

= George IV of the United Kingdom =

George IV (George Augustus Frederick ; 12 August 1762 ? 26 June 1830) was King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of Hanover following the death of his father , George III , on 29 January 1820 , until his own death ten years later . From 1811 until his accession , he served as Prince Regent during his father 's final mental illness .

George IV led an extravagant lifestyle that contributed to the fashions of the Regency era . He was a patron of new forms of leisure , style and taste . He commissioned John Nash to build the Royal Pavilion in Brighton and remodel Buckingham Palace , and Sir Jeffry Wyattville to rebuild Windsor Castle . He was instrumental in the foundation of the National Gallery and King 's College London .

His charm and culture earned him the title " the first gentleman of England " , but his poor relationship with both his father and his wife , Caroline of Brunswick , and his dissolute way of life , earned him the contempt of the people and dimmed the prestige of the monarchy . He even forbade Caroline to attend his coronation and asked the government to introduce the unpopular Pains and Penalties Bill in a desperate , unsuccessful attempt to divorce her .

For most of George 's regency and reign , Lord Liverpool controlled the government as Prime Minister , with little help from George . His ministers found his behaviour selfish , unreliable and irresponsible . At all times he was much under the influence of favourites . Taxpayers were angry at his wasteful spending at a time when Britons were fighting in the Napoleonic Wars . He did not provide national leadership in time of crisis , nor act as a role model for his people . Liverpool 's government presided over Britain 's ultimate victory , negotiated the peace settlement , and attempted to deal with the social and economic malaise that followed . After Liverpool 's retirement , George was forced to accept Catholic emancipation despite opposing it . His only child , Princess Charlotte , died before him in 1817 and so he was succeeded by his younger brother , William .

= = Early life = =

George was born at St James 's Palace , London , on 12 August 1762 , the first child of King George III of the United Kingdom and Queen Charlotte . As the eldest son of a British sovereign , he automatically became Duke of Cornwall and Duke of Rothesay at birth ; he was created Prince of Wales and Earl of Chester a few days later . On 18 September of the same year , he was baptised by Thomas Secker , Archbishop of Canterbury . His godparents were the Duke of Mecklenburg @-@ Strelitz (his maternal uncle , for whom the Duke of Devonshire , Lord Chamberlain , stood proxy) , the Duke of Cumberland (his twice @-@ paternal great @-@ uncle) and the Dowager Princess of Wales (his paternal grandmother) . George was a talented student , and quickly learned to speak French , German and Italian , in addition to his native English .

At the age of 18 he was given a separate establishment , and in dramatic contrast with his prosaic , scandal @-@ free father , threw himself with zest into a life of dissipation and wild extravagance involving heavy drinking and numerous mistresses and escapades . He was a witty conversationalist , drunk or sober , and showed good , but grossly expensive , taste in decorating his palace . The Prince turned 21 in 1783 , and obtained a grant of £ 60 @,@ 000 (equivalent to £ 6 @,@ 514 @,@ 000 today) from Parliament and an annual income of £ 50 @,@ 000 (equivalent to £ 5 @,@ 429 @,@ 000 today) from his father . It was far too little for his needs ? the stables alone cost £ 31 @,@ 000 a year . He then established his residence in Carlton House , where he lived a profligate life . Animosity developed between the Prince and his father , who desired more frugal behaviour on the part of the heir apparent . The King , a political conservative , was also alienated by the Prince 's adherence to Charles James Fox and other radically inclined politicians .

Soon after he reached the age of 21 , the Prince became infatuated with Maria Fitzherbert . She was a commoner , six years his elder , twice widowed , and a Roman Catholic . Despite her complete unsuitability , the Prince was determined to marry her . This was in spite of the Act of Settlement 1701 , which barred the spouse of a Catholic from succeeding to the throne , and the Royal Marriages Act 1772 , which prohibited his marriage without the King 's consent , which would never have been granted .

Nevertheless , the couple went through a marriage ceremony on 15 December 1785 at her house in Park Street , Mayfair . Legally the union was void , as the King 's consent was not granted (and never even requested) . However , Fitzherbert believed that she was the Prince 's canonical and true wife , holding the law of the Church to be superior to the law of the State . For political reasons , the union remained secret and Fitzherbert promised not to reveal it .

