

The Protocols in Place in the Event of the Monarch's Death in the United Kingdom

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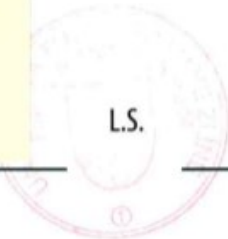
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ABSTRAKT

Tato bakalářská práce se zaměřuje na situaci těsně před a po smrti panovníka ve Spojeném království. Cílem je popsat a porovnat protokoly používané v minulosti s těmi současnými. O této problematice se začalo nedávno mluvit kvůli věku Jeho Veličenstva královny Alžběty II. Práce vyvozuje, že dříve hrál největší roli panovníkův nástupce, kdežto nyní se postupuje právě podle daných protokolů a jiných pevných pravidel. Vzhledem k situaci je tato práce považovaná za aktuální a pomůže objasnit situaci, která může brzy nastat.

Klíčová slova:

Protokol, smrt panovníka, královské pohřby, královna Alžběta II., Spojené Království

ABSTRACT

This bachelor thesis concentrates on the situation that occurs right before and after monarch's death in the United Kingdom. The goal is to describe and compare the protocols that were used in the past with the ones currently in use. This issue has recently started to be discussed due to the age of Her Majesty the Queen Elizabeth II. This thesis concludes that the heir played the greatest role in the past, while now the given protocols and other strict rules are followed. Given the situation, this work is considered current and will help clarify the situation that may arise soon.

Keywords:

Protocol, monarch's death, Royal family funerals, Queen Elizabeth II, United Kingdom

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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	9
1 HISTORY	11
1.1 POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION	12
1.2 FUNERALS	13
1.2.1 Lying-in-state	17
1.2.2 Procession	18
1.2.3 Church service.....	18
1.3 BURIALS	18
1.4 DEATH OUTSIDE ENGLAND	20
1.5 SUCCESSION	21
1.6 MANOEUVRING WITH THE BODIES AFTER THE FUNERAL	23
2 CURRENT SITUATION	25
2.1 PROTOCOL	26
2.2 OPERATION LONDON BRIDGE	27
2.2.1 Her Majesty's funeral.....	33
2.2.2 Succession	36
2.3 ISSUES TO BE RESOLVED	37
2.4 ROYAL CONSORTS	39
2.5 THE FLAG OUTSIDE THE BUCKINGHAM PALACE	40
2.6 CURRENCY AND OTHER EVERYDAY ITEMS	41
CONCLUSION	43
BIBLIOGRAPHY	44

INTRODUCTION

The death of the monarch is a national tragedy for the country. Yet, as immortal as kings and queens might seem, death is inevitable for every human being, regardless their status. Monarch's death is a matter of utmost respect even for their adversaries and those who may not have agreed with his or her agenda. On the other hand, if the ruler is well loved by the people, it is hard to accept their death. This is especially true for members of the royal family who are closest to them.

However, they are public figures and family bereavement is not the focus of this thesis. That is why this sad affair has to be dealt with accordingly and those involved must stay "professional" despite that fact, that they need to say goodbye to their loved one. That is what mostly differentiate royals and regular people as they have completely different worries, they simply cannot deal with this behind closed doors, because the monarch is not only part of their family, but a ruler who has the responsibility for and to the whole nation.

The protocols nowadays serve as some form of stability, while in the past the steps taken after the monarch's passing were not really set. This could have caused uncertainty, disbalance in the country and disruption of people's daily lives. The death influenced many aspects of the actions that had to follow afterwards, such as political situation in the country and constant fights over power, the presence of a suitable heir and so on. Monarch' death not only shook up the politics but could also endanger their family members and potentially their supporters. Overall, the protocols have stabilized the situation and made it more predictable as they cover all possible scenarios. Thanks to them, the fear of the unknown and the risk of instability lessened.

The goal of this bachelor thesis is to describe and compare the protocols and procedures used in the United Kingdom in the past with the ones currently in use, and also compare how funerals, burials, and succession to the throne changed over time. It looks into different types of funeral ceremonies, various stages, pre- and post- funeral ones, and their significance.

On the list of the heads of the United Kingdom, with its past and present form as a state, Oliver Cromwell was a controversial figure, and some authors were conflicted whether or not to include him in their works. Even though he was a head of state and made the United Kingdom a Republic, he was not a member of the royal family thus I decided not to include him in the thesis.

This bachelor thesis was not written as a bad omen. It was simply written out of personal interest in this topic, as we do not have a monarchy, let alone such a conservative one, in the

Czech Republic. Moreover, with Her Majesty's age, I am aware that this topic could become very relevant in the near future. But for now, long may she reign.

1 HISTORY

There are limited records in the early history of the overall events that occurred after the monarch's death, despite the fact that many staff members were by his or her side. If the dying was lengthy, people started losing interest in the patient and instead were shifting the attention to the successor which is the reason why the records are so limited as it seems a waste of energy recording the events that occurred.¹ There was a more pressing issue to be solved – succession. A country without a ruler would soon destabilise, especially in the past. Power struggles would begin. Therefore, it is understandable that honouring the monarch's death was somewhat secondary.

There is no concrete breaking point where the information about the funerals were detailed enough thus perfect for the research, but Brewer stated that he chose the Battle of Hastings and Edward the Confessor as the starting points of his research due to lack of medical records of the causes of deaths, but also because there is no accurate information about the monarchs' resting places from the history before him. In connection to this, he describes how little care was taken of the royals' bodies after their death in comparison to Egyptians. Egyptians are well known for their beautiful pyramids, the colourful sarcophaguses, and their overall attitude towards the dead. Their earthly lives were not important, but they served as a mandatory step before the afterlife, that is why they spent their lives preparing for a classy funeral that would guarantee them a comfortable life after death. Despite the fact that Christians, same as Egyptians, accept the resurrection, the way they handled the bodies of the deceased were completely different.² It went so far in some cases, that few rulers were "lost" for some time and found again many years later when, for example, the tombs in the Westminster Abbey were examined during the Queen Victoria's reign.³

Other authors such as Woodward and Range start their studies at the end of the 16th and at the beginning of the 17th century. Range stated that the funeral of Elizabeth I was the first funeral after the establishment of the Church of England which was the reason why he chose this event as the beginning of his book.⁴ In the passage below, I am going to examine the physical aspect of dying, i.e., treating the body and disposing of it.

¹ See Clifford Brewer, *The Death of Kings: A Medical History of the Kings and Queens of England* (London: Abson Books, 2000), 1

² See Brewer, *The Death of Kings*, 4–5.

³ See Brewer, *The Death of Kings*, 11–2.

⁴ See Matthias Range, *British Royal and State Funerals: Music and Ceremonial since Elizabeth I* (Woodbridge: Boydell Press, 2016), 2.

1.1 Post-mortem examination

Post-mortem examination during the medieval times was limited and distorted by the lack of knowledge of the physicians. However, the present medical knowledge allowed to change the view on the lives and deaths of the monarchs,⁵ because previously doctors made rather rough assumptions based on symptoms which made the cause of death usually inaccurate. However, this improved as the medical knowledge advanced.

It was only the state of medical knowledge at that time. Being a physician was a rather dangerous position. Another complication in making the right diagnosis was that during the life of the king or the queen doctors were limited as far as the treatment was concerned. This was caused by the fear the doctors might make a wrong conclusion, but also the strictness which prohibited them to speak with the patient unless they were asked to. The fact, that there were always more doctors present in order to share the possible burden and to prevent misdiagnosis of the monarch's illness, which could have cost them their lives in the worst-case scenarios, shows how ungrateful the position of a physician was. Embalming and burial preparations were thus the rare times when the doctors could finally look at the deceased body and report more specific and accurate cause of death.⁶ It was unfortunately late but allowed for more insight.

There were several ways of autopsy or treating the body. The removal of the viscera was a norm and it included stomach, intestines, and bowel. After the removal of these organs the rest could have been examined, such as the brain could have been taken out and looked at. But it was not a rule only a possibility, and it probably also depended on the cause of death, meaning that if the cause of death had nothing to do with the brain itself, or at least there were no suspicions about it, there was no need to examine it. When the post-mortem was finished, the body was then conserved with "spirit and herbal material" to have a nice scent. The body was then placed into a lead coffin that also helped to preserve it.⁷ Another step that was optional was a post-mortem imprint which was done in the case of Edward III and it shows the king's facial paralysis.⁸ In the case of Edward IV, his body was only cleaned after he died, and left laying almost completely naked for people to see him, which could be taken as the beginning of lying-in-state, that became an indispensable step of a funeral in

⁵ See Brewer, *The Death of Kings*, VII.

⁶ See Brewer, *The Death of Kings*, 10.

⁷ See Brewer, *The Death of Kings*, 9–10.

⁸ See Brewer, *The Death of Kings*, 68.

later centuries.⁹ The examples mentioned make it is hard to determine if the post-mortem was actually a rule and these were only exceptions, or if it depended on the doctors performing it.

Embalming started to disappear as the private funerals were gaining popularity. Range cites Gittings who mentions that this occurred as the preparations for private funerals were becoming much simpler and thus huge preparations and embalming were not a necessity.¹⁰

1.2 Funerals

Since the 18th century, the word ‘funeral’ has been used to describe the whole ceremony, but other terms such as ‘exequies’ and ‘obsequies’ are equally used.¹¹ Both referring to funeral rites or services.

However, according to Collins dictionary, the word ‘funeral’ has two meanings, the first being “a ceremony at which a dead person is buried or cremated,” and the second one “a procession of people escorting a corpse to burial.¹² If the event is broken down into individual steps, then the funeral is the stage before the burial and it is mostly a social ceremony, while during a burial the body is put in the ground and the event is more religiously oriented.¹³ Nowadays the term funeral is understood in the first meaning the Collin’s dictionary offers, i.e., the whole procedure without breaking the event down into different steps as it is not necessary for daily use.

It is important to remember that royal funerals are also state funerals, meaning that they are organized by the state at a public expense for highly valued individuals with national respect. Military is also present during the royal and state funerals to symbolize the connection of the royal family, the government, and the army.¹⁴ The main difference between these two types is that royal funerals are held for the members of the royal family, while the state funerals are held for an important state figure, with the example of Sir Winston Churchill’s funeral, that was organized as a wish of Elizabeth II based on his actions

⁹ See Brewer, *The Death of Kings*, 98.

