

Johanna Strong – Remembering Mary I – Live Chat

Claire Ridgway23:00

Welcome to our live Q&A session with historian Johanna Strong on Mary I. Thank you so much to Johanna for joining us, and for her excellent talk. I do think Mary is rather neglected and that she's become defined by the persecutions of her reign. Do feel free to ask your Mary I questions!

Claire Ridgway23:00

Hi Georgia!

Lorna Wanstall23:00

Claire don't tax yourself too much tonight please. I worry terribly when I hear Covid has struck my freinds.

Mary Rutherford-Birkey23:01

Hello all, Claire and Tim, hope you are feeling better!

Johanna S23:01

Thanks so much for having me, Claire! I never get bored talking about Mary, so it's wonderful to be able to share that enthusiasm with others who understand

Hi Mary

Gayle Hulme23:01

Thanks for coming to talk to us...Do you think Mary would have pardoned Jane or at least kept her alive if she had converted.

Karen Ledesma23:01

I agree with Lorna!

Claire Ridgway23:01

Thank you, Lorna.

Lorna Wanstall23:02

Johanna what do you feel was the reason behind Mary's attitude to all things Spanish when she became Queen

Johanna S23:02

That's a great question, Gayle. I think Mary genuinely wanted to let Jane live, but was so worried about her spot on the throne (especially given her plans to return Catholicism to England and marry Philip II) that she really had no choice but to make her rivals (or perceived rivals) irrelevant

Claire Ridgway23:02

Hi Amanda! Hi Mary!

Johanna S23:03

Lorna, I really believe that Mary was sympathetic to Spain long before she became Queen. During her parents' divorce, her Spanish family had really been her only major support (and those allied to Spain/Katherine of Aragon), so it was natural for Mary to hold her Spanish heritage close to her heart. When she became queen, she could finally act on those feelings in a way she couldn't when she was subject to her father and brother

Gayle Hulme23:04

Thanks. I think the real villain in the piece seems to be Jane's father. It seems he just didn't understand or care about the danger he was placing his daughter in.

Amanda Glover23:04

Hi everyone

Bill Wolff23:04

Johanna, why was Mary so loved prior to taking the throne that she could raise a large group to force the issue?

Johanna S23:04

And I think part of what we often forget is that Philip II of Spain was the most eligible bachelor in Europe! I love Mary, but she certainly married up, in a sense!

Claire Ridgway23:04

Johanna, how would you like Mary to be remembered? If you had to describe her and her reign briefly, what would you say?

Gayle Hulme23:05

Do you think Mary was in real danger in ERVI's reign over their differences in religion?

Johanna S23:05

Absolutely, Gayle! I think he was so worried about his own welfare that he forgot his daughter was a person and not a political pawn. I'm no expert about the Greys, but I do think Jane the woman was often forgotten in favour of Jane the once-queen

Karen Ledesma23:05

That does seem to be thematic throughout that period. Fathers looked to be connected with the highest born despite the danger it put their children, especially, daughters in.

Lorna Wanstall23:06

Johanna I agree with that, but it seemed to me that Mary's spanish roots were more important than her English roots.

Claire Ridgway23:06

Hi Sandra! Hi Theresa!

Johanna S23:06

Bill, part of the reason Mary was so popular was that people saw her as the only legitimate heir to the throne. While many Protestants would have preferred Jane (as a Protestant herself), they acknowledged that it wasn't right (in the sense of justice/fairness) that Mary get passed over as Henry VIII's daughter. Many supported her simply because she was the next heir because she was the first non-male child Henry had

Lorna Wanstall23:07

Mary's reign started well though, what was it that turned that love to hate and so quickly too

Clare Shepherd23:08

Hi everyone Happy New Year

Denise Keay23:08

I need to read more about Mary, but her reign was so short, her failure to produce an heir so dramatic (phantom pregnancy), and the burnings so many within a short time) it's hard to get a handle on her ability as a queen regnant.

Johanna S23:08

Fabulous question, Claire! I wish we could remember Mary as the trend-setting and precedent-setter that she was. She was the first queen regnant of England to be crowned (and so showed all the others how it should be done) and she was the first to really deal with her sex as a woman and how that affected how she handled power. She was extremely competent and very dedicated to her beliefs (even if we would disagree with her actions today). I think she should definitely be remembered as the fierce queen (in a good way!) that she was!

Amanda Glover23:08

Why do you think that Mary ignored Philip's requests to her that she cease the burning of heretics, when she generally seemed to take his advice on everything?

Karen Ledesma23:08

How do you suppose Mary felt about her father after years of being set aside and then being separated from her mother even at the end when Katherine was ill?

Johanna S23:09

I would love for Mary to be remembered as the competent precedent-setting queen she was! She was the first crowned queen regnant, the first queen regnant to be married during her reign, so she really showed the line of queens regnant after her how to rule. I wish she could be remembered for her skill, and for the magnificent way in which she juggled her female sex with her position of (traditionally male) authority

Gayle Hulme23:09

So many questions. I heard when I was visiting Westminster Abbey that Mary refused to sit in the same St Edward's Chair that Edward used. Is that true?

