

Statute of Anne – 1709 or 1710?

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Three Considerations

- Parliamentary sessions run across years (1709-1710)
- Until 1752, the New Year began on 25 March (Lady Day). So an Act passed on 20 March 1709 would be in what we think of as 1710.
- Great Britain shifted from the Julian to Gregorian calendar (also in 1752), adding 11 days

The Passage of the Statute of Anne

- Petition: 12 December 1709
- Bill presented and First Reading in Commons 11 January 1709
- Second Reading (HC) 9 February 1709
- Committee and Report (HC) 21 February 1709
- Amendments from Committee (HC) 26 February 1709
- Third Reading and passed (HC) 14 March 1709
- First Reading (HL) 16 March 1709
- Second Reading (HL) 24 March 1709
- Third Reading and Passed (HL) 4 April 1710
- HC agreed HL amendments 5 April 1710
- Royal Assent: 5 April 1710
- In force: 10 April 1710

Julian to Gregorian

- In September 1752, 11 days were added
- Lady Day in 1753 came a bit sooner – so because of protests, tax year was moved to April 6
- But logically does not appear to affect dating of Act
- Conclusion: Best described as 1710 or 1709/10