¹⁰ See Gittings, *Death, Burial and the Individual*, 190–1 cited in Range, *British Royal and State Funerals*, 14.

¹¹ See David Cressy, *Birth, Marriage, and Death: Ritual, Religion, and Life-Cycle in Tudor and Stuart England* (Oxford University Press, 1997), 379–80 cited in Range, *British Royal and State Funerals*, 5.

¹² “Funeral Service,” Collins Online Dictionary, accessed April 11, 2021, <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/funeral-service>.

¹³ See Cressy, *Birth, Marriage, and Death*, 379–80, cited in Range, *British Royal and State Funerals*, 5.

¹⁴ See Range, *British Royal and State Funerals*, 5–6.

as the Prime Minister during World War II.¹⁵ For other members of the royal family and for important high-ranking officials whose state funerals were not publicized as much, these funerals are called ceremonial funerals. These were held for example for Princess Diana in 1997, Queen Mother in 2002, or Margaret Thatcher in 2013.¹⁶ Put simply, ceremonial funerals are generally less grandiose and easier to organise as they do not have to be approved by the Parliament, as is the case of state funerals.

There are more kinds of funerals besides the royal and state ones. One other kind which can be linked to the royal ones are the heraldic funerals which are called after the heralds who actively participated in them and are a part of the College of Arms.¹⁷ College of Arms is “a corporation which officially records and grants armorial bearings,”¹⁸ and a herald was “a person who carried important messages and made announcements.”¹⁹ The royal and state funerals are not always heraldic ones, even though majority of them were.²⁰ Overall, Range stated that the terminology is not that rigorous in a normal use and that the differences between the categories of funerals are not very significant as the distinctions are not important in everyday use,²¹ because no one, especially the generic public, will be determining what type of funeral one has, when dealing with the grief and when preparing for the funeral is what matters the most.

What, on the other hand, is important is the distinction between the public and private funerals. What comes to mind when hearing these two words is probably the level of privacy, that the public funeral is a gigantic event, a spectacle, for everyone to see while the private one is held somewhere in privacy or even secret, behind the closed doors, where only the family members are present to say the last goodbye. This interpretation could be correct in connection with funerals nowadays, however, in the past the terms ‘public’ and ‘private’ indicated the level of luxury of the funeral.²² The three main differences were that chariot,

¹⁵ See “London Bridge is Down: What Happens When the Queen Dies,” *The Week*, published July 2, 2018, <https://www.theweek.co.uk/63862/london-bridge-is-down-what-happens-when-the-queen-dies?fbclid=IwAR1ha6Z95KJEpxYCBzyaT8Z0WITV7P8GV8L1u3H1Q6dtWH9Wf1XbTE8T1Uk>.

¹⁶ See Robert Jobson, *The Royal Family Operations Manual: The History, Dominions, Protocol, Residences, Households, Pomp and Circumstance of the British Royals* (Sparkford: Haynes Publishing, 2020), 149.

¹⁷ See Range, *British Royal and State Funerals*, 6.

¹⁸ “College of Arms,” Lexico, accessed May 6, 2021, https://www.lexico.com/definition/college_of_arms.

¹⁹ “Herald,” Cambridge Dictionary, accessed May 2, 2021,

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/herald>.

²⁰ See Julian Paget, *The Pageantry of Britain* (London: Michael Joseph, 1979), 149 cited in Range, *British Royal and State Funerals*, 6.

²¹ See Range, *British Royal and State Funerals*, 7–8.

²² See Michael Schaich, ‘Funerals of the British Monarchy’, *Monarchy and Religion: The Transformation of Royal Culture in Eighteenth-Century Europe* (Oxford University Press, 2007), 430 cited in Range, *British Royal and State Funerals*, 9.

funeral effigy and the hearse were used during the public funerals, while during the private ones, these were seen as expensive accessories.²³ Thus even if the royal funeral is labelled as ‘private’ it can still be a major event. During the time of the funeral the royals not only show their sorrow for the deceased, but also have to show themselves to the public as representatives of the monarchy,²⁴ which is probably not easy as everyone was, is, and will be watching their every move. There seems to be little privacy in private funerals if there are royals involved.

The public funerals became very rare during the 17th and the 18th century while the private ones were gaining popularity.²⁵ The exact reason for this shift is not known, and different authors have different ideas about why that happened. For example, Gittings’ explanation is that it could have been due to a growing disillusionment with the beliefs that the heraldic burial rituals held,²⁶ while Schaich’s idea is that the reason could be the funeral of Oliver Cromwell which led to a failure to bring the public funerals back after the Restoration.²⁷ Either way, there are not enough records to determine the real reason behind this shift in trends so the actual reason could be only speculated about.

Another trend that was changing throughout the history was having a day or a night-time funeral. Even though Brewer stated that the funerals always took place during night-time,²⁸ Range noted that Fritz observed that once the funeral was a public one it was automatically held during the daytime.²⁹ This could be again connected to the fact, that the royals wanted to show off in front of the citizens and represent the monarchy. The ‘nocturnal funerals’, funerals held in the night-time, were already known during the reign of James I, but became popular again in the 17th century as the public funerals declined.³⁰ The connection between the private and nocturnal funerals can be seen, as the night-time could be seen as something more private, with the focus on the grief and lost. As the need for the “show” disappeared, it could logically mean that they were not as regulated as the public-

²³ See Paul S. Fritz, ‘From “Public” to “Private”’: The Royal Funerals in England, 1500–1830’, *Mirrors of Mortality: Studies in the Social History of Death*, ed. Joachim Whaley (London: Europa Publications, 1981), 68 cited in Range, *British Royal and State Funerals*, 9.

²⁴ See Annette Landgraf, ‘Die Begräbniszeremonie für Queen Caroline’, *Händel-Jahrbuch* 49 (2003), 116, translated by Range, cited in Range, *British Royal and State Funerals*, 10.

²⁵ See Ralph Houlbrooke, *Death, Religion and the Family in England, 1480–1750* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1998), 270–2 cited in Range, *British Royal and State Funerals*, 11.

²⁶ See Clare Gittings, *Death, Burial and the Individual in Early Modern England* (London: Routledge, 1988), 197 cited in Range, *British Royal and State Funerals*, 11.

²⁷ See Schaich, ‘Funerals of the British Monarchy’, 427 cited in Range, *British Royal and State Funerals*, 12.

²⁸ See Brewer, *The Death of Kings*, 1.

²⁹ See Fritz, ‘From “Public” to “Private”’, 68 cited in Range, *British Royal and State Funerals*, 9.

³⁰ See Range, *British Royal and State Funerals*, 12.

day ones as there were less people present thus no need to have everything perfectly set, which led them to become the cheaper option in contrast to the grand funerals. As an example, the family of the deceased lost the duty not only to secure black cloth for the church interior, but also for the spectators' robes who now had to obtain it individually.³¹ This trend faded away eventually, the day-time public funerals made a permanent comeback in the 19th and the 20th century and are in place to this day.³²

The royal funerals are grand events, and everything has to be thoroughly prepared and rehearsed for the process to be smooth and flawless. The organizations and preparations of the funerals were originally done by the Earl Marshal together with the heralds and in addition, the final decisions had to be authorized by the Privy Council which still has this competence today.³³ According to Range, Schaich pointed out that as the monarch has become more involved in the preparations of their funeral, the responsibility has been transferred to the Lord Chamberlain,³⁴ but the one in charge of Her Majesty's Elizabeth II funeral is again Earl Marshal together with his employees.³⁵

The period after the monarch's funeral was held also differs. In the case of Edward the Confessor, his funeral was held the day after his death.³⁶ On the other hand, the funeral of James I, for example, was held six weeks after he died,³⁷ so there was no rule that would strictly set the time period after which the monarch could be buried.

Funeral premises are another variable that was not strictly determined but changed according to trends. The funerals did not take place in one given church. Yet, it was mostly in the Westminster Abbey and some took place in Windsor. However, this changed eventually, and since the end of the 20th century, the church service takes place in the Westminster Abbey and the interment, i.e., the body burial, in Windsor.³⁸

There is a rule regarding heirs attending the funeral of their predecessor. The rule, that was again broken, was that the heir should not attend the funeral of the preceding monarch. However, Charles I broke this rule by attending his father's funeral anyway.³⁹ He did not

³¹ See Houlbrooke, *Death, Religion and the Family in England*, 272 cited in Range, *British Royal and State Funerals*, 12.

³² See Range, *British Royal and State Funerals*, 15.

³³ See Range, *British Royal and State Funerals*, 19.

³⁴ See Schaich, 'Funerals of the British Monarchy', 429–30 cited in Range, *British Royal and State Funerals*, 19.

³⁵ See Jobson, *The Royal Family Operations Manual*, 149.

³⁶ See Brewer, *The Death of Kings*, 15.

³⁷ See Jennifer Woodward, *The Theatre of Death: The Ritual Management of Royal Funerals in Renaissance England, 1570-1625* (Woodbridge: Boydell Press, 1997), 175.

³⁸ See Range, *British Royal and State Funerals*, 18.

³⁹ See Woodward, *The Theatre of Death*, 180.

only attend as a son, but also as the Principal Mourner,⁴⁰ i.e., Chief Mourner is “[sb] who leads grieving at a funeral.”⁴¹ According to Schaich, a monarch being a Chief Mourner was an exception allowed by the etiquette.⁴² Overall this obligation of not attending stopped being valid in the 19th century as the succeeding monarchs started to attend the royal funerals of the predecessors.⁴³ Generally, it could be said that having rules was an obligation, or at least an attempt for regulations, but if the succeeding monarch chose to break it, there was nothing anyone could do.

Every British royal and state funeral have been held in accordance with the liturgy of the Church of England, or the Presbyterian Church of Scotland since 1603.⁴⁴ The funerals were all Protestant with the exception of the funeral of King James II.⁴⁵ There were no Catholic funerals due to the fact, that monarchs swear loyalty to the Church of England during their coronation.

The funeral can be roughly divided into three steps which are lying-in-state, a procession, and a church service.⁴⁶ Even though the funeral planned for the current monarch contains these stages, it is overall more complex.

1.2.1 Lying-in-state

This stage takes place before the church service and it serves for a large number of people to attend the funeral and pay their respect to the dead. Lying-in-state was a norm with the exception of the 18th century when the event became narrowed and limited.⁴⁷ The reasons are unknown.

