

Volume 10

Number 017

Spanish Armada - I

Lead: By the mid-1580s Philip II of Spain had had enough. He determined to destroy his heretical sister-in-law Elizabeth and bring her backward, troublesome little island kingdom to heel.

Intro.: *A Moment in Time* with Dan Roberts.

Content: Philip of Spain always had high hopes for Elizabeth. He had, after all, been her brother-in-law, married to Mary Tudor, her older sister. Mary's rule was short, however, and the queen died before

she and Philip could produce the Catholic heir that might, over time, have restored stubborn England to the true faith. Philip didn't like the English and they returned the compliment. Nevertheless, he hoped that when Mary died and Elizabeth took her place in 1558, he might win her hand and continue to pull England back out of Protestantism. A marriage would also maintain the European balance of power thus keeping France at a diplomatic disadvantage. Unfortunately, Elizabeth understood that marriage to Philip would drag England into continental disputes on the side of Spain, but more importantly, insure her power as a female ruler would be compromised in a marriage.

Therefore, she parried Philip's advances as she did the long line of suitors that tried to ensnare her heart and her throne.

As part of his campaign to win her affections Philip was a good friend to the new Queen. He interceded on her behalf in the aftermath of Wycliffe's rebellion against Mary in 1554 deflecting suspicion that Elizabeth might have been disloyal and after Mary's death supported Elizabeth against the claims of Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots, her great rival for the English throne. Yet, by 1560 it was clear that Elizabeth, was committed to a Protestant England and was toying with him. From that point on Spain and England were to become

**the bitterest of enemies. Next time:
the heart and stomach of a king.**

**At the University of Richmond,
this is Dan Roberts.**

Resources

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“The Spanish Armada,”

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