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21H.342 The Royal Family
Fall 2003

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21H342

THE ROYAL FAMILY

Fall 2007
TR 2:30-4
12 units

Prof. Harriet Ritvo

Subject Description

An exploration of the changing role of the monarchy in British politics and culture, beginning with the accession of the House of Hanover (later Windsor) in 1714. The dynasty has encountered a series of crises, in which the personal and the political have been inextricably combined: for example, George III's mental illness; the scandalous behavior of his son, George IV; Victoria's withdrawal from public life after the death of Prince Albert; the abdication of Edward VIII; and the public antagonism sparked by sympathy for Diana, Princess of Wales. In addition to readings, materials include portraits, news footage, and films.

Books

The following books are available for purchase at the MIT Bookstore (as well as on various websites).

David Williamson, The National Portrait Gallery History of the Kings and Queens of England (if you buy this online, you may have to go to a UK website)

W. A. Speck, A Concise History of Britain, 1707-1975

Sue Townsend, The Queen and I

They are also available at the MIT Library.

Additional readings are available in the Reserve Room and on the 21H342 home page. The home page also includes other useful information, such as the syllabus, a selection of images, related links, reading questions and bibliography.

Assignments

There will be three formal written assignments, of 2, 4, and 10 pages. They will be due in class on September 18, October 16, and December 11 respectively. Assignment sheets will be given out in class and posted on the website. The final written assignment will include a progress report due November 13 and a class presentation (see the schedule for December 6 and 11).

In addition, informal response papers (1-2 pages) on the readings for each unit will be due in class on the day that the readings are discussed.

There will be no final examination, but there will be an in-class quiz on November 29.

Schedule

UNIT 1	Background
R 9/6	Introduction
T 9/11	Royal Pageantry and Royal Politics
	R 9/13 Discussion: Williamson 82-129; Oakland, "The Monarchy"; Cannadine, "The Context, Performance and Meaning of Ritual: The British Monarchy and the 'Invention of Tradition', c.1820-1977"
UNIT 2	German Kings of England
T 9/18	George I and George II
	Paper I due
R 9/20	Discussion: Williamson 130-137; Speck 4-17; Thackeray, <u>The First Four Georges</u> , selections
UNIT 3	The Father of his Country
T 9/25	George III
R 9/27	Movie: <i>The Madness of King George</i>
T 10/2	Discussion: Williamson 137-140; Speck 18-49; Fanny Burney, <u>Diary</u> , selections
UNIT 4	Style and Scandal
R 10/4	Prince Regent and George IV
T 10/9	Columbus Day—No Class
R 10/11	Video: <i>A Royal Scandal</i>
T 10/16	Discussion: Williamson 141-145; Speck 50-64; Clark, "Queen Caroline and the Sexual Politics of Popular Culture"; Laqueur, "The Queen Caroline Affair: Politics as Art in the Reign of George IV"
	Paper 2 due
UNIT 5	The Mother of her Country

- R 10/18 Transition: William IV to Victoria
Williamson 146-153; Speck 65-88
- T 10/23 Discussion: Strachey, Queen Victoria chs. 1-6
- R 10/25 Movie: Mrs. Brown
- T 10/30 Victoria and Albert
- R 11/1 Discussion: Speck 89-114; Bagehot, “The Monarchy”
- UNIT 6 The Shadow of War
- T 11/6 Edward VII and George V
- R 11/8 Discussion: Williamson 154-162; Speck 115-154; Cannadine, “King George V”
- UNIT 7 Constitutional Crisis and Recovery
- T 11/13 The Abdication of Edward VIII
George VI: Their Finest Hour
Progress report on final paper due
- R 11/15 Discussion: Williamson 162-167; Speck 155-178; Edward Windsor, Autobiography, selections
- UNIT 8 The Monarchy in Modern Britain
- T 11/20 Elizabeth II; Discussion: Williamson 167-169; Speck 179-201
- R 11/22 Thanksgiving—No class
- T 11/27 Review
- R 11/29 Quiz
- T 12/4 Discussion: Townsend, The Queen and I
- R 12/6 Charles, Diana, Camilla, and the Next Generation
- T 12/11 Class presentations
Final paper due

Grading

Grading will be based on the written assignments (50% distributed according to the length of the papers), the quiz (25%), and class participation (25%--this includes informal response papers).

Revision

Papers may be revised and handed in for a new grade at any time before the last class meeting. The new grade will replace the old one. Revisions should be handed in along with the marked copy of the original version. They should represent a real rethinking or recasting, not just correction of misspellings, grammatical errors, and stylistic infelicities. Revisions will be accepted until the last day of classes.

Things to Remember

Written assignments should represent original and individual work. For a detailed discussion of what this means, see the “Academic Integrity at MIT” handbook, available online at: <http://web.mit.edu/academicintegrity/>

Assignments are to be handed in on time. If an extension becomes necessary it should be requested ahead of the due date. Otherwise, lateness will be penalized.

Attendance is important. Not all the material to be covered in class is included in the readings. Be sure to bring your copy of the readings to discussion classes.