

Lorna Wanstall23:55

I wonder what sort of cocktail Anne Boleyn would like?

Roland Hui23:55

I wonder what the Tudors considered a cool refreshing drink for hot days like this?

Bill Wolff23:56

Lorna, come to California.....79F here near San Francisco.

Claire Ridgway23:56

I imagine Anne enjoying a rather nice red wine

Lorna Wanstall23:56

Mary Tudor's would have to be a bloody Mary surely

Claire Ridgway23:56

Welcome to Roland, who is a regular her in the chatroom anyway! Thank you so much for joining us tonight and for your excellent talk! The topic is queenship, with reference to Henry VIII's queen consorts, but I expect Roland can cope with questions about other Tudor queens too!

Roland Hui23:56

Hello, and thanks for joining me.

Tonight, we'll discuss 'Queenship' - what roles did Tudor (o even medieval) queens play at court, how successful or unsuccessful were each one, their patronage of artists, musicians, writers, etc. MY own speciality is in the 6 wives. Perhaps we can begin there. Which ones do you think were successful as queens, and which not so much, or not at all?

Claire Ridgway23:57

Thanks Roland!

Lorna Wanstall23:57

What exactly was a queen supposed to do apart from have children

Roland Hui23:57

I think Katharine Parr was probably the most successful

Roland Hui23:58

very true Lorna,

Roland Hui23:58

Some did take it upon themselves to patronize writers or even write books themselves like KP did.

Lorna Wanstall23:58

KP was good, but I think COA was perhaps succesful in the sence she faught a war for Henry and won..

Claire Ridgway23:59

Hmmm.... it depends how you judge them - the medieval role as mediator and patron, plus baby maker... hmmm...

Claire Ridgway23:59

Hi Laurie!

Claire Ridgway23:59

Hi RTL!

Laurie Duerr23:59

Hi Claire and all!!

Roland Hui29/6/2019 23:59

They helped entertain as well. Anne Boleyn's presence at the Calais meeting in 1532 may have really helped get Francis I's support. She was charming and spoke French perfectly

Roland Hui0:00

Hello Laurie, thanks for joining

Bill Wolff0:00

One of my favs was Anne C, though she didn't get far with the wife thing. I think she would have produced multiple sons.....just a guess.

Roland Hui0:01

Yes, COA was a very successful Regent. Her battle against the Scots was better than H8's against the French at the time.

Laurie Duerr0:01

Hi Roland!

Lorna Wanstall0:01

I think AOC was the luckiest of all the queens, as she got out of her marriage with the best deal possible.

Claire Ridgway0:01

Catherine of A was certainly successful in many way and obviously tried her hardest to provide a son.

Roland Hui0:02

What is always astonishing I find about Anne of Cleves, is that she wanted to be Queen again after Katheryn Howard's fall! How weird!

Lorna Wanstall0:03

Roland am I right in thinking that COA somewhat smugly said "You send m a live duke and I have sent you the coat of a dead king" Henry must have felt as if his nose was put slightly out of joint there

Roland Hui0:03

I was watching the tv adaptation of 'The Spanish Princess'. Catherine and Henry sure meet up alot!

Roland Hui0:04

Lorna - yes she sort of implied that in a subtle way!

Lorna Wanstall0:04

Have to look out for that TV series Roland

Roland Hui0:04

Lorna - You might not want to - it's by Philippa G.

Lorna Wanstall0:05

Given the words used I think it was as subtle as a helicopter on a tennis court.

Lorna Wanstall0:05

Oh ok Roland I'll give that a wide berth

Roland Hui0:05

Claire mentioned how Queens acted as mediators - good point - Jane Seymour for instance helped Princess Mary back to royal favor

Laurie Duerr0:05

Yes I would agree Claire about COA; she also likely had the highest expectations on her, given her strong lineage..

Claire Ridgway0:05

I haven't been brave enough to start watching it yet, but it's provoke quite a lot of questions on social media re what's fiction and what's actual history.

Claire Ridgway0:06

Personally, I think the only person who helped Mary was Chapuys. Jane backed right off. Just my opinion though!

Lynne Mclachlan0:07

Hi all , sorry I'm late

Lorna Wanstall0:07

I don't think Jane was all that instumental in mending the rift between Henry and Mary, if she had of been I doubt he would have forced Mary to sign away everything she believed in.

Roland Hui0:07

The tv series is like alot of Tudor dramas these days - none of the actors ever look like they person he/she is portraying. Henry VII has a beard in 'Spanish Princess'! And young Henry VIII looks like a pin-up boy.

