

Appendix 5.1: Celebrations Honouring Monarchs and Special Events (the earliest mentions are listed below)

Note: Britain and Sweden did not adopt the Gregorian calendar until 1752 and 1753, respectively. The other Europeans mentioned below had already adopted the Gregorian calendar by 1700. This means that eleven days needs to be added to the dates given by the English and Swedes below in order to arrive at the correct date of the celebration.

August 24-25, 1721: (French) King Louis XIV Birthday 'the French ships fyrd abundance of guns being ther kings birth day' (BL: IOR L/MAR/B/0682B, 1721.08.14, which would be 25 August after adding eleven days to correspond with the Gregorian calendar). On 24 August 1729, the French ship at Whampoa fired 21 cannons (ANP: 4JJ129A.5^{bis}, 1729.08.24). Louis XIV actually died in 1715, but he continued to be honored with a 21-gun salute in China by the French ships up to at least 1751. The date of this anniversary, however, was not celebrated on the same day each year. On 24 October 1730, for example, the French and other foreign ships at Whampoa fired 21 guns in honor of the French monarch's birthday (SAA: GIC 5709, 1729.10.24). On 14 August 1736 a British captain at Whampoa recorded that 'This being ye Anniversary of Lewis ye 14th the French ships fir'd each 21 guns' (L/MAR/B/329B, 1736.08.14, which would again be 25 August after adding eleven days to correspond with the Gregorian calendar). On sunset of 24 August 1749, the French commodore fired a 21-cannon salute, and the second French ship fired a 19-cannon salute. At sunrise on 25 August, the French commodore fired another 21-cannon salute, and the second French ship fired a 19-cannon salute (RAC: Ask 892, 1749.08.24-25). The 24 or 25 of August salute to Louis XIV was done by the French ships up to at least 1751 (RAC: Ask 985, Ask 1017, 1751.08.24). Louis XIV was actually born on 5 September, but his birthday was celebrated in China on different days, which could vary from one year to the next.

November 4, 1726: (GIC) Imperial Majesty's St Charles VI's Day: 'This being his Imperial Majesties Name day we made a Feast all the Factory and had the Company of all the European Gentlemen & of the Principal Merchants of Canton and spent the day very elegantly a propo to the Occasion' (SAA: GIC 5757. See also SAA: GIC 5696²). On 4 November 1727, two of the GIC ships fired 21 cannons each, then the captains raised a toast to the emperor's health and fired 19 cannons, then 15 cannons were fired to honour the directors of the GIC, and then 11 cannons fired to honour the supercargos of the GIC. There were three GIC ships in port this year (SAA: GIC 5704, 1727.11.04, GIC 5705). The last GIC voyage to China was 1732, so this celebration ceased after that. There were no GIC ships in China in 1728, 1729 or 1731.

It is interesting to note that 4 November was the date of the British king's birthday in earlier years, and Chinese officials sometimes joined in the celebrations. On 3 November 1700, for example, the British ships anchored at Chusan in China recorded the following: 'In the Evening he [the Chumpein] sent us a live Deer, and a large Fish, to celebrate our King's Birthday on the morrow'. On 4 November: 'At Sun=rising the King's Colours were hoisted upon Trumbal Hill on the Island so called. At Noon we all went aboard the *Trumbul* to Dinner, accompanied by the Secretaries of the Chumpein, the new Hoppo, and Bonquo. Capt. Duffield gave us a noble Entertainment. The King's health was drunk, the ships saluting.' (BL: IOR G/12/6, 1700.11.03-04, pp. 809-10). Despite there being British and French ships at Whampoa almost every year from 1700 onwards, I did not find a celebration

to a monarch taking place there until 1721 (see above). We can assume, however, that these events probably took place every year at Whampoa, from 1700 onwards, and that they either did not get recorded or the documents did not survive.

