The Calendar of Patent Rolls Edward III, 1327-1330 was published in 1891, the first volume to appear in the long series that eventually calendared these Rolls from 1232 to 1509. In its preface, Sir Henry Maxwell-Lyte explained that general gaol delivery commissions and all assize commissions would be excluded from those Calendars. This principle was followed generally throughout the series, except that general gaol delivery commissions were calendared in the volumes for Henry VII; but it was breached sporadically in various volumes, including some of those for Richard II, in which the circuit assize commissions that issued after the disgrace of the justices in 1388 were calendared, somewhat unevenly. Their number is small, and for completeness they have all been included in the present Calendar, which therefore lists all the general and special assize commissions and general gaol delivery commissions entered on the dorsos of the Patent Rolls of Richard II. This has enabled the circuit commissioners of this reign to be tabulated, it is believed for the first time.

Under the general direction of Mr. L.C. Hector, formerly Principal Assistant Keeper in charge of the Editorial and Publications Section of the Public Record Office, this Calendar and the general entries in the Index were prepared by the late Mr. A.H. Watford, working under the immediate supervision of Mr. C.A.F. Meekings, formerly an Assistant Keeper, who was also responsible for the scheme of calendaring and subject indexing and compiled the Formulary, Circuit Tables and Notes.