The Prince was plunged into debt by his exorbitant lifestyle . His father refused to assist him , forcing him to quit Carlton House and live at Fitzherbert 's residence . In 1787 , the Prince 's political allies proposed to relieve his debts with a parliamentary grant . The Prince 's relationship with Fitzherbert was suspected , and revelation of the illegal marriage would have scandalised the nation and doomed any parliamentary proposal to aid him . Acting on the Prince 's authority , the Whig leader Charles James Fox declared that the story was a calumny . Fitzherbert was not pleased with the public denial of the marriage in such vehement terms and contemplated severing her ties to the Prince . He appeased her by asking another Whig , Richard Brinsley Sheridan , to restate Fox 's forceful declaration in more careful words . Parliament , meanwhile , granted the Prince £ 161 @, @ 000 (equivalent to £ 18 @, @ 450 @, @ 000 today) to pay his debts and £ 60 @, @ 000 (equivalent to £ 6 @, @ 876 @, @ 000 today) for improvements to Carlton House .

= = Regency crisis of 1788 = =

In the summer of 1788 the King 's mental health deteriorated , possibly as the result of the hereditary disease porphyria . He was nonetheless able to discharge some of his duties and to declare Parliament prorogued from 25 September to 20 November . During the prorogation he became deranged , posing a threat to his own life , and when Parliament reconvened in November the King could not deliver the customary speech from the throne during the State Opening of Parliament . Parliament found itself in an untenable position : according to long @-@ established law it could not proceed to any business until the delivery of the King 's Speech at a State Opening .

Although arguably barred from doing so , Parliament began debating a Regency . In the House of Commons , Charles James Fox declared his opinion that the Prince of Wales was automatically entitled to exercise sovereignty during the King 's incapacity . A contrasting opinion was held by the Prime Minister , William Pitt the Younger , who argued that , in the absence of a statute to the contrary , the right to choose a Regent belonged to Parliament alone . He even stated that , without parliamentary authority " the Prince of Wales had no more right ... to assume the government , than any other individual subject of the country . " Though disagreeing on the principle underlying a Regency , Pitt agreed with Fox that the Prince of Wales would be the most convenient choice for a Regent .

The Prince of Wales ? though offended by Pitt 's boldness ? did not lend his full support to Fox 's approach . The Prince of Wales 's brother , Prince Frederick , Duke of York , declared that George would not attempt to exercise any power without previously obtaining the consent of Parliament . Following the passage of preliminary resolutions Pitt outlined a formal plan for the Regency , suggesting that the powers of the Prince of Wales be greatly limited . Among other things , the Prince of Wales would not be able either to sell the King 's property or to grant a peerage to anyone other than a child of the King . The Prince of Wales denounced Pitt 's scheme , declaring it a " project for producing weakness , disorder , and insecurity in every branch of the administration of affairs . " In the interests of the nation , both factions agreed to compromise .

A significant technical impediment to any Regency Bill involved the lack of a speech from the throne , which was necessary before Parliament could proceed to any debates or votes . The speech was normally delivered by the King , but could also be delivered by royal representatives known as Lords Commissioners ; but no document could empower the Lords Commissioners to act unless the Great Seal of the Realm was affixed to it . The Seal could not be legally affixed without the prior authorisation of the Sovereign . Pitt and his fellow ministers ignored the last requirement and instructed the Lord Chancellor to affix the Great Seal without the King 's consent , as the act of affixing the Great Seal in itself gave legal force to the Bill . This legal fiction was denounced by Edmund Burke as a " glaring falsehood " , as a " palpable absurdity " , and even as a " forgery ,

fraud " . The Duke of York , described the plan as " unconstitutional and illegal . " Nevertheless , others in Parliament felt that such a scheme was necessary to preserve an effective government . Consequently , on 3 February 1789 , more than two months after it had convened , Parliament was formally opened by an " illegal " group of Lords Commissioners . The Regency Bill was introduced , but before it could be passed the King recovered . The King declared retroactively that the instrument authorising the Lords Commissioners to act was valid .

= = Marriage and mistresses = =

The Prince of Wales 's debts continued to climb , and his father refused to aid him unless he married his cousin Princess Caroline of Brunswick . In 1795 , the Prince acquiesced ; and they were married on 8 April 1795 at the Chapel Royal , St James 's Palace . The marriage , however , was disastrous ; each party was unsuited to the other . The two were formally separated after the birth of their only child , Princess Charlotte , in 1796 , and remained separated thereafter . The Prince remained attached to Maria Fitzherbert for the rest of his life , despite several periods of estrangement .