The 20th century seems to be a certain breaking point as there were a few changes done to the lying-in-state process. Since this time, it has been mandatory for every royal and state funeral to have lying-in-state. The place where this stage is held is set to be mostly Westminster. This step used to be accompanied by music in the past, but it changed in the 20th century as well. However, it did not turn into a quiet event where people only go to visit

⁴⁰ See Brewer, *The Death of Kings*, 158.

⁴¹ “Chief Mourner,” WordReference.com, accessed May 6, 2021.

<https://www.wordreference.com/es/translation.asp?tranword=chief%20mourner>.

⁴² See Schaich, ‘Funerals of the British Monarchy’, 425 cited in Range, *British Royal and State Funerals*, 14.

⁴³ See Range, *British Royal and State Funerals*, 14.

⁴⁴ See Wolffe, *Great Deaths*, 74, cited in Range *British Royal and State Funerals*, 18.

⁴⁵ See Range, *British Royal and State Funerals*, 17–8.

⁴⁶ See Schaich, ‘Funerals of the British Monarchy’, 432 cited in Range, *British Royal and State Funerals*, 15.

⁴⁷ See Schaich, ‘Funerals of the British Monarchy’, 437 cited in Range, *British Royal and State Funerals*, 15.

the monarch, but when the casket is placed at the beginning of lying-in-state a few psalms and hymns are sung by the Abbey choir or by the Chapel Royal.⁴⁸

1.2.2 Procession

The procession is an outdoor path of the deceased to the place of the church service, probably in the presence of a music accompaniment judging from paintings that were found in the past. Unfortunately, the pieces performed until the 19th century are not known.⁴⁹ Range cites Gittings that in the earlier centuries this was the most crucial segment of the whole funeral as the public could observe the event.⁵⁰ This is the time where the royals present themselves not only in front of the people of the nation, but nowadays, in the era of media, the whole world can see the event as well which makes it to be taken into consideration even more and the preparations have to be planned accordingly and more thoroughly.

1.2.3 Church service

The church service is “a service conducted in a house of worship,”⁵¹ and it was supposed to be the last stage of the funeral during which the body was to be buried, but according to Range, the funeral service and the body interment are two different steps,⁵² and this could be seen in the prepared funeral for Elizabeth II as her service will take place in Westminster Abbey and then the body will be moved to Windsor for the burial.

1.3 Burials

Burials are the last step of the funeral, during which the body is buried into a tomb, or, in a case of several monarch, into a family vault. Monarchs could have been buried alone, together with their spouse, or alternatively with another relative. These particular possibilities could be seen in the case of King Stephen who was buried next to his wife, or in the case of Richard I who was buried with his father Henry II. What is also interesting in Richard’s case is that his heart was removed and put into a container which was buried in a completely different tomb.⁵³ This was not the only case something like that happened, but the reason for it was not mentioned.

⁴⁸ See Range, *British Royal and State Funerals*, 15–7.

⁴⁹ See Range, *British Royal and State Funerals*, 17.

⁵⁰ See Gittings, *Death, Burial and the Individual*, 221 cited in Range, *British Royal and State Funerals*, 17.

⁵¹ “Church Service,” The Free Dictionary, accessed April 11, 2021, <https://www.thefreedictionary.com/church+service>.

⁵² See Range, *British Royal and State Funerals*, 17.

⁵³ See Brewer, *The Death of Kings*, 36–44.

When the monarch was ill for a longer period of time, they had the opportunity to say where or how they would like their body to be buried. This was the case of John, the son of Henry II, who was dying for several days and his last wish was to be buried in Worcester.⁵⁴ As could be seen earlier, the successors could break the rules very easily and that was maybe the reason why Henry IV even made a will before his passing. His last wish was simple, he wanted to be buried in Canterbury, instead of Westminster, without any mention of what his funeral or a tomb should look like. Despite this wish, his wife Joan of Navarre got him a beautiful monument.⁵⁵ Henry's VI last wish was not granted either as he wanted to be buried in Westminster, but was instead buried in Chertsey Abbey, and to make matters more interesting, he was moved to Windsor afterwards.⁵⁶ This indicates that even though the monarch had the last wish or even a written will, it simply depended on the bereaved person to decide where his or her parent, husband or wife, or sibling should lie in rest. It could also happen that when the monarch was unlucky, he would end up completely without a grave which happened to Richard III who died on a battlefield from where he was brought to Leicester where he was buried in an unmarked tomb. Later, Henry VII had the tomb reconstructed, but after that the grave was devastated as the monasteries got dissolved, Richard's body was apparently tossed in the river making him the only monarch with no grave left whatsoever.⁵⁷

There is also the case of two sisters, Mary I and Elizabeth I who, despite the fact that they were not fond of each other, ended up buried in the same place, moreover on top of each other. To make matters worse for them, their hearts were removed and placed in the same box as in the case of Richard I. It is safe to say that if both sisters were aware of that, they would be less than excited about it. Brewer also mentions that as Elizabeth's weighty grave is pushing onto the one of Mary it will soon lead to a damage of the grave and a repair is probably going to be needed in the near future.⁵⁸

As mentioned earlier, during the reign of Queen Victoria the grave inspection was done and the body of King James I was finally found in the Henry's VII tomb. It is not known why his body was placed there taking into consideration how well his son Charles I took care of his lying-in-state, but he apparently did not care about his father's rest place as there was no paperwork containing the information about where James was buried. There is a high

⁵⁴ See Brewer, *The Death of Kings*, 49.

⁵⁵ See Brewer, *The Death of Kings*, 81–2.

⁵⁶ See Brewer, *The Death of Kings*, 88–92.

⁵⁷ See Brewer, *The Death of Kings*, 105.

⁵⁸ See Brewer, *The Death of Kings*, 140.

probability that the gravediggers put him in that place as their initials were engraved there, but it is still a mystery on whose command and why James was laid to the Henry's VII tomb.⁵⁹

As for Queen Victoria and her burial instructions, this is what we know. The instructions she gave were not related to her final rest place or the funeral process as a whole, but to what she would like to wear and what items she would lay in the coffin with. She wanted to be buried in a white dress, having her face covered with a white veil, wearing several rings on her fingers. She also wished to have her necklace and a bracelet with locketts attached to them, that contained hair or portraits of her loved ones. A cast of a hand of her husband, his cloak and handkerchief were to be laid in the coffin as well, together with other items that belonged to her dear friends. The reason for all of this was simple, she wanted these items with her, because she had cherished them all her life.⁶⁰ After all, humans have been buried with things of significance for as long as we know.

The mysteries regarding who, how, and why monarchs were buried in certain ways are hard to prove due to the lack of records, or because the bodies were reburied multiple times thus finding out where the original place of the burial was, is even harder.

1.4 Death outside England

Another scenario that could occur regarding the death of a monarch was them dying outside England. This could happen quite easily as it was common for a monarch to go to a war or travel abroad for political matters or functions.

When this happened, the ruler's body should have been transported back somehow (i.e., repatriated), but again, there are certain monarchs who deny the rule making the transport look optional. The body which returned to England was the one of Henry I who died in France. His body did not go through post-mortem examination, nor embalming, which was observed from the state of the body when he returned.⁶¹ On the other hand, when Henry II died, he was buried in France and not transported back to England.⁶² Connected to transport, there was one wish that might have been shared by a few monarchs. One of them was Edward's I who was ill, probably with cancer, and on his way to attack Scotland he was supposed to order that "his body was to be boiled down, so that his bones could be carried

⁵⁹ See Brewer, *The Death of Kings*, 158.

⁶⁰ See Stewart Richards, *Curtain Down at Her Majesty's: The Death of Queen Victoria in the Words of Those Who Were There* (Gloucestershire: History Press, 2018), 232–4.

⁶¹ See Brewer, *The Death of Kings*, 32–4.

⁶² See Brewer, *The Death of Kings*, 40.

before his army into Scotland. He asked that his heart be taken by 100 knights to the Holy Land.”⁶³ However, Brewer does not mention if his wish was eventually fulfilled or not.

What is actually known, is that something similar was done to Henry’s V body. His body did not go through embalming, because it would be completely unnecessary as they really boiled his body down and the bones with the created liquid were then transported back to England.⁶⁴ The question remains whether this was done to prevent decay, ease transportation or for any other reasons.

1.5 Succession

During the medieval times, many monarchs have accepted their death and thus managed to make any necessary arrangement for the following succession.⁶⁵ Unfortunately, this was the same matter as the funerals and burial places, because it entirely depended on the relatives. Despite the fact, that Edward IV was dying for a few days, he decided not to make any preparations for his son as the heir to ascend the throne without difficulties. He was apparently counting on his brother Richard and the fact, that they are a family and that he would help his nephew with the succession. Unfortunately, that did not happen, and Richard II became the next king instead.⁶⁶ Henry VIII on the other hand named his heirs in his will before passing. He wanted his son Edward VI to succeed him, after him he named his daughter Mary and then his other daughter Elizabeth.⁶⁷ The problem was that Edward VI did not want his sister Mary to succeed him, due to the fact that she would probably want to return back to Catholicism, which would have made their father’s efforts in vain. He thus wanted a parliament to sign a document which would enable to skip his sisters in succession and made his cousin Lady Jane Grey the queen. She was actually proclaimed the queen, but Mary eventually imprisoned her in the Tower of London and executed her, because she refused to give up her faith. This unfortunate sequence of events in which Lady Jane Grey was not even properly included, made her the shortest reigning queen in history as her reign lasted only nine days.⁶⁸

When it finally came to Elizabeth’s I succession, Mary’s agreement to this as her sister had to be obtained for Elizabeth being able to ascend the throne. This permission was secured

⁶³ Brewer, *The Death of Kings*, 57.

⁶⁴ See Brewer, *The Death of Kings*, 87.

⁶⁵ See Brewer, *The Death of Kings*, 11.

⁶⁶ See Brewer, *The Death of Kings*, 98.

⁶⁷ See Brewer, *The Death of Kings*, 121.

⁶⁸ See Brewer, *The Death of Kings*, 132–4.

by a council that managed to get Mary's approval eventually, but under the condition of Elizabeth practicing her sister's faith and paying every debt Mary had.⁶⁹ From history it is known that Elizabeth did not practise Catholicism but continued in Protestantism anyway, thus she did not meet her sister's condition.

