Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II

Margrethe Alexandrine Þorhildur Ingrid, Her Majesty The Queen, became Queen of Denmark in 1972. Margrethe II was born on 16 April 1940 at Amalienborg Palace as the daughter of King Frederik IX (d. 1972) and Queen Ingrid, born Princess of Sweden (d. 2000). The Queen’s motto is “God’s help, the love of The People, Denmark’s strength”.

The Royal Family comprises Her Majesty The Queen’s relatives, including HRH Princess Benedikte and Her Majesty Queen Anne-Marie.

Christening and confirmation

HM The Queen was christened on 14 May 1940 in Holmens Kirke (the Naval Church) and confirmed on 1 April 1955 at Fredensborg Palace.

The Act of Succession

The Act of Succession of 27 March 1953 gave women the right of succession to the Danish throne but only secondarily. On the occasion of her accession to the throne on 14 January 1972, HM Queen Margrethe II became the first Danish Sovereign under the new Act of Succession.

A Seat on the State Council

On 16 April 1958, the Heir Apparent, Princess Margrethe, was given a seat on the State Council, and she subsequently chaired the meetings of the State Council in the absence of King Frederik IX.

Wedding

On 10 June 1967, the Heir Apparent married Henri Marie Jean André, Count of Laborde deMonpezat, who in connection with the marriage became HRH Prince Henrik of Denmark. The wedding ceremony took place in Holmens Kirke, and the wedding festivities were held at Fredensborg Palace.

Children


Education

HM The Queen attended Zahles Skole between 1946 and 1955 - she was a private pupil at Amalienborg Palace from 1946 to 1949. In 1955-1956, HM The Queen was a boarder at North Foreland Lodge in Hampshire, England. Having received private lessons, Her Majesty graduated from Zahles Skole with the upper secondary examination certificate (language line) in 1959. Between 1960 and 1965, HM The Queen studied at universities in Denmark and other European countries. After having passed the examination in philosophy at Copenhagen University in 1960, HM The Queen studied archaeology at the University of Cambridge in 1960-61 and earned a Diploma in Prehistoric Archaeology. Subsequently, Her Majesty studied political science at Aarhus University in 1961-1962, at the Sorbonne in 1963 and at the London School of Economics in 1965.
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Language

HM The Queen’s mother tongue is Danish. In addition, Her Majesty speaks French, Swedish, English and German.

Relations to the Defence

HM The Queen performed voluntary service with Women’s Flying Corps from 1958 to 1970 and received comprehensive training in the corps during this period.

HM The Queen is the supreme commander of the Danish Defence Forces.

In addition to her relationship with the Danish Defence, HM The Queen has special connections to particular units of the British Defence. In 1972, Her Majesty was appointed Colonel-in-Chief of The Queen’s Regiment, and in 1992, she was appointed Colonel-in-Chief of The Princess of Wales’ Royal Regiment.

Politics

HM The Queen takes no part in politics and does not express any political opinions.

Tasks and duties as Head of State

Denmark has a constitutional monarchy, which means that the monarch cannot independently perform political acts. Although The Queen signs all Acts of Parliament, these only come into force when they have been countersigned by a Cabinet Minister. As Head of State, The Queen participates in the formation of a new government.

After consultation with representatives of the political parties, the party leader who has the support of the largest number of seats in the Folketing (the Danish Parliament) is invited to form a government. Once it has been formed, the monarch will formally appoint it. Additionally, The Queen is the formal Head of the Government and therefore presides over the State Council, where the Acts that have been passed by the Folketing are signed into law.

The Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs report regularly to The Queen to inform her of the latest political developments. The Queen hosts official visits by foreign heads of state and pays state visits abroad. The Queen receives every foreign ambassador and also formally appoints and dismisses civil servants.

The Queen’s main tasks are to represent Denmark abroad and to be a figurehead at home. The Queen performs the latter task by accepting invitations to open exhibitions, attend anniversaries, inaugurate bridges, etc.

PRIZES

In 1989, HM The Queen was awarded the Mother-Tongue Society’s prize, and Her Majesty received the Adeil Order in 1990.

ARTISTIC WORK

Since 1970, HM The Queen has been actively engaged in a number of artistic modes of expression: painting, church textiles, watercolours, prints, book illustrations, decoupage works, scenography and embroidery. Many of these artistic works have been shown in connection with exhibitions in Denmark and abroad.

The Queen’s artistic works are represented at the following art museums: Statens Museum for Kunst (National Gallery of Denmark), ARoS Aarhus Art Museum, and Køge Art Gallery Sketch Collection (sketches for church textiles).

EXHIBITIONS

Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II


PUBLIC ORNAMENT


ECCLESIASTICAL TEXTILES

HM The Queen has designed and embroidered chasubles for the Chapel at Fredensborg Palace (1976); the Chapel at Kronborg Castle; Angmagssalik/Tasiilaq Church, Greenland (both 1985); four chasubles and antependia for Haderslev Cathedral (1987-1988); four chasubles for Aarhus Cathedral (1993-1995); St. Mary Church, Sønderborg, 2007; and Vemmetofte Convent church, 2008; two chasubles for Holmens Kirke 2012.

DESIGN AND EMBROIDERY OF BISHOP’S CAPES


SCENOGRAPHY AND COSTUMES


BOOK ILLUSTRATIONS

Danish-language version of J.R.R. Tolkien’s “The Lord of The Rings” republished with illustrations by HM The Queen, 2002; “Historierne om Regnar Lodbrog” (The Tales of Regnar Lodbrog), 1979; “Bjarkemål” (The Song of Bjark), 1982; Poul Ørum’s “Komedie i Florens” (Comedy in Florence), 1990. Prince Henrik’s “Cantabile”, 2000 (illustrated with découpage works); National and Family Bible, 2000 (vignettes); “Nordronningen. Et eventyr af H.C. Andersen” and “The Snow Queen. A fairy tale by Hans Christian Andersen”, both 2000; Karen Blixen’s “Syv fantastiske fortællinger” and “Seven Gothic Tales”, both 2003 (découpage works), The Prince Consort’s "Frie hju" 2008; "De vilde svarer" by H.C. Andersen, 2009 (découpage works).

LITHOGRAPHS

Lithographs for The Danish Yacht Safety Board, 1986; the Danish Red Cross. 1988;
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costume sketches for “A Folk Tale” for the Danish Red Cross, 1991; Save the Children, 1994; Stentrykkets Venners Kunstnerlegat (artist’s grant by friends of lithography), 2000.

SKETCHES AND STUDIES


TRANSLATIONS

Simone de Beauvoir’s “Tous les hommes sont mortels” into Danish under the assumed name of H.M. Vejerbjerg (HM The Queen together with HRH The Prince Consort). In addition, HM The Queen has produced Danish translations of Stig Strömholm’s “Dalen”, “Fälten” and “Skogen”, 1988-1989, and Eric Linklater’s “The Wind on the Moon” (with cover illustration), 1991.