

The GIN ACT 1736

IMPOSED DURING THE REIGN OF HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE II

When William of Orange prohibited the importing of alcohol to England in the early Eighteenth Century, so began the production and consumption of (domestic) English gin by huge numbers of distillers, the majority being of dubious quality.

Its popularity was such, especially amongst the poor, that *gin was distilled and sold in one fifth of all London homes*. This excessive and uncontrolled consumption provoked a rapid degradation of society, a period given the name the *Gin Craze*.



In trying to curb this 'social evil', the 1736 Gin Act was introduced during the reign of George II, whereby an annual levy of £50 was imposed on those wishing to produce and sell gin.

After six years, just two distilleries had agreed to pay this tax.