

Queen Beatrix

January 28th, 2013

In a few hours our Queen will announce her own retirement. People think she will give the Royal Crown to her son this April 30th. That day she will have been Queen for exactly 33 years!

January 31st 2013 she will become 75 years of age. For sure she earns her retirement to slow down the last years of her (hopefully) healthy life. On the other hand we regret it. At this moment there are only 3 Queens in the entire world: Denmark, Great Britain and the Netherlands. This will end.

This year the Netherlands will celebrate being a Kingdom for 200 years.

Willem I	1815-1840
Willem II	1840-1849
Willem III	1849-1890
Queen Wilhelmina	1890-1948
Queen Juliana	1948-1980
Queen Beatrix	1980-2013



Queen Beatrix and her son and adherent Prins Willem-Alexander

200 years? The very first King was Napoleon Bonaparte. But his Kingdom, the Kingdom of Holland, was much bigger than the Netherlands. In 1815 the Kingdom of the Netherlands was established with King Willem I, being its first King.

1890-1998. Princess Wilhelmina was only 10 years of age when her father died, King Willem III, leaving her the Royal Crown. Her first 8 years she was represented by her mother, Queen Emma, because she was simply too young. Emma was not our official Queen, but only a temporary ruler. At her 18th birthday Emma had to step back and Queen Wilhelmina had to take full responsibility.

After Queen Wilhelmina we got another Queen, her daughter, Queen Juliana. She had to leave the Netherlands during WWII, but the rest of her 32 years being our Queen, she was always there for us. During Queens day April 30th 1980 she retired, getting older her strength was decreasing, to leave the Royal Crown to her daughter Princess Beatrix who became our (present) Queen.

So now we will have a King after 123 years being ruled by a Queen: King Willem III (??*) His first born is a girl, Princess Amalia (like his second and third). In a few years of time we will have a Queen again! (He is already 46 years of age.)

*. Prins Willem–Alexander has to choose an official name being King. Will it be King Willem III or King Willem–Alexander or perhaps King Alexander? The future will tell.



From left to right:

Princess Ariane

Princess Maxima** (the wife of Prins Willem–Alexander our next King)

Princess Alexia

Prins Willem–Alexander our next King (April 30th 2013)

Princess Amalia (hopefully our next Queen somewhere in the future)

** Queen Beatrix was married to Prins Claus. He never became a King. We love strange rules so: Princess Maxima will be a Queen just because she is married to Willem–Alexander. Next April he will be crowned King and she will be a Queen..... Strange!