

## HM THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE - ACCESSION

**The young Princess Elizabeth was the first child of The Duke and Duchess of York who later became King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. Together with her sister Princess Margaret, who was born when Elizabeth was six years old, she enjoyed a quiet life with her family; they resided at Royal Lodge in Windsor Great Park and the four of them were very close.**

At the time Princess Elizabeth stood third in line of succession to the throne after her uncle, Edward Prince of Wales and her father. It was not expected that her father would become King, or that she would become Queen.

However, when her grandfather, King George V died in 1936, his eldest son acceded the throne as King Edward VIII and the young Princess' future began to unfold. Before the end of the year, King Edward VIII decided to give up the throne in order to marry the woman he loved, American divorcee Wallis Simpson. Upon his abdication, Princess Elizabeth's father acceded as King George VI, and Elizabeth was now first in line to the throne.

Fifteen years later, on 6th February 1952, King George VI died at Sandringham Estate, the private retreat of The Royal Family. Princess Elizabeth heard the news whilst on holiday with her husband, the Duke of Edinburgh, in Kenya prior to their tour of Australia and New Zealand. Although her father had been ill, it was thought that his health was improving but he died shortly after seeing off his daughter and son-in-law at London's Heathrow Airport. Elizabeth returned home to England the next day with her husband where she was greeted by Prime Minister Winston Churchill. On 8th February, the Accession Council took place at St James's Palace, attended by 175 Privy Councillors, at which time Queen Elizabeth II read her Accession Declaration and signed two copies of the Accession document. Proclamations of the Queen's Accession took place in many parts of the United Kingdom including Windsor Castle, the residence which had been most favoured by George VI. As well as being read out at Castle Hill and the Henry VIII Gateway at Windsor Castle, and at nearby Eton, with the States Trumpeters contributing to the ceremony, the Accession Proclamation was also read out during an impressive gathering in Jersey in the Royal Square, St Helier on 9 February 1952.

**Technical details:-** Se-tenant pair, Souvenir Miniature sheet, First Day Cover envelopes and Presentation Packs created by Sally Diamond Ferbrache. Stamp image of HM The Queen © Dorothy Wilding, Camera Press London, Stamp image of King George VI © Yousuf Karsh, Camera Press London. Imperial State Crown photograph © Camera Press London. Pack family portrait © Marcus Adams, Camera Press, London. Pack photograph of Windsor Castle © Ian Lloyd, Camera Press London. First Day Cover photograph images © Trevor Morrison Military Portraits. Stamps printed by Cartor Security Printing, France in two colour process offset lithography in sheetlets of four (2 across x 2 down). Souvenir Miniature Sheet printed in four colour process offset lithography & one PMS black matt & spot embossing and translucent hot foiling on the crown. Stamp die size 51mm deep x 37.5mm wide. Overall Souvenir Miniature Sheet size 100mm deep x 150mm wide. A genuine diamond has been affixed to a limited number of Sheets. Stamp product design © Jersey Post Ltd. 2012.

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