George 's mistresses included Mary Robinson , an actress who was bought off with a generous pension when she threatened to sell his letters to the newspapers ; Grace Elliott , the divorced wife of a physician ; and Frances Villiers , Countess of Jersey , who dominated his life for some years . In later life , his mistresses were the Marchioness of Hertford and the Marchioness Conyngham , who were both married to aristocrats .

George was rumoured to have fathered several illegitimate children . James Ord (born 1786) ? who moved to the United States and became a Jesuit priest ? was reportedly his son by Fitzherbert . The King , late in life , told a friend that he had a son who was a naval officer in the West Indies , whose identity has been tentatively established as Captain Henry A. F. Hervey (1786 ? 1824) , reportedly George 's child by the songwriter Lady Anne Lindsay (later Barnard) , a daughter of the 5th Earl of Balcarres . Other reported offspring include Major George Seymour Crole , the son of theatre manager 's daughter Eliza Crole or Fox ; William Hampshire , the son of publican 's daughter Sarah Brown ; and Charles " Beau " Candy , the son of a Frenchwoman with that surname . Anthony Camp , Director of Research at the Society of Genealogists , has dismissed the claims that George IV was the father of Ord , Hervey , Hampshire and Candy as fictitious .

The problem of the Prince of Wales 's debts , which amounted to the extraordinary sum of £ 630 @, @ 000 (equivalent to £ 58 @, @ 700 @, @ 000 today) in 1795 , was solved (at least temporarily) by Parliament . Being unwilling to make an outright grant to relieve these debts , it provided him an additional sum of £ 65 @, @ 000 (equivalent to £ 6 @, @ 056 @, @ 000 today per annum) . In 1803 , a further £ 60 @, @ 000 (equivalent to £ 4 @, @ 941 @, @ 000 today) was added , and George 's debts of 1795 were finally cleared in 1806 , although the debts he had incurred since 1795 remained .

In 1804 , a dispute arose over the custody of Princess Charlotte , which led to her being placed in the care of the King , George III . It also led to a Parliamentary Commission of Enquiry into Princess Caroline 's conduct after the Prince of Wales accused her of having an illegitimate son . The investigation cleared Caroline of the charge but still revealed her behaviour to have been extraordinarily indiscreet .

= = Regency = =

In late 1810 , George III was once again overcome by his malady following the death of his youngest daughter , Princess Amelia . Parliament agreed to follow the precedent of 1788 ; without the King 's consent , the Lord Chancellor affixed the Great Seal of the Realm to letters patent naming Lords Commissioners . The letters patent lacked the Royal Sign Manual , but were sealed by request of resolutions passed by both Houses of Parliament . The Lords Commissioners appointed by the letters patent , in the name of the King , then signified the granting of Royal Assent to a bill that became the Regency Act of 1811 . Parliament restricted some of the powers of the

Prince Regent (as the Prince of Wales became known) . The constraints expired one year after the passage of the Act . The Prince of Wales became Prince Regent on 5 February 1811 .

The Regent let his ministers take full charge of government affairs , playing a far lesser role than his father . The principle that the prime minister was the person supported by a majority in the House of Commons , whether the king personally favoured him or not , became established . His governments , with little help from the Regent , presided over British policy . One of the most important political conflicts facing the country concerned Catholic emancipation , the movement to relieve Roman Catholics of various political disabilities . The Tories , led by the Prime Minister , Spencer Perceval , were opposed to Catholic emancipation , while the Whigs supported it . At the beginning of the Regency , the Prince of Wales was expected to support the Whig leader , William Grenville , 1st Baron Grenville . He did not , however , immediately put Lord Grenville and the Whigs into office . Influenced by his mother , he claimed that a sudden dismissal of the Tory government would exact too great a toll on the health of the King (a steadfast supporter of the Tories) , thereby eliminating any chance of a recovery .

In 1812 , when it appeared highly unlikely that the King would recover , the Prince of Wales again failed to appoint a new Whig administration . Instead , he asked the Whigs to join the existing ministry under Perceval . The Whigs , however , refused to co - operate because of disagreements over Catholic emancipation . Grudgingly , the Prince of Wales allowed Perceval to continue as Prime Minister .

