

Queens of England Series

Thank you for considering submitting a book proposal to the *Queens of England* series at Routledge. We have put together this document in order to answer any questions you may have about writing your proposal, about the series criteria, and about the process and timescales involved for peer review and approval. If, before you prepare your proposal, you have any questions regarding the content of this document, please feel free to correspond with us, at the e-mail addresses provided below.

The proposal you submit will be the basis on which we and the peer reviewers assess your book's suitability for publication. We therefore request that you organize it as outlined below, so as to provide us with the information that we need. Your cooperation in following these recommendations will ease the task of evaluation.

Thank you, and we look forward to receiving your proposal.

All best wishes,

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Series Editors, Queens of England

Series Criteria

This series will provide a comprehensive, academic biography for each of the queens of England. While some queens have been the focus of both academic and popular biographies, many queens across all periods of English history have been overlooked or lack an up-to-date, rigorous examinations of their lives. This series will address this gap and aims to provide scholarly, yet approachable biographies.

A key aim of the series is to not only add to existing scholarship on more well-known queens, shedding new light on them by bringing together new, original research from documentary sources and historiographical debates on how their lives have been interpreted and presented. It also aims to bring to light the fascinating but often overlooked women who formed an important part of our national history. The series will encompass both regnant and consort queens as well as women who were nearly queens but for the vagaries of fate such as Charlotte, Princess of Wales, Sophia Dorothea of Celle and the Empress Matilda.

All the biographies in this series will be more than 'traditional' biographies; they will be framed to contextualize queens in terms of the political landscape that they lived in and explore the full parameters of the office of queen in terms of their image, their lifestyle, their resources, their cultural, religious and political patronage, and their relationships both with the royal court and family and with their subjects and peers. We want the authors in our series to connect with the key aspects of queenship and the queen's engagement with the political and cultural dynamic of their period as well as exploring the full lifecycle of their figure and their short and long-term legacy. In this way, the books in this series will be relevant to a wide audience from those interested in these

particular women and queenship studies to those who are engaged in political, diplomatic and cultural history as well as court and gender studies.

Books in the series should be around 70,000 – 100,000 words, including references, endnotes and bibliography.

Writing your proposal

We would suggest that your proposal should be between three-to-six pages in length and should address these four main areas:

1. A statement of aims, of about three to four paragraphs, outlining the rationale behind the book

- What is your book about?
- What are its main themes and objectives?
- What does it do differently, or more innovatively, or better than existing books?

2. A detailed synopsis and chapter headings with an indication of length and schedule for completing the manuscript

- Please list working chapter headings and provide a paragraph of explanation on what you intend to cover in each chapter. A list of chapter headings alone is not sufficient for a meaningful review.
- How many tables, diagrams or illustrations will there be (roughly)?
- What is the estimated length of the book? Does this include references and footnotes?
- When do you anticipate being able to deliver the completed typescript? Please be as realistic as possible; we are flexible.

3. A description of the target market

- To whom will your book appeal? Who will read it and in what contexts?
- In what kinds of courses both undergraduate and postgraduate might it be used?
- In this context, do you anticipate that the book will be used as core reading in a course, or a book that will be assigned as recommended reading, or both?
- What kinds of scholars, both specific to your field and outside it, will read this book?

Is the subject area of the proposal widely taught, or researched? What will this book offer the above constituencies that is new and innovative?

4. A list of the main competing books

We would like to know that you are familiar with competition for your proposed book. What books are currently available that would meet or overlap with your goals and the goals of the series? What are the strengths and weaknesses of key competing titles? What makes your book significantly different from, or better than, the competition?

Timescales

Proposal evaluation, peer review and approval timescale

Once we have received your proposal we will assess whether the book it proposes meets the series criteria and whether there is a sufficient market for it. We would endeavor to complete this assessment and respond to you within one to two weeks of receiving your proposal.

If our assessment is positive, we will forward the proposal together with that assessment to the history editor at the press, Lydia de Cruz, who will then send it out for peer review. With our input, she will ask respected academic specialists in the field to independently evaluate the content, quality and potential market for a finished book based on your proposal. Routledge normally solicits three to four such reports. This process can take about six to eight weeks, but may take longer, depending on the time of year and the ease with which we find suitable referees.

Once the referees' reports are returned, Lydia will send them on to you with our comments. We will then ask you to respond to the reviews and provide the details of any revisions/additions you would wish to make; we ask that if possible this be returned to us and Lydia within one to three weeks of receiving the reviews. Once we have your response to the reviews, Lydia will put together a proposal to submit to the Routledge editorial board for approval, which can take between two and four weeks.

If the editorial board approves your proposal then Lydia will inform you immediately, and you will be sent a contract within one week.