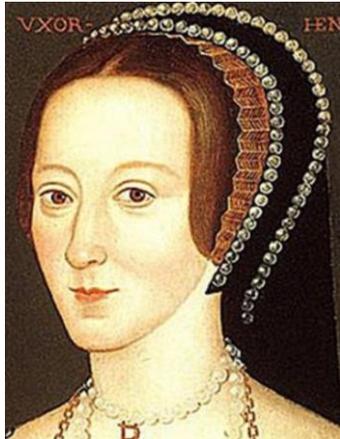


I thought I'd tell you today about QUEEN ELIZABETH I – not Queen Elizabeth II, who is our current Queen, but Queen Elizabeth I, who was born in 1533 and died in 1603. She was the daughter of KING HENRY VIII. Henry VIII was very keen to have a son to succeed him as King, and as a result was very unhappy with his wife CATHERINE OF ARAGON, as she had only given him one daughter, MARY, and no son. So Henry VIII divorced Catherine of Aragon - and that created a



huge number of problems that still affect us today - and married ANNE BOLEYN, who was one of Catherine of Aragon's maids of honour. Nine months after she married Henry VIII, Anne Boleyn gave birth to ELIZABETH, and that's the Elizabeth who would



eventually become Queen Elizabeth I. But becoming Queen was a difficult journey for her. Henry VIII was furious that Anne Boleyn hadn't produced a son to succeed him, but only another daughter, and was easily persuaded by his adviser THOMAS CROMWELL to get rid of Anne

Boleyn by having her executed. That happened in 1536, just three years after Anne Boleyn got married to Henry VIII - so Elizabeth was less than three years old when she lost her mother. Henry VIII then got married to JANE SEYMOUR, who finally gave him the son he had always wanted and who became KING EDWARD VI after Henry VIII died in 1547. But Edward VI was not that healthy and he died just six years later in 1553. Now that Henry VIII's son was dead, and it was the turn of Henry VIII's daughters to rule England. Mary, as the first born, was first up became QUEEN MARY I. She proved to be a pretty disastrous queen, and fortunately only reigned (pronounced 'rained') for five years, dying in 1558. She had had no children, so it was finally turn of Elizabeth to become queen at the age of 25.

Queen Elizabeth I would reign (pronounced 'rain') for 45 years, and those years are generally regarded as a GOLDEN AGE for England. She did face problems: there were constant threats that either FRANCE or SPAIN would invade England and overthrow her. But as you know from my email on Monday about WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR, England has not been invaded and conquered since 1066, and Elizabeth I managed to keep that record intact during her reign. The Spanish sent a large army on ships - called THE SPANISH ARMADA - to invade England in 1588, but storms and the English navy completely destroyed the Armada. The French may have planned to invade England from the north, from Scotland, where MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS reigned, but those plans were prevented when Elizabeth had Mary imprisoned and executed, just like Elizabeth's mother had been. But by the end of her reign, England was richer and more powerful than it had ever been, helped in part by the voyages of Elizabeth's SEA DOGS - in particular, SIR WALTER RALEIGH and SIR FRANCIS DRAKE - in raiding Spanish ships for treasure and exploring the NEW WORLD of America, that had been discovered by CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS in 1492, and claiming most of the East Coast of America for England (which is where the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA came from - see my 'On this day (2)' email about the end of the American Civil War). Elizabeth's England was also renowned as a centre of culture and civilisation. In particular, the greatest writer who ever lived - WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (who I will tell you about in another email) - wrote most of his plays while Queen Elizabeth I was on the throne.

This is a good clip from the (otherwise rubbish) film 'Elizabeth: The Golden Age'

https://youtu.be/IMpigAUQt_4?t=33

That film was a sequel to the brilliant film 'Elizabeth' - and this is the end of that film (you get a bit of music from Mozart's Requiem in this clip):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8xN_89uynqw