

= Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother =

Elizabeth Angela Marguerite Bowes @-@ Lyon ( 4 August 1900 ? 30 March 2002 ) was the wife of King George VI and the mother of Queen Elizabeth II and Princess Margaret , Countess of Snowdon . She was Queen consort of the United Kingdom and the Dominions from her husband 's accession in 1936 until his death in 1952 , after which she was known as Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother , to avoid confusion with her daughter . She was the last Empress consort of India .

Born into a family of British nobility as The Honourable Elizabeth Bowes @-@ Lyon , she became Lady Elizabeth Bowes @-@ Lyon when her father inherited the Scottish Earldom of Strathmore and Kinghorne in 1904 . She came to prominence in 1923 when she married Albert , Duke of York , the second son of King George V and Queen Mary . The couple and their daughters embodied traditional ideas of family and public service . She undertook a variety of public engagements and became known as the " Smiling Duchess " because of her consistent public expression .

In 1936 , her husband unexpectedly became King when his brother , Edward VIII , abdicated in order to marry the American divorcée Wallis Simpson . Elizabeth became Queen . She accompanied her husband on diplomatic tours to France and North America before the start of World War II . During the war , her seemingly indomitable spirit provided moral support to the British public . In recognition of her role as an asset to British interests , Adolf Hitler described her as " the most dangerous woman in Europe " . After the war , her husband 's health deteriorated and she was widowed at the age of 51 . Her elder daughter , aged 25 , became the new Queen .

On the death of Queen Mary in 1953 and with the former King Edward VIII living abroad , Elizabeth became the senior member of the British Royal Family and assumed a position as family matriarch . In her later years , she was a consistently popular member of the family , even when other members were suffering from low levels of public approval . She continued an active public life until just a few months before her death at the age of 101 , seven weeks after the death of her younger daughter , Princess Margaret .

= = Early life = =

Elizabeth Angela Marguerite Bowes @-@ Lyon was the youngest daughter and the ninth of ten children of Claude Bowes @-@ Lyon , Lord Glamis ( later the 14th Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne in the Peerage of Scotland ) , and his wife , Cecilia Cavendish @-@ Bentinck . Her mother was descended from British Prime Minister William Cavendish @-@ Bentinck , 3rd Duke of Portland , and Governor @-@ General of India Richard Wellesley , 1st Marquess Wellesley , who was the elder brother of another Prime Minister , Arthur Wellesley , 1st Duke of Wellington .

The location of her birth remains uncertain , but reputedly she was born either in her parents ' Westminster home at Belgrave Mansions , Grosvenor Gardens , or in a horse @-@ drawn ambulance on the way to a hospital . Other possible locations include Forbes House in Ham , London , the home of her maternal grandmother , Louisa Scott . Her birth was registered at Hitchin , Hertfordshire , near the Strathmores ' English country house , St Paul 's Walden Bury , which was also given as her birthplace in the census the following year . She was christened there on 23 September 1900 , in the local parish church , All Saints , and her godparents included her paternal aunt Lady Maud Bowes @-@ Lyon and cousin Venetia James .

She spent much of her childhood at St Paul 's Walden and at Glamis Castle , the Earl 's ancestral home in Scotland . She was educated at home by a governess until the age of eight , and was fond of field sports , ponies and dogs . When she started school in London , she astonished her teachers by precociously beginning an essay with two Greek words from Xenophon 's Anabasis . Her best subjects were literature and scripture . After returning to private education under a German Jewish governess , Käthe Kübler , she passed the Oxford Local Examination with distinction at age thirteen .

On her fourteenth birthday , Britain declared war on Germany . Four of her brothers served in the army . Her elder brother , Fergus , an officer in the Black Watch Regiment , was killed in action at the Battle of Loos in 1915 . Another brother , Michael , was reported missing in action on 28 April

1917 . Three weeks later , the family discovered he had been captured after being wounded . He remained in a prisoner of war camp for the rest of the war . Glamis was turned into a convalescent home for wounded soldiers , which Elizabeth helped to run . She was particularly instrumental in organising the rescue of the castle 's contents during a serious fire on 16 September 1916 . One of the soldiers she treated wrote in her autograph book that she was to be " Hung , drawn , & quartered ... Hung in diamonds , drawn in a coach and four , and quartered in the best house in the land . "

= = Marriage to Prince Albert = =

Prince Albert , Duke of York ? " Bertie " to the family ? was the second son of King George V. He initially proposed to Elizabeth in 1921 , but she turned him down , being " afraid never , never again to be free to think , speak and act as I feel I really ought to " . When he declared he would marry no other , his mother , Queen Mary , visited Glamis to see for herself the girl who had stolen her son 's heart . She became convinced that Elizabeth was " the one girl who could make Bertie happy " , but nevertheless refused to interfere . At the same time , Elizabeth was courted by James Stuart , Albert 's equerry , until he left the Prince 's service for a better @-@ paid job in the American oil business .

