

**COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA**

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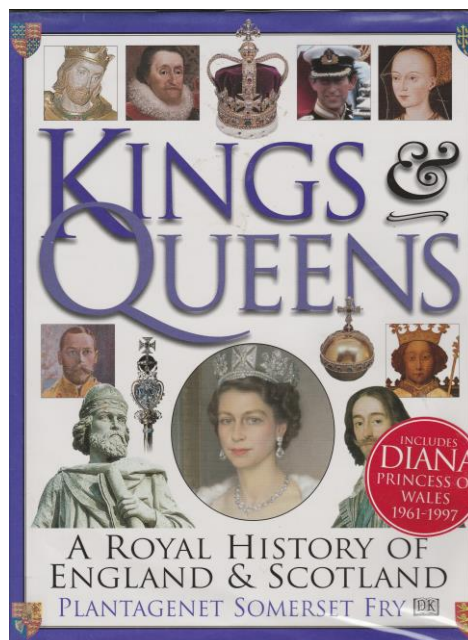
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*Kings and queens: a royal history of England and Scotland.* (2001). London: Dorling Kindersley.



## EDWARD I

1272–1307

THE COAT OF ARMS  
OF EDWARD I

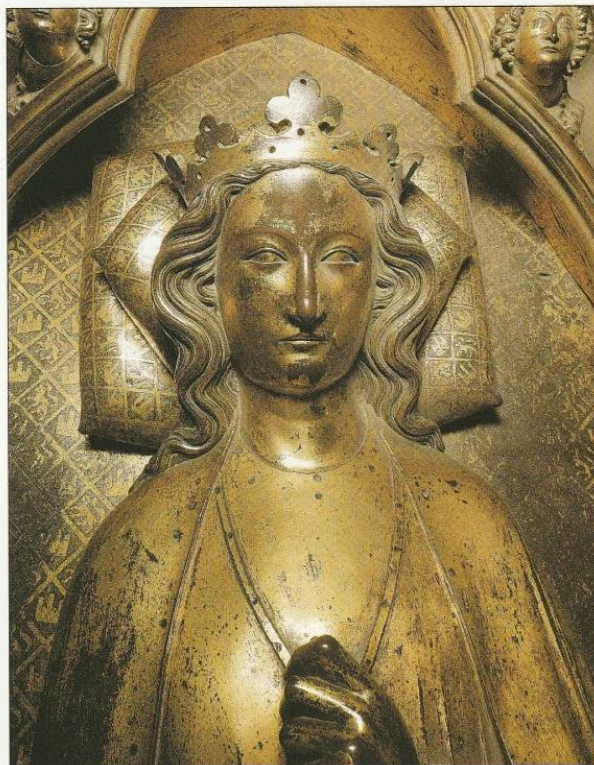
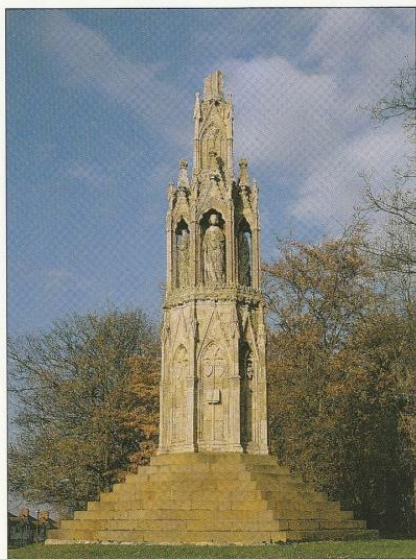
A RENOWNED WARRIOR, Edward I is best remembered for his attempt to unite the kingdoms of England and Scotland under his personal rule, earning the nickname “Hammer of the Scots”. He successfully conquered Wales, incorporating the Principality into England in 1284, and made his own son Prince of Wales in 1301. As a legal reformer, he reorganized the law courts, clarified much of the law and dismissed corrupt judges. In summoning a partly elected Parliament in 1295 – the so-called Model Parliament – Edward attempted to ensure that “what touches all should be approved by all”, an early attempt at representative democracy.

 EDWARD I

- ◆ **Born** Westminster, 17/18 June 1239, first son of Henry III and Eleanor of Provence.
- ◆ **Married** Eleanor of Castile, Burgos, Spain, Oct 1254, 16 children; Margaret of France, Canterbury, 8/10 Sept 1299, 3 children.
- ◆ **Acceded** 20 Nov 1272.
- ◆ **Crowned** Westminster Abbey, 19 Aug 1274.
- ◆ **Died** Burgh-on-Sands, Cumbria, 7 July 1307, aged 68.

## REFORMING THE SYSTEM

Between 1275 and 1290, Edward instituted a series of reforms aimed at remedying long-standing grievances. He checked who owned what lands by means of writs of *Quo Warranto* in 1278; dealt with the prevalence of highway robbery and violence in the Statute of Winchester of 1285 by appointing the first Justices of the Peace; and gave local residents the responsibility of policing their own communities. And in 1295 he summoned a Parliament that, because of its composition of lords, clergy, knights and elected burgesses, came to be known as the Model Parliament.



