

Honoring Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

April 21, 1926 - September 8, 2022

Purpose: The purpose of the exhibit is to honor the life of Queen Elizabeth II, the longest serving British Monarch of all time, who served tirelessly and humbly as head of state for more than 70 years. She was a figure of national pride, symbol of stability and continuity, displaying an unwavering commitment to her country and the Commonwealth, and was respected around the world.



Scope: The exhibit is three frames and includes:

- Stamps and covers highlighting her life from 1926 to 2022.
- Scans of pictures (reduced in size) of published photos honoring her family, celebrating her reign as Queen, and her positive impact on the world.

Background: Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor was born April 21, 1926, to the Duke and Duchess of York, at their home in London. Elizabeth had an easy childhood with little expectation of ascending to the throne. When her grandfather, George V died in 1936, her Uncle Edward became King (was never crowned) and abdicated the position after 325 days in office. Her father Albert was next in line and taking George VI as his regnal name, was crowned King on May 12, 1937, making Elizabeth, at age 11, the heir presumptive. When her father died February 6, 1952, Elizabeth was in Kenya, and flew back to Britain as Queen Elizabeth II. Her coronation was on June 6, 1953, and she reigned as Queen for over 70 years, making her the longest monarch in English history. She passed away, at age 96, on September 8, 2022.

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Early Life



Princess Elizabeth - 1930



Princess Elizabeth - 1931



First stamp portraying Princess Elizabeth. Newfoundland - Issued January 2, 1932.



Canada - Issued May 4, 1935



Newfoundland - Issued May 12, 1938

Elizabeth, future Queen of England, was born April 21, 1926, to the Duke of York, Prince Albert Frederick Arthur George, and the Duchess of York, Elizabeth Angela Marguerite Bowes-Lyon, at the Strathmore's, their London home on 17 Bruton Street.



Princess Elizabeth at age 3, in 1929.



Princess Elizabeth, age 6, joined her grandparents, King George V and Queen Mary, for a carriage ride back to Balmoral Castle after attending a church service in 1932.



She was very close to her mother and to Margaret, her younger sister, who was born August 21, 1930.



Elizabeth's future would change forever in 1937, when the Coronation of her father, George VI, made her the heir presumptive.





In 1939, King George VI was the first reigning British monarch to visit Canada and the United States. Princess Elizabeth is pictured on the 1 cent stamp.



Princess Elizabeth made her first public speech on October 13, 1940, at age 14, with a radio address to the children of the Commonwealth.

"And when peace comes, remember it will be for us, the children of today, to make the world of tomorrow a better and happier place."



The Queen Mother with Princess Margaret and Princess Elizabeth at Windsor Castle on July 8, 1941



Princess Elizabeth 1940

The Queen joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS), a branch of the British army in which women served in World War II. She is working on a truck on April 12, 1945





THE ROYAL WEDDING: PLATINUM ANNIVERSARY

Princess Elizabeth and Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten were secretly engaged in 1946. The King granted his request, providing any formal engagement was delayed until Elizabeth's 21st birthday the following April. Their engagement was officially announced on July 9, 1947. They married on November 20, 1947.



Elizabeth and Philip together in 1947.



On their wedding day



The royal couple welcomed a son, Prince Charles on November 15, 1948, a year after their wedding.



Elizabeth at the State Banquet in Ottawa October 12, 1951



Elizabeth and Philip together in 1951



Princess Anne, the Queen's second child and only daughter, was born August 15, 1950.

Becoming Queen and the Coronation



Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh were visiting Sagana Lodge in Kenya February 6, 1952, when the news of King George VI's death reached them – making the Princess a Queen overnight.



Dorothy Wilding portrait



From February 26, 1952, less than 3 weeks after the death of George VI, until April 15, 1952, Dorothy Wilding took portraits of the Queen. These images were used on stamps globally until 1971.



The first "Wilding" Definitives issued were the 1 ½ d and the 2 ½ d on December 5, 1952

Becoming Queen and the Coronation

The first Stamps portraying Queen Elizabeth, with the Wilding portrait, issued from December 5, 1952, to February 8, 1954



Becoming Queen and the Coronation



Elizabeth was crowned Queen on June 2, 1953



The queen wanted the Royal Family to move into the modern age, and she insisted that her coronation be televised, which was the first British coronation to do so. 12 Million watched it in the UK, with 85 Million in the United States watching highlights.