In February 1922 , Elizabeth was a bridesmaid at the wedding of Albert 's sister , Princess Mary , to Viscount Lascelles . The following month , Albert proposed again , but she refused him once more . Eventually , in January 1923 , Elizabeth agreed to marry Albert , despite her misgivings about royal life . Albert 's freedom in choosing Elizabeth , not a member of a royal family , though the daughter of a peer , was considered a gesture in favour of political modernisation ; previously , princes were expected to marry princesses from other royal families . They selected a platinum engagement ring featuring a Kashmir sapphire with two diamonds adorning its sides . They married on 26 April 1923 , at Westminster Abbey . Unexpectedly , Elizabeth laid her bouquet at the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior on her way into the Abbey , in memory of her brother Fergus . Elizabeth became styled Her Royal Highness The Duchess of York . Following a wedding breakfast at Buckingham Palace prepared by chef Gabriel Tschumi , the new Duchess and her husband honeymooned at Polesden Lacey , a manor house in Surrey , and then went to Scotland , where she caught " unromantic " whooping cough .

= = Duchess of York ( 1923 ? 36 ) = =

After a successful visit to Northern Ireland in July 1924 , the Labour government agreed that Albert and Elizabeth could tour East Africa from December 1924 to April 1925 . The Labour government was defeated by the Conservatives in a general election in November ( which Elizabeth described as " marvellous " to her mother ) and the Governor @-@ General of Anglo @-@ Egyptian Sudan , Sir Lee Stack , was assassinated three weeks later . Despite this , the tour went ahead , and they visited Aden , Kenya , Uganda , and Sudan , but Egypt was avoided because of political tensions .

Albert had a stammer , which affected his ability to deliver speeches , and after October 1925 , Elizabeth assisted in helping him through the therapy devised by Lionel Logue , an episode portrayed in the 2010 film *The King 's Speech* . In 1926 , the couple had their first child , Princess Elizabeth ? " Lilibet " to the family ? who would later become Queen Elizabeth II . Another daughter , Princess Margaret Rose , was born four years later . Albert and Elizabeth , without their child , travelled to Australia to open Parliament House in Canberra in 1927 . She was , in her own words , " very miserable at leaving the baby " . Their journey by sea took them via Jamaica , the Panama Canal and the Pacific ; Elizabeth fretted constantly over her baby back in Britain , but their journey was a public relations success . She charmed the public in Fiji when shaking hands with a long line of official guests , as a stray dog walked in on the ceremony and she shook its paw as well . In New Zealand she fell ill with a cold , and missed some engagements , but enjoyed the local fishing in the Bay of Islands accompanied by Australian sports fisherman Harry Andreas . On the return journey , via Mauritius , the Suez Canal , Malta and Gibraltar , their transport , HMS *Renown* , caught fire and they prepared to abandon ship before the fire was brought under control .

= = Accession and abdication of Edward VIII = =

On 20 January 1936 , King George V died and Albert 's brother , Edward , Prince of Wales , became King Edward VIII . George had expressed private reservations about his successor , saying , " I pray God that my eldest son will never marry and that nothing will come between Bertie and Lilibet and the throne . "

Just months into his reign , Edward forced a constitutional crisis by insisting on marrying the American divorcée Wallis Simpson . Although legally Edward could have married Simpson , as King he was also head of the Church of England , which at that time did not allow divorced people to remarry . Edward 's ministers believed that the people would never accept Simpson as Queen and advised against the marriage . As a constitutional monarch , Edward was obliged to accept ministerial advice . Rather than abandon his plans to marry Simpson , he chose to abdicate in favour of Albert , who reluctantly became King in his place on 11 December 1936 under the regnal name of George VI . George VI and Elizabeth were crowned King and Queen of Great Britain , Ireland and the British Dominions , and Emperor and Empress of India on 12 May 1937 , the date already nominated for the coronation of Edward VIII . Elizabeth 's crown was made of platinum and was set with the Koh @-@ i @-@ Noor diamond .