Another variable connected to succession is that succession period varied and the news about the death was announced only after there was a certainty that no one would oppose the successor.⁷⁰ This could be seen as an attempt to avoid any unnecessary complications. Another effort seemed to be that the new monarch could not be legally crowned unless the precedent monarch was properly buried,⁷¹ but in the case of William II, his brother Henry I had his coronation in London three days after William died which is the reason why he was absent at the funeral.⁷² So again, the rules could be set, but it depended on the relatives if they obeyed them or disrespected them.

Another, rather sad event that could mean someone else's accession to the throne was a monarch dying at a young age when their heirs were only children. Henry III is the example of this as he was crowned when he was only nine years old. Before he became an adult, Hubert de Burgh and then Peter de Roches were handling the affairs instead of him.⁷³ Another case of regency was the case of Edward III whose father died when he was fourteen. His regents were his mother together with her partner.⁷⁴ Regency is also possible when the monarch abdicates due to his or her old age, or health issues. This might apply to the situation nowadays, because if the queen decides to abdicate, her son will become a regent.⁷⁵

A different way of getting to the throne was through involuntary abdication. This happened in the case of Richard II, who was locked in the Tower of London, where he was forced to step down from the throne and then he was moved to Pontefract where he died. The possible cause of death was probably poisoning due to the fact that he died ten days after and there was no evidence of violence on his body.⁷⁶ Locking someone in the Tower of London was nothing out of the ordinary as similar situation occurred to Henry VI when

⁶⁹ See Brewer, *The Death of Kings*, 139–140.

⁷⁰ See Brewer, *The Death of Kings*, 1.

⁷¹ See Brewer, *The Death of Kings*, 15.

⁷² See Brewer, *The Death of Kings*, 29–31.

⁷³ See Brewer, *The Death of Kings*, 51.

⁷⁴ See Brewer, *The Death of Kings*, 65.

⁷⁵ See Jobson, *The Royal Family Operations Manual*, 17.

⁷⁶ See Brewer, *The Death of Kings*, 74–5.

Edward IV stripped Henry of his title, proclaimed himself a king, and imprisoned Henry in the Tower of London, where he was on the command of Edward murdered.⁷⁷

Coronation overall is supposed to be an exciting event that celebrates new era, or new beginning that the heir is supposed to bring with his succession. However, not all coronations were peaceful. When Richard I had his coronation, Jews were prohibited to attend it. Unfortunately, some of them did not obey the command and attended the coronation anyway which resulted in a bloodshed. Richard I is also a unique king in the sense that he was crowned twice due to his capture when he was returning from his crusade back to England.⁷⁸

A shift in the monarchy could be seen at the beginning of the 20th century as it was no longer about “power and privilege”, but more about the image of the royals in general. This was a consequence of technology as the members of the royal family started to appear in radio and television.⁷⁹ This influenced King Edward VIII who was in a relationship with Mrs. Simpson who was a divorcee. This relationship was revealed to the public on the ground of Bishop Blunt’s critique of the king not attending the church regularly. It was inappropriate for a king to have a divorcee as his wife, moreover a potential queen of the nation. It was also a conflict with values of the Church of England that was strictly against re-marrying a divorced individual, thus it would be hard for the king to have a religious wedding.⁸⁰ As a result Edward VIII abdicated in 1936 and was succeeded by his brother George VI.⁸¹ This event and switching the monarchs led to Elizabeth II eventually taking the throne, because the new king, George VI, was her father.

1.6 Manoeuvring with the bodies after the funeral

Burial, an event that was supposed to ensure that the body lies in piece forever. One could even say that once buried, it stays buried forever. Well, not in all cases as some tombs were reopened to check the body’s condition, or as an attempt to find the missing monarchs, or simply because the tombs were in a dreadful condition. Often time, looting was the reason for disturbing the dead.

As mentioned already, during the reign of Queen Victoria the tombs in the Westminster Abbey were reopened and examined. Moreover, the body of Edward the Confessor was

⁷⁷ See Brewer, *The Death of Kings*, 91–3

⁷⁸ See Brewer, *The Death of Kings*, 42.

⁷⁹ See Philip Williamson, “The Monarchy and Public Values, 1900-1953.” in *The Monarchy and the British Nation, 1780 to the Present*, ed. Andrzej Olechnowicz (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007), 230, <https://dro.dur.ac.uk/>.

⁸⁰ See Williamson, “The Monarchy and Public Values, 1900-1953.”, 250–1.

⁸¹ See Williamson, “The Monarchy and Public Values, 1900-1953.”, 244.

moved from tomb to tomb after a new abbot was appointed at that time.⁸² In case of Richard II who was originally buried in the Dominican priory in Kings Langley, his nephew Henry V decided to move him to his wife to the Westminster Abbey once he became the king. Sadly, at the end of the 19th century his tomb was in a horrible state and had to be reconstructed and newly sealed.⁸³

In case of William I only his thighbone remained after the church was attacked. The thighbone was then reburied later in 1987.⁸⁴ Another case of ruining the tomb was not due to a raid, but due to an accident that happened when the workers were building a tomb for George III and penetrated the royal vault where Henry VIII, Jane Seymour, and Charles I were resting. Charles' remains were examined, his fourth vertebra was removed, it was the one which was cut through when Charles was executed, and his body was reburied. With the agreement of Queen Victoria, the vertebra was reburied separately in a small box and it rests on the top of the coffin. This is another example of burying a part of the body separately. This incident was mentioned in *The Sunday Telegraph* (20. 9. 1987) and what it also mentioned is that apparently one worker extracted a finger of Henry VIII and transformed it to a knife handle.⁸⁵ What happened to the knife or when the knife is now was not mentioned.

Examination of the remains of the monarchs could be a way to obtain additional or more detailed information about their lives and their causes of deaths, however, it is not a matter of course and a certainty that science will be able to explain everything, even though it is being improved. The example for this is Brewer's argument about the health of Henry VIII and speculations about his cause of death, where even a forensic examination would not possibly get unambiguous result regarding his cause of death as it was probably a mixture of illnesses he suffered from.⁸⁶

⁸² See Brewer, *The Death of Kings*, 16–7.

⁸³ See Brewer, *The Death of Kings*, 76.

⁸⁴ See Brewer, *The Death of Kings*, 26–7.

⁸⁵ See Brewer, *The Death of Kings*, 164–7.

⁸⁶ See Brewer, *The Death of Kings*, 124.

2 CURRENT SITUATION

The funeral of Her Majesty the Queen Elizabeth II belongs to the category of royal funerals which follows a very rigid protocol, where everything has to be thoroughly planned and prepared to the smallest details. Every minute has to be thought through, every scenario has to be covered and be prepared for. There is simply no room for any kind of mistake or misunderstanding between the people involved. Everyone has to know what will follow and what needs to be done.

This all is the reason why Earl Marshal and his subjects had been preparing the queen's funeral before her father King George VI died in 1952. Since his funeral, Earl Marshal and his employees have met from time to time to make appropriate changes to the funeral preparations. A funeral of such a big scale is simply not possible to plan in a week. To make the situation more tactful, every funeral of a royalty has a code name which is why the Operation London Bridge refers to the queen's funeral and the code name Forth Bridge refers to the one of Prince Phillip.⁸⁷

Sadly, the royal consort, Prince Phillip died on April 9, 2021 and despite the fact, that he was a member of the royal family, his funeral is referred to as a state funeral. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic he did not have a classical funeral as it would have been in a conflict with the Covid-19 restrictions and there would have been a risk of spreading the illness. As a consequence, there was no lying-in-state before the funeral itself and instead, his body will be placed in the Windsor Castle prior to the funeral that will be held in St George's Chapel.⁸⁸ The preparations for his funeral were sped up in recent years due to his age and despite the fact, that Prince Phillip was the queen's husband, he did not wish to have a state funeral. He rather preferred a private service in a military style, to be held in Windsor.⁸⁹ This is a change, because as mentioned previously, the service is usually held in Westminster Abbey and the interment in Windsor, so this could be also seen as a shift from a history, because the last wish of the individual is going to be granted.

Funerals of the royals are something very different from everyday funerals of ordinary citizens. There is no lying-in-state and no ostentatious procession, compared to the gigantic funerals, only a small service before the actual interment. What is also different is the burial

⁸⁷ See Jobson, *The Royal Family Operations Manual*, 149.

⁸⁸ See "Prince Philip Will Lie in Rest at Windsor Castle Before a Funeral in St. George's Chapel," *The New York Times*, last updated April 9, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/live/2021/04/09/world/prince-philip-dead-updates>.

⁸⁹ See The Week, "London Bridge is Down."

place, as the royals are buried in a tomb, or a family vault inside Windsor, but regular people are usually buried in cemeteries.

Another difference is what state the body is buried in, meaning whether or not the body is cremated. The cremation used to be banned by the Church as it was seen as an obstacle to the resurrection, but it was also banned by the Parliament till the beginning of the 20th century. However, since then the cremation is legal and heavily used especially in recent years by the general public as it is the cheaper funeral option. Monarchs have been thus buried in caskets as it was prohibited to be cremated, however, Princess Louise was the first member of the royal family to be cremated in 1917,⁹⁰ so theoretically both queen's parents could have been cremated, same as her husband and even the queen herself could choose this option as well, but it is safe to say that she will not want to be cremated as no monarch has done it before her.

2.1 Protocol

As seen earlier, there could have been rules put in place regarding the monarch's funeral, however, when it came to the situation itself, it mostly depended on the successor or other family member to carry out the monarch's dying wish or follow the rules in place. It is, however, safe to say that these rules slowly developed throughout the history into rigid protocols that are now strictly obeyed, although there is still room for wishes of the person in question.

The word protocol is not originally an English word, but it comes from a Greek word 'prōtokollon', which is a combination of the words 'prōtos' meaning "first" and 'kollon' meaning "glue" in English, with the whole meaning as the "first sheet glued onto a manuscript".⁹¹

The definition of a protocol evolved throughout the history, but nowadays it is understood and used for the purpose of determining appropriate behaviour in order to avoid conflicts and arguments in the international environment. This word should not be confused with etiquette, which has a slightly different meaning. Etiquette can be described as proper

⁹⁰ See "The History of Cremations in the UK," W. A. Truelove & Son Ltd., accessed May 3, 2021, <https://www.wat ltd.co.uk/the-history-of-cremations-in-the-uk/>.