The queen wore the Diamond Diadem designed by Rundells in 1820, on the way to her coronation.



During the ceremony, she was crowned with the nearly 5 lb. St. Edward's Crown, made for the coronation of Charles II in 1661.

Becoming Queen and the Coronation



The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh waving to thousands of well wishers after the coronation.



They had a carriage procession to Waterloo Station for their train to Winchester for the start of their honeymoon, spending their wedding night in Broadlands, Hampshire, the home of Philip's uncle, Earl Mountbatten. The rest of their honeymoon was spent at Birkhall on the Balmoral Estate in Scotland.



England issued the set of four Coronation stamps on June 3, 1953.

Becoming Queen and the Coronation

After Queen Elizabeth was crowned, 68 nations issued stamps honoring her coronation.



1953 Coronation Omnibus examples.



Australia



Canada



Ceylon



Cook Islands



New Zealand



South Africa



Southern Rhodesia



South West Africa

The Commonwealth of Nations

When Elizabeth became Queen, she became Head of the Commonwealth, linking more than two billion people worldwide. Five months after her coronation, she and Prince Philip went on their longest overseas tour. It lasted for 168 days, beginning in Bermuda in November 1953 and ending in Gibraltar in May 1954, visiting 13 countries.



Bermuda - November 24, 1953. The first time in 344 years that a Monarch visited.



Fiji - December 17, 1953. They stayed 3 days.



New Zealand - December 23, 1953. They stayed for 6 weeks, visiting 46 towns, with over 75% of the population able to see her.



Australia - February 3, 1954. The Queen's first visit to Australia. They stayed 58 days.



Ceylon - April 21, 1954. 50,000 people sang Happy Birthday to her.



Uganda - April 28, 1954. The Queen stayed 3 days and inaugurated the Owen Dam Falls dam.



Malta - May 3, 1954. The Royal Couple spent many happy months in Malta from 1949-1951, where Philip was stationed in the Navy.



Gibraltar - May 10, 1954. The first and only time the Queen visited.

The Commonwealth of Nations

Over the next several years, 59 Commonwealth countries, territories and protectorates issued definitive sets of stamps with Queen Elizabeth's portrait on them. Shown are examples from the first definitive set of each country, organized alphabetically, from Aden to Turks and Caicos. Also shown is the year of the Queen's first visit, the number of times she visited and a published photo of Her Majesty in the country.

Aden - Issued June 15, 1953. Visited one time, in 1954.



Antigua - Issued November 1, 1953. Visited three times, with the first time in 1966.



Ascension - Issued November 19, 1956. Visited one time as Princess, in 1947.



The Commonwealth of Nations

Australia - Issued March 9, 1955. Visited sixteen times, with the first time in 1954.



Bahamas- Issued January 1, 1954. Visited four times, with the first visit in 1966.



Bahrain - Issued 1956 – 1957. One visit in 1979.



Barbados - Issued April 13, 1953. Visited four times, with the first visit in 1966.



The Commonwealth of Nations

Basutoland - Issued October 18, 1954. Visited two times (Malawi), in 1947 and 1979.



Bechuanaland - Issued January 3, 1955. Visited two times (Botswana), in 1947 and 1979.



Bermuda - Issued November 9, 1953. Visited 5 times, the first in 1953.



British Antarctic Territory - Issued February 1, 1963. Never visited.



The Commonwealth of Nations

British Guiana - Issued December 1, 1954. Visited two times (Guyana), the first in 1966.



British Honduras - Issued September 2, 1953. Visited two times (Belize) the first in 1985.



British Solomon Islands - Issued March 1, 1956. Visited two times in 1974 and 1982.



British Virgin Islands - Issued November 1, 1956. Visited two times, the first in 1966.



The Commonwealth of Nations

Canada - Issued May 1, 1953. Visited twenty- two times, the first in 1951.



Cayman Islands - Issued March 2, 1953. Visited two times, the first in 1983.



Christmas Island - Issued October 15, 1958. Never visited.



Cyprus - Issued August 1, 1955. Visited four times, the first in 1961.



The Commonwealth of Nations

Dominica - Issued October 1, 1954. Visited three times, the first in 1966.