On 10 May 1812 , Perceval was assassinated by John Bellingham . The Prince Regent was prepared to reappoint all the members of the Perceval ministry under a new leader . The House of Commons formally declared its desire for a " strong and efficient administration " , so the Prince Regent then offered leadership of the government to Richard Wellesley , 1st Marquess Wellesley , and afterwards to Francis Rawdon - Hastings , 2nd Earl of Moira . He doomed the attempts of both to failure , however , by forcing each to construct an all party ministry at a time when neither party wished to share power with the other . Possibly using the failure of the two peers as a pretext , the Prince Regent immediately reappointed the Perceval administration , with Robert Jenkinson , 2nd Earl of Liverpool , as Prime Minister .

The Tories , unlike Whigs such as Earl Grey , sought to continue the vigorous prosecution of the war in Continental Europe against the powerful and aggressive Emperor of the French , Napoleon I. An anti - French alliance , which included Russia , Prussia , Austria , Britain and several smaller countries , defeated Napoleon in 1814 . In the subsequent Congress of Vienna , it was decided that the Electorate of Hanover , a state that had shared a monarch with Britain since 1714 , would be raised to a kingdom , known as the Kingdom of Hanover . On 30 December 1814 , the Prince Regent signed and ratified the Treaty of Ghent which ended the War of 1812 with the United States . Napoleon returned from exile in 1815 , but was defeated at the Battle of Waterloo by Arthur Wellesley , 1st Duke of Wellington , brother of Marquess Wellesley .

During this period George took an active interest in matters of style and taste , and his associates such as the dandy Beau Brummell and the architect John Nash created the Regency style . In London Nash designed the Regency terraces of Regent 's Park and Regent Street . George took up the new idea of the seaside spa and had the Brighton Pavilion developed as a fantastical seaside palace , adapted by Nash in the " Indian Gothic " style inspired loosely by the Taj Mahal , with extravagant " Indian " and " Chinese " interiors .

= = Reign = =

When George III died in 1820 , the Prince Regent , then aged 57 , ascended the throne as George IV , with no real change in his powers . By the time of his accession , he was obese and possibly addicted to laudanum .

George IV 's relationship with his wife Caroline had deteriorated by the time of his accession . They had lived separately since 1796 , and both were having affairs . In 1814 , Caroline left the United Kingdom for continental Europe , but she chose to return for her husband 's coronation , and to publicly assert her rights as queen consort . However , George IV refused to recognise Caroline as

Queen , and commanded British ambassadors to ensure that monarchs in foreign courts did the same . By royal command , Caroline 's name was omitted from the Book of Common Prayer , the liturgy of the Church of England .

The King sought a divorce , but his advisors suggested that any divorce proceedings might involve the publication of details relating to the King 's own adulterous relationships . Therefore , he requested and ensured the introduction of the Pains and Penalties Bill , under which Parliament could have imposed legal penalties without a trial in a court of law . The bill would have annulled the marriage and stripped Caroline of the title of Queen . The bill proved extremely unpopular with the public , and was withdrawn from Parliament . George IV decided , nonetheless , to exclude his wife from his coronation at Westminster Abbey , on 19 July 1821 . Caroline fell ill that day and died on 7 August ; during her final illness she often stated that she thought she had been poisoned .

George 's coronation was a magnificent and expensive affair , costing about £ 243 @, @ 000 (approximately £ 19 @, @ 970 @, @ 000 in 2016 ; for comparison , his father 's coronation had only cost about £ 10 @, @ 000 , less than a twentieth of George IV 's) . Despite the enormous cost , it was a popular event . In 1821 the King became the first monarch to pay a state visit to Ireland since Richard II of England . The following year he visited Edinburgh for " one and twenty daft days " . His visit to Scotland , organised by Sir Walter Scott , was the first by a reigning British monarch since the mid @-@ 17th century .

George IV spent most of his later reign in seclusion at Windsor Castle , but he continued to intervene in politics . At first it was believed that he would support Catholic emancipation , as he had proposed a Catholic Emancipation Bill for Ireland in 1797 , but his anti @-@ Catholic views became clear in 1813 when he privately canvassed against the ultimately defeated Catholic Relief Bill of 1813 . By 1824 he was denouncing Catholic emancipation in public . Having taken the coronation oath on his accession , George now argued that he had sworn to uphold the Protestant faith , and could not support any pro @-@ Catholic measures . The influence of the Crown was so great , and the will of the Tories under Prime Minister Lord Liverpool so strong , that Catholic emancipation seemed hopeless . In 1827 , however , Lord Liverpool retired , to be replaced by the pro @-@ emancipation Tory George Canning . When Canning entered office , the King , hitherto content with privately instructing his ministers on the Catholic Question , thought it fit to make a public declaration to the effect that his sentiments on the question were those of his revered father , George III .

