

HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

Her Majesty the Queen was born in London on April 21, 1926, first child of the Duke and Duchess of York. Princess Elizabeth was educated at home by a Scots governess. After her father succeeded to the Throne as King George VI, the Princess, now heiress presumptive, undertook the study of constitutional history and law.

As she grew older, the Princess took an increasing rôle in public life, and accompanied the King and Queen on many of their tours within the United Kingdom. Shortly after her eighteenth birthday, she was appointed a Counsellor of State during the absence of King George VI on a tour of Italian battlefields.

When not engaged in public duties or study, Princess Elizabeth enjoyed the normal recreations of girls of her age, and developed a keen appreciation of art and music. She has also been an excellent horsewoman since she was a small girl.

From the end of the Second World War onward, Princess Elizabeth's public engagements claimed more and more of her time, and many societies asked for her patronage. In 1947, she accompanied her parents and sister on their South African tour.

Shortly after the return of the Royal Family from South Africa, the King announced that he had given his consent to the engagement of the Princess Elizabeth to Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten, son of Prince Andrew of Greece. The Royal wedding took place on November 20, 1947. Prince Charles, now Prince of Wales and heir apparent to the throne, was born the next year, and his sister, Princess Anne, in 1950. The third child of The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Andrew, was born in February, 1960, and their fourth, Prince Edward, in March, 1964.