⁹¹ "Protocol (n.)," Online Etymology Dictionary, accessed March 24, 2021, <https://www.etymonline.com/word/protocol>.

manners between people, while protocol is more concerned about individual's rank, nation, business, or an institution.⁹²

As the authors of the *An Expert's Guide to International Protocol* explain it, "[international protocol] focuses on respect and the creation of a good and comfortable diplomatic and business climate, as well as the minimisation of conflict and disagreement. Many of these international agreements are unwritten and based on reciprocity and a good management of relationships."⁹³ Below, the protocol valid in the event of the current ruler is discussed.

2.2 Operation London Bridge

Operation London Bridge is the code name for Her Majesty's Elizabeth II funeral, covering everything from the moment she is declared dead to the succession of her heir. Every day of the plan is covered and each of the day has its name, for example, the D-day, D+1 and D+2 are the first days after Her Majesty's passing, and they cover all small details and exact procedures. The plan's epicentre will be located in the Lord Chamberlain's office where everything will be monitored. Meetings during which the Operation London Bridge is updated are held two or three times a year, and once a new version of the operation is developed the old version is erased.⁹⁴

In 2018, there was a rehearsal of the first day after the queen's death which was called "Castle Dove" and it was executed by Theresa May, her ministers, and officials from Whitehall.⁹⁵ Why did they have the need to do so if the complete operation had been planned for decades and everybody knew their place and duties? Apparently, it was done in order to decide when the Prime Minister will make a public statement, however, it was incidentally done the same week the queen skipped a morning's service at St Paul's Cathedral due to her not being well. This led to certain speculations whether or not it was done due to Her Majesty's health, but eventually the speculations were denied. A cabinet minister was supposed to say that it was done purely because of the queen's age. This rehearsal was the

⁹² See Gilbert Monod de Froideville and Mark Verheul, *An Expert's Guide to International Protocol: Best Practices in Diplomatic and Corporate Relations* (Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2016), 17–8, www.silo.tips.

⁹³ De Froideville, *An Expert's Guide*, 21.

⁹⁴ See Sam Knight, "'London Bridge is Down': The Secret Plan for The Days After the Queen's Death," *The Guardian*, March 17, 2017, https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/mar/16/what-happens-when-queen-elizabeth-dies-london-bridge?fbclid=IwAR3BwzBRkCDDz_22wxU8uMPKljc_yr_y8sLNB-06xYMedlorIAv1ijKLHsw.

⁹⁵ See Jamie Samhan, "Ministers Practise Procedures for The Queen's Death," *Royal Central*, July 3, 2018, <https://royalcentral.co.uk/uk/queen/ministers-practice-procedures-for-the-queens-death-105472/>.

first time the ministers became involved in the operation⁹⁶ as previously it was purely on the shoulders of Earl Marshal and his staff that are responsible for the whole operation.

Operation London Bridge used to be a secret to the public for many years, but now the code name is widely known and so is the phrase “London Bridge is down” which will send the message about the queen’s passing. The article by Faria Matthews and Trim, which was updated at the beginning of April 2021, divided the operation into twenty-six steps, which indicates how complex the situation will be.⁹⁷ One thing that could massively influence the course of the funeral could be the current Covid-19 pandemic as it was in the case of her husband’s funeral. This situation would probably change majority of the steps that will be mentioned as they do not take into consideration social distancing and travel bans.

The last moments before the beginning of the operation could be considered as Her Majesty’s lying in her chambers under a personal supervision of her doctor Professor Huw Thomas⁹⁸, who was appointed a Physician and Head of Her Majesty’s Medical Household in 2014 and has had the position ever since.⁹⁹ Professor Thomas will be the one supervising who enters the queen’s chambers and what information should be included in the reports presented to the nation. The moment the Queen Elizabeth II dies, her oldest son Prince Charles becomes unofficially the new king of the United Kingdom. Her Majesty’s Private Secretary will then deliver the sad news to the Prime Minister.¹⁰⁰ If the situation occurred now, the news would be carried by Sir Edward Young, who has been the Private Secretary since 2017,¹⁰¹ to Boris Johnson who currently occupies the Prime Minister position. If the situation arises at night, the Prime Minister will have to get up after hearing the phrase “London Bridge is down.”,¹⁰² and he will be the one who officially launches the Operation London Bridge. Without a doubt, the queen’s relatives and key employees will be as well one of the first ones to obtain the message about the queen’s death.

Elizabeth II is not a head of state only of the United Kingdom, but also of other fifteen countries, and in addition to this, she has a symbolic role of a leader of thirty-six countries

⁹⁶ See Samhan, “Ministers Practise Procedures for the Queen’s Death.”

⁹⁷ See Tom Faria Matthews and Liam Trim, “Operation London Bridge - The Secret Plan Which Means 27 Things Will Happen in London When the Queen Dies,” *My London*, updated on April 9, 2021, <https://www.mylondon.news/news/uk-world-news/what-operation-london-bridge-27-15982422>.

⁹⁸ See Knight, “‘London Bridge Is Down’.”

⁹⁹ See “Professor Sir Huw Thomas,” Imperial College London, accessed April 20, 2021, <http://www.imperial.ac.uk/people/huw.thomas>.

¹⁰⁰ See Knight, “‘London Bridge Is Down’.”

¹⁰¹ See “The Private Secretary to The Queen,” The Royal Family, accessed April 21, 2021, <https://www.royal.uk/private-secretary-queen>.

¹⁰² See Knight, “‘London Bridge Is Down’.”

of the Commonwealth of Nations as well. Therefore, these countries will have to obtain the news as soon as possible. They will receive the message through the Foreign Office's Global Response Centre which is an organization on an unknown location somewhere in London.¹⁰³ The message should be relayed to the countries in a span of no longer than fifteen minutes and this is also the time when other countries get to know the news.¹⁰⁴ Within an hour, both House of Lords and House of Commons will have to gather as well.¹⁰⁵ To sum it up, the family and the closest staff together with the ministers and leaders of other countries will be the first ones to know what happened and the first ones to take steps of the follow-up processes.

All officials will put on black bands around their left arms, which will be three-and-a-quarter inches wide. Then it will be finally the time to inform the public, which will be done through the Press Association and other media around the globe at the same time.¹⁰⁶ Sam Knight mentioned how prioritized BBC used to be and how the station used to get information as the first media. However, they do not have this privilege anymore as it is not as big of a monopoly as it used to be in the past. Public will also be able to find the news on the official website of the royal family which will change to a single page website with its background turned to the colour black showing the same text that will be simultaneously put up by a lackey in a mourning clothes to the Buckingham Palace's gate.¹⁰⁷ Even though we live in a world of technology and the plaque may seem unnecessary, it will be done, because it is a tradition. From this moment onwards, masses of people coming to the Buckingham Place in order to put flowers and candles to the gate could be expected as it was in the case of Princess Diana's death.

Not only citizens but everyone around the globe will be able to express themselves, because condolence books will be available to them. Media will officially announce the news the next day even if the queen dies at night. More specifically it would not be done earlier than at eight o'clock in the morning. Wheatstone in his article wrote, that the news will be showing the queen's portrait on the screen while playing the national anthem,¹⁰⁸ but an

¹⁰³ See The Week, "London Bridge Is Down."

¹⁰⁴ See Andy Ash, "Here's What Will Happen When Queen Elizabeth II Dies," *Business Insider*, February 28, 2021, <https://www.businessinsider.com/video-what-will-happen-when-queen-elizabeth-ii-dies-2019-11?fbclid=IwAR21V052raAhe7uwE2ZyEt0Pjf-RpKgvUfUvZmQuah1mt8uSaOIR3bn6YIQ>.

¹⁰⁵ See Knight, "'London Bridge Is Down'."

¹⁰⁶ See Faria Matthews, "Operation London Bridge."

¹⁰⁷ See Knight, "'London Bridge Is Down'."

¹⁰⁸ See Richard Wheatstone, "What Happens When the Queen Dies? From 12 Days of Mourning to Who Will Become Monarch," *Mirror*, June 29, 2018, <https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/what-happens->

article by Faria Matthews and Trim mentions the royal standard instead of the queen's portrait. This could be seen as one of the updated of the Operation London Bridge. Of course, if the queen dies in public, no one would be able to stop the information from spreading further, because it is certain that information of such a calibre would spread by the speed of light and no one would bother to wait for the morning news.¹⁰⁹

The BBC will use its Rats system which stands for "radio alert transmission system". The system has been maintained since the 1930s for the rehearsals of the most important people's deaths. One reporter told Sam Knight that most of the employees have never seen it in action, but only during rehearsals.¹¹⁰ The Rats will be used specifically because it is considered a trusted system to inform about the queen's passing. People who will be on a plane at that time do not have to be worried that they would miss such an important news, because they will be informed by the pilot of their flight right away.¹¹¹

Most of the media organizations have been preparing for this unfortunate event. Some have articles, documents, and pre-recorded content prepared, others have been practising the process, or have at least signed special contracts that will guarantee them exclusive information.¹¹² The Times is supposed to have eleven days of footage prepared, meanwhile Sky News and ITN have a plan called "Mrs Robinson" which is a code name for the situation that will occur.¹¹³ The BBC will also stop broadcasting all comedy shows during the national mourning period. Other stations are not required to halt their activities, but it is safe to say that there is a high chance that they will do it anyway.¹¹⁴

DJs in radio stations will be informed about the news as well, they will get the sign about the event through a network of blue "orbit light" which will make them announce the matter and change their playlists. These plans are not only prepared for the queen's death, but also for a death of any of the royal family members,¹¹⁵ however, a former head of BBC news said that the plans for the queen's and her relatives' deaths differ. The reason why media are also preparing for this is simply to prevent any faux pas from happening and for

queen-dies-12-

9539639?fbclid=IwAR2mQhdQ_axK0xBAImGkjZNCtEplXPXKgP9ipWWxsh8DENGdSfEd-8V1iUc.

¹⁰⁹ See Telegraph Reporters, "What Happens When the Queen Dies?" *The Telegraph*, May 10, 2017, https://www.telegraph.co.uk/royal-family/0/happens-queen-dies/?fbclid=IwAR2WAMSkS_ffaqpj-fDzsON3Q5WpHAGGcAHOI97OG1-tNjNMIv1NOGMgHqM.