October 30, 1727: (EIC) King George I's Birthday 'each ship fired twenty one guns' (L/MAR/B/675C, 1727.10.30). This was not the king's actual birthday but seems to have been a celebration of his coronation (which happened on 20 October 1714). Each year, all of the British ships at anchor at Whampoa fired 21 guns, which would have been done in sequence starting with the commodore and then proceeding to other captains according to their rank. All friendly nation's ships seemed to have also honored the event with 21-gun salutes, which would have been done after the EIC salutes were completed. King George I had actually died on 11 June 1727, but that information was not known in Canton until 1728.¹

October 30, 1729: (EIC) King George II's Birthday 'at 1 PM being ye aniver. of ye Kings Birth Day fir'd 21 gunns as did ye rest of our Europe ships' (BL: IOR L/MAR/B/670C, 1729.10.30). On 31 October 1731, 'yesterday being his majesties birth day fired 21 guns, as did the *Harford*, *Maclesfield*, and *Harrison*' (BL: IOR L/MAR/B/0235C, 1731.10.31). Curiously, 30 October was indeed the birthday of King George II, so the same day continued to be observed by the British in China.² These celebrations went on all day long. On 30 October 1742, for example, one British captain recorded that 'This being the Anniversary of His Majestie King George the Second's Birth Day the same was observ'd here with great Acclamations of Joy. Att noon each ship fir'd 21 gunn's the evening concluded with mirth and fire work' (BL: IOR L/MAR/B/164C, 1742.10.30). This celebration continued every year up to and including 1760. King George II died on 25 October 1760, but this news was not known in Canton until 1761.

November 28 and 30, 1731: (DAC) Queen Sophie Magdalene and King Christian VI's Birthdays. The queen was saluted on 28 November with 27 cannons at the raising of a new flag and pennant. The King was saluted on 30 November with 27 cannons, which probably also coincided with the raising of the national flag and pennant (Schultz, Kaptajn J.H., ed. 'En Dagbog ført paa en Kinafarer 1730–32 af Kadet Tobias Wigandt'. In *Tidsskrift for Søværnen*, by G. L. Grove. Copenhagen: Hovedkommissionær Vilhelm Tryde, Thieles Bogtrykkeri, 1900, p. 203). At sunrise on the 28th and 30th of November 1736, the Danish ship hoisted the Danish flag and pennant [which were probably new] and then fired a 9-cannon salute. At noon and sunset on both days they fired a 9-cannon salute (RAC: Ask 997, 1736.11.28-30). Queen Sophie Magdalene's birthday was on 28 November and King Christian VI was born on 30 November so the Danes saluted both monarchs. The number of cannons fired differed in later years. On 28 November 1743, the Danish ship hoisted a new flag and pennant at sunrise, and then fired a 21-cannon salute. A 21-cannon salute was fired at sunset as well, which is when the flag and pennant were lowered (RAC: Ask 883, 1743.11.30, Ask 1003, 1743.11.30). Christian VI died on 6 August 1746, but the Danes in China would not have learned of this until 1747. However, there is no mention of these salutes being made in 1746. This may have been the case because the first DAC ship had already left Whampoa before 28 November and was anchored at the Second Bar. The second ship left Whampoa on 28 November and arrived at the Second Bar on 30 November. The celebration may have been discontinued this year owing to the men and ships having to make these moves on the appointed day.

December 18, 1747: (DAC) Queen Consort Louise's Birthday. The next Danish king after Christian VI was Frederick V, but he was not coronated until 4 September 1747. The Danes in China in

1747 would not have learned of his coronation until 1748. In the absence of honouring their king, they honoured Frederick V's wife, Queen Consort Louise. She was the youngest daughter of the British King George II, so she is often referred to as Louise of Great Britain, even though she was the Queen of Denmark. The two Danish ships were at the Second Bar on December 18. They raised a flag and pennant at sunrise, and then fired a 15-cannon salute. At noon the Danish commodore fired 21 cannons and the other Danish ship fired 11 cannons. The Swedish ships that were at the Second Bar at the time also fired 8 cannons in honour of the Danish Queen. At sunset, when the flag and pennant were lowered, one Danish ship fired 9 (6 pound) cannons, and the other DAC ship fired 8 cannons (RAC: Ask 889A, Ask 890, Ask 1010, 1747.12.18). Even after Frederick V's coronation, the Danes in China continued to honour Queen Louise's birthday instead of his. On 18 December 1750, there was a Danish ship at Whampoa and another at the Second Bar and they both fired 9 (6-pound) cannons at sunrise, and 15 cannons at noon (RAC: Ask 893, Ask 894, Ask 1014, 1750.12.08).