Canning 's views on the Catholic Question were not well received by the most conservative Tories , including the Duke of Wellington . As a result , the ministry was forced to include Whigs . Canning died later in that year , leaving Frederick Robinson , 1st Viscount Goderich , to lead the tenuous Tory @-@ Whig coalition . Lord Goderich left office in 1828 , to be succeeded by the Duke of Wellington , who had by that time accepted that the denial of some measure of relief to Roman Catholics was politically untenable . George was never as friendly with Wellington as he had been with Canning and chose to annoy the Duke by pretending to have fought at Waterloo disguised as a German general . With great difficulty Wellington obtained the King 's consent to the introduction of a Catholic Relief Bill on 29 January 1829 . Under pressure from his fanatically anti @-@ Catholic brother , the Duke of Cumberland , the King withdrew his approval and in protest the Cabinet resigned en masse on 4 March . The next day the King , now under intense political pressure , reluctantly agreed to the Bill and the ministry remained in power . Royal Assent was finally granted to the Catholic Relief Act on 13 April .

= = Decline and death = =

George 's heavy drinking and indulgent lifestyle had taken their toll on his health by the late 1820s . Through huge banquets and copious amounts of alcohol , he had become obese , making him the target of ridicule on the rare occasions that he appeared in public . By 1797 his weight had reached 17 stone 7 pounds (111 kg ; 245 lb) , and by 1824 his corset was made for a waist of 50 inches (130 cm) . He suffered from gout , arteriosclerosis , peripheral edema (" dropsy ") , and possibly porphyria . In his last years , he spent whole days in bed and suffered spasms of breathlessness that would leave him half @-@ asphyxiated .

By December 1828 , like his father , he was almost completely blind from cataracts , and was suffering from such severe gout in his right hand and arm that he could no longer sign documents . In mid @-@ 1829 , Sir David Wilkie reported the King " was wasting away frightfully day after day " , and had become so obese that he looked " like a great sausage stuffed into the covering " . The King took laudanum to counteract severe bladder pains , which left him in a drugged and mentally handicapped state for days on end . In 1830 his weight was recorded to be 20 stone (130 kg ; 280 lb) .

By the spring of 1830 , George 's imminent end was apparent . Attacks of breathlessness due to dropsy forced him to sleep upright in a chair , and doctors frequently tapped his abdomen to drain excess fluid . He was admired for clinging doggedly to life despite his obvious decline . He dictated his will in May and became very devout in his final months , confessing to an archdeacon that he repented of his early dissolute life , but hoped mercy would be shown to him as he had always tried to do the best for his subjects . At about half @-@ past three in the morning of 26 June 1830 at Windsor Castle , he reportedly called out " Good God , what is this ? " , clasped his page 's hand , said " my boy , this is death " , and died . An autopsy conducted by his physicians revealed he had died from upper gastrointestinal bleeding resulting from the rupture of a blood vessel in his stomach . A large tumour " the size of an orange " was found attached to his bladder , and he had an enlarged heart surrounded by a large fat deposit and heavily calcified heart valves . He was buried in St George 's Chapel , Windsor Castle , on 15 July .

His only legitimate child , Princess Charlotte of Wales , had died from post @-@ partum complications in 1817 , after delivering a stillborn son . The second son of George III , Prince Frederick , Duke of York and Albany , had died childless in 1827 , so the succession passed to the third son of George III , Prince William , Duke of Clarence , who reigned as William IV .

= = Legacy = =

George 's last years were marked by increasing physical and mental decay and withdrawal from public affairs . Privately a senior aide to the King confided to his diary : " A more contemptible , cowardly , selfish , unfeeling dog does not exist ... There have been good and wise kings but not many of them ... and this I believe to be one of the worst . " On his death The Times captured elite opinion succinctly : " There never was an individual less regretted by his fellow @-@ creatures than this deceased king . What eye has wept for him ? What heart has heaved one throb of unmercenary sorrow ? ... If he ever had a friend ? a devoted friend in any rank of life ? we protest that the name of him or her never reached us . " George IV was described as the " First Gentleman of England " on account of his style and manners . He possessed many good qualities ; he was bright , clever , and knowledgeable . However , his laziness and gluttony led him to squander much of his talent . The Times wrote , he would always prefer " a girl and a bottle to politics and a sermon " .

