



A Queen's Jewellery Box

- 50 years on the throne told through jewellery

*From 14 January to 23 October 2022
Amalienborg Museum, Christian VIII's Palace*

In 2022, the Royal Danish Collection celebrates the 50th anniversary of Her Majesty the Queen's ascension to the throne with the special exhibition 'A QUEEN'S JEWELLERY BOX – 50 years on the throne told through jewellery'. The exhibition is held at the Amalienborg Museum in Christian VIII's Palace at Amalienborg and is open from 14 January to 23 October 2022.

The Queen has a large collection of jewellery which she uses actively and deliberately – and with great care and consideration. To Her Majesty, jewellery is not just jewellery. Each piece is a symbol, imbued with memories, friendships, continuity, life as Denmark's reigning monarch for 50 years and 50 years of Danish history.

For the first time, the exhibition presents a selection of more than 200 well-known and lesser-known pieces of jewellery from the Queen's collection. Each piece carries a story and references to one or several private or official events during the Queen's 50-year reign.

One of the items in the exhibition is the brooch the Queen wore when her ascension to the throne was announced on the balcony at Christiansborg Palace on 15 January 1972, the day after the death of Frederik IX. The brooch, which is in the shape of a horseshoe, was a gift to Princess Margrethe from her father, Frederik IX, in 1953, after he had signed the revised Constitution that made her his successor.

Another iconic piece is the Daisy brooch, which is a gift from Queen Ingrid on Queen Margrethe's 60th birthday in 2000. Queen Ingrid had been given the brooch in connection with her wedding in 1935 as a gift from her father, the later King Gustaf VI Adolf of Sweden. She had lent it to Princess Margrethe for her wedding to Prince Henrik in 1967. The many diamonds in the brooch previously belonged to Queen Ingrid's mother, Crown Princess Margareta of Sweden, who had passed away in 1920, at just 38 years of age. In the family, Margareta was called 'Daisy', a reference to Margaret/marguerite, and both the name and the pet name were passed on to the granddaughter. The Queen wears the Daisy brooch for special family events, most recently at Prince Christian's confirmation in the chapel at Fredensborg Palace on 15 May 2021.

Prince Henrik gave his wife many beautiful gifts, often jewellery created by Danish goldsmiths or acquired on travels abroad. A particularly beautiful example is the gift he gave the Queen for the couple's silver wedding anniversary in 1992. On commission from the Prince, the Danish goldsmith Torben Hardenberg created this beautiful and symbolically charged three-strand pearl necklace with rubies and small gold figures.

The Queen has access to a large collection of historic jewellery that has been passed on in the family. The collection is secured in the Danish Royal Property Trust, which was established in 1910. The Queen has exclusive right of disposal and use of the pieces in the trust, including the Pearl Poire set, which is worn at important official events. The jewellery set, which may be regarded as the Queen's signature jewellery,



was brought to Denmark by the Swedish-Norwegian Princess Lovisa, who married Crown Prince Frederik (VIII) in 1869. It is an imposing set consisting of a tiara, a necklace, earrings and two brooches and is named after the large pear-shaped pearls. Today, the pieces are considered a set, although they were not originally designed as such. For example, the necklace was a gift to Lovisa in connection with her wedding to Crown Prince Frederik. The Pearl Poire set is probably the most frequently used sets of the many that are at the Queen's disposal. As the crown jewels cannot leave the country, she often wears it at important events abroad, including at the wedding of Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden in 2010.

Not all the pieces in the exhibition feature imposing pearls, rubies, diamonds, sapphires or other precious stones. The Queen has many pieces of jewellery that she wears because of their colour. Many of them were purchased by the Queen herself on travels or longer stays – for example on her summer holiday in the town of Gråsten in southern Jutland, where the Queen spotted a pair of large deep-blue plastic earrings in a local Matas chemist shop. The plastic earrings are also included in the exhibition.

The exhibition also shows many of the pieces of jewellery that the Queen has received from organizations, institutions and municipalities in connection with visits round the country, birthdays or anniversaries. The jewellery is contemporary, has a local story and is often made by local artists.

As an exceptional feature, the Queen has agreed personally to narrate the Danish version of the exhibition audio guide. With this audio guide in hand, visitors can thus hear the Queen's own commentary on selected events and pieces of jewellery throughout the exhibition.

In connection with the exhibition at the Amalienborg Museum, there will be a series of talks on topics related to the Golden Jubilee, the jewellery collection, jewellery design and the history of the collection. The presentation programme will be published on this website.

The exhibition curator, Museum Director Thomas C. Thulstrup of the Royal Danish Collection, says,

‘The Queen's Golden Jubilee is a historic event that we at the Royal Danish Collection wish to celebrate with an exhibition that highlights a particular form of communication for the Queen that many may not be aware of. To the Queen, jewellery is not just a decorative element that has to match a given dress or outfit. As it is for all of us, the Queen's jewellery represents memories, recollections, acts, friendships and continuity. When she wears a particular piece of jewellery it contains a reference to these memories. In other words, nothing is left to chance when the Queen chooses what jewellery to wear for a particular occasion. The jewellery speaks a language of its own. It is this language that we aim to explore with the exhibition “A QUEEN'S JEWELLERY BOX”. An exhibition the Royal Danish Collection is honoured to present, not least because all the jewellery in it is in regular use.’

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