Johanna S23:10

Good question, Gayle. I honestly don't know that I have an answer to that one - Edward VI was certainly seriously considering implementing burning as the punishment for heresy, so Mary would have fallen into that category with her continued practice of Catholicism. Whether Edward would actually have brought charges and a death sentence against a mother-figure to him is really hard to tell

Lorna Wanstall23:10

I think Mary felt that by turning back time so to speak it would be as it was when she was a child.. Mary's main trouble was that England had changed but she hadn't and just wouldn't adapt in anyway

Claire Ridgway23:10

Thank you, Johanna!

Johanna S23:11

Fair point, Lorna. I think part of that perception is because of all the material written about Mary after her death. During Elizabeth I's reign, the Black Legend of Spain grows (which portrays Spain as the villain of Europe) and Mary gets lumped into that, unfortunately

Gayle Hulme23:12

That's interesting that Edward saw Mary in the light, but I suppose she was in her twenties when Edward was born and Jane Seymour did have a good relationship with her.

Lorna Wanstall23:12

Why did Mary think that Philip was the only man for her. Especially when it was clear he loathed her. Did she not see the hatred Philip had for her?

Johanna S23:13

That's absolutely fair, Denise. There are so many different parts of Mary's reign that make her so foreign to us as 2022 (I almost wrote 2021 there!) people. We certainly don't espouse physical punishment for religious differences anymore and so that alienates Mary and her decisions from us. For more books on Mary, I'd recommend Melita Thomas' *The King's Pearl* (it's quite an easy academic read!) or (for a more academic approach) Anna Whitelock's biography.

Claire Ridgway23:14

I loved Anna Whitelock's bio of Mary.

Johanna S23:14

That's a tough one, Amanda. I think part of it is that Mary was so sure in her belief that she was saving souls. Though she couldn't persuade people to convert to Catholicism to save their earthly life, she could at least save their eternal soul by not allowing them to practice Protestantism (in her view). Mary certainly took advice from those around her, but she also was very fierce about her role as queen and really embodied her belief that she had the last say in decision-making

Lorna Wanstall23:14

Perhaps hatred is too strong a word, but Philip certainly saw England as an ATM

Claire Ridgway23:15

Johanna, are you going to be writing a book on Mary in the future?

Lorna Wanstall23:15

Anna Whitelock book is very good.

Gayle Hulme23:15

Are there any records of Mary's reaction to the phantom pregnancy? Did she accept it as God's will?

Johanna S23:16

@Karen Ledesma, Melita Thomas' book *The King's Pearl* really delves into their relationship. I think Henry truly loved Mary and he did care for her even while she was publicly away from court (either by choice or in a sort of exile), but I can't imagine that she would have liked every day. I think the phrase 'I love you, but I don't like you right now' would really have been a description of their relationship during those trickiest years!

Clare Shepherd23:16

You called the threat from Spain in Elizabeth's reign "perceived", but Spain Sent an Armada. Could you explain what you meant by "perceived", Johanna?

Johanna S23:17

@Gayle Hulme, I haven't heard that, though it does sound like something Mary would do! She certainly refused to use the anointing oil that Edward had used during his coronation. Instead, she sent for new oil to be brought because she thought that Edward's oil had been 'contaminated' by Protestantism

Lorna Wanstall23:17

Gayle one of the many ambassadors, said of Mary's pregnancy "It will all end in wind" I think it was the French ambassador who said it

Johanna S23:18

@Lorna Wanstall, Alexander Samson (a big name in history about Mary I) has described Mary as a 'remainder' if she were in the Brexit debate today (sorry for bringing that in, but I think it describes Mary so well!); she desperately wanted England to keep ties to the Continent and to Continental Catholicism but really struggled with how to do that in a way that kept England 'superior' in English minds

Lorna Wanstall23:19

Thank you Johanna

Amanda Glover23:19

I know that Mary did in effect hold the reins on the monarchy, but how did she reconcile that with what were presumably her strong religious beliefs that a wife must obey her husband?

Claire Ridgway23:19

Hi RTL! Hi Roland!

Johanna S23:19

@Lorna Wanstall, a lot of that perception that Philip hated her is actually hearsay after Mary's death! Philip treated her really well as a wife, and conceded to some massive compromises in the marriage treaty, agreeing that Mary and her heirs would inherit part of Philip's realms if he died before she did. Though he was away a lot (and I can say from experience that long-distance relationships are hard!), a lot of monarchical marriages were like that

Lorna Wanstall23:19

It makes sense since Mary was educated by one or 2 of the most learned en from Europe

RealTudorLady23:20

Hi all, missed a bit. I am a big Mary I fan and I don't see her or her reign as a failure. The only thing was she didn't have a child and thus any success was nullified.

Gayle Hulme23:20

Were Catherine of Aragon and Mary able to communicate in any secret ways during their separation other than using Chapuys as an intermediary?