Claire Ridgway0:07

Hi Lynne!

Roland Hui0:07

Hello Lynne

Bill Wolff0:07

Hi Lynne

Lorna Wanstall0:08

The only Person who could play a convincing Henry was Keith Michell

Roland Hui0:08

Lorna - that may be true. For Jane, H8 came first, not Mary.

Claire Ridgway0:08

Are there any well-known actors/actresses in it, Roland?

Lorna Wanstall0:09

Although Richard Burton did play a good Henry too.

Roland Hui0:09

Claire - the only famous person I recognized was 'Edith' from 'Downton Abbey'. She plays Margaret Pole.

Lorna Wanstall0:09

Claire I think the only actor actresses likely to be in this drivel are desperate ones

Claire Ridgway0:10

Ah, Lady Edith!

Roland Hui0:10

Yes Keith Michell is the ultimate Henry. Robert Shaw in 'Man For All Seasons' is excellent too.

RealTudorLady0:10

Hi Everyone! Hi Claire and Roland. I just saw your talk so just catching up. Do you think changing political dangers in Europe had more to do with the failure of Henry with Anne of Cleves rather than him disliking her, which some people now believe he made up?

Bill Wolff0:11

RTL, interesting question.

Roland Hui0:11

RTL - that might be true as the alliance between France and the Empire

Lynne Mclachlan0:11

I don't mind a little fiction with historical t.v series but I found the Spanish princess really awful

Roland Hui0:11

was falling apart, so the Cleves marriage was no longer that important

Lorna Wanstall0:11

RTL I actually thought Henry saying Anne smelled etc, was really taking the urine.. He was the one that stank not just because of his leg problem, but his whole attitude.

Roland Hui0:12

I don't believe those slanders about Anne of C. I think H8 made them all up.

Laurie Duerr0:13

Yes at that point he was just making up excuses to not be with her!

RealTudorLady0:13

Thanks Roland. I agree Lorna, his meeting was more successful than he made out as he stayed there over night and had dinner. He just couldn't get it up and had to come out with some excuse.

Lorna Wanstall0:13

I still feel though if he had given his marriage to Anne a chance it may well have been quite successful

Bill Wolff0:14

Me too, Lorna.

Claire Ridgway0:14

Yes, Anne of C was an excellent choice in many ways.

Roland Hui0:14

Lorna - I agree. The whole thing is very mysterious as to why he disliked her so.

Roland Hui0:15

Unfortunately as Queen, A of C didn't really make an impact on anything. It was so short - 6 months.

Lorna Wanstall0:15

I have always wondered just what she had been told about Henry?

Claire Ridgway0:15

And what a strange scenario when Anne came for New Year when he was married to Catherine H!

Lynne Mclachlan0:15

Roland would you say that a young Henry would be a David Beckham of the times ? I usually tell people this if they ask me what I think a young Henry would be like

RealTudorLady0:16

Well at least when it was over and she saw it was going to be annulled Anne of C said she would accept and got a good deal.

Lorna Wanstall0:16

Roland AOC impact was the one who got away and kept her head

Roland Hui0:16

Lynne - I would say 'yes'. None of the portraits of H8 as a young man make him look particularly attractive, at east by our modern standards.

Claire Ridgway0:16

She seems to have been such a lovely lady.

Lynne Mclachlan0:17

I would agree Roland

Lorna Wanstall0:17

H8 in any portraits is a case of MEH he isn't all that and a bag of chips

Roland Hui0:18

That's why we have someone like Jonathan Rhys Myers play H8. It gives modern people the sense of H\* being good looking back then.

Laurie Duerr0:19

Very true Roland!!

RealTudorLady0:19

Roland, do you think Catherine of Aragon was Henry's ideal Queen? If her sons lived no more marriages, she was always the one he compared others to.

Lynne Mclachlan0:19

Jonathan Myers was a good as Henry it's just a shame about the series

Roland Hui0:19

Keith Michell in a 'Dutch boy' haircut as a younger H8- LOL - while historically accurate - didn't really convey handsomeness to modern audiences.

Claire Ridgway0:21

Hi Melissa!

Roland Hui0:21

RTL - yes, if K of A, had a son, H8 would probably go down in history as having only one wife. Unless K died before him (as she actually did), he would have probably remarried

Lorna Wanstall0:21

JRM did play a good Henry, and yes I did and do enjoy the series, despite the outrageous poetic licences..