Falkland Islands - Issued 1955 - 1957. Never visited, however Princess Anne visited in 2016.



Falkland Island Dependencies - Issued February 1, 1954. Never visited, however Princess Anne visited in 2016.



Fiji - Issued February 1, 1954. Visited six times, the first in 1953.



The Commonwealth of Nations

Gambia - Issued November 2, 1953. Visited one time in 1961.



Gibraltar - Issued October 19, 1953. Visited one time in 1954.



Gilbert and Ellice Islands - Issued August 1, 1956, visited one time (Tuvalu) in 1982.



Gold Coast - Issued December 19, 1952. Visited two times (Ghana), the first in 1961.



The Commonwealth of Nations

Grenada - Issued June 15, 1953. Visited two times, the first in 1966.



Hong Kong - Issued January 5, 1954. Visited twice, the first in 1975.



Jamaica - Issued May 1, 1956. Visited six times, the first in 1953.



Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika - Issued June 1, 1954. Visited four times, the first in 1952.



The Commonwealth of Nations

Kuwait - Issued December 10, 1952. Visited one time in 1979.



Leeward Islands - Issued February 22, 1954. Visited once in 1985.



Malaya Malacca - Issued June 9, 1954. Visited Malaysia 3 times, the first in 1972.



Malta - Issued January 23, 1956. Visited as Queen five time, the first in 1954.



The Commonwealth of Nations

Mauritius - Issued November 3, 1953. Visited one time in 1972.



Montserrat - Issued October 15, 1953. Visited one time in 1966.



New Zealand - Issued December 15, 1953. Visited ten times, the first in 1953.



Nigeria - Issued September 1, 1953. Visited two times, the first in 1956.



The Commonwealth of Nations

North Borneo - Issued March 1, 1954. Visited once (Sabah) in 1972.



Northern Rhodesia - Issued September 15, 1953. Visited twice, the first as Princess in 1947 and (Zambia) in 1979.



Nyasaland - Issued September 1, 1953. Visited once (Malawi) in 1979.



Pitcairn Islands - Issued July 2, 1957. Never visited, however Prince Philip visited in 1971.



The Commonwealth of Nations

Rhodesia and Nyasaland - Issued July 1, 1954. Visited three times, the first as Princess in 1947.



St. Christopher, Nevis, Anguilla - Issued June 14, 1952. Visited one time in 1985.



St. Helena - Issued August 4, 1953. Visited one time as princess, in 1947.



St. Lucia - Issued October 28, 1953, Visited two times, the first in 1966.



The Commonwealth of Nations

St. Vincent - Issued September 15, 1955. Visited two times, the first in 1966.



Sarawak - Issued June 1, 1955. Visited one time in 1972.



Seychelles - Issued February 1, 1954. Visited one time in 1972.



Sierra Leone - Issued January 2, 1956. Visited one time in 1961.



The Commonwealth of Nations

Singapore - Issued September 4, 1955. Visited two times, the first in 1972.



Somaliland - Issued September 15, 1953. Never visited.



South Georgia - Issued July 17, 1963. Never Visited, however Princess Anne visited in 2016.



Southern Rhodesia - Issued August 31, 1953. Visited one time (Zimbabwe), as Princess in 1947.



The Commonwealth of Nations

Swaziland - Issued November 9, 1912. Visited one time (Eswatini), as Princess in 1947.



Trinidad and Tobago - Issued April 20, 1953. Visited three times, the first in 1966.



Tristan da Cunha - Issued January 2, 1954. Never visited, however Prince Philip visited in 1957.



Turks and Caicos Islands - Issued November 25, 1957. Visited two times, the first in 1966.



Honored Traditions

Christmas Day Broadcasts - Every Christmas Day beginning in 1952, the Queen would give the Royal Christmas Message to the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth of Nations. This tradition was started by George V in 1932. Queen Elizabeth made her first radio broadcast from her study in Sandringham, Norfolk, England.

"Since my accession ten months ago, your loyalty and affection have been an immense support and encouragement. I want to take this Christmas Day, my first opportunity, to thank you with all my heart."



1957 was her first televised Christmas Day broadcast.



"Twenty-five years ago, my grandfather broadcast the first of these Christmas messages. Today is another landmark because television has made it possible for many of you to see me in your homes on Christmas Day."



