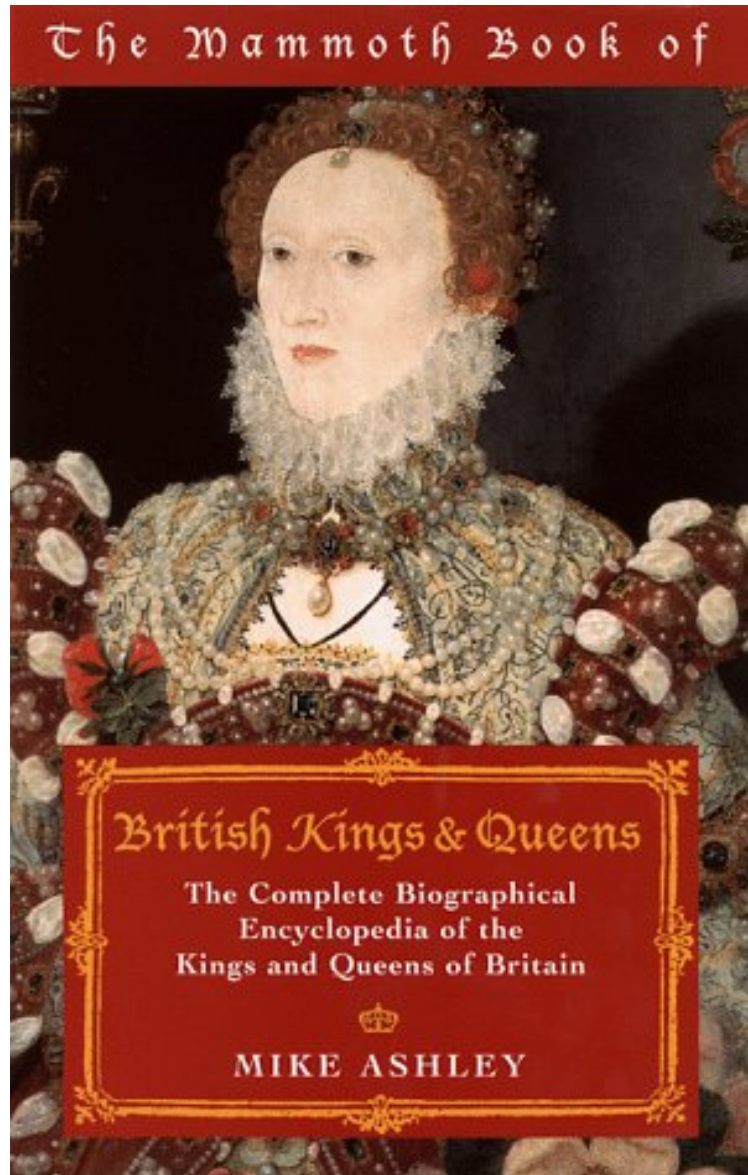


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Mike Ashley

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Mike Ashley : The Mammoth Book of Kings and Queens of Britain and Ireland (The Mammoth Book Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Mammoth Book of Kings and Queens of Britain and Ireland (The Mammoth Book Series):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The most used reference book in my personal library. And it shows!