¹¹⁰ See Knight, "'London Bridge Is Down'."

¹¹¹ See Faria Matthews, "Operation London Bridge."

¹¹² See Knight, "'London Bridge Is Down'."

¹¹³ See The Week, "London Bridge Is Down."

¹¹⁴ See Wheatstone, "What Happens When the Queen Dies?"

¹¹⁵ See The Week, "London Bridge Is Down."

everything to go smoothly without wasting time. Unfortunately, there were unexpected events that led to a change of these plans.¹¹⁶ One of them being a BBC announcer Mr. Peter Simmons who was heavily criticized for announcing the Queen Mother's death while wearing a red tie. This incident led to a rule that everyone has to have a black tie and a black suit ready in the studio for them to change into immediately. Another incident happened while a journalist overheard the practice and mistook it for a reality for which she reacted by sharing the false news on her twitter account. BBC apologised for the action and the Buckingham Palace confirmed the opposite.¹¹⁷

On such important day as Her Majesty's passing is, the majority of citizens will not be held in their work and they will probably be let home earlier than usual, although it will depend on the individual job positions,¹¹⁸ one of these jobs will certainly be a flower shop assistant. It is safe to say, that flower shops will stay open, because many people will stop by to buy flowers in order to leave them at the gate of the Buckingham Palace. The question is whether pubs will be open or not. It is not certain if the pubs stay open for people to have a chance and have a drink in order to share their grief, or the pubs will be closed as a gesture of respect.¹¹⁹ Open pubs could be also seen as a celebration of the death of Her Majesty, so it is hard to guess whether or not they stay open. That day, no one will also be able to play any sport in the Royal Parks as this will be prohibited.¹²⁰

Not only regular businesses will close down, but also the Stock Exchange which will be closed once again on the day of the queen's funeral.¹²¹ Petter mentions how people fear the huge economic loss which could climb up to billions of pounds, but she also mentions that these extreme consequences are not certain as it is hard to guess the exact number.¹²²

There is also a possibility that the queen will not be in the Buckingham Place when she dies. If that happens, her body will have to be transported there anyway. If she dies abroad, the Royal Flight, a jet from the RAF's No 32 squadron Bae 146, will transport her body back in a prepared coffin from Leverton & Sons, this coffin's nickname is a "first call coffin". In

¹¹⁶ See Knight, "'London Bridge Is Down'."

¹¹⁷ See The Week, "London Bridge Is Down."

¹¹⁸ See Faria Matthews, "Operation London Bridge."

¹¹⁹ See Robyn Darbyshire and Carl Eve, "Operation London Bridge: 27 Things That Will Happen When Queen Elizabeth II Dies," *Plymouth Live*, December 13, 2020, <https://www.plymouthherald.co.uk/news/plymouth-news/operation-london-bridge-27-things-4776017>.

¹²⁰ See Knight, "'London Bridge Is Down'."

¹²¹ See Ash, "Here's What Will Happen."

¹²² See Olivia Petter, "What Will Happen When the Queen Dies? The Operation Is Known As 'London Bridge Is Down'," *Independent*, October 16, 2020, https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/queen-elizabeth-death-dies-what-happens-uk-london-bridge-down-a8444526.html?fbclid=IwAR0xjQZvJgyEcc4piMdTQ2a4B_XFUlbc4yj4BaCBdGMzFuesQ3mZCVPkuB8.

case she dies in Norfolk, where she has one of her private mansions, the body will be carried back by a car within no longer than two days. Another potential place of her death is in Balmoral in Scotland, where she spends a quarter of the year. In this scenario, the queen will undergo a series of events, such as lie at rest in her Edinburgh's palace under a watch of military, then she will have a service at the St Giles's cathedral from where the body will be loaded at Waverley station onto the Royal Train which will bring her back to London. People are expected to spectate the train's road and throw flowers on it. In every of the mentioned scenarios the body has to return back to the throne room inside the Buckingham Palace where it will be watched by four Grenadier Guards.¹²³

The next step will be gathering of the individual television crews at the Mall, where the news will be officially announced. As mentioned earlier, this occasion is planned even from their perspective, so they have already made agreements regarding their spots. They will gather at the Mall as there are fibre-optic cables available from other events regarding the royal family. Another operation update can be seen here because Knight mentions that the news will be announced again at the Trafalgar Square by the queen's son Prince Charles who will arrive there together with several heralds. However, Ash wrote that Prince Charles will not be present there as he will be already on his way to the countries of the United Kingdom in order to meet with the leaders of Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland. After that there will be a forty-one-gun salute at the Hyde Park and more announcements will be made at the Royal Exchange and other parts of the country.¹²⁴

These are all the steps that will be taken before the queen's actual funeral. However, there are still some details that will have to be approved by Prince Charles who has to sign the documents regarding the funeral together with the eighteenth Duke of Norfolk, the Earl Marshal, who is in charge of the funeral.¹²⁵ Nevertheless, it is said that the queen herself has already planned some parts of the funeral as she has a realistic view on this inevitable situation.¹²⁶

The death will be a national tragedy without a doubt, and it will influence everyone as the queen has been on the throne for so long. What the articles cannot agree on is how long the mourning period will take. According to Wheatstone's article from June 2018, the mourning period will take twelve days. An article published by *The Week* a month later

¹²³ See Knight, "'London Bridge Is Down'."

¹²⁴ See Faria Matthews, "Operation London Bridge."

¹²⁵ See Knight, "'London Bridge Is Down'."

¹²⁶ See *The Week*, "London Bridge Is Down."

claims that the national mourning should take only ten days. Two years later an article written by Petter claims that the mourning period will indeed take twelve days. This may as well be one of the operation's updates.

2.2.1 Her Majesty's funeral

The funeral as such will be held in a day-time as it has been a norm since the 19th and the 20th century. As already mentioned, the one responsible for the funeral preparations is the Earl Marshal together with his employees. What was also mentioned was how monarchs in the past could choose what their funeral would look like, their burial place, even the successor and it was only up to the family to fulfil their wishes. Notwithstanding, this matter is now given by the protocol including the succession line, in order to prevent surprises or sudden changes of the successor. Admittedly, there is still a possibility that the queen will have a special wish regarding her funeral thus it may in the end look a little different than described above.

On the first day after the queen's death, the Westminster Hall will have to be closed down in order to prepare it for lying-in-state. The whole building will be thoroughly cleaned, a carpet will be put on the floors, and candles arranged. The surroundings will also be adapted to the situation and to the expected great number of visitors. In that moment, ten pallbearers will be selected, and they will practice for the D-day. Another reason why they have to train is that monarchs' coffins in Britain are lead-lined, which makes them quite heavy, and they cannot afford to drop the coffin at no cost during the procession.¹²⁷

On the fourth day after her passing,¹²⁸ Her Majesty's body will be carried by a horse-drawn gun carriage with the coffin draped in the Royal Standard with the Imperial State Crown on the top from the Buckingham Palace to the Westminster Hall for lying-in-state¹²⁹ in the presence of military, the attendance of officials, and mourners.¹³⁰ According to Knight, the procession will follow a route based on logistics of London Olympic Games from 2012.¹³¹

To compare with the history, lying-in-state is a mandatory step and according to Jobson it will be held for the period of three days during which everyone can visit and pay respect

¹²⁷ See Knight, "'London Bridge Is Down'."

¹²⁸ See Ash, "Here's What Will Happen."

¹²⁹ See Faria Matthews, "Operation London Bridge."

¹³⁰ See Jobson, *The Royal Family Operations Manual*, 149.

¹³¹ See Knight, "'London Bridge Is Down'."

to the queen.¹³² The access there will be granted for twenty-three hours a day.¹³³ However, articles from 2021 by Ash, Faria Matthews and Trim mention a four-day-long lying-in-state,¹³⁴ which could be seen as another update of the Operation London Bridge. During lying-in-state, Her Majesty's coffin will be watched by four bodyguards of Her Majesty and Household division,¹³⁵ and during this period, new flowers will be placed on the coffin every day.¹³⁶ It is expected that the queen will be visited by a 500 thousand people which is by many more than the queen's parents were. Her father was visited by 305 thousand people,¹³⁷ and in 2002, her mother had 200 thousand visitors.¹³⁸ There will probably be no music during lying-in-state since the music is not used during the royal funerals from the 20th century onwards.

The night before the funeral, church services will be held around the country and it is expected that football stadiums and other large premises will stay open for the services to be held there, as churches do not have such a capacity.¹³⁹ On the day of the funeral, the crown jewels will be taken down of the coffin and cleaned from the dust. Before the funeral of George VI, it took supposedly two hours to dust all the jewels properly.¹⁴⁰

Lying-in-state will end on the tenth day after her death, and the coffin will be moved to Westminster Abbey for the upcoming funeral.¹⁴¹ The Big Ben will be covered in cloth in order to reduce the noise of the bell ringing at nine o'clock in the morning. At eleven o'clock the procession will arrive to the Westminster Abbey for the actual funeral.¹⁴² During this day all the shops will be closed, or they will have shorter opening hours, and the Stock Exchange will be closed as well for the second time.¹⁴³ It is safe to say that the funeral will be watched by a lot of people and that the life in the country will stop for a moment. The funeral will be attended by all influential people from all over the world and the royal family of course, as the rule of not attending was abolished in the 19th century. The one leading the service is

¹³² See Jobson, *The Royal Family Operations Manual*, 149.

¹³³ See Knight, "'London Bridge Is Down'."

¹³⁴ See Ash, "Here's What Will Happen.", Faria Matthews, "Operation London Bridge."

¹³⁵ See Jobson, *The Royal Family Operations Manual*, 149.

¹³⁶ See Faria Matthews, "Operation London Bridge."

¹³⁷ See Knight, "'London Bridge Is Down'."

¹³⁸ See Telegraph Reporters, "What Happens When the Queen Dies?"

¹³⁹ See Faria Matthews, "Operation London Bridge."

¹⁴⁰ See Knight, "'London Bridge Is Down'."

¹⁴¹ See Telegraph Reporters, "What Happens When the Queen Dies?"

¹⁴² See Faria Matthews, "Operation London Bridge."