Edward and Simpson married and became the Duke and Duchess of Windsor , but while Edward was a Royal Highness , George VI withheld the style from the Duchess , a decision that Elizabeth supported . Elizabeth was later quoted as referring to the Duchess as " that woman " , and the Duchess referred to Elizabeth as " Cookie " , because of her supposed resemblance to a fat Scots cook . Claims that Elizabeth remained embittered towards the Duchess were denied by her close friends ; the Duke of Grafton wrote that she " never said anything nasty about the Duchess of Windsor , except to say she really hadn 't got a clue what she was dealing with . "

= = Queen consort ( 1936 ? 52 ) = =

= = = State visits and royal tour = = =

In summer 1938 , a state visit to France by the King and Queen was postponed for three weeks because of the death of the Queen 's mother , Lady Strathmore . In two weeks , Norman Hartnell created an all @-@ white trousseau for the Queen , who could not wear colours as she was still in mourning . The visit was designed to bolster Anglo @-@ French solidarity in the face of aggression from Nazi Germany . The French press praised the demeanour and charm of the royal couple during the delayed but successful visit , augmented by Hartnell 's wardrobe .

Nevertheless , Nazi aggression continued , and the government prepared for war . After the Munich Agreement of 1938 appeared to forestall the advent of armed conflict , the British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain was invited onto the balcony of Buckingham Palace with the King and Queen to receive acclamation from a crowd of well @-@ wishers . While broadly popular among the general public , Chamberlain 's policy towards Hitler was the subject of some opposition in the House of Commons , which led historian John Grigg to describe the King 's behaviour in associating himself so prominently with a politician as " the most unconstitutional act by a British sovereign in the present century " . However , historians have also argued that the King only ever followed ministerial advice and acted as he was constitutionally bound to do .

In June 1939 , Elizabeth and her husband toured Canada from coast to coast and back , and visited the United States , spending time with President Roosevelt at the White House and his Hudson Valley estate . U.S. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt said that Elizabeth was " perfect as a Queen , gracious , informed , saying the right thing & kind but a little self @-@ consciously regal " . The tour was designed to bolster trans @-@ Atlantic support in the event of war , and to affirm Canada 's status as an independent kingdom sharing with Britain the same person as monarch . According to an often @-@ told story , during one of the earliest of the royal couple 's repeated encounters with

the crowds , a Boer War veteran asked Elizabeth , " Are you Scots or are you English ? " She replied , " I am a Canadian ! " Their reception by the Canadian and U.S. public was extremely enthusiastic , and largely dissipated any residual feeling that George and Elizabeth were a lesser substitute for Edward . Elizabeth told Canadian Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King , " that tour made us " , and she returned to Canada frequently both on official tours and privately .

= = = World War II = = =

During World War II , the King and Queen became symbols of the fight against fascism . Shortly after the declaration of war , The Queen 's Book of the Red Cross was conceived . Fifty authors and artists contributed to the book , which was fronted by Cecil Beaton 's portrait of the Queen and was sold in aid of the Red Cross . Elizabeth publicly refused to leave London or send the children to Canada , even during the Blitz , when she was advised by the Cabinet to do so . She declared , " The children won 't go without me . I won 't leave the King . And the King will never leave . "

She visited troops , hospitals , factories , and parts of Britain that were targeted by the German Luftwaffe , in particular the East End , near London 's docks . Her visits initially provoked hostility ; rubbish was thrown at her and the crowds jeered , in part because she wore expensive clothes that served to alienate her from people suffering the deprivations of war . She explained that if the public came to see her they would wear their best clothes , so she should reciprocate in kind ; Norman Hartnell dressed her in gentle colours and avoided black to represent " the rainbow of hope " . When Buckingham Palace itself took several hits during the height of the bombing , Elizabeth was able to say , " I 'm glad we 've been bombed . It makes me feel I can look the East End in the face . "

Though the King and Queen spent the working day at Buckingham Palace , partly for security and family reasons they stayed at night at Windsor Castle about 20 miles ( 32 km ) west of central London with the Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret . The Palace had lost much of its staff to the army , and most of the rooms were shut . The windows were shattered by bomb blasts , and had to be boarded up . During the " Phoney War " the Queen was given revolver training because of fears of imminent invasion .