Melissa McConnell0:21

Hello!

Roland Hui0:22

I watched 'The Tudors' rolling my eyes alot! Katheryn Howard naked on a swing was just too much!

RealTudorLady0:22

I don't think we should worry about a modern audience when making a film. The person should look as authentic as possible and act well.

Claire Ridgway0:22

Welcome, Melissa, we're just chatting about Henry VIII's six wives and also TV representations of Henry.

Melissa McConnell0:22

Lorna, I think he did a great job capturing the taciturn personality that Henry had.

Claire Ridgway0:22

Roland, she was naked most of the time!

Roland Hui0:22

Hello Melissa

Roland Hui0:22

Claire - LOL!

Lorna Wanstall0:22

Roland Yes I agree that was really OTT but I could see the reason to why they did that..

Claire Ridgway0:23

The bit where she was naked in the Tower on February was a bit silly!

Claire Ridgway0:24

Do you think Catherine H actually had the makings of a good queen if she'd been helped a bit more?

RealTudorLady0:24

Thanks Roland, yes, I agree. I did like JRM as Henry but Keith Michell was better.

Roland Hui0:24

That was just ridiculous. What I didn't like about 'The Tudors' was that it tried to be real history, and then they would do stunts like KH naked on a swing, or doing a modern 'interpretive dance' while in jail in the Tower.

Lorna Wanstall0:24

The real KH however I believe was frightened to death of what was going on but simply tried to make the best of a bad situation.. Norfolk (I hate him) simply threw her into the lions den where she was devoured with neither grace or gravy

Melissa McConnell0:25

Well, I think that depends on how a good queen is defined. In almost every definition no, I don't think KH would have made a good queen.

Lorna Wanstall0:25

I loved the music that went with that dance as it really was sad

Lynne Mclachlan0:25

I was pleased when the Tudors made Mary 1st attractive

Claire Ridgway0:26

I think CH was very ill-prepared.

Claire Ridgway0:26

Lynne, yes!

Roland Hui0:26

I know there's revisionist thinking about KH being a good queen and all, but in the short time that there was for her, she really didn't do much queen-wise. For example, instead of being a mediator and good stepmother, she picked a fight with Princess Mary.

Bill Wolff0:27

Roland, are you working on a special project now?

Roland Hui0:27

Bill - my most recent project was a mary Queen of Scots coloring book

Lorna Wanstall0:27

Roland In other words KH was a child.

Laurie Duerr0:27

Roland, in your talk, you mentioned a point that I always find interesting, where Jane Seymour actually made her ladies get rid of all of their French clothes and accessories, in favor of English ones.. I imagine that this represented a fair amount of their stuff, since AnneB before her had certainly favored the French looks?

Roland Hui0:28

That was fun to do - I wrote the text, while the TS' in-house artist did beautiful pictures.

Melissa McConnell0:28

Laurie, I feel like that action by Jane Seymour more than anything else was just to eliminate her predecessor.

RealTudorLady0:29

I would love to see a balanced portrayal of Kathryn Howard. She wasn't the bimbo or idiot or uneducated twit of drama. She was conventional, but she knew how to run a household, was good at



music and she could at least read and write. She was at times spiteful, but also generous and tried to fulfil her role as a mediator and ceremonial Queen. She found herself left alone for long periods and sought alternative company, foolish as it might be, but she wasn't meant to be Queen.

Roland Hui0:29

Yes, Laurie. I think poor Anne Bassett had literally nothing to wear as she was sent from Calais to the English court, with all French clothes.

Lorna Wanstall0:29

No one knows for sure how old KH was but at a guess I would say she was nearly 17 when she married Henry

Laurie Duerr0:30

Wow yes, thanks, that just seems crazy to me!

Claire Ridgway0:30

CH mediated for Thomas Wyatt, didn't she, as well? Although probably only in so much as backing up what H already wanted to do.

Lorna Wanstall0:30

Didn't she try to help Maggie Pole as well

Roland Hui0:31

Yes, perhaps JS wanting ladies around her wearing English style clothes, might have been a snub against the very French Anne Boleyn

Lorna Wanstall0:31

If memory serves she sent her a fur lined gown and some shoes and gave her a gift of money I think as well

Claire Ridgway0:31

Lorna, I think Margaret Pole was sent things but I don't think it was down to C alone, I think it was the king and queen's tailor.

Claire Ridgway0:32

I think Gareth mentioned it in a live chat once, can't remember the details.