Garter Day - The Order of the Garter is celebrated annually on June 13 at Windsor Castle. It is the oldest and most senior order of chivalry in Britain, founded by King Edward III in 1348. The Queen would choose, at her discretion, new members in recognition of national contribution and public service. The Queen on Garter Day in 1997.



Honored Traditions

Trooping the Colour - "Trooping" refers to the officials marching between the ranks of troops from Buckingham Palace to Whitehall, and back again. "Colour" refers to the different regimental flags. For more than 260 years, the event has been held on the Monarch's Birthday.

Elizabeth had mastered riding side-saddle by the age of 12 in order to participate in the Trooping the Colour. Here she is in 1949, preparing to ride down the Mall in her role as Colonel of the Grenadier Guards. Queen Elizabeth always attended and rode a horse at the event until 1986.



Annual Opening of Parliament - For more than 600 years, the State Opening of Parliament has represented the unity of Parliaments three parts: the Sovereign, the House of Lords and the House of Commons. Every year, the Queen would read a speech that sets out the government agenda and key legislative plans for the forthcoming session of Parliament. The Queen at Parliament in 2013.



The Queen attended her final State Opening Of Parliament in 2021, reading out the government's program for the forthcoming year for the last time.



Official Visits, Hosting Distinguished Visitors and Global Influence

As head of State and the Commonwealth, the Queen travelled to many countries on official visits, and hosted many distinguished visitors at home. The Queen visited 106 different countries on official occasions during her 70-year reign as a monarch, most frequently to Canada (22 visits), Australia (16 visits) and New Zealand (10 visits).

The Queen's first official overseas visit was in 1947 as Princess Elizabeth, when Her Majesty toured South Africa, Southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) and Bechuanaland (Botswana) with King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. On April 21, 1947, The Queen celebrated her 21st birthday in Cape Town South Africa, which was marked by a speech broadcasted across the Commonwealth in which she pledged her life to her duties.



In 1951, Princess Elizabeth toured Canada with her husband, the Duke of Edinburgh. They visited all 10 provinces. The trip was supposed to last two weeks, but they extended it to five weeks. Pictured are the couple enjoying the Calgary Stampede.



Official Visits, Hosting Distinguished Visitors and Global Influence

The Queen was served by 15 UK Prime Ministers during her reign, beginning with Winston Churchill in 1952, as well as many Prime Ministers across her Realms.



The Queen was closest to Winston Churchill. Churchill is opening the car door for her, after his farewell dinner at 10 Downing Street before stepping down in 1955.



President Truman hosted the Queen on November 1, 1951 in Washington, D.C.



President Reagan visited the Queen on June 8, 1982.



The Queen welcomed the Obama's to Buckingham Palace on April 1, 2009.

Queen Elizabeth met 13 of the last 14 U.S. presidents, with Lyndon Johnson being the only president that she did not meet.



The Queen first addressed the United Nations in New York City on October 21, 1957. She also addressed the United Nations on June 6, 2010, which was her last visit to the United States.



Official Visits, Hosting Distinguished Visitors and Global Influence

As Head of State, the Queen acted as diplomat and hostess, welcoming over 110 Presidents and Prime Ministers to the UK, and hosting 116 Official State Visits. Almost all of them were held at Buckingham Palace or Windsor Castle.



The Interior and Exterior of Buckingham Palace



The Interior and Exterior of Windsor Castle

Official Visits, Hosting Distinguished Visitors and Global Influence

The Queen travelled over one million miles during her reign.



The Queen went to India 3 times, the first time on January 21, 1961



The Queen and Prince Philip in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on February 2, 1965

Official Visits, Hosting Distinguished Visitors and Global Influence



In 1966, she travelled to the Caribbean, visiting 14 countries.

In 1970, the Queen introduced the concept of the royal walkabout, breaking with centuries of tradition. She incorporated meet and greets with the public into her royal tour of Australia and New Zealand.



The Queen attended the Commonwealth Games in 1982 in Brisbane, Australia. The Opening Ceremony was held at the QEII Stadium, named after her.



In 1986, The Queen became the first British monarch to visit mainland China, touring the Great Wall in Beijing and the Terracotta Army in Xi'an.



The last country the Queen visited was Malta in 2015, for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.



Her Majesty at Portsmouth on the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings on June 6, 2019.