Johanna S23:20

@Claire Ridgway, I hope so! I'm in the final year of my PhD thesis (dissertation for our North American friends), so I'm hoping to turn the thesis into a book, looking at how Mary's reputation has come about after death.

Claire Ridgway23:21

Johanna, brilliant!

Lorna Wanstall23:21

Again thank you, but I do feel Philip was unhappy to be married to Mary. especially since it had caused a ruckus in Spain when he turned down the Portuguese Princess

Amanda Glover23:21

Good luck with the thesis!

Clare Shepherd23:22

We did lose Calais during her reign after occupying it for 200 years, so not totally a successful reign.

Johanna S23:22

@Gayle Hulme, There aren't any reactions that I've come across, but I think the lack of public reaction is telling in itself. When they realised there would be no baby, Mary and Philip left Hampton Court without much to do, which I would imagine was a way of them grieving privately for the loss. I haven't seen the prayer book myself, but one of Mary's devotional books has tear stains on the page which prays for healthy pregnancy and childbirth, so I think we can read from that that she was deeply upset by the loss of the child

Roland Hui23:22

Hello everyone! Johanna - do you think H8 seriously considered putting Mary to death as a traitor if she didn't acknowledge her own illegitimacy and her father as Head of the English Church in the summer of 1536?

Clare Shepherd23:22

Surely her marriage was one of convenience .

Lorna Wanstall23:23

I do feel that Mary really believed that the people wanted to return to the Catholic fold, and also believe that if she had been given 5 or 10 years more of life she would have done it too

Johanna S23:23

@Clare Shepherd, that is true that Spain sent an Armada! I say perceived because a lot of the threat that England felt wasn't necessarily what Spain was setting out to do. A lot of Elizabeth's reign is spent in fear of Spain stealing English colonies and taking over Europe and so there's a difference between what Spain was actually trying to do and what Elizabeth/England thought Spain was trying to do, in a sense.

RealTudorLady23:23

Hi all. Happy New Year. Johanna, do you think Mary thought her brother, Edward was a spoilt brat?

Lorna Wanstall23:23

Hello RTL how are you?

Denise Keay23:24

Thanks for the book recommendations, Johanna S. Enforcing religious policy was something 16th C monarchs did, and were expected to do, but Mary's policy does seem to have extended quite a way down the social/religious/political scale.

Gayle Hulme23:24

Yes I had read about the tear-stained prayer book. That breaks my heart. Is so easy to see these historical figures as just shadows of the past and forget they had the same emotions as we have today. Do you think the loss of the pregnancy caused her to feel more vulnerable and perhaps harden her intolerance to her Protestant subjects.

Johanna S23:24

@Lorna Wanstall, many apocryphal sayings about Mary's pregnancy, for sure! Much of the detraction about her pregnancy comes from after her reign, when people were freer to express their beliefs, but I would almost certainly say that there were many committed Protestants who rejoiced that she didn't have a Catholic heir to follow her

Gail Thomas23:25

Even the Catholic bishops and

Gail Thomas23:25

her cousin Pole discouraged the burnings

Johanna S23:25

@Amanda Glover, that was a really tough one for Mary. I think much of what she tried to do was submit to Philip in their private life while maintaining power and superiority in the relationship in public. While she certainly asked his advice on many matters, she was still publicly portrayed as being the more important figure in their relationship, especially in seals and portraits of the time
Lorna Wanstall23:25

RTL I think it had been drummed into Mary that a boy was far better than a boy and would have just accepted it. I think she loved Edward and Elizabeth.

Karen Ledesma23:26

Tear stains on the prayer book is a powerful thought! I would LOVE to see that one day along with Anne B's Book of Prayers!

Johanna S23:26

@RealTudorLady, amen to that!

Lorna Wanstall23:26

RTL Keyboard malfunction again... Grrr

Johanna S23:26

@Gayle Hulme, unfortunately for them both, I don't think they could. I don't know of any instances when letters were shared between the two after their separation.

Clare Shepherd23:26

During Elizabeth's reign the Spanish were a big colonising and wealthy power, they were a very real threat, evidence by their enslaving of captured English sailors as galley slaves. The Spanish perceived all English ships as pirates.

Johanna S23:27

@Lorna Wanstall, yes absolutely. There was certainly quite a furor that Philip (or rather Charles V, Philip's father) would choose England over Portugal.

Amanda Glover23:27

Am I right in thinking that probably a good 50% or more of the population, especially outside the capital, was indeed Catholic when Mary came to the throne, and therefore there could have been a good chance of successfully returning England to Catholicism?

Johanna S23:27

@Clare Shepherd, that's true, though we don't blame the other monarchs who lost other parts of France (or even other parts of the Empire/Commonwealth later).

Lorna Wanstall23:28

I don't know why but Mary and Mary Queen of Scots were really their own worst enemy. Both of them infuriate me to the point I want to give them a slap and say "Open your eyes for heavens sake and see what you are doing."