¹⁴³ See Knight, "'London Bridge Is Down'."

going to be the Archbishop of Canterbury, the one currently holding the position is Justin Welby.¹⁴⁴

After the funeral, the coffin will be moved again, it will continue its journey to Windsor where the interment will take place, but in order to get there it will have to be first moved to Paddington by the equerries in a presence of mourners, and military who previously attended the travel to lying-in-state. In addition, the employees and Commonwealth representatives will be present as well. The family who was present likewise, will not continue with the journey to Windsor and will let the coffin travel from Paddington station by train in a company of mourners and officials.¹⁴⁵ This has to be another updated version of the plan as Knight mentions in his article that the coffin will go to Windsor in a hearse.¹⁴⁶ The reorganized procession will continue to Windsor Castle, more specifically to the Chapel of St George, where the funeral service followed by the interment would be held. The queen's final rest place will be in the family vault where she will be buried alongside her husband Prince Philip. After the interment, the Lord Chamberlain will break his white stave as a gesture symbolizing the end of his services.¹⁴⁷

What is not mentioned is whether the queen's body will have to undergo post-mortem examination and embalming or not. It can be assumed that post-mortem examination would be performed if the cause of death is not clear, however, due to Her Majesty's age it will probably be unnecessary. There is also nothing mentioned about the viscera removal, nor post-mortem face imprint. What on the other hand could be expected, is some kind of preservation of the body as the decaying will have to be slowed down in order to undergo the funeral and all the ceremonies connected to it.

This whole occasion will be under strict protections due to the fact there will be heads of state, ministers, and large numbers of people present which could make it a potential place for a terrorist attack.¹⁴⁸

The day of the funeral as well as the day of the coronation of Prince Charles will become national holidays.¹⁴⁹

¹⁴⁴ See The Week, "London Bridge Is Down."

¹⁴⁵ See Jobson, *The Royal Family Operations Manual*, 149.

¹⁴⁶ See Knight, "'London Bridge Is Down'."

¹⁴⁷ See Jobson, *The Royal Family Operations Manual*, 149.

¹⁴⁸ See Wheatstone, "What Happens When the Queen Dies?"

¹⁴⁹ See Emily Hodgkin, "What Happens When the Queen Dies? How Soon Will the Public Know?" *Express*, December 3, 2019, https://www.express.co.uk/life-style/life/1212300/queen-elizabeth-ii-what-happens-when-the-Queen-dies?fbclid=IwAR1vcyxJjCsnDTnUV6eWXQKsit_uGPsB4Jq0KI5SvGZQOafzjYRSpOutvOw.

2.2.2 Succession

Succession is another part of the Operation London Bridge. The current United Kingdom's succession is based on The Succession to the Crown Act (2013) which replaced male primogeniture for absolute primogeniture,¹⁵⁰ meaning that from 2011 onwards children's place in the line of succession is determined only by their age and not their gender.¹⁵¹ That is why Prince William's children have their place in the line according to their age, because the oldest child, Prince George, was born in 2013, while children of Queen Elizabeth II are in the order based on the male primogeniture having Princess Anne in the line as the last sibling, even though she is the queen's second oldest child. This act also covers the issue of the Catholics' succession. The royals are Protestants and part of the Church of England, that is why Catholics have no right to the throne and thus have been excluded from the succession line, however, this act allows the heir to have at least a Catholic spouse and still have the right to become a king or queen.¹⁵² Except Catholics, other people who have no right to become monarchs are children whose parents were not married.¹⁵³

The current line of succession is in the order: Prince Charles, Prince William, Prince William's children - Prince George, Princess Charlotte, and Prince Louis. Then it continues to Prince Harry, and his son Archie Mountbatten-Windsor,¹⁵⁴ as Prince Harry and Meghan Markle are currently expecting their second child, it could be expected that their daughter will follow her brother Archie in the succession line. From here, the next in line is the family of Prince Charles's brother Prince Andrew, followed by another brother Prince Edward and his family, and lastly their sister Princess Anne with her family.¹⁵⁵

The line of succession is given which means that Prince Charles will become the new king. Unofficially, Prince Charles will become the king immediately after the queen is declared dead, this is due to the fact that in the United Kingdom there has to be a ruler at all times.¹⁵⁶ Knight mentions that there has been a lot of focus on the Prince Charles's accession to throne in the last few years.¹⁵⁷

¹⁵⁰ See History.com editors, "Royal Succession," *History.com*, updated December 2, 2019, <https://www.history.com/topics/british-history/royal-succession>.

¹⁵¹ See "Succession," The Royal Family, accessed May 1, 2021, <https://www.royal.uk/succession>.

¹⁵² See The Royal Family, "Succession."

¹⁵³ See Hodgkin, "What Happens When the Queen Dies?"

¹⁵⁴ See The Royal Family, "Succession."

¹⁵⁵ See Jobson, *The Royal Family Operations Manual*, 18.

¹⁵⁶ See Hodgkin, "What Happens When the Queen Dies?"

¹⁵⁷ See Knight, "'London Bridge Is Down'."

The moment the queen is dead, Prince Charles's siblings will come and kiss his hand. The day after, his official proclamation will be announced, and he will make a speech as the new king at St James' Palace.¹⁵⁸ Prince Charles will swear loyalty in the presence of the council to the Parliament and vice versa. In addition, he will have to swear loyalty to the Church of England.¹⁵⁹ The Garter King of Arms, currently Thomas Woodcock, will be the one proclaiming Prince Charles the king, and after that the national anthem will be played on drums by a band of Coldstream Guards. From there, a group of heralds and the Garter King of Arms will continue to the Trafalgar square where they will announce the news again.¹⁶⁰ At the same time Prince Charles will travel outside England in order to meet important government leaders in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. His official coronation will be held no longer than a year from the queen's passing.¹⁶¹

Prince Charles is expected to become the King Charles III, however, monarchs are allowed to choose their official name, so there is a possibility that he will become King Philip, Arthur, or George¹⁶² as these are his middle names. From these alternatives King George is the most probable as Prince Charles is believed to admire his predecessors with the same name, plus there is the fact, that previous kings with the name Charles were not popular.¹⁶³ Due to the fact that he can really choose one of these four names, we will have to wait for his official proclamation to know his final decision.

2.3 Issues to be resolved

There are a few issues that will have to be dealt with. The first one is that Prince Charles is not as popular as his mother. Wheatstone and an article from *The Week* mention a survey showing how many people like Prince Charles and the current queen. The queen is liked by 77 percent of respondents, while her son only by 53 percent of respondents.¹⁶⁴ That is probably why the palace is trying to slowly shift more work and duties onto him. Another reason for his increased workload is that his mother reduced traveling to foreign visits in 2013 and since then Charles has contributed more as an heir.¹⁶⁵ He also regularly meets with his mother, even though the queen is not obligated to do so, in order to discuss and share

¹⁵⁸ See Faria Matthews, "Operation London Bridge."

¹⁵⁹ See Wheatstone, "What Happens When the Queen Dies?"

¹⁶⁰ See Knight, "'London Bridge Is Down'."

¹⁶¹ See Ash, "Here's What Will Happen."

¹⁶² See The Week, "London Bridge Is Down."

¹⁶³ See Telegraph Reporters, "What Happens When the Queen Dies?"

¹⁶⁴ See Wheatstone, "What Happens When the Queen Dies?", The Week, "London Bridge Is Down."

¹⁶⁵ See The Week, "London Bridge Is Down."

information about state affairs. In addition, he meets with ministers and heads of state, and on top of that he has access to the papers of the government.¹⁶⁶

As mentioned, Prince Charles lacks in popularity which led to speculations of Prince William taking the throne after his grandmother and completely leaving his father out of the succession line. However, this situation cannot happen unless Prince Charles voluntarily abdicates,¹⁶⁷ which is not very probable as he has been waiting to become the king his whole life.

In 2019 Richard Berthelsen said that after Prince Phillip retired at the age of ninety-five the queen should do the same, she should abdicate and leave the throne to Prince Charles as he is already handling a lot of the royal affairs.¹⁶⁸ The queen celebrated her ninety-fifth birthday in April 2021 and there have been no reports about her abdication so far. However, the death of her husband Prince Phillip could greatly influence her future decisions as he was her counsellor and a great support all his life. If she decides to abdicate, Prince Charles will not become the king, but a Prince Regent. The only way for him to become a true king is after his mother's death.¹⁶⁹

The second issue is, what will happen to Camila, Prince Charles's wife. She currently possesses the title Princess Consort, which is completely meaningless according to Knight. Articles such as the one from the *Telegraph* and *Independent* call Camila the Queen, on the other hand, Hodgkin argues that Camila has no right for the title and should use the title Queen Consort instead. This should be resolved before the Queen Elizabeth's death, but it can be expected that Camila will be introduced as the queen the day Prince Charles himself becomes the king.¹⁷⁰ This matter should be taken care of with caution as it is obviously an issue among the general public whose future support of the royal couple could be greatly influenced by this decision.

The third problem according to Knight was the fact that the title the Head of the Commonwealth is not hereditary. However, there was a meeting of the heads of governments representing their countries which belong to the Commonwealth in 2018 and it was agreed

¹⁶⁶ See Jobson, *The Royal Family Operations Manual*, 18.

¹⁶⁷ See Telegraph Reporters, "What Happens When the Queen Dies?"

¹⁶⁸ See Cillian O'Brien, "Is the Queen Set to Retire in 2021? Reports Suggest Monarch Could Step Down," *CTV News*, November 28, 2019, <https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/is-the-queen-set-to-retire-in-2021-reports-suggest-monarch-could-step-down-1.4707505?cache=yxtvsdvhfyq%3FcontactForm%3Dtrue>.

¹⁶⁹ See Jobson, *The Royal Family Operations Manual*, 17.

¹⁷⁰ See Knight, "'London Bridge Is Down'."

that Prince Charles will take over the role after his mother passes away.¹⁷¹ Prince William is likely to receive the title of his father, but him becoming the Prince of Wales is also not matter of course.¹⁷²

There has been an idea circling around for a few years, which is that Australia would become completely independent and would become a republic. According to Knight's article, this idea was supported by the opposition leader and by the Prime Minister of Australia at that time. Despite the fact that Australia's Prime Minister changed in 2018, Ash's article from 2021 mentions that the idea of Australia being a Republic is still widening. If this situation occurs, there is a possibility of other countries following suit and leaving the British monarchy which would destabilize the monarchy as a whole and in the worst-case scenario it could mean a disintegration of the whole Commonwealth.