Lynne Mclachlan0:32

French fashion has always been good tho

Roland Hui0:32

Lorna - this is a often quoted misconception. The order for Margaret Pole's clothes came from the Tower officials who used the Queen's tailor. KH had nothing to do with any of this, much less for a traitor according to her husband.

Claire Ridgway0:33

Ah, that's it!

RealTudorLady0:33

Roland, what do you think of AB as Queen? Do you think she learned much from Katherine or just did it her way?

Roland Hui0:34

Yes, French clothes were always fashionable at the English court. When KH became queen, it was noted she and all her ladies liked to wear French fashions.

Roland Hui0:35

RTL - I think AB tried to emulate KA as a generous charity giver.

Laurie Duerr0:35

And did she also learn from Queen Claude too I imagine?

Lorna Wanstall0:35

I think the French fashions were certainly a lot easier and lighter to wear, the gable hoods must have been quite heavy to wear

Roland Hui0:36

Her biographer William Latymer makes mention of Anne's commitment to poor relief. It was something she was expected to do as a queen of course, but she might have been overly generous to make herself more popular than than former Queen, KA.

Lorna Wanstall0:37

AB certainly helped to modernise the court, which seemed to be rather dowdy when COA was queen.

Lynne Mclachlan0:37

In the series The Spanish Princess Katherine wore the farthingale on top of her skirts, would this have been right .

Roland Hui0:37

Queen Claude was said to be very devout, Anne, I wouldn't be surprised, took her as a role model in that sense.

Roland Hui0:38

Anne's court was said to be very lively, with more younger people replacing those of Katherine's generation.

Roland Hui0:39

Yes, the English hood looks very cumbersome!

Lorna Wanstall0:39

Lynne who knows where SWMNBN comes in, anything is possible with anything to do with her..She's no normal in any sense of the word

RealTudorLady0:39

AB was very committed to trying to make more educational institutions. Of course they already existed so she was only extending them with the land stolen from the religious houses who actually provided free education.

Roland Hui0:39

English hoods were pretty much gone by the early 1540s

Roland Hui0:41

Yes, RTL, one theory is that she fell from power because she and Cromwell clashed over where the \$\$\$ for monastic spoils should go towards - to education and poor relief, or into the royal coffers for H8's use.

Lorna Wanstall0:41

Rolaand good job too I bet there was many a sore head from those gable hoods

Claire Ridgway0:41

Lynne, I saw a photo of an actress wearing a contraption on top which looked very odd. When I've seen pictures of Spanish farthingales, they've been with the hoops as part of the skirt, sewn into the fabric, to give it structure.

Lynne Mclachlan0:42

Thought so Claire

RealTudorLady0:42

Anne Boleyn also appears to have had her own agenda with being able to instruct Ambassadors. Was that unusual?

Roland Hui0:42

I think KA influenced English fashion with that type of hooped skirt.

Laurie Duerr0:43

Wow those skirts must have been as uncomfortable as gable hoods!

Claire Ridgway0:43

Lynne - see <https://fashionhistory.fitnyc.edu/spanish-farthingale/> and <https://angelacostumery.com/2015/02/14/making-a-spanish-farthingale/>

RealTudorLady0:43

Women wore some very odd things for fashion.

Lorna Wanstall0:44

Certainly I think AB clash with Cromwell helped to start her downfall but even it hadn't. Once Henry had decided to rid himself of AB it would have been Cromwell job to come up with some story.

Roland Hui0:44

RTL - Anne was known for her bad temper, and ambassadors, if they had bad news (this was during the Great Matter) were told to speak to H8 instead

Bill Wolff0:44

Hey Real, they still do.

Lynne Mclachlan0:44

Will do Claire , thanks

Claire Ridgway0:45

Lynne, that's ok 😊

RealTudorLady0:45

The yoemen and women had nice stuff, but at least it was comfortable.

Roland Hui0:45

David Starkey made the interesting comment that AB 'functioned like an honorary man' at H8's court. Meaning she took an active part in decision making, policies, etc.

Roland Hui0:46

How do people here feel about Mary Queen of Scots - she's so controversial.

Lorna Wanstall0:46

AB was certainly very modern in her thing if you think about it

Lynne Mclachlan0:46

Anne Boleyn was definitely a Mo

RealTudorLady0:46

Ha, Roland, yes, she could really snap.

Claire Ridgway0:47

Roland, I find her fascinating and frustrating!