Adolf Hitler is said to have called her " the most dangerous woman in Europe " because he viewed her popularity as a threat to German interests . However , before the war both she and her husband , like most of Parliament and the British public , had supported appeasement and Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain , believing after the experience of the First World War that war had to be avoided at all costs . After the resignation of Chamberlain , the King asked Winston Churchill to form a government . Although the King was initially suspicious of his character and motives , in due course both the King and Queen came to respect and admire him . At the end of the war in 1945 , Churchill was invited onto the balcony in a similar gesture to that given to Chamberlain .

= = = Post @-@ war years = = =

In the 1945 British general election , Churchill 's Conservative party was soundly defeated by the Labour party of Clement Attlee . Elizabeth 's political views were rarely disclosed , but a letter she wrote in 1947 described Attlee 's " high hopes of a socialist heaven on earth " as fading and presumably describes those who voted for him as " poor people , so many half @-@ educated and bemused . I do love them . " Woodrow Wyatt thought her " much more pro @-@ Conservative " than other members of the royal family , but she later told him , " I like the dear old Labour Party . " She also told the Duchess of Grafton , " I love communists " . After six years in office , Attlee was defeated in the 1951 British general election and Churchill returned to power .

During the 1947 royal tour of South Africa , Elizabeth 's serene public behaviour was broken , exceptionally , when she rose from the royal car to strike an admirer with her umbrella because she had mistaken his enthusiasm for hostility . The 1948 royal tour of Australia and New Zealand was postponed because of the King 's declining health . In March 1949 , he had a successful operation to improve the circulation in his right leg . In summer 1951 , Queen Elizabeth and her daughters fulfilled the King 's public engagements in his place . In September , he was diagnosed with lung

cancer . After a lung resection , he appeared to recover , but the delayed trip to Australia and New Zealand was altered so that Princess Elizabeth and her husband , the Duke of Edinburgh , went in the King and Queen 's place , in January 1952 . The King died while Princess Elizabeth and the Duke were in Kenya en route to the southern hemisphere , and they returned immediately to London as the new Queen and consort . They would not finally visit Australia and New Zealand until 1954 .

= = Queen mother ( 1952 ? 2002 ) = =

= = = Widowhood = = =

King George VI died in his sleep on 6 February 1952 . Elizabeth began to be styled as Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother because the normal style for the widow of a king , " Queen Elizabeth " , would have been too similar to the style of her elder daughter , now Queen Elizabeth II . Popularly , she became the " Queen Mother " or the " Queen Mum " .

She was devastated by the King 's death and retired to Scotland . However , after a meeting with the Prime Minister , Winston Churchill , she broke her retirement and resumed her public duties . Eventually she became just as busy as Queen Mother as she had been as Queen . In July 1953 , she undertook her first overseas visit since the funeral when she visited the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland with Princess Margaret . She laid the foundation stone of the University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland ? the current University of Zimbabwe . On her return to the region in 1957 , she was inaugurated as the College 's President , and attended other events that were deliberately designed to be multi @-@ racial . During her daughter 's extensive tour of the Commonwealth over 1953 ? 54 , Elizabeth acted as a Counsellor of State and looked after her grandchildren , Charles and Anne .

She oversaw the restoration of the remote Castle of Mey , in Caithness on the north coast of Scotland , which she used to " get away from everything " for three weeks in August and ten days in October each year . She developed her interest in horse racing , particularly steeplechasing , which had been inspired by the amateur jockey Lord Mildmay in 1949 . She owned the winners of approximately 500 races . Her distinctive colours of blue with buff stripes were carried by horses such as Special Cargo , the winner of the 1984 Whitbread Gold Cup , and Devon Loch , which spectacularly halted just short of the winning post at the 1956 Grand National and whose jockey Dick Francis later had a successful career as the writer of racing @-@ themed detective stories . Peter Cazalet was her trainer for over 20 years . Although ( contrary to rumour ) she never placed bets , she did have the racing commentaries piped direct to her London residence , Clarence House , so she could follow the races . As an art collector , she purchased works by Claude Monet , Augustus John and Peter Carl Fabergé , among others .

