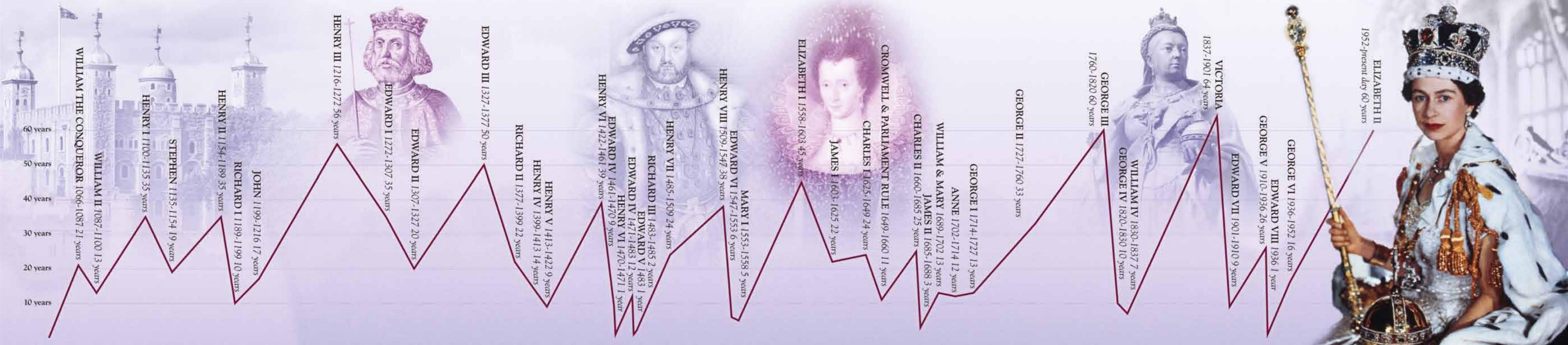


THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY
OF MAKERS OF PLAYING CARDS



THE MASTER THE REVEREND
CANON NIGEL NICHOLSON CF, DL



QUEEN ELIZABETH II'S DIAMOND JUBILEE



1952 2012

THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF MAKERS OF PLAYING CARDS

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REIGN OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II

COUNTRY & COMMONWEALTH

THE ASCENSION TO THE THRONE 1952-1959

On 6th February 1952 Queen Elizabeth II acceded to the throne, following the death of her father, King George VI. The following year she was crowned in Westminster Abbey on 2nd June 1953. The coronation was televised for the first time, with the exception of the most sacred moments of the ceremony.

In 1954 the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh went on a six-month royal tour. This was the Queen's first tour of the Commonwealth.

It was in 1955 that the Queen's first Prime Minister Winston Churchill resigned and was replaced by Anthony Eden and it was the only year that the Queen did not take the salute at the Trooping the Colour as a national rail strike caused it to be cancelled. In 1956 the Duke of Edinburgh launched a new awards scheme for young people. In 1957 the Queen visited Portugal, France, Denmark and the USA.

1960-1969

With a new decade, the world was faced with new problems, not least the growing tensions between Russia and the United States.

In 1960 Nigeria became an independent nation and the Queen presided over a growing Commonwealth of Nations. Prince Andrew was born on 19th February. Royal Tours in 1961 included India, Pakistan, Ghana and Sierra Leone and The Queen hosted the President of the USA and his wife, Jackie Kennedy on a state visit. The Soviet Union put the first man into space and The Berlin Wall was constructed.

In 1964 the Queen's youngest child, Edward was born. In 1965, Sir Winston Churchill died and in that same year The Queen made the first visit by a monarch to Germany in 52 years.

In 1966 The Queen presented the World Cup to England captain Bobby Moore following their 4-2 victory over West Germany at Wembley.

1967 brought the world EXPO to Ottawa and the Queen and Prince Philip visited Canada as part of its centenary celebrations. The following year, the first visit by a reigning monarch to Brazil was made. In 1969 an

investiture ceremony was held for the heir to the throne, when the Queen's eldest son became The Prince of Wales at Caernarfon Castle.

As the decade drew to a close, man stepped onto the moon and a television documentary was shown which gave a revealing insight into the lives of the Windsors.

1970-1979

The new decade started with a royal tour that followed the route taken by Captain Cook in 1770. The tour included visits to Fiji, Tonga, Australia and New Zealand on the royal yacht 'Britannia'. It was on this tour that the Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh took part in their very first 'royal walkabout'. The Commonwealth Games was held in Scotland and a new Prime Minister, Edward Heath took power.

In 1972 the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh celebrated their Silver Wedding with a service in Westminster Abbey and Britain signed the treaty to join the EEC. 1973 brought the marriage of the Queen's only daughter, Princess Anne to Captain Mark Phillips. Political events at home meant that the Queen had to cut short a tour of Papua New Guinea because of the General Election of February 1974.