Johanna S23:29

@Roland Hui, that's another tough one. Based on the care he took in providing Mary with marriage proposals and writing her back into the succession later in his reign, I want to believe that he wouldn't put her to death, especially after he had allowed her to be educated so well. But he was Henry VIII after all and anything is possible!

Bill Wolff23:29

Right on Lorna

Gayle Hulme23:29

I often wonder why Henry VIII didn't just marry Mary off to a biddable English noble. Her sons could have peacefully taken the crown.\

Amanda Glover23:30

@lorna Absolutely!

Johanna S23:30

@Lorna Wanstall, completely! Mary was at quite a disadvantage because her reign was so short. Certainly many expected Catholicism to be fully re-integrated. The number of burnings was lessening by the end of Mary's reign, showing that there were less convicted, so it seems that public opposition to Mary's religious policies was lessening.

RealTudorLady23:30

I really enjoy that Mary told Edward you are my brother and the King, but you know what kid, I have a higher calling and that's my faith and not my ladies and I won't stop saying Mass and we won't conform to this new fangled faith. She then rode through the streets of London in public in procession with rosaries and all her household did the same.

Lorna Wanstall23:30

Do you think Mary was so much in love with Philip she was blind to all reason, when she gave away the wealth of England and lost Calais in the process?

Gayle Hulme23:31

Mary Queen of Scots was in a different position from Mary, well apart from being lambasted by John Knox. MQofS had to fight and spoil all her life. Mary I, had the joy of her early childhood, followed by the horrendous behaviour of both her mother and father.

Johanna S23:31

@RealTudorLady, it's hard to say! I feel like I'm saying that a lot tonight... I think we would today certainly see him as spoiled, but I think at the time he's the next King of England, he's a massive deal (especially with Henry's reproductive record), so it's understandable that he was lavished with all sorts of attention, etc.

Clare Shepherd23:31

She executed more for religious reasons in 6 years than Elizabeth did in her long reign, so less us very relative.

Denise Keay23:32

@Lorna Wanstall. Jenny Wormald compares Mary QS unfavourably with Mary Tudor.

Lorna Wanstall23:32

Gayle, that's true, and of course she knew next to nothing about Scotland and the government of Scotland. 12 years is a long time to be away from the country you are queen of

Karen Ledesma23:32

Gayle, what horrendous behavior of Katherine's are referring too?

Johanna S23:32

@Gayle Hulme, some accounts certainly do say that Mary increased the number of burnings as she was in her last trimester in the hopes that she could 'purge' the realm of heresy. I think a lot of it is a matter of Mary trying to control what she could. If she couldn't have a child, then she would focus on saving her subjects, if that makes sense

Johanna S23:33

@Lorna Wanstall, hindsight is certainly 2020!

Gayle Hulme23:33

@Karen Catherine knew her daughter was suffering and still she would not back down. Different times I know, but she could have stepped aside and saved her child years of misery.

Amanda Glover23:33

@Clare S. And Elizabeth only did it after she was excommunicated, and Catholics having been told that it was no crime to kill her, or to overthrow the realm, leaving her little choice.

Johanna S23:34

@Amanda Glover, absolutely! People are slow to change and slow to accept change, so would have likely been comforted by a return to something familiar

Karen Ledesma23:34

Ah, makes sense. Thank you!

Johanna S23:34

@RealTudorLady, yes!

Gayle Hulme23:34

@Johanna, yes that makes perfect sense.

Lorna Wanstall23:34

Johanna and sometimes it's easy to try and judge what went on back in the days of yore with 21st century logic. it can't really be done.

Claire Ridgway23:34

Hi Sandra!

Johanna S23:35

@Lorna Wanstall, again, a lot of that is due to later accounts of Mary's reign. A few days before Calais, the English won a massive victory at St Quentin, but that's been overshadowed for 400 years. At the time, it was disappointing for sure, but war is war and sometimes you win land and sometimes you lose

Lorna Wanstall23:35

Johanna that's true

Johanna S23:35

@Clare Shepherd, England changed the bar for this during her reign, though. Where Mary executed people for heresy, Elizabeth made it treason to even be Catholic and practice Catholicism during her reign, so she executed people for treason (when in fact it was still religiously motivated)

Karen Ledesma23:36

Do you know of any resources that might chronicle 'a day in the life' of a Tudor so that one could really feel the mood and mannerisms of the day?

Gail Thomas23:36

I think Elizabeth benefited so much from not being the first ruling Queen. She learned from Mary's mistakes. But she did learn thus was more successful than she might have been without Mary kind of paving the way

Johanna S23:36

@Lorna Wanstall, absolutely! As historians, we have to really put aside what we hold as 'normal' and go 'it's 1553, here's what's "normal"' and that can be hard!

Amanda Croy23:37

The anniversary of Wyatt's Rebellion against Mary is just around the corner.

Johanna S23:37

@Karen Ledesma, great question! Ruth Goodman has a really good book out about day-to-day life in Tudor England!

