# THE CHARTER OF THE CORPORATION OF THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND[1]

## [27 July 1694]

WILLIAM and MARY, by the Grace of God, King and Queen of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, Defenders of the Faith, &c. To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting.

*The Charter then recites certain of the provisions of The Bank of England Act 1694; the Commission for the taking of Subscriptions under the said Act; and the evidence submitted that the necessary sums had been subscribed: and proceeds:*

Now know ye, That we being desirous to promote the publick Good and Benefit of our People, which in these Presents are chiefly designed and intended, as well as the Profit and Advantage of all such as have subscribed and contributed according to the said Act of Parliament, and our said Commission thereupon issued, their Heirs, Successors, and Assignees respectively, and in pursuance as well of the Powers and Clauses for this Purpose, contained in the said Act of Parliament, as of our gracious Promise and Declaration, made in or by our said Commission, or Letters Patents, under the Great Seal of England, whereby the Subscriptions and Contributions on the said Act have been promoted or encouraged, and by Virtue of our Prerogative Royal, and likewise of our especial Grace, certain Knowledge, and meer Motion, Have given, granted, made, ordained, constituted, declared, appointed, and established, and by these Presents, for Us, our Heirs and Successors, do give, grant, make, ordain, constitute, declare, appoint and establish, that the said Sir William Ashhurst, & c. *[Here the Names of the said several Subscribers are repeated]* and all and every other Person and Persons, Natives and Foreigners, Bodies Politick or Corporate, who, over and above the Persons before especially named, have at any Time or Times before the making of these Presents, subscribed and contributed any Sum or Sums of Money towards the said Sum of Twelve Hundred Thousand Pounds so subscribed, pursuant to the said Act, and our said Commission, and have paid the fourth Part thereof upon their said Subscriptions, and who are now living or existent, and have not assigned their Interest in the said Subscriptions; and all and every the Heirs and Successors of any of the said original Subscribers, who are now dead, and have not in their Life-times assigned their Interests in the said Subscriptions, and the Heirs and Successors of such of the said Assignees who are now dead, and did not in their Life-times assign or depart with their Interest in the said Stock and annual Fond, and all and every Person and Persons, Natives or Foreigners, Bodies Politick and Corporate, who, either as original Subscribers of the said Sum of Twelve Hundred Thousand Pounds so subscribed, and not having parted with their Interests in their Subscriptions, or as Heirs, Successors, or Assignees, or by any other lawful Title derived, or to be derived from, by, or under the said original Subscribers of the said Sum of Twelve Hundred Thousand Pounds so subscribed, or any of them now have, or at any Time or Times hereafter shall have, or be entituled to any Part, Share, or Interest of or in the Principal or Capital Stock of the said Corporation, or the said yearly Fond of One Hundred Thousand Pounds, granted by the said Act of Parliament, or any Part thereof, so long as they respectively shall have any such Part, Share, or Interest therein, shall be, and be called one Body Politick and Corporate, of themselves, in Deed and in Name, by the Name of *The Governor and Company of the Bank of*

(1) The Charter, dated 27 July 1694, was revoked, except for the passages printed here, by paragraph 1 of the Charter dated 1 March 1946. The Charter, as reproduced here, is taken from a copy printed in 1758.

*England*; and them by that Name, one Body Politick and Corporate, in Deed and in Name, We do, for Us, our Heirs, and Successors, make, create, erect, establish, and confirm for ever, by these Presents, and by the same Name, they and their Successors shall have perpetual Succession, and shall and may have and use a Common Seal, for the Use, Business, or Affairs of the said Body Politick and Corporate, and their Successors, with Power to break, alter, and to make anew their Seal from Time to Time, at their Pleasure, and as they shall see Cause. And by the same Name, they and their Successors in all Times coming, shall be able and capable in Law, to have, take, purchase, receive, hold, keep, possess, enjoy, and retain to them and their Successors, any Manors, Messuages, Lands, Rents, Tenements, Liberties, Privileges, Franchises, Hereditaments, and Possessions whatsoever, and of what Kind, Nature, or Quality soever; and moreover, to purchase and acquire all Goods and Chattels whatsoever, wherein they are not restrained by the said Act, and also to sell, grant, demise, alien, and dispose of the same Manors, Messuages, Lands, Rents, Tenements, Privileges, Franchises, Hereditaments, Possessions, Goods and Chattels, or any of them. And by the same Name, they and their Successors shall and may sue and implead, and be sued and impleaded, answer and defend, and be answered and defended in Courts of Record, or any other Place whatsoever, and before whatsoever Judges, Justices, Officers and Ministers of Us, our Heirs, and Successors; and in all and singular Pleas, Actions, Suits, Causes and Demands whatsoever, of what Kind, Nature, or Sort soever, and in as large, ample and beneficial Manner and Form as any other Body Politick and Corporate, or any other the Liege People of England, or other our Dominions, being Persons able and capable in Law, may or can have, take, purchase, receive, hold, keep, possess, enjoy, sell, grant, demise, alien, dispose, sue, implead, defend, or answer, or be sued, impleaded, defended, or answered in any manner of wise,

And we do hereby for Us, our Heirs and Successors, declare, limit, direct and appoint, that the aforesaid Sum of Twelve Hundred Thousand Pounds so subscribed as aforesaid, shall be, and be called, accepted, esteemed, reputed and taken, *The Common Capital and Principal Stock of the Corporation hereby constituted*.

In Witness whereof, we have caused these our Letters to be made Patents. Witness our selves at Westminster, the seven and twentieth day of July, in the sixth Year of our Reign.

*By Writ of Privy Seal,*

Pigott.

Intrat. int. Record. Domini Regis Willielmi Tertii, infra Recept. Scaccarii ss. remanen. in Officio Clerici Thesaurarii al. Clerici Pellium decimo die Junii, 1695. Annoq; Regni dicti Domini Regis septimo.(2)

(2) "Entered among the Records of the Lord King William III, within the Receipt of the Exchequer; to wit, remaining in the Office of the Clerk of the Treasurer, otherwise the Clerk of the Pells, the 10th day of June, 1695. And in the seventh year of the reign of the said Lord King."