



Queens
Women Who Ruled, from Ancient Egypt to Buckingham Palace
 Edited by Abbeville Press

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- A miniature gift book for anyone interested in women’s history or royalty
- Portraits of 250 queens regnant (that is, queens who ruled in their own right) from around the world and throughout history
- Each portrait is accompanied by an interesting fact about that queen’s reign.
- Part of the best-selling *Tiny Folio* series, which also includes *Women Artists* (ISBN 9780789210531)

This tiny yet majestic volume introduces us to some 250 queens who ruled in their own right – who were crowned as the sovereigns of their countries or, in some cases, decided to crown themselves. It begins with queens of the ancient world and ends with those ruling today, encompassing along the way both household names, like Elizabeth I and Catherine the Great, and those who deserve to be better known, like Margaret I of Denmark and Ranavalona I of Madagascar. Each queen is represented by her portrait – painted, carved, engraved, or photographed – and an interesting fact about her reign. This *Tiny Folio* will be the perfect gift for the powerful women in your life.

 <p>ELIZABETH II, QUEEN OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND COMMONWEALTH REALM (c. 1926-) The longest-reigning monarch in British history, she is known for her heraldic—and her indomitable—corgis. (Photo by Joel Ross/Ministry of Defence, 2011.)</p>	 <p>TE ATAHURAKAHI, QUEEN OF THE MAORI (1850-1920) She was the longest-reigning Maori monarch, her name means “lady of the morning star.” (Photo, detail, by Rob Rogers/Artists, 1973.)</p>	 <p>DOU GUAN, EMPRESS DOWAGER OF THE MING (c. 1461-1525) She was granted authority over the government after the emperor's death. (Right: print, c. 1565.)</p>	 <p>KOWON, EMPRESS DOWAGER OF JAPAN (c. 710-740) She and her husband became Buddhist priest and nun upon their retirement from royal life. (Photo by Sharynne Shinn, c. 1890-94.)</p>	<p>Access to Empress</p> <p>Theodora had been an actress as a means to survive, but she gave up the profession after converting to Christianity. When she met Justinian, the future Byzantine emperor, he was immediately enamored of her. The law forbade marriage to actresses because they were seen as prostitutes; Justinian had the law changed so he could marry Theodora. She ruled closely with her husband, intermittently performed as regent for short periods, governed her own court, and played a vital role in religious affairs.</p>	 <p>SAINTE THEODORA, EMPRESS DOWAGER OF THE BYZANTINE EMPIRE (c. 500-548) (Caption with John Mihal, c. 1425)</p>
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