**IN MEMORIAM**  
Eleanor's body was brought from Nottinghamshire to London for burial in Westminster Abbey (her effigy is shown above). At each of the 12 places the cortège stopped, Edward erected a memorial (left).

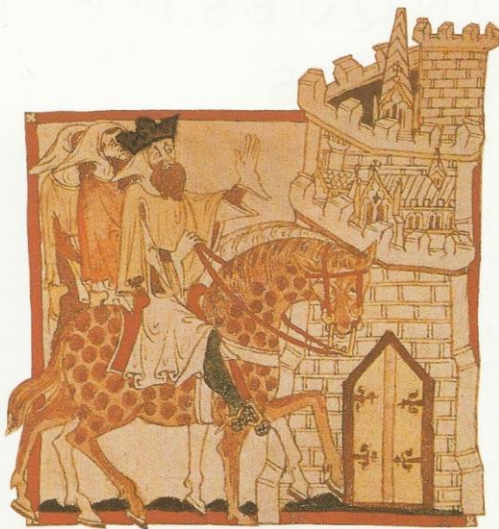
## ELEANOR OF CASTILE

Edward's first wife Eleanor was a dark-haired, beautiful woman. She accompanied Edward on Crusade in 1270-73, giving birth to at least two of their 16 children while abroad. When she died in 1290, aged 54, Edward was heartbroken.



## ON CRUSADE

In 1267 the Eighth Crusade was launched by Louis IX of France to expel the infidel Muslims from Palestine. Edward, who was Louis's nephew, agreed to join the Crusade and set out from Dover in 1270. Louis died of plague soon after and his successor was not interested in continuing the Crusade. Edward decided to carry on and eventually arrived at Acre in 1271. There, a year was wasted by squabbles between the various Christian armies and Edward left Palestine in 1272, returning to England in 1274.



### THE KING RETURNS

*Edward was still heir to the throne when he went on Crusade in 1270. He returned to England in 1274 a king in his own right, for Henry III had died in 1272. The contemporary manuscript illustration above shows Edward entering London as its new king.*

### “LONGSHANKS”

At two metres (six feet) tall, Edward was called “Longshanks” because he stood head and shoulders above his fellow Englishmen. He had black hair, which in later life turned snowy white, and was regarded as handsome, despite a drooping eyelid. Edward was once considered the greatest of our medieval kings, although his reputation has recently undergone a reappraisal and he has emerged a little less unblemished. He could be a bully, was ambitious and devious, often capricious – he sacked a number of top officials for still undiscovered reasons – and could be ruthlessly cruel. Like so many of the Plantagenets, he had a violent temper: he once clouted a page at a royal wedding so hard that he agreed to pay him damages. Yet allowing for contemporary exaggeration, his reputation for chivalry and fearlessness remains unscathed, and he was a brave fighter and an able administrator.

### EDWARD

*In 1274 Edward was crowned in Westminster Abbey, as shown in this contemporary illustration.*

## EVENTS OF THE REIGN 1272 – 1307

- ♦ 1272 On his way home from Crusade, Edward hears that, on the death of his father Henry III, he has become King.
- ♦ 1274 Edward arrives back in England and is crowned in Westminster Abbey.
- ♦ 1277 Edward invades North Wales to compel Prince Llywelyn to pay homage to him.
- ♦ 1278 Writs of *Quo Warranto* issued to end the quarrels over land ownership.
- ♦ 1279 Statute of Mortmain stops landowners giving land to the Church to avoid feudal dues.
- ♦ 1282 Edward invades North Wales again and defeats Llywelyn, who is killed later in the year.
- ♦ 1284 Welsh independence ended by Statute of Rhuddlan.
- ♦ 1285 Statute of Winchester controls highway robbery and violence, and institutes the first Justices of the Peace.
- ♦ 1290 Edward expels all Jews from England.
- ♦ 1290 Margaret, Maid of Norway, heir to the Scottish throne, dies on way home to claim her inheritance.
- ♦ 1290 Death of Eleanor of Castile at the age of 54.
- ♦ 1292 Edward chooses John Balliol to be King of Scotland.
- ♦ 1295 Model Parliament is summoned with lords, clergy and representatives from each shire, city and borough.
- ♦ 1295 Balliol summoned to join Edward on a campaign in France; he refuses and forms the Auld Alliance with France.
- ♦ 1296 Edward invades Scotland and defeats and deposes Balliol. He then takes over the throne of Scotland and removes the Stone of Scone to Westminster.
- ♦ 1297 Scots rise against English rule and under William Wallace defeat Edward at the Battle of Stirling Bridge.
- ♦ 1298 Edward invades Scotland again and defeats William Wallace at the Battle of Falkirk.
- ♦ 1299 Edward marries Margaret of France.
- ♦ 1301 Edward creates his son Prince of Wales.
- ♦ 1305 Wallace is betrayed, tried and executed in London.
- ♦ 1306 Robert Bruce takes over leadership of Scottish resistance to English rule and is crowned King of Scotland at Scone.
- ♦ 1307 Edward invades Scotland again, but dies on his way north.