The Regency period saw a shift in fashion that was largely determined by George . After political opponents put a tax on wig powder , he abandoned wearing a powdered wig in favour of natural hair . He wore darker colours than had been previously fashionable as they helped to disguise his size , favoured pantaloons and trousers over knee breeches because they were looser , and popularised a high collar with neck cloth because it hid his double chin . His visit to Scotland in 1822 led to the revival , if not the creation , of Scottish tartan dress as it is known today .

During the political crisis caused by Catholic emancipation , the Duke of Wellington said that George was " the worst man he ever fell in with his whole life , the most selfish , the most false , the most ill @-@ natured , the most entirely without one redeeming quality " , but his eulogy delivered in the House of Lords called George " the most accomplished man of his age " and praised his knowledge and talent . Wellington 's true feelings probably lie somewhere between these two extremes ; as he said later , George was " a magnificent patron of the arts ... the most extraordinary compound of talent , wit , buffoonery , obstinacy , and good feeling ? in short a medley of the most opposite qualities , with a great preponderance of good ? that I ever saw in any character in my life . "

There are many statues of George IV , a large number of which were erected during his reign . In

the United Kingdom , they include a bronze statue of him on horseback by Sir Francis Chantrey in Trafalgar Square and another outside the Royal Pavilion in Brighton .

In Edinburgh , " George IV Bridge " is a main street linking the Old Town High Street to the north over the ravine of the Cowgate , designed by the architect Thomas Hamilton in 1829 and completed in 1835 . King 's Cross , now a major transport hub sitting on the border of Camden and Islington in north London , takes its name from a short @-@ lived monument erected to George IV in the early 1830s . A square and a neighbouring park in St Luke 's , Islington , are also named after George IV .

= = Titles , styles , honours and arms = =

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12 August 1762 ? 29 January 1820 : His Royal Highness The Duke of Cornwall

19 August 1762 ? 29 January 1820 : His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales

5 February 1811 ? 29 January 1820 : His Royal Highness The Prince Regent

1 October 1814 ? 29 January 1820 : His Royal Highness The Crown Prince of Hanover

29 January 1820 ? 26 June 1830 : His Majesty The King

At birth , he was also entitled to the dignities Prince of Great Britain , Electoral Prince of Brunswick @-@ Lüneburg and Duke of Rothesay . Under the Act of Parliament that instituted the Regency , the Prince 's formal title as Regent was " Regent of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland " .

= = = Honours = = =

= = = = British honours = = = =

26 December 1765 : Knight of the Garter

21 November 1783 : Privy Counsellor

26 January 1789 : Fellow of the Royal Society

2 May 1810 : Doctor of Civil Law , University of Oxford

= = = = Foreign honours = = = =

25 November 1813 : Knight of St Andrew (Russia)

20 April 1814 : Knight of St Alexander Nevski (Russia)

20 April 1814 : Knight of the Holy Spirit (France)

4 July 1815 : Knight of the Elephant (Denmark)

July 1815 : Knight of the Golden Fleece (Austria)

27 November 1818 : Grand Cross of the Military William Order (Netherlands)

= = = = Military appointments = = = =

1782 : Colonel , British Army

1796 ? 1820 : Colonel of the 10th Light Dragoons

= = = Arms = = =

As Prince of Wales , George Augustus bore the royal arms (with an inescutcheon of Gules plain in the Hanoverian quarter) , differenced by a label of three points Argent . The arms included the royal crest and supporters but with the single arched coronet of his rank , all charged on the shoulder with

a similar label . His arms followed the change in the royal arms in 1801 , when the Hanoverian quarter became an inescutcheon and the French quarter was dropped altogether . The 1816 alteration did not affect him as it only applied to the arms of the King .

As king his arms were those of his two kingdoms , the United Kingdom and Hanover , superimposed : Quarterly , I and IV Gules three lions passant guardant in pale Or (for England) ; II Or a lion rampant within a double tressure flory @-@ counter @-@ flory Gules (for Scotland) ; III Azure a harp Or stringed Argent (for Ireland) ; overall an escutcheon tierced in pall reversed (for Hanover) , I Gules two lions passant guardant Or (for Brunswick) , II Or a semy of hearts Gules a lion rampant Azure (for Lüneburg) , III Gules a horse courant Argent (for Westphalia) , overall an inescutcheon Gules charged with the crown of Charlemagne Or , the whole escutcheon surmounted by a crown .

= = Ancestry = =