"I will remember the look of concern on my father's face. He knew the secret D-Day plans but could of course share that burden with no one."

On April 5, 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, she comforted the public and showed support and solidarity.

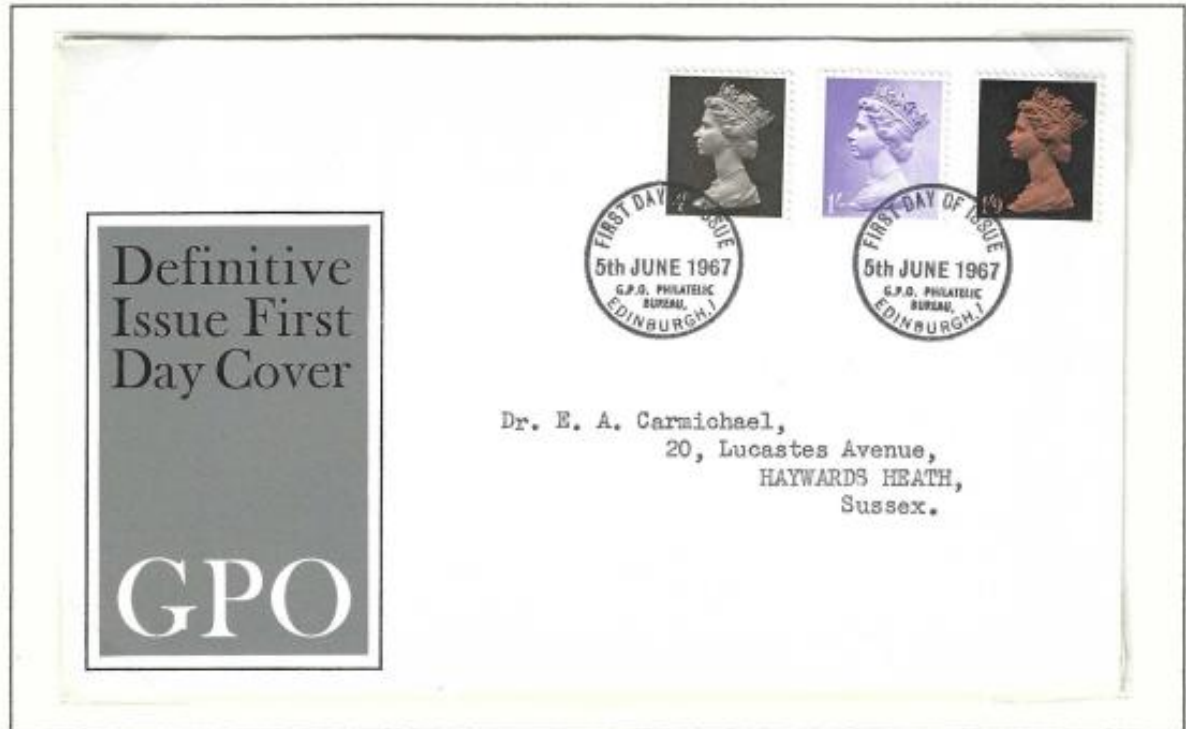


"We will be with our friends again; we will be with our families again; we will meet again."

The Machins – “The most used image that the world has ever seen.”

3.01

One of the most iconic images of Queen Elizabeth is the one that appeared on British definitive issues starting in 1967. The “Machins” is a 56 years long definitive series, named for Arnold Machin, who created six molds of the queen, that were photographed and developed into the portrait. Over 320 billion Machin stamps have been printed in many colors and denominations. Peter Cockburn, President of the Royal Philatelic Society in London told the BBC that *“It is said that this image is the most used image that the world has ever seen.”*



The first three Machins were the 4d, 1/- and 1/9d issued June 5, 1967.



There were 16 pre-decimal Machin definitives in the small format and four in a larger size. All pre-decimal stamps, except the £1, were withdrawn on November 25, 1971, and were invalidated on March 1, 1972.

The first Machins to be based on the new decimal currency were issued February 15, 1971. There are well over five thousand varieties of color, value, gum, phosphor banding, iridescent overprints, perforations, and printing methods encompassing almost all changes and innovations in British stamp printing.



Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Machin Definitives in 2007



Feb 15, 1971
Two Phosphor Bands



Dec 14, 1977
One Middle Phosphor Band



Oct 10, 1979
Phosphor all over



Oct 20, 1986
One Left Phosphor Band



Mar 3, 1987
One Right Phosphor Band



Jun 8, 1993
Elliptical Perforation



Apr 1, 1997
Electro-Magnetic Engraving

An example of one Machin value over the years



The last Machins with the image of Her Majesty were issued on April 4, 2022

Machins – On September 8, 2022, moments before the passing of the Queen



was announced, double rainbows appeared over both Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle.

3.3 - 3.4



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Cover from Stanley Gibbons, mailed September 29, 2022, honoring the Queen that month with Machins on their correspondence.

Honoring Her marriage, Her family, and the Crown

Queen Elizabeth was a devoted wife and mother of four, relishing her time with her family.



Family picnic at Balmoral Castle in Scotland in 1961 with Prince Andrew as a baby.



Family portrait in 1969 with Prince Edward.



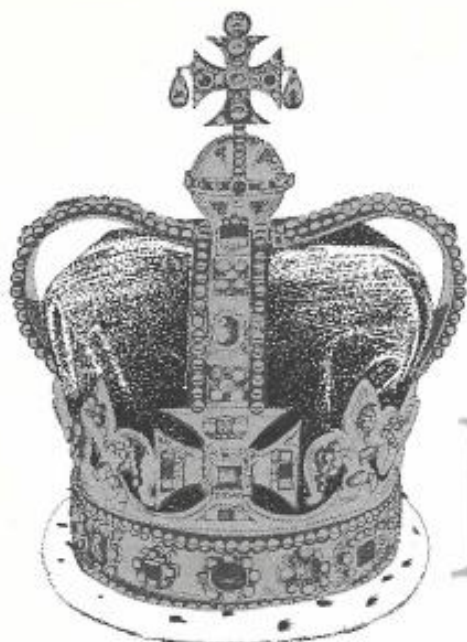
Family portrait in 1971



On the Royal Yacht Britannia in 1972

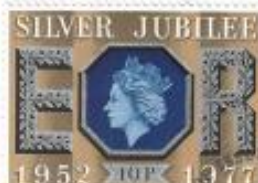


November 20, 1972 marked their Silver Jubilee: 25 years of marriage



EMIR

THE QUEEN'S SILVER JUBILEE 1977



February 6, 1977 marked 25 years since becoming Queen



June 2, 1978 marked 25 years since the Coronation.



Silver Jubilee Walkabout - 1977



Photograph taken by Lord Snowdon - 1978



Walkabout in Worcester - 1980



Royal Windsor Horse Show - 1985



The Sixtieth Birthday of Her Majesty The Queen 21 April 1986

ROYAL MAIL FIRST DAY COVER

Honoring the Queen's 60th Birthday - April 21, 1986



February 6, 1992 marked the 40th Anniversary of the accession to Queen.

Honoring Her marriage, Her family, and the Crown



Royal Golden Wedding November 20, 1997



August 4, 2000 was the Queen Mother's 100th birthday.



February 6, 2002, celebrated 50 years on the throne, the Golden Jubilee year. Her Majesty travelled over 40,000 miles, visiting the New Zealand, Australia, Canada and the Caribbean.



Three generations of current and future British monarchs taken in 2003, 50 years since the Queen's Coronation.

Honoring Her marriage, Her family, and the Crown



Her Majesty on April 21, 2006, happily reading over her 80th birthday cards from members of the public.



The Queen had a lifelong affection for dogs, and owned dozens of Welsh Corgis, her favorite breed, over the years.



The Royal Family, over the years. For their Diamond Wedding anniversary in 2007, the Queen and Prince Philip returned to the Broadlands, the Hampshire estate where they spent their honeymoon together 60 years earlier.

In 2012, the Queen celebrated her Diamond Jubilee as well as opening the Olympic Games in London. She played an amusing role in the opening ceremony as she "jumped out of a helicopter" as part of a famous sketch with James Bond (Daniel Craig) before officially declaring the games open. She kept the stunt a secret from the Royal Family.