In February 1964 , she had an emergency appendectomy , which led to the postponement of a planned tour of Australia , New Zealand and Fiji until 1966 . She recuperated during a Caribbean cruise aboard the royal yacht , Britannia . In December 1966 , she underwent an operation to remove a tumour after she was diagnosed with colon cancer . Contrary to rumours , she did not have a colostomy . In 1982 , she was rushed to hospital when a fish bone became stuck in her throat , and had an operation to remove it . Being a keen angler , she calmly joked afterwards , " The salmon have got their own back . " Similar incidents occurred at Balmoral in August 1986 , when she was taken to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary but no operation was needed , and May 1993 , when she was admitted to the Infirmary for surgery under general anaesthetic . In 1984 , she had a second operation for cancer , when a lump was removed from her breast , and a second gastric obstruction in 1986 cleared without the need for an operation , but she was hospitalised overnight .

In 1975 , she visited Iran at the invitation of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi . The British ambassador and his wife , Anthony and Sheila Parsons , noted how the Iranians were bemused by her habit of speaking to everyone regardless of status or importance , and hoped the Shah 's entourage would learn from the visit to pay more attention to ordinary people . Four years later , the Shah was deposed . Between 1976 and 1984 , she made annual summer visits to France , which

were among 22 private trips to continental Europe between 1963 and 1992 .

Queen Elizabeth ? known for her personal and public charm ? was one of the most popular members of the royal family . Her signature dress of large upturned hat with netting and dresses with draped panels of fabric became a distinctive personal style .

= = Centenarian = =

In her later years , the Queen Mother became known for her longevity . Her 90th birthday ? 4 August 1990 ? was celebrated by a parade on 27 June that involved many of the 300 organisations of which she was patron . In 1995 , she attended events commemorating the end of the war fifty years before , and had two operations : one to remove a cataract in her left eye , and one to replace her right hip . In 1998 , her left hip was replaced after it was broken when she slipped and fell during a visit to Sandringham stables . Her 100th birthday was celebrated in a number of ways : a parade that celebrated the highlights of her life included contributions from Norman Wisdom and John Mills ; her image appeared on a special commemorative £ 20 note issued by the Royal Bank of Scotland ; and she attended a lunch at the Guildhall , London , at which George Carey , the Archbishop of Canterbury , accidentally attempted to drink her glass of wine . Her quick admonition of " That 's mine ! " caused widespread amusement . In November 2000 , she broke her collarbone in a fall that kept her recuperating at home over Christmas and the New Year . On 1 August 2001 , she had a blood transfusion for anaemia after suffering from mild heat exhaustion , though she was well enough to make her traditional appearance outside Clarence House three days later to celebrate her 101st birthday . Her final public engagements included planting a cross at the Field of Remembrance on 8 November 2001 ; a reception at the Guildhall , London , for the reformation of the 600 Squadron , Royal Auxiliary Air Force on 15 November ; and attending the re @-@ commissioning of HMS Ark Royal on 22 November .

In December 2001 , aged 101 , she fractured her pelvis in a fall . Even so , she insisted on standing for the National Anthem during the memorial service for her husband on 6 February the following year . Just three days later , her second daughter Princess Margaret died . On 13 February 2002 , the Queen Mother fell and cut her arm in her sitting room at Sandringham House ; an ambulance and doctor were called , and the wound was dressed . She was still determined to attend Margaret 's funeral at St George 's Chapel , Windsor Castle , two days later on the Friday of that week , even though the Queen and the rest of the royal family were concerned about the journey the Queen Mother would face to get from Norfolk to Windsor ; she was also rumoured to be hardly eating . Nevertheless , she flew to Windsor by helicopter , and so that no photographs of her in a wheelchair could be taken ? she insisted that she be shielded from the press ? she travelled to the service in a people carrier with blacked ? out windows , which had been previously used by Margaret . On 5 March 2002 , she was present at the luncheon of the annual lawn party of the Eton Beagles , and watched the Cheltenham Races on television ; however , her health began to deteriorate precipitately during her last weeks after retreating to Royal Lodge for the final time .

= = Death = =

On 30 March 2002 , at 15 : 15 ( GMT ) , the Queen Mother died in her sleep at the Royal Lodge , Windsor Great Park , with her surviving daughter , Queen Elizabeth II , at her bedside . She had been suffering from a cold for the last four months of her life . She was 101 years old , and at the time of her death was the longest @-@ lived member of the royal family in British history . This record was broken on 24 July 2003 , by her last surviving sister @-@ in @-@ law Princess Alice , Duchess of Gloucester , who died aged 102 on 29 October 2004 .

