

## **Lives of Royal Women**

Thank you for considering submitting a book proposal to the *Lives of Royal Women* 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, Lives of Royal Women

### **Series Criteria**

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;
- ❖ Royal Women of the World.

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)?
- Roughly how many thousand words in length will your book be? 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, Laura Pilsworth, 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, Laura 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 Laura within one to three weeks of receiving the reviews. Once we have your response to the reviews, Laura 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 Laura will inform you immediately, and you will be sent a contract within one week.

The timescale from contract to delivery of the manuscript is negotiable, however in general it is between 2-3 years from the date of contract.

#### Production timescale

Izzy Voice, Editorial Assistant (who works with Laura) will be in regular contact with you throughout the writing progress, in case you have any questions, and Izzy would start the discussions for your cover a month before our agreed delivery date.

When we received your manuscript, on your agreed delivery date, it would be handed to our production team within a month (as long as there were no permissions issues).

The production process takes 7 months. The Production Editor assigned to your book would contact you with a detailed schedule of the process within the first week of your book going into production. However, in general you should receive the proofs of your book 2-3 months into the production process and will be give approx. 4 weeks to make any corrections and to prepare the index (if applicable).

#### **Preparing your manuscript**

##### Referencing

- Chicago endnotes at the end of the chapter
- a maximum of 40-50 references per chapter
- a full bibliography at the end of the book divided into separate sections for 'unprinted primary sources', 'printed primary sources', and 'secondary sources'

For additional guidance please see the Routledge guidelines for authors - (under Publishing Guidelines)- <https://www.routledge.com/our-customers/authors/publishing-guidelines>