Honoring Her marriage, Her family, and the Crown

The Queen became the longest-serving British monarch in history on September 5, 2015, overtaking her great-great-grandmother Queen Victoria. Prime Minister David Cameron honored her in parliament:

"She has been a rock of stability in an era in which our country has changed so much, providing an enduring focal point for all her people. The Queen is our Queen. And we could not be more proud of her. She has served this country with unerring grace, dignity and decency."



The Queen celebrated her 90th birthday on April 21, 2016, with three days of nationwide celebrations.



The Queen and Philip reached their 70th wedding anniversary on November 20, 2017. They fed bananas to an elephant after opening the Centre for Elephant Care at Whipsnade Zoo. It was one of Philip's final public engagements with the Queen.



The Queen's 90th Birthday

The passing of Prince Philip

Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, and loving husband of the Queen, passed away at Windsor Castle on April 9, 2021, at age 99. He was born June 10, 1921, on the Greek Island of Corfu, and served as the consort of Queen Elizabeth, from her accession as queen until his death, making him the longest serving royal consort in history. Philip supported her in her duties as sovereign, accompanying her to State Openings of Parliament in various countries, state dinners, and tours abroad.



Elizabeth and Philip met when she was a young 13-year-old princess. Their love evolved into a 73-year marriage that lasted to his dying day. When he passed, the Queen said goodbye to the love of her life.



Her Impact on Philately

Queen Elizabeth was a stamp collector. She maintained and enhanced the Royal collection, as well as supported and encouraged the hobby. Inspired by her grandfather George V, she took a real interest in philately. As Queen, she personally approved all new UK stamp designs. She is looking through her stamp collection in 1946. Seven years later, it would be her own likeness that would appear on stamps around the world.



Queen Elizabeth was patron of the Royal Philatelic Society, visiting in 1969.



On April 10, 2019, the Queen visited the Royal Philatelic Society in London, opening their new building on its 150th Anniversary.



The Queen was the Patron of the London International Stamp Exhibitions each decade since 1980. Shown is the 2010 Festival of Stamps.

In Memoriam

Prime Minister Liz Truss met Queen Elizabeth II at Balmoral, Scotland on September 6, 2022. This was the last public photo taken of Queen Elizabeth before she passed away at 3:10 pm, on Thursday, September 8, 2022, at Balmoral Castle.

Queen Elizabeth II served her people, her nation, and the world until the very end.



The Royal Mail marked the passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II starting on September 9. The cancellation "In Memoriam Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 1926-2022" on this cover was sent from the Windsor Mail Centre on September 13, 2022.

In Memoriam



The State Funeral for Her Majesty took place at Westminster Abbey on Monday, September 19 at 11 am. After the funeral, she was interred in the King George VI Memorial Chapel at Windsor and laid to rest next to her beloved Prince Philip, and alongside her father King George VI, her mother Queen Elizabeth, and the ashes of her sister Princess Margaret.

King Charles III saying his final goodbyes before the Queen was interred.

Countries remembering Queen Elizabeth II: A remarkable women, a world leader and the Queen of our times.



Ascension



Falkland Islands



South Georgia



Tristan da Cunha



Epilogue



Issued by Great Britain on November 10, 2022, commemorating Queen Elizabeth's life.

Queen Elizabeth was:

- "The Most Recognized Woman in the World", with over 340 billion stamps printed with her likeness, and her face on coins and currency in 33 countries. She appeared on more stamps than any person in history.
- "The Most Admired Woman Ever", finishing in the top 5 for 51 years, by the Gallup Poll.
- "The Most Influential Female Role Model of the past 100 years" in a survey conducted by Good Housekeeping in 2022.
- Head of the Commonwealth of Nations, linking more than two billion people worldwide.
- Royal Patron or President of more than 510 charities, including Cancer Research UK and the British Red Cross.
- Commander-in-Chief of the British Armed Forces.
- Ceremonial Head of the Church of England.
- Overseer of the Royal Collection of art, which encompasses more than one million pieces including paintings, sculptures, tapestries and ceramics.
- The symbol of the United Kingdom.

Epilogue

For over seventy years, Queen Elizabeth II was the figure of British national pride, was a symbol of civility, stability and continuity, and was respected around the world. She was a devoted daughter, wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, and displayed an unwavering commitment to her country and to the Commonwealth throughout her record-breaking reign.

She will be commemorated and respected by future generations. Whenever a stamp collector adds another Commonwealth stamp or British cover to their collection, she will be remembered.