Elizabeth grew camellias in every one of her gardens , and before her flag @-@ draped coffin was taken from Windsor to lie in state at Westminster Hall , an arrangement of camellias from her own gardens was placed on top . More than 200 @,@ 000 people over three days filed past as she lay in state in Westminster Hall at the Palace of Westminster . Members of the household cavalry and other branches of the armed forces stood guard at the four corners of the catafalque . At one point ,

her four grandsons Prince Charles , Prince Andrew , Prince Edward and Viscount Linley mounted the guard as a mark of respect known as the Vigil of the Princes ? an honour bestowed only once before , at the lying in state of King George V.

On the day of her funeral , 9 April , the Governor General of Canada issued a proclamation asking Canadians to honour her memory that day . In Australia , the Governor @-@ General read the lesson at a memorial service held in St Andrew 's Cathedral , Sydney . In London , more than a million people filled the area outside Westminster Abbey and along the 23 @-@ mile ( 37 km ) route from central London to her final resting place beside her husband and younger daughter in St George 's Chapel , Windsor Castle . At her request , after her funeral the wreath that had lain atop her coffin was placed on the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior , in a gesture that echoed her wedding @-@ day tribute 79 years before .

= = Public perception = =

Despite being regarded as one of the most popular members of the royal family in recent times who helped to stabilise the popularity of the monarchy as a whole , Elizabeth was subject to various degrees of criticism during her life .

Kitty Kelley alleged that during World War II Elizabeth did not abide by the rationing regulations . This is contradicted by the official records , and Eleanor Roosevelt during her wartime stay at Buckingham Palace reported expressly on the rationed food served in the Palace and the limited bathwater that was permitted .

Further allegations that Elizabeth used racist slurs to refer to black people were strongly denied by Major Colin Burgess . Major Burgess was the husband of Elizabeth Burgess , a mixed @-@ race secretary who accused members of the Prince of Wales 's Household of racial abuse . Queen Elizabeth made no public comments on race , but according to Robert Rhodes James in private she " abhorred racial discrimination " and decried apartheid as " dreadful " . Woodrow Wyatt records in his diary that when he expressed the view that non @-@ white countries have nothing in common with " us " , she told him , " I am very keen on the Commonwealth . They 're all like us . " However , she did distrust Germans ; she told Woodrow Wyatt , " Never trust them , never trust them . " While she may have held such views , it has been argued that they were normal for British people of her generation and upbringing , who had experienced two vicious wars with Germany .

In 1987 , she was criticised when it emerged that two of her nieces , Katherine Bowes @-@ Lyon and Nerissa Bowes @-@ Lyon , had both been committed to a psychiatric hospital because they were severely handicapped . However , Burke 's Peerage had listed the sisters as dead , apparently because their mother , Fenella ( the Queen Mother 's sister @-@ in @-@ law ) , " was ' extremely vague ' when it came to filling in forms and might not have completed the paperwork for the family entry correctly " . When Nerissa had died the year before , her grave was originally marked with a plastic tag and a serial number . The Queen Mother claimed that the news of their institutionalisation came as a surprise to her .

= = Legacy = =

Sir Hugh Casson said Elizabeth was like " a wave breaking on a rock , because although she is sweet and pretty and charming , she also has a basic streak of toughness and tenacity . ... when a wave breaks on a rock , it showers and sparkles with a brilliant play of foam and droplets in the sun , yet beneath is really hard , tough rock , fused , in her case , from strong principles , physical courage and a sense of duty . " Peter Ustinov described her during a student demonstration at the University of Dundee in 1968 :

As we arrived in a solemn procession the students pelted us with toilet rolls . They kept hold of one end , like streamers at a ball , and threw the other end . The Queen Mother stopped and picked these up as though somebody had misplaced them . [ Returning them to the students she said , ] ' Was this yours ? Oh , could you take it ? ' And it was her sang @-@ froid and her absolute refusal to be shocked by this , which immediately silenced all the students . She knows instinctively what to do

on those occasions . She doesn 't rise to being heckled at all ; she just pretends it must be an oversight on the part of the people doing it . The way she reacted not only showed her presence of mind , but was so charming and so disarming , even to the most rabid element , that she brought peace to troubled waters .