The poor thing, so tattered and worn...By Laura ProbstI can't say I'm finished with this because this is a book I find myself constantly picking up to peruse, to fact-check a show I'm watching or book I'm reading, or to help me untangle the complicated, intertwined royal family so I can figure out where a particularly squicky nephew fits into the line of succession. I can flip to any point, start reading, and find myself completely engrossed in the intrigue, treachery, backstabbing, plotting, betrothals and marriages, dynastic takeovers and takedowns, and other assorted shenanigans that take place whenever a crown and an important plot of land is involved. Each short biography is packed with information, enough to give a general overview of the monarch while whetting the appetite to know more (helpfully guided by the extensive bibliography at the back). Additionally there are numerous genealogical charts (including several side charts detailing those royal children born on the wrong side of the blanket, their offspring as well as their descendants; it's amazing how many bastards circled back around and became the ancestors of legitimate kings and queens), helpful timelines, and a fascinating section at the front called "The Royal Book of Records" which is full of lists like The Most Gruesome or Unusual Deaths, The Shortest Royal Marriages, and The Monarchs with the Most Children. While a little bit of author bias creeps in here and there, considering this book represents 2000 years of British regal history and covers nearly a thousand monarchs, it's quite an excusable slip considering you won't find this kind of exhaustive and invaluable reference material packed into any other single, relatively compact book. Honestly, I wish he done a similar reference tome for the royals of France as they're quite the tricky bunch to figure out! I've read and handled my copy so many times, it's nearly been worn to shreds. I'm going to have to buy another copy soon, maybe this time get a hardback edition so that it might stand up to the repetitive handling better. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Most complete and interesting record of British's rulers ever compiled By Rita Reynolds We had been watching The Tudors and Reign on TV and wanted to know more information on English royalty. This book gave us all the information we were curious about plus much more. It tells about a 1000 monarchs. It tells the stories of the rulers and their people, their victories and their defeats, their alliances and their enemies. The book also gives the threads from which the unity and diversity of Britain is woven. This book is a must for anyone who wants to study British history. In this magnificent reference work, the author presents an exhaustive and immensely rich collection of every recorded royal ruler. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A British History and Monarchy Buff's Happy Place By Tnafbrat I listened to Ashley's "A Brief History of British King's and Queens" through Audible. I enjoyed it so much, I purchased it in the DTB (dead tree version) and went on to purchase this one for my Kindle. This pretty much an expanded version of "Brief History". It is presented in a timeline fashion and is awesome for following that historical line. So many kings and their queens have the same names and I kept getting them confused. Think about it, count the number of Edwards, Henry's, Richards, James', Eleanors, (C)Katherines, Annes and Mary'. Throw in a few Aethel.....'s and it's easy to get lost. These two books have put them into perspective and I love it.

Organized chronologically, a uniquely comprehensive, illustrated record of the kings and queens of Britain and Ireland covers more than one thousand monarchs, rulers, nobles, and dignitaries and two millennia of history, along with genealogies showing the descent of all the leading royal dynasties."

From Booklist The result of some 30 years of research by a prolific writer on British royalty, this chronology provides biographical information on more than 1,000 sovereigns from approximately 100 B.C. to Elizabeth II, a period of more than 2,000 years. The volume opens with "The Royal Book of Records," consisting of such lists as the longest and shortest reigns, the youngest monarchs to die, and the oldest monarchs to be married. Ashley points out that most chronologies of the British monarchy start with Egbert (802[^]-839). He believes, however, that there is sufficient credibility in Welsh legend to accept the authenticity of the Beli Mawr, a semi-legendary British king who was probably a historical figure, as the starting point for this survey, which is divided into three sections: "The Dark Ages" (from around 100 B.C. to around 900), "The Fight for Britain" (from around 900 to 1300), and "Uniting the Kingdom" (from 1300 to the present). Each section has numerous letter-coded subsections in order to cover all of the kingdoms and royal houses that by the Act of Union in 1707 formally brought Scotland, England, and Wales together into a United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Biographical entries, supported throughout with time lines, maps, and family trees, vary in length from a line or two to several pages. They are current to at least August 1997 and the death of Diana. Longer entries critically assess the king or queen's reign. Concluding the chronological survey is a section called "The World Around Them," containing biographies of legendary or semi-historical kings of Britain and Scotland; and charts for other kingdoms in Europe whose rulers either had some dominion over Britain or vice versa. This is followed by a gazetteer of sites with a strong royal connection, a bibliography (current to 1997), and an index. Written in a lively style and covering more than 2,000 years and 1,000 monarchs (more than any previous compilation), The Mammoth Book of British Kings and Queens will be a useful resource for academic and public libraries. "A unique Domesday Book of the British monarchy. A reference work without peers" -- Peter Berresford Ellis