recorded in her journal that the King had stated when asked if he would speak in the Lords, "No, I shall not, unless the Devil prompts me!" The Queen also recorded that though the King greatly enjoyed listening to the debates, he did not himself speak. The King made a point of welcoming British visitors to Hanover and when one Englishwoman told him that she had been lost in the city, the King denied that this was possible, as "the whole country is no larger than a fourpenny bit."

The monarchs engaged in one more battle—over jewels left by Queen Charlotte. Queen Victoria, who possessed them, took the position that they belonged to the British Crown. King Ernest maintained that they were to go to the heir male, that is, himself.

The matter was arbitrated, and just as the arbitrators were about to announce a decision in Hanover's favour, one of the arbitrators died, therefore voiding the decision. Despite the King's request for a new panel, Victoria refused to permit one during the King's lifetime, and took every opportunity to wear the jewels, causing the King to write to his friend Lord Strangford, "The little Queen looked very fine, I hear, loaded down with my diamonds." The King's son and successor, King George V, pressed the matter, and in 1858, after another decision in Hanover's favour, the jewels were turned over to the Hanoverian ambassador.

In 1851, the King undertook several journeys around Germany. He accepted an invitation from the Queen of Prussia to visit Charlottenburg Palace, near Berlin. He visited Mecklenburg for the christening of the Grand Duke's son and Lüneburg to inspect his old regiment. In June, Ernest celebrated his 80th birthday by playing host to the King of Prussia. Late that summer he visited Göttingen, where he opened a new hospital and was given a torchlight procession.

A Mausoleum of King Ernest Augustus in the Berggarten of Herrenhausen Gardens. A large equestrian statue of King Ernest Augustus may be found in a square named after him in front of Hanover Central Station, inscribed with his name and the words (in German) "To the father of the nation from his loyal people." It is a popular meeting place; in the local phrase, people arrange to meet under Schwanz or "under the tail."

The Times did speak well of his time as King of Hanover and of his success in keeping Hanover stable in 1848:

Above all, he possessed a resolute decision of character, which, however unfortunately it may have operated under different conditions, appeared to extraordinary advantage at the crisis of continental thrones. Bewildered by the revolutionary din, and oscillating ignominiously between fear and rage, resistance and concession, the clique of crowned heads suffered greatly by contrast with a Sovereign, who at least knew his own mind and was prepared to abide by his opinions. Therefore, in the European convulsions, King Ernest maintained the stability of his throne and the tranquillity of his people without damage from revolution or reaction. As Kings, indeed, are computed on the continent, he was an able and even a popular Monarch, and his memory may find perhaps in his ancestral dominions a sympathy which it would be vain to bespeak for it in the scenes of his