2.4 Royal Consorts

Royal consorts are important figures as they are the spouses of the monarchs.¹⁷³ They help the monarchs to represent the royal family, but also help them with state affairs, not directly in politics, but they are simply the moral support of their spouses just as a husband or wife in a marriage. The title is given to the spouse based on the British Parliamentary law. The principal for obtaining the title is the same for both genres, because only the bloodline is what matters.¹⁷⁴

For a female marrying the royal successor it would mean to match the title of her husband, that is why she would become a queen.¹⁷⁵ This is the reason why the title queen can refer to a female that married into the royal family, but also for the one who inherited the throne directly from her parents.¹⁷⁶ This is probably why are some articles commenting on Camilla becoming the queen as she could on a first glance seem like a female who has a royal blood, which is not favourable as she is not very popular. On the other hand, the title king can only refer to the reigning monarch because husband does not match his wife's title.

¹⁷¹ See Reuters, "Britain's Prince Charles Appointed Head of Commonwealth, to Succeed Queen Elizabeth II," *Firstpost*, April 20, 2018, <https://www.firstpost.com/world/britains-prince-charles-appointed-head-of-commonwealth-to-succeed-queen-elizabeth-ii-4440037.html>.

¹⁷² See Telegraph Reporters, "What Happens When the Queen Dies?"

¹⁷³ See "Consort," Dictionary.com, accessed May 1, 2021, <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/consort>.

¹⁷⁴ See Lauren Cahn, "Why Prince Phillip Wasn't King of England – Explained," *Reader's Digest*, April 9, 2021, <https://www.rd.com/article/reason-prince-phillip-isnt-king-england/>.

¹⁷⁵ See Cahn, "Why Prince Phillip Wasn't King of England – Explained."

¹⁷⁶ See Ellen Gutoskey, "Why a King's Wife Is the Queen, but a Queen's Husband Isn't the King," *Mental Floss*, updated April 9, 2021, <https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/608356/why-queens-husband-isnt-king>.

Matching the titles is not only connected to a monarch position, but to the other members of the royal family as well, that is why Kate Middleton is the Duchess of Cambridge, because she is matching her husband's title the Duke of Cambridge, and why Jack Brooksbank, who is the husband of Princess Eugenie, does not have the title of a Prince, but is called Mr. Jack Brooksbank.¹⁷⁷ The principle is simply the same. Camila's title is an exemption because she does not match her husband's title. If she did, her title would be Princess of Wales, but her title is Duchess of Cornwall which is another title Prince Charles has as the oldest son. This happened to be a result of her refusing to use the same title Princess Diana used to have as a wife of Prince Charles out of respect.¹⁷⁸ Another reason could be, that the royals do not want to anger the public that would probably not want her to share the same title as their beloved Princess Diana used to have.

Generally, the king's title is perceived as a higher ranked than the queen's.¹⁷⁹ The female spouse of the king should thus have the title Queen Consort, while the male spouse is called the Prince Consort.¹⁸⁰ The term King Consort is not used in the United Kingdom, because the title king only refers to the ruler and not to the husband of the queen, while the queen can mean two slightly different things as mentioned earlier.¹⁸¹ Queen Consort obtains the title during the official coronation of her husband the new king, but Prince Consort is not crowned together with his wife.¹⁸² So, how did Prince Phillip obtained his title Prince? His wife Elizabeth II gave him the title five years after she was crowned a queen based on issuing a letters patent.¹⁸³

2.5 The flag outside the Buckingham Palace

When the Royal Standard is seen outside the Buckingham Palace it indicates that the queen is present there. However, before Princess Diana died there was no flag flown when the queen was outside her residence. The princess's death led to the change as public complained

¹⁷⁷ See Cahn, "Why Prince Phillip Wasn't King of England – Explained."

¹⁷⁸ See Temi Adebawale, "Why Camilla Doesn't Use the Title 'Princess of Wales'," *Town & Country*, August 13, 2018, <https://www.townandcountrymag.com/society/tradition/a22652902/camilla-parker-bowles-princess-of-wales-title/>.

¹⁷⁹ See Samantha Grindell and Mikhaila Friel, "Prince Philip Was Never King Despite Marrying Queen Elizabeth II. Here's Why," *Business Insider*, April 9, 2021, <https://www.insider.com/why-prince-philip-was-never-king-2021-4>.

¹⁸⁰ See Dictionary.com, "Consort."

¹⁸¹ See Caroline Halleman, "The Moment Philip Became a British Prince – And Why He Wasn't the King," *Town & Country*, April 4, 2021, <https://www.townandcountrymag.com/society/tradition/a12775104/why-is-prince-philip-not-king/>.

¹⁸² See Grindel and Friel, "Prince Philip Was Never King Despite Marrying Queen Elizabeth II."

¹⁸³ See Cahn, "Why Prince Phillip Wasn't King of England – Explained."

about not lowering the Royal Standard when Diana died. Unfortunately, this would not be possible for two reasons, the first one was that Her Majesty was not in the Buckingham Palace at the time of Diana's death which meant there was no flag being flown on the Buckingham Palace in the first place. The second one was that the Royal Standard cannot be lowered even if the royal would have died, because the Royal Standard is instantly changed for the Royal Standard of the heir. This led to the change of the rule, the Royal Standard is changed for the Union Jack when the queen leaves the Buckingham Palace, so in the case of someone's death in the royal family it could be flown at half-mast.¹⁸⁴

When Her Majesty dies not only the flag on the Buckingham Palace will be lowered, but the flags will be flown at half-mast around the whole country,¹⁸⁵ however, it is not mentioned if it will only be for the day of her death, for the whole national mourning period, or for longer.

2.6 Currency and other everyday items

As a representative of the country, the monarch is portrayed on several everyday items, one of them being the currency. Until 1280, the coins were only silver, and they just contained the name of the reigning monarch. The gold sterling was invented during the reign of Henry VII in the 15th century, and it contained the portrait of the ruler. The motive behind this was practicality and also propaganda as the monarch wanted to be recognised by all of his people.¹⁸⁶

Direction to which the monarch is facing on the coins is not random, the rule determining the side which the monarch is facing started with Charles II, and since then the sides have been changing with every other monarch. This rule was, however, disrupted by Edward VIII who wanted his portrait to face right which gives us three monarchs facing left in a row. Due to this the Queen Elizabeth II is facing right on the coins. If this rule is applied in the future, Prince Charles will have his portrait facing left on the coins. The coins have had five different designs since the beginning of the queen's reign in 1952, and the changes were made in years 1968, 1985, 1998, and the latest one in 2015.

The queen's portrait is also on the banknotes, making her the only monarch in history, because this tradition began in 1960.¹⁸⁷ In contrast with the coins, the queen is facing left on

¹⁸⁴ See Jobson, *The Royal Family Operations Manual*, 149.

¹⁸⁵ See Wheatstone, "What Happens When the Queen Dies?"

¹⁸⁶ See Jobson, *The Royal Family Operations Manual*, 59.

¹⁸⁷ See Jobson, *The Royal Family Operations Manual*, 59.

the current banknotes in circulation. The banknotes have been changed the most, as an example, the latest banknote update was done to £20 note on February 20, 2020.¹⁸⁸

Another everyday item that bears the queen's portrait are the stamps, they show the queen with a diamond crown always facing left, and since their issue in 1967 they have not been changed for forty years. But in 2002, five commemorative stamps were issued as a celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the queen's enthronement.¹⁸⁹ Further changes of stamps and currency will be most likely done with the onset of a new ruler.

The switching of portraits, or potentially initials, from the Queen Elizabeth II to the King Charles on stamps, money and post boxes will happen in the upcoming months after the funeral, the change will be gradual as it is not possible to change everything overnight.¹⁹⁰ The currency with the portrait of the queen will be in circulation for some time until its complete withdrawal. Except these items, passports and uniforms of police and military will have to be changed as well. In addition, the words of the national anthem "God save the Queen" will be replaced by "God save the King".¹⁹¹

¹⁸⁸ See "Current Banknotes," Bank of England, last updated April 1, 2021, <https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/banknotes/current-banknotes>.

¹⁸⁹ See Jobson, *The Royal Family Operations Manual*, 59–61.

¹⁹⁰ See Telegraph Reporters, "What Happens When the Queen Dies?"

¹⁹¹ See Ash, "Here's What Will Happen."

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, royal funerals evolved throughout the history as trends were changing, such as the day-time and night-time funerals and more private and ostentatious public funerals. Major influence on funerals were the successors or other relatives, but not really the monarchs themselves. Interment places were also not really set, and in several cases, places were switched after the burial, usually due to poor condition of the tombs, which were results of either raids or they were simply damaged by time.

Thanks to protocols that were gradually put in place, funerals and other important events following the death of the monarch, certain stability was established, leaving little space for any kind of inconvenience or chaos. Nowadays, everything is prepared, arranged for, and rehearsed. Everyone is informed and knowledgeable about the processes which definitely lifts a burden off everyone involved.

Sources concerning this topic were quite limited as most of the authors wrote about funerals in a certain time periods and not about their evolution as a whole. Comparing the present with the past was also not easy as the last royal funeral took place almost seventy years ago. The conditions and the society have changed significantly and so has the position of the royal family. The role of the monarch has become much more ceremonial and their death will not endanger the stability of the country, although it will undeniably be felt. The reason being that the country is run by the government. This allows more space to focus on the proceedings and ceremonies surrounding monarch's passing.

Another issue was that there were no official publications about the Operation London Bridge, it was merely covered by news articles, however, this could be due to the fact that the operation was not disclosed to public for decades and the world has only been learning about it.

What is left to see now is to what extent the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II will follow all the steps mentioned in this thesis, how much Prince Charles will amend the funeral preparations or respect his mother's wishes, and what the actual funeral will look like.

What I am also curious about is the action the new monarchs will take in the years to come, taking into consideration that Prince Charles is over seventy years old, he will probably not change the monarchy too much and he is quite likely to keep the monarchy in approximately the same state as it is now. The true change could come with Prince William as he is young and could modernize the monarchy to match the requirements of the present day. Will this affect the funeral affairs of the future monarchs is yet to be seen.

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