This series features academic, yet accessible biographies of royal women - consorts, dowagers, royal mothers and female sovereigns - inclusive of all periods, cultures and geographic regions. These biographies include a deep engagement with the premise of queenship studies and the exercise of the queen’s office (or equivalent), in addition to covering the lives of particular women. The series recognizes that different countries, cultures, monarchical structures had different titles, thus using the term ‘royal women’ not only encompasses queens and empresses but is useful for polygamous court structures. Such an approach allows us to consider important concubines/consorts and queen mothers who were often the most powerful women at court, as in the situation of Ottoman Valide sultans or in African monarchies. We are also willing to include women who were nearly queens, such as failed female claimants or the wives of heirs who predeceased their fathers, as well as welcoming combined biographies where appropriate.

The series, however, has a special emphasis on biography given the connection to the Routledge Historical Biographies series which means that collections or thematic works are excluded from our remit. We aim to provide scholarly and engaging biographies for all royal women, with a view to offering fresh portrayals of the lives of well-known figures as well as illuminating the lives of women who have often been overlooked by historians or who are little known outside of their native lands. Taken together these biographies will not only expand our knowledge of royal women but the crucial female aspect of monarchy itself. The series is divided into three sub-strands: Queens of England; Queens and Empresses of Europe; and Royal Women of the World.

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