Elizabeth was well known for her dry witticisms . On hearing that Edwina Mountbatten was buried at sea , she said : " Dear Edwina , she always liked to make a splash . " Accompanied by the gay writer Sir Noël Coward at a gala , she mounted a staircase lined with Guards . Noticing Coward 's eyes flicker momentarily across the soldiers , she murmured to him : " I wouldn 't if I were you , Noël ; they count them before they put them out . " After being advised by a Conservative Minister in the 1970s not to employ homosexuals , the Queen Mother observed that without them , " we 'd have to go self @-@ service " . On the fate of a gift of a nebuchadnezzar of champagne ( 20 bottles ' worth ) even if her family didn 't come for the holidays , she said , " I 'll polish it off myself . " Emine Saner of The Guardian suggests that with a gin and Dubonnet at noon , red wine with lunch , a port and martini at 6 pm and two glasses of champagne at dinner , " a conservative estimate puts the number of alcohol units she drank at 70 a week " . Her extravagant lifestyle amused journalists , particularly when it was revealed she had a multi @-@ million pound overdraft with Coutts Bank .

Her habits were often parodied ( with relative affection ) by the satirical 1980s television programme Spitting Image ? which portrayed her with a Birmingham accent and an ever @-@ present copy of the Racing Post . She was portrayed in the 2002 television film Bertie and Elizabeth by Juliet Aubrey , the 2006 film The Queen by Sylvia Syms and the 2010 film The King 's Speech by Helena Bonham Carter , who was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress and won a BAFTA Award for Best Actress in a Supporting Role for her portrayal . She was also played by Natalie Dormer in the film W.E. , directed by Madonna and by Olivia Colman in the 2012 film Hyde Park on Hudson , which featured Elizabeth and Albert 's visit to President Roosevelt 's estate .

The Cunard White Star Line 's RMS Queen Elizabeth was named after her . She launched the ship on 27 September 1938 in Clydebank , Scotland . Supposedly , the liner started to slide into the water before Elizabeth could officially launch her , and acting sharply , she managed to smash a bottle of Australian red over the liner 's bow just before it slid out of reach . In 1954 , Queen Elizabeth sailed to New York on her namesake .

A statue of Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother by sculptor Philip Jackson was unveiled in front of the George VI Memorial , off The Mall , London , on 24 February 2009 , creating the George VI and Queen Elizabeth Memorial .

In March 2011 , her eclectic musical taste was revealed when details of her small record collection kept at the Castle of Mey were made public . Her records included ska , local folk , Scottish reels and the musicals Oklahoma ! and The King and I , and artists such as yodeller Montana Slim , Tony Hancock , The Goons and Noël Coward .

Eight years before her death , she had reportedly placed two @-@ thirds of her money into trusts , for the benefit of her great @-@ grandchildren . She left the bulk of her estate , estimated to be worth £ 70 million , including paintings , Fabergé eggs , jewellery , and horses , to her surviving daughter , Queen Elizabeth II . As property passing from monarch to monarch is exempt from Inheritance Tax , as is property passing from the consort of a former monarch to the current monarch , a tax liability estimated at £ 28 million ( 40 % of the value of the estate ) was not incurred . The most important pieces of art were transferred to the Royal Collection by Elizabeth II .

= = Titles , styles , honours and arms = =

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4 August 1900 ? 16 February 1904 : The Honourable Elizabeth Bowes @-@ Lyon

16 February 1904 ? 26 April 1923 : Lady Elizabeth Bowes @-@ Lyon

26 April 1923 ? 11 December 1936 : Her Royal Highness The Duchess of York

11 December 1936 ? 6 February 1952 : Her Majesty The Queen



6 February 1952 ? 30 March 2002 : Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother

== Arms ==

Queen Elizabeth 's coat of arms was the royal coat of arms of the United Kingdom ( in either the English or the Scottish version ) impaled with the arms of her father , the Earl of Strathmore ; the latter being : 1st and 4th quarters , Argent , a lion rampant Azure , armed and langued Gules , within a double tressure flory @-@ counter @-@ flory of the second ( Lyon ) ; 2nd and 3rd quarters , Ermine , three bows stringed paleways proper ( Bowes ) . The shield is surmounted by the imperial crown , and supported by the crowned lion of England and a lion rampant per fess Or and Gules .

== Issue ==

== Ancestry ==