Lorna Wanstall0:47

Mary Qofs could have been a good queen I think but for one thing

RealTudorLady0:47

Hi Bill, you're right they do, especially on the feet.

Bill Wolff0:47

I loved Mary QS, but I wish she would have thought through a few things better.

Lynne Mclachlan0:47

Anne Boleyn was definitely a modern woman

Roland Hui0:47

Lorna - oh definitely. I think that's her appeal today, especially to women who view her as a role model.

Laurie Duerr0:47

I think with a combination of some bad decisions that she made during her life, plus some unfortunate circumstances she was faced with, really made her life a tragedy..

Roland Hui0:48

I think Mary was guilty of making alot of bad decisions, and trusting the wrong people (like Bothwell).

Roland Hui0:49

The new movie about Mary, make her very sympathetic. She did not murder Darnley. and she did not connive at being raped by Bothwell.

Melissa McConnell0:50

I think MQS was a product of her raising in the French court where it was more important that she was going to be Queen Consort of France than Queen of Scotland in her own right. This set her up for a lifetime of poor choices in some rather difficult situations.

Lorna Wanstall0:50

If Mary had stayed in Scotland I think she would have been able to handled her nobles better. She may have given Elizabeth a migraine to end all migraines and perhaps even conquered England. But France was the start and end of all Mary's problems

Lynne Mclachlan0:50

It must have been awful to know who to trust and who not to

Roland Hui0:50

Elizabeth I as almost always referred to as a successful queen - but did she have faults too?

Lorna Wanstall0:50

Lynne the trouble is Mary was too trusting, trusting a man like Bothwell was a  
BBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGG  
mistake

Laurie Duerr0:51



Claire Ridgway0:54

Both Darnley and Bothwell were loose cannons.

Roland Hui0:54

Claire - yes. After the Armada died down, and the Earl of Essex was riding high, E's popularity took a big dip.

RealTudorLady0:54

Mind you Elizabeth didn't always make the best choice in men, just didn't marry any of them.

Melissa McConnell0:54

Yes!

Lorna Wanstall0:54

Roland if my memory serves, she kept her pirates/sailors on their ships in dock when they had returned from wherever so she hadn't got to pay them

Lynne Mclachlan0:55

Didn't know that Lorna

Roland Hui0:55

Even after Darnley's murder, Mary could still have stayed popular but she stupidly wed the man accused of killing her husband. How bad does that look??

RealTudorLady0:55

Lorna, that's true Mary did not wait very long to marry Darnley. She should have kept her brother on her side.

Lynne Mclachlan0:56

Definitely a EastEnders moment Roland

Claire Ridgway0:56

It's just coming to the o'clock. Thank you so much to Roland for joining us tonight and answering our questions so well. Thank you everyone for coming and for all your wonderful questions. Lorna is the winner of Roland's lovely Mary, Queen of Scots colouring book. Congrats to you, Lorna!

Roland Hui0:56

Yes, Lorna, I read that too. E. was so caught up in the victory, that she ignored the very sailors who helped win the battle.

Bill Wolff0:56

Fun hour, thanks Roland, and all my friends!!

Claire Ridgway0:57

Lynne, ha! Yes!

RealTudorLady0:57

Mary could have called the Council and demanded justice. Oh well.

Roland Hui0:57

Thank for joining me today, and congrats to Lorna. Bring out the crayons!

Laurie Duerr0:57

Thanks Roland and Claire!!

Lynne Mclachlan0:57

Loved the chat, thanks Roland and night all

Claire Ridgway0:57

Thank you everyone. Tony Riches is July's expert, on Charles Brandon, and I'll post dates for the chats as soon as we have them confirmed.

Roland Hui0:58

Good night everyone 🍌

Lorna Wanstall0:58

RTLYes Mary did show she had some fire in her blood when she put down the Huntley rebellion, but even then she failed in executing the ringleaders and then in time forgiving them. She released one of the Huntley clan on her marriage to Darnley

Claire Ridgway0:58

Good night! Sleep well everyone and enjoy the rest of your weekend!

Lorna Wanstall0:59

Yep time for me to climb the old wooden hill too. Take care and keep safe everyone Xx

RealTudorLady0:59

Goodnight and thanks for a delightful chat, Roland and Claire for hosting. Goodnight. I have a husband moaning because my lavender spilt on his bed.

RealTudorLady0:59

Night Lorna.



Lorna Wanstall1:00

Thank you I will enjoy the colouring book very much

Claire Ridgway1:00

RTL, oh no!

Claire Ridgway1:00

Night night xx