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Dissolution of the Monasteries. The Dissolution of the Monasteries, sometimes referred to as the Suppression of the Monasteries, was the set of administrative and legal processes between 1536 and 1541 by which Henry VIII disbanded monasteries, priories, convents and friaries in England and Wales and Ireland, appropriated their income,...The Dissolution of the Monasteries. When Henry had become king in 1509 there were more than 850 religious houses in England and Wales. While what happened to them is termed the 'Dissolution of the Monasteries', this is, in fact, a misleading term as few of these establishments were known as monasteries.The Second Suppression Act of 1539 allowed the dissolution of the larger monasteries and religious houses. Monastic land and buildings were confiscated and sold off to families who sympathised with Henry's break from Rome. By 1540 monasteries were being dismantled at a rate of fifty a month.March 1540 The end of the Dissolution. All the monasteries in England have been closed. 28th July 1540 Only a few months after the last monastery had been closed down, Thomas Cromwell was beheaded without trial for high treason. He arranged the unsuccessful marriage between Henry VIII and Anne of Cleves.