Elizabeth Schneider

Title: “Game of Queens”
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Deborah Bauer
Paper written for: History B345: History of Espionage (Fall 2017)

Elizabeth Schneider is a Senior at IPFW, pursuing a Bachelor’s degree in History. She has worked at Parkview full time for the last seven years. After her third year there she realized that telemetry monitoring (providing remote surveillance of patient’s cardiac rhythms for the nurses and doctors) was not destined to be her life’s work. She returned to school for her true calling in history. She has discovered a fascination with monarchies and the way that they run, but she has also come to hold the colonial period of American History close to her heart. She is scheduled to graduate May 2019, and is excited to start the search for her niche in the study of history.

Abstract

“Game of Queens” is a reflection of how monarchs, queens especially, survived over the centuries; how they were able to combat their enemies and stay in power. It focuses on several queens – Elizabeth I of England, Mary Queen of Scots, Isabella of Castile, and Catherine de Medici of France – and how they were able to display prominence in a male-dominated world. While a king’s power went unquestioned due to his birthright as a male, the queens faced closer scrutiny and suspicion. This paper provides an analysis of how queens throughout history worked to negotiate ways to keep the power they had as well as keep their king in power. While some were successful, other queens would pay with their lives. This paper is about the real-life game of chess these women played and their legacy built into the survival of the monarchies throughout time.

Bibliographical Note

For the most part I used secondary sources such as books and journals and then used their list of primary sources to look further into details. Some books that I found particularly interesting include: Isabella: The Warrior Queen by Kristin Downey, Jane Dunn’s Elizabeth and Mary: Cousins, Rivals, Queens, Robert Massie’s Catherine the Great, as well as Louis XIV by Anthony Levi. A good article that I found online, which I highly recommend, is “A Stable of Whores? The Flying Squadron of Catherine De Medici” by Una Mcilvenna.