Johanna S23:37

@Gail Thomas, Elizabeth certainly owes Mary quite a lot!

Clare Shepherd23:37

Yes, I know Amanda, and probably driven to it by some of her counsellors. I think the Pope stirred the waters too, calling her evil, wicked and so on. Elizabeth was milder towards Catholics early on, but the Pope and later the Earl's Rebellion must have angered her.

Bill Wolff23:38

Karen, How to be a Tudor by Ruth Goodman is pretty good.

Claire Ridgway23:38

Karen, see <https://www.tudorsociety.com/tudor-life-primary-sources/>

RealTudorLady23:38

Didn't people realise how much money they saved by not wasting money on Calais. Mary did them a favour.

Johanna S23:38

@Amanda Croy, it is! I always am surprised when I read historical accounts and the date lines up with the date on which I'm reading it

Johanna S23:38

@Bill Wolff, yes this is the one!

Johanna S23:38

@RealTudorLady, that's certainly one way of celebrating it!

Karen Ledesma23:38

Fantastic! Thanks Johanna and Bill!!

Johanna S23:39

@Clare Shepherd, 16th-century politics were certainly a crazy time. I wouldn't have wanted to be a decision-maker in the past!

Lorna Wanstall23:39

Johanna I think Elizabeth closely watched her sister and made a mental note of every mistake Mary made and certain was resolved to never make the same mistakes

Karen Ledesma23:39

Thanks Claire!

Johanna S23:39

During Elizabeth's reign, Mary became a scapegoat for all that was 'wrong' with England (its Catholicism, its foreigners, etc)

Amanda Glover23:39

But didn't Elizabeth quietly tolerate Catholics provided they outwardly conformed ?

Clare Shepherd23:40

Nor me Johanna.

Lorna Wanstall23:40

I have a mental image of Elizabeth following Mary about with a clipboard and quill taking notes

Carrie Eddy23:40

Karen L try Ian Mortimer's book on Time Traveling to Tudor England and Suzannah Lipscomb book "A Journey through Tudor England

Johanna S23:40

@Lorna Wanstall, you're probably very right on that! Elizabeth was definitely carrying a clipboard and quill in her mind. She was so influenced by Mary that she actually wore Mary's coronation clothes to her own coronation in 1558!

Karen Ledesma23:41

Thank you Carrie! Madly taking notes!! 😄

Lorna Wanstall23:41

I think Mary believed with her whole heart she was doing the right thing

Bill Wolff23:41

I wouldn't mind being a decision maker, I just would be surrounded with loyal tough SOB's!

RealTudorLady23:41

I might mention that the year after the Armada of 1588 England got a right bashing when an English Armada tried to take revenge. It was a complete disaster, so Elizabeth wasn't a military genius either.

Amanda Croy23:41

Wow I did not know that

Gayle Hulme23:41

I've read about Mary's relationship with Margaret Lennox...have your studies looked into that much?

Gail Thomas23:41

Elizabeth was a PR genius

Johanna S23:41

@Amanda Glover, for the average person, yes. But it became treason for Catholic priests to minister to their congregations and to Catholics. In a denomination where yearly confession is mandatory and where the Eucharist (or Communion) is so important to their faith, forbidding priests in England certainly wouldn't have been seen as toleration.

Johanna S23:41

@Lorna Wanstall, completely. She genuinely believed that she was doing the best thing for her subjects

Johanna S23:42

@RealTudorLady, too true! It was quite the failed mission and was quite embarrassing for Elizabeth and England

Johanna S23:42

@Gayle Hulme, not really, but it's certainly an interesting aspect of the relationship. I look more at how Mary was perceived and portrayed after her death and what affects these portrayals, so my thesis really only covers 1558 on

Clare Shepherd23:43

Despite the awful title Ian Mortimer is a good historian and his book is excellent. I have heard him lecture umpteen times and he is very enthusiastic.

RealTudorLady23:43

Elizabeth was certainly taking notes when Mary gave her speech at the Guildhall to rally the people against the Wyatt rebellion, because she used the same speech and same imagery.

Johanna S23:43

Many of you seem to be really engaged with Mary's story. When was the first time you came across Mary in popular culture (fiction, TV, movies, etc.)? I'd love to know!

Denise Keay23:44

Yes, there were several Armadas, but the 1588 one is the only one "memorialised"!

Johanna S23:44

@RealTudorLady, completely! Mary was married to England long before Elizabeth was!

Johanna S23:44

@Denise Keay, the victor writes the history seems to fit for this one - we don't generally tend to celebrate things that completely flopped, do we? 🤔

Amanda Croy23:44

It's funny to me, the Wyatt's survived closely serving Henry viii but had a priest's hole in their castle. What do you think of that?

Clare Shepherd23:45

I don't think the failed attack on Cadiz was down to Elizabeth , but her sea captains.

Gayle Hulme23:46

I saw Mary's wooden funeral effigy at the Queen's Gallery and it was so sad that her tummy seemed to be domed. I wondered if that was because the tumour that supposedly killed her or did she experience another phantom pregnancy before her death.