September 1, 1749: (VOC) Prince William IV of Orange's Birthday. A British captain recorded that 'this day being ye Prince of Oranges's Birth day the complement was paid with fiering guns by sum [some] English and Duch and ye Duch provided a grand entertainment att their factory att Canton' (BL: IOR L/MAR/B/322A). This British source says the salute was done on August 21, which would be 1 September in the Gregorian calendar, and corresponds with Prince William IV's birthday. The Dutch ships and two British ships each fired 21 cannons (RAC: Ask 892, Ask 1012, 1749.09.01). All of the European supercargos in Canton met in the Dutch factory to celebrate the Prince of Orange's birthday (RAC: Ask 1127, 1749.09.01). This celebration continued at Whampoa up to and including 1751. Prince William IV died on 22 October 1751, but this information was not known in China until 1752.

March 8, 1760: (VOC) Prince William V of Orange's Birthday. Prince William V ascended to the throne on 22 October 1751, but his birthday was on 8 March, which was a time when few ships were in China. Consequently, the Dutch sometimes celebrated his birthday later in the year, so that they could also fire salutes in his honour. On 16 September 1767, for example, 'the Dutch Kept the Prince of Orange's Birthday . . . with salutes from all the Commodores of different nations' (BL: IOR L/MAR/B/501B, 1767.09.16). All of the Dutch ships fired salutes, but only the commodore ships of other nations saluted.

June 27, 1761: (EIC) British Taking of Pondicherry. In late June 1761, the British in China learned of the taking of the French colony Pondicherry. On June 27, at 1 p.m. all of the British ships at Whampoa and in the Pearl River, fired 21 cannons in celebration of the event (BL: IOR L/MAR/B/492^a, L/MAR/B/585H, L/MAR/B/589F-G, L/MAR/B/590C). Of course, no other nations joined in this celebration.

November 1, 1761: (EIC) King George III's Coronation. On 1 November 1761, 'at 1 P.M. fired 21 guns as did all the English ships on account of his Majesties Accesion to the Throne' (BL: IOR L/MAR/B/492^a, 1761.11.01; GUB: H 22.4 Dagbok för skeppet Riksens Ständer, 1761.11.01). King George III's coronation was actually on 25 October, but it was celebrated on different days in China. In 1764, for example, the cannon salutes were done on 22 September (BL: IOR L/MAR/B/498C, 1764.09.22).

June 4, 1764: (EIC) King George III's Birthday. 'At 1 PM Fired 21 Guns, it being his Majestys Birth Day' (BL: IOR L/MAR/B/498D-E, 1764.06.04). There were not always British ships in China in June, but when there were, they saluted King George III's birthday.

December 30, 1771: (EIC) Chinese Emperor's Mother's 81st Birthday. 'this day every English ship fired 9 guns being the Emperors Mothers Birth Day she enters into the 81st year of her age' (BL: IOR L/MAR/B/172D, 1771.12.30). 'In the morning Fired 9 Guns, as did the rest of the Ships as a salute, it being the birth Day of the Emperour of China's Mother, who is now Eighty years old, by the desire of Mr. Hume the Chief Superacargo' (BL: IOR L/MAR/B/479B, 1771.12.30).

June 3, 1795: (EIC) King George III's Birthday. 'AM dress'd ship in Honor of His M[ajest]ys. Birth day and perform'd Divine Service' (BL: IOR L/MAR/B/165E, 1795.06.03). In 1784, gun salutes were banned by the Chinese government, and then foreigners come up with other ways to celebrate their monarchs. In this year, they decorated the ships, and probably the factory as well, with colourful banners.

October 25, 1808: (EIC) King George III's Birthday. 'At 1 PM fired a salute of 21 guns in honor of H[is]. Majesty's accession to the Throne, as did all the H[onoura]b[le] ships pr order of Capt. Craig' (BL: IOR L/MAR/B/229T, 1808.10.25). On 18 January 1794, Lord Macartney and his entourage were also saluted at Whampoa with the firing of 21 cannons when they went aboard the ship *Lion* (BL: IOR L/MAR/B/331C). These references show that the 1784 ban on gun salutes was not always honoured.

¹ <https://www.britroyals.com/kings.asp?id=george1> [accessed 11 April 2018]

² <https://www.britroyals.com/kings.asp?id=george2> [accessed 11 April 2018]