THE SILVER JUBILEE

The Queen and Prince Philip embarked on a three month tour of the United Kingdom, the most extensive of any reigning monarch. It had been The Queen's express wish for her to meet as many people as she could and during the course of that special year, The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh covered over 56000 miles. At an address in The City of London to The Lord Mayor she said:

“When I was twenty-one I pledged my life to the service of our people and I asked for God’s help to make good that vow. Although that vow was made in my salad days, when I was green in judgement, I do not regret nor retract one word of it.”

6th June 1977 saw the culmination of the jubilee celebrations when the Queen lit a bonfire beacon at Windsor as beacons were simultaneously lit up and down the realm.

There was a river procession down the Thames and The Queen opened the Silver Jubilee walkway.

1980-1989

In 1980 Britain had its first female Prime Minister and although the country was facing economic difficulties, the nation warmly celebrated The Queen Mother's 80th

Birthday. The Royal Wedding was celebrated throughout The Commonwealth on 29th July 1981.

When the Queen welcomed Pope John Paul II to Buckingham Palace in 1982, it was an historic moment. The visit was the first to be made by a Roman Catholic pontiff in 450 years.

The Falklands War of that same year was an anxious time for the families of the men and women taking part in the conflict. The Queen's second son, Andrew served on board HMS Invincible as a Sea King helicopter pilot. Prince William was also born this year. In June 1984 at Utah beach, Normandy, The Queen and President Ronald Reagan paid their respects to the service men and women who died on the beaches of Northern France forty years earlier.

In October, the Prime Minister and members of the Cabinet survived an IRA terrorist attack. In July 1986 Prince Andrew married Sarah Ferguson. Later that year The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh paid an official visit to China. In 1988 two anniversaries which shaped the history of the realm were recalled in a spirit of peace and co-operation. The Queen and Prince Philip visited King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia in Spain for the 400th anniversary of the Spanish Armada. The Glorious

Revolution's 300th anniversary was celebrated with the Crown Prince of The Netherlands on a visit to Torbay where King William & Queen Mary had landed in 1688.

1990-1999

The events of 1989 and the opening of The Berlin Wall had led to the end of the Cold War and the re-emergence of democratic nation in Eastern Europe. Over the next few years, The Queen was able to visit these Eastern bloc countries including Hungary, Russia, Poland and the Czech Republic. Margaret Thatcher resigned as Prime Minister in October 1990, just as Britain was about to go into conflict in The Middle East. A major fire broke out at Windsor Castle in 1992, which was particularly distressing for the Queen.

The Queen's visit to South Africa in March 1995 was a special one as it marked the country's return to the Commonwealth after 33 years absence. 1997 was a year of sadness with the death of Princess Diana and the outpouring of grief that followed. Yet, The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were able to celebrate their Golden Wedding at Buckingham Palace with many other 'Golden couples'. As the Millennium drew near The Union of Great Britain and Northern Ireland witnessed constitutional and historic change. Power was devolved

from Westminster to Scotland and Wales and 30 years of conflict in Northern Ireland was brought to a close.

2000-2009

The birth of the 21st century and a new Millennium saw the Queen visit many projects which celebrated this new era, including the Millennium Dome. The Queen lost her sister, Margaret in February 2002 and The Queen Mother passed away a few months later.

THE GOLDEN JUBILEE

The occasion of the 50th anniversary of the accession to the throne saw visits to Jamaica and Australia and New Zealand. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh embarked on a tour of over 70 towns and cities. The Golden Jubilee celebrations took place between 1st & 4th June 2002. The Royal Family attended the National Service of Thanksgiving in St Paul's Cathedral. Her words that day in a speech in Guildhall were:

“Gratitude, respect and pride, these words sum up how I feel about the people of this country and the Commonwealth – and what this Golden Jubilee means to me.”

The Queen's Award for Voluntary service was launched as part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations. Its purpose is

to reward outstanding voluntary service by groups in the community. Over 750 organisations have already received this award.

The dedication and service of our Queen to her country and all of the peoples of the Commonwealth is a rock on which The Diamond Jubilee of 2012 stands. In the second Christmas Day broadcast that the Queen made she spoke of the Commonwealth nations of which she said:

“I shall give myself heart and soul every day of my life.”

In 2011 The Queen witnessed the wedding of her grandson, William to Katherine Middleton. An historic visit to Northern Ireland took place that year, the first by a reigning monarch in 100 years.

Her Majesty the Queen is along with Queen Victoria our longest reigning monarch. The events and celebrations for the Diamond Jubilee of 2012 reflect the gratitude the people of our Commonwealth of Nations have for the service of Queen Elizabeth II.

© Nicholas Parsons
Liveryman WCMPC

Design by Andrew Gooding
www.wilsondesign.uk.com

Back cover image from
Atlaspix/Shutterstock.com

Acknowledgements:
The Golden Jubilee 1952-2002
pub. Fifty, Bath
www.royal.gov.uk
www.thediamondjubilee.org
www.wikipedia.org