Johanna S23:46

@Amanda Croy, it's certainly a really good example of survival at the Tudor court. Henry's Protestantism was really Catholicism but without the Pope, with much of the structure and rituals staying the same. Once Edward and Elizabeth ascended the thrones, though, that changed and that's when priest holes really began to appear. It's a good example of a family doing what it took to survive during Henry VIII's reign and quietly going about their own business during other monarchs'

Karen Ledesma23:46

My children played a scary game where they repeated Bloody Mary 3 time's looking into a mirror and supposedly then a ghost would appear. They got themselves deliciously scared. But my true interest all began after a visit with my daughter to London and especially after a visit to Hampton Court. This was about 3 years ago. I've been hooked ever since

Amanda Croy23:46

My first intro to Mary was playing Bloody Mary in the school bathroom. I had to know more after that; who was this bloody lady that shared my Mom's name.

Amanda Glover23:46

I don't think that Mary figures anything like as much in popular fiction as the rest of the Tudors. I do think that she was genuine in her beliefs, and that she had a very sad life from teenage years onwards, but she has never caught the imagination of the fiction writers.

RealTudorLady23:46

Mary on TV... I think in Lady Jane 1980s...Jane Lapitier was Queen Mary, the best thing about a,

RealTudorLady23:47

A ridiculous film.

Amanda Croy23:47

@Karen Ledesma: haha me too

RealTudorLady23:47

I don't remember a drama with Mary after that before the Tudors.

Johanna S23:47

@Gayle Hulme, there was a public announcement early in 1558 that Mary thought she was pregnant again, but this time it was likely tumours in her reproductive system or another serious medical condition instead of a baby. Funeral effigies by this time were really trying to be true to life, so her effigy gives really good insight into how others saw Mary at the moment of her death.

Claire Ridgway23:47

I have to say that I loved the Mary of "The Tudors" series.

Denise Keay23:48

@Johanna S - But there was another Spanish flop, also defeated by the weather. The 1588 Armada became a powerful symbol for English resistance during WW2, I think.

Lorna Wanstall23:48

How did Mary feel after she realised she wasn't pregnant after all. I know she is supposed to have withdraw to another palace secretly to lick her wounds. Did she realise that people were laughing at her

Johanna S23:48

I would highly recommend visiting the Queen's Galleries if you can/when it's safe to do so!

Gayle Hulme23:48

I think the Tudors (yes I know, bit jackanory) was the first time I ever saw her character really explored in TV/Film and the actress made a good job of portraying her.

Roland Hui23:48

Johanna - what do you think of the tv and movie depictions of Mary? Have they all - or mostly - been overtly negative in your opinion?

Johanna S23:48

So true, Amanda - Mary hasn't had a feature film about her and certainly doesn't get as much attention in other Tudor TV shows. I'm all for a Mary film!

Johanna S23:49

Ooo yes,@RealTudorLady, that's a good one! It certainly spawned a whole new caricature of Mary for TV/film audiences

Lorna Wanstall23:49

Claire, yes "Mary" in the Tudors was brilliant, and it kind of reminded you that at one time the real Mary was a pretty young woman with hopes and dreams.

Johanna S23:50

@Claire Ridgway, I simply adore Sarah Bolger's portrayal of Mary. It's just so heart-warming and really makes Mary seem like a real person

Karen Ledesma23:50

Oh, me too Claire. She was such a sweet yet strong character!

Johanna S23:50

@Denise Keay, very interesting! Yes, England really rallies around 1588 whenever the nation feels under attack

Lorna Wanstall23:50

I would have really liked it if Showtime could have continued the Tudors on through Edward, Mary's and Elizabeth's reigns

RealTudorLady23:50

The Hilda Lewis series where the first real popular books on Mary I. The book Lady Mary was my first encounter with her and after that she was my heroine.

Lorna Wanstall23:51

RTL Yes they are very good books

Claire Ridgway23:51

I thought the Chapuys/Mary relationship was beautifully done in The Tudors.

Johanna S23:51

@Lorna Wanstall, I think she would have known. Even if she didn't, it would have been so embarrassing (especially for the second time). It's the same thing we all feel when we fall flat on our faces and are so embarrassed and think that everyone saw, when in Mary's case everyone actually DID see

Johanna S23:52

@Roland Hui, I think the only film or tv that's depicted her well has been (personally) The Tudors. The others all fall into the Catholic tyrant scope and really don't delve into Mary as a person

Johanna S23:52

@Lorna Wanstal, yes, absolutely! Sarah Bolger will always be my Mary

Lorna Wanstall23:52

Claire I liked the bit in the Tudors where Chapuys cuddles Mary after she has been upset by Katherine Howard

Johanna S23:53

@RealTudorLady, yes! I also grew up with the series which included Mary, Bloody Mary and I was so hooked.

Amanda Glover23:53

Mary was certainly extremely brave before her accession, defying two monarchs and risking severe penalties- possibly even death as she thought.

Claire Ridgway23:53

Lorna, yes!

Denise Keay23:53

I gave up on The Tudors before Mary came on the scene.

Gayle Hulme23:53

What stands out for me on the whole while reading about Mary is that it must have been devastating for a child who was the apple of her father's eye to be suddenly and brutally shunned. As I mentioned about I do hold her mother equally responsible for Mary's misery. Each parent made choices which in the long run, wrecked the equilibrium of their child.

Johanna S23:53

@Amanda Glover, completely! I wish I had her bravery!

Johanna S23:53

@Denise Keay, I'm definitely biased, but I would certainly say it's worth YouTubing the Mary scenes!

RealTudorLady23:54

@Johanna S Eamon Duffy shows Mary's brand of Catholicism was advanced, lively and reforming. Would you agree with that assessment?

Karen Ledesma23:54

I LOVED the Tudors. Even with the inaccuracies I think it humanized all of those historical characters.

Johanna S23:54

@Gayle Hulme, I'm really close with my parents and can say from experience studying in England while they're in Canada that it's really hard. I can't even imagine how I would be able to live Mary's life if I weren't allowed to see them or if they didn't want to see me. It's just horrendous

Johanna S23:55

@RealTudorLady, 100%! I think Duffy showed really good insight into Mary's Catholicism, and just the way that she embraced Continental Catholic reform long before the rest of the Continent and the Catholic Church did really shows that she was on the cutting-edge of Catholicism.

Denise Keay23:55

@Gayle Hulme I don't think any Tudor parents whose marriage was in strife would have considered the kids' interests at all - other than their inheritance, or not.

Lorna Wanstall23:55

Gayle, it must have been very confusing for Mary she must have wondered what she had done to be treated in such a way. Perhaps this is why she became so devoted to her faith, because it was the only thing that was constant and a stable part of her life

RealTudorLady23:55

Cheers, Johanna.

Johanna S23:56

@Denise Keay, royal families are certainly so very different from our families today and the idea that children existed for marriage negotiations and marriage alliances (on top of personal affection and love, obviously) is so foreign to us.

Johanna S23:57

@Lorna Wanstall, I can understand that. I think so much of her adult life was spent wanting to be wanted and wanting to be loved. And unfortunately she never got that perfect (though unrealistic because none of us are perfect) storybook romance with a happy family full of giggling children.

RealTudorLady23:57

I recently saw a zoom talk on the imagery of Mary I and it was really powerful stuff. The image makers or rather herself could be very inventive.

Lorna Wanstall23:57

How many times was Mary promised in marriage before Anne Boleyn and the great divorce started

Amanda Glover23:57

We really all do need that time machine to understand truly what life was like then!

Johanna S23:58

@Lorna Wanstall, in her last hours, Mary floated in and out of consciousness and during this time she saw herself surrounded by laughing children, almost like angels. So the comfort she took from her faith and her hope for a happy family really hits home for me in that moment

Gayle Hulme23:58

I agree, she was extremely vulnerable and cut off...although I think it maybe says something about her character that she couldn't understand that people could find the same comfort from another religion. Of course in the 16th century religious practice was woven deeply into everyday life.

Johanna S23:59

@RealTudorLady, I don't know if this was one of Peter Stiffell's talks, but if not he's definitely a Marian scholar to watch! He's working on portraits/public imagery of Mary and his research is absolutely fascinating and ground-breaking

Denise Keay23:59

@ Johanna S - I'm also thinking of the break up of the Southamptons' marriage c 1580, and the Cumberlands' a bit later.

Lorna Wanstall23:59

Johanna I believe Mary said she saw choirs of angels singing for her when she was dying.. Strange that cause I believe Henry saw monks floating about his room when he was dying too

Johanna S23:59

@Lorna Wanstall, it was at least a few times. I can't think of the exact answer off the top of my head, but she was engaged both to France and to Charles V in her childhood, though both negotiations and betrothals fell through

RealTudorLady00:00

I can't get over how she forgave her father and managed to have a fulfilled relationship with him between 1536 and his death. She must have personally been a forgiving person.

Johanna S00:00

@Gayle Hulme, and religious convictions so firmly established that even toleration wasn't as we understand it today. In the early modern world, toleration was much more closely tied to its Latin root (meaning "to endure") than toleration today (where we embrace difference and accept it willingly)

Johanna S00:00

@Denise Keay, absolutely - there are some really unhappy breakdowns of families in the Tudor world

Karen Ledesma00:00

Got to sign off but a huge thanks to all of you! Thanks to Claire and Johanna!

Johanna S00:01

@Lorna Wanstall, it must run in the family!

Lorna Wanstall00:01

See you soon Karen take care and keep safe

Johanna S00:01

@RealTudorLady, she's definitely a better person than I am!

Claire Ridgway00:01

Thank you so much, Johanna, for answering all of our questions, and for your wonderful talk. This hour has flown by. Thank you, Lords and Ladies, for your brilliant questions. When I am recovered and back to work (hopefully next week), I'll be working on this month's schedule so do keep an eye on the site.

Johanna S00:01

@Karen Ledesma: Thanks for coming!

Gayle Hulme00:01

Wasn't the wording of the oath she eventually took changed to accommodate her faith later on, or did I imagine that. I think Henry was just happy to have what he saw as the natural order restored. For a daughter to defy her father and her sovereign was unthinkable.

Johanna S00:01

Thanks so much for having me, Claire! This has been wonderful!

Bobbie Hummel00:01

This was so wonderful. Thank you for all the new to me information.

Carrie Eddy00:02

Claire and Johanna - thank you!

Gayle Hulme00:02

Thanks Johanna. I've really enjoyed chatting about Mary.

Amanda Glover00:02

Thank you very much Johanna and Claire.

Claire Ridgway00:02

It's always fun to talk Tudor!

RealTudorLady00:02

Thanks, Johanna and thanks Claire, that was excellent.

Denise Keay00:02

What a great session! Many thanks to Johanna, Claire, and all the gang! Bye for now.

Johanna S00:02

@Gayle Hulme, I believe you're correct. I can't think of the precise wording, but I do know she refused to swear anything she didn't believe

RealTudorLady00:02

Thanks, Johanna and thanks Claire, that was excellent.

Denise Keay00:02

What a great session! Many thanks to Johanna, Claire, and all the gang! Bye for now.

Johanna S00:02

@Gayle Hulme, I believe you're correct. I can't think of the precise wording, but I do know she refused to swear anything she didn't believe

Amanda Glover00:02

Claire I hope you and Tim get better soon.

Gayle Hulme00:02

Night, night everyone...

Claire Ridgway00:03

Thank you, Amanda!

Claire Ridgway00:03

Thank you, everyone, have a great weekend!

Johanna S00:03

Thank you all so much for coming and for asking such wonderful questions! For anyone interested in more about Mary, please do feel free to check out my other work at <https://linktr.ee/JCEStrong> (hopefully it's okay to promote myself!)

Johanna S00:03

Have a great weekend, all!

Georgia Cosenza00:03

Goodnight and thank you all.

RealTudorLady00:03

Claire, get well soon.

Clare Shepherd00:03

I hope you and Tim are back to normal soon Claire, 8m sure we all appreciate you taking part this evening. Thanks jJohanna, good luck with the thesis. Good night everyone

Lorna Wanstall00:04

Johanna I believe Katherine of Aragon got her servants to swear the oath in Spanish, and of course in translation it broke down as some thing like.. the king believes he is head of the church

Johanna S00:04

@Clare Shepherd:

Johanna S00:04

@Clare Shepherd: Thanks, Clare!

RealTudorLady00:04

Bye for now, all. Take care.

Georgia Cosenza00:04

Claire Hope you and Tim are better soon.

Johanna S00:04

@Lorna Wanstall: Yes! That's definitely what gets remembered, though I believe it does have a grain of truth

Claire Ridgway00:04

Thank you!

Amanda Glover00:02

Claire I hope you and Tim get better soon.

Gayle Hulme00:02

Night, night everyone...

Claire Ridgway00:03

Thank you, Amanda!

Claire Ridgway00:03

Thank you, everyone, have a great weekend!

Johanna S00:03

Thank you all so much for coming and for asking such wonderful questions! For anyone interested in more about Mary, please do feel free to check out my other work at <https://linktr.ee/JCEStrong> (hopefully it's okay to promote myself!)

Johanna S00:03

Have a great weekend, all!

Georgia Cosenza00:03

Goodnight and thank you all.

RealTudorLady00:03

Claire, get well soon.

Clare Shepherd00:03

I hope you and Tim are back to normal soon Claire, 8m sure we all appreciate you taking part this evening. Thanks jJohanna, good luck with the thesis. Good night everyone

Lorna Wanstall00:04

Johanna I believe Katherine of Aragon got her servants to swear the oath in Spanish, and of course in translation it broke down as some thing like.. the king believes he is head of the church

Johanna S00:04

@Clare Shepherd:

Johanna S00:04

@Clare Shepherd: Thanks, Clare!

RealTudorLady00:04

Bye for now, all. Take care.

Georgia Cosenza00:04

Claire Hope you and Tim are better soon.

Johanna S00:04

@Lorna Wanstall: Yes! That's definitely what gets remembered, though I believe it does have a grain of truth

Claire Ridgway00:04

Thank you!

Lorna Wanstall00:05

Perhaps Mary twisted the words of the oath somehow that were accepted as legal

Johanna S00:05

@Lorna Wanstall, she certainly had the political knowhow to do so!

RealTudorLady00:05

Love the style of Queen Katharine of Aragon. May she rest in peace.

Lorna Wanstall00:06

I also feel she signed the paper without actually reading it as chapuys had promised the Pope would absolve her of signing it later on

Johanna S00:06

Truly a remarkable woman and queen!