

Script

I am Queen Christina of Sweden, born in 1626 to King Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden and Maria Eleonora of Brandenburg. My father was elated with the thought of an heir even though I always felt my mother was disappointed that I had been born a girl.<sup>1</sup> On my first birthday, my father named me his rightful heir. He was able to name me, a female child his heir due to a pact my great grandfather, Gustavus I, had made stating that if a king should die without a male heir, the crown could pass to an unmarried daughter. When I was only six my father was killed in a battle in Germany, part of the thirty-year war. "I was such a child that I knew neither my misfortune nor future"<sup>2</sup> King Gustavus Adolphus left instructions for my education that were unusual for our time. My father had asked his trusted friend Axel Baner to raise me as a boy in every respect, even physical training.<sup>3</sup> It is rumored that when I was first born I was announced as a male heir.<sup>4</sup> When my father realized I was really a girl child he commanded that I be trained and educated as a prince.<sup>5</sup> This plan agreed wonderfully with my own intentions.<sup>6</sup> I was to learn literature, mathematics, geography, politics, history and even the skill of the sword.<sup>7</sup> When I take the throne in 1670, I am crowned as if I were the king.<sup>8</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Clarke, *"The making of a Queen"* (History today, 1978). Some facts are still disputed today.

<sup>2</sup> Clarke, *"The making of a Queen"* (History today, 1978).

<sup>3</sup> *Encyclopedia Britannica Online*, s. v. "Christina", (2004)

<sup>4</sup> Mara M J Egherman "Queen Kristina as a Reader" (2008)

<sup>5</sup> Mara M J Egherman "Queen Kristina as a Reader" (2008)

<sup>6</sup> Clarke, *"The making of a Queen"* (History today, 1978).

<sup>7</sup> Tangran, *"Women in World History"* (Yorkin2001)722-729

<sup>8</sup> Mara M J Egherman "Queen Kristina as a Reader" (2008)

I often wake very early for I find there is so much to read and learn that I need little time for sleep.<sup>9</sup> I speak nine languages and often write my personal essays in French.<sup>10</sup> I am known for my collection of books, art works and I am even the first to own one of Pascal's calculating machines.<sup>11</sup> I hold events, which I call "Academies" where I surround myself with scholars, and we talk philosophy and mathematics, I also enjoy the topic of far off cultures. I am often referred to as "The Minerva of the North", after the Greek goddess of wisdom.<sup>12</sup> I hunt with men and enjoy the company of them.<sup>13</sup> I often feel as if I have more in common with male comrades than with the women in court.

I am a woman in power with an insatiable appetite for knowledge. In 1649, I ban witch trails stating that confessions of witchcraft by women are due to illusions or disorders of health.<sup>14</sup> Despite this, I am far from a martyr for women. I was raised as a man and often dress, as well as think like men.<sup>15</sup> My sexuality is often questioned; I have a longtime bedmate of Ebba Sparre. Although bedmates are common at this time due to our cold climate, Ebba and I share a long time intimate companionship.<sup>16</sup> We exchange much correspondence with each other and it is apparent that I have great affection for her. Ebba marries but I never will.<sup>17</sup> I was engaged to my cousin Charles but backed out of the union.<sup>18</sup>

I am rumored to have many romances with men from far off countries, in particular the ambassador to Spain. Many of my fellow country mates resent my friendships with the

---

<sup>9</sup> Clarke, *"The making of a Queen"* (History today, 1978).

<sup>10</sup> Clarke, *"The making of a Queen"* (History today, 1978).

<sup>11</sup> Stolpe Sven, *Christina of Sweden* (Macmillian1966)

<sup>12</sup> Mara M J Egherman "Queen Kristina as a Reader"(2008)

<sup>13</sup> *Encyclopedia Britannica Online*, s. v. "Christina", (2012)

<sup>14</sup> Melton, *Occultism and Parapsychology*(Gale Group2001)1515

<sup>15</sup> *Encyclopedia Britannica Online*, s. v. "Christina", (2012)

<sup>16</sup> Tangran, *"Women in World History"*(Yorkin2001)722-729

<sup>17</sup> Stolpe Sven, *Christina of Sweden* (Macmillian1966)

<sup>18</sup> Tangran, *"Women in World History"*(Yorkin200)722-729

intellectual company I keep, especially those who are Catholic. It is through my friendship with the Spanish ambassador that I begin to gain interest in Catholicism.<sup>19</sup> I think I may convert to Catholicism. My subjects are astonished by my conversion but “After all, one must have some religion or other.”<sup>20</sup>

In 1654, I convince my government to crown my cousin Charles King of Sweden.<sup>21</sup> I will have an abdication ceremony in which, I remove my crown from my own head.<sup>22</sup> I change my name to Kristina Augusta Wasa and move to Rome.<sup>23</sup> I view Rome as a center of culture and learning and what I desire most is education.<sup>24</sup> I become disillusioned with Catholicism and wish to regain my crown.<sup>25</sup> My cousin Charles has gotten used to being King and I never regain it, thereafter I am plagued with financial difficulties; I suppose I will live out the rest of my days in Italy.<sup>26</sup>

I have done so many things: fought in battles, traveled, and made great strides in academics; these are accomplishments I desire my people to remember me by. However, it is hard for men to accept all I have done academically. I will forever value the arts, literature, mathematics and philosophy, sometimes even more than my crown.

## Epilogue

Queen Christina of Sweden is often remembered as a gender confused Queen. These accusations have gone so far that in recent history her bones were exhumed for testing to see if

---

<sup>19</sup> Clarke, *“The making of a Queen”* (History today, 1978).

<sup>20</sup> Stolpe Sven, *Christina of Sweden* (Macmillian1966) some facts are still disputed today.

<sup>21</sup> *Encyclopedia Britannica Online*, s. v. "Christina", (2012)

<sup>22</sup> *Encyclopedia Britannica Online*, s. v. "Christina", (2012)

<sup>23</sup> Tangran, *“Women in World History”*(Yorkin200)722-729

<sup>24</sup> Tangran, *“Women in World History”*(Yorkin2001)722-729

<sup>25</sup> Stolpe Sven, *Christina of Sweden* (Macmillian1966) some facts are still disputed today.

<sup>26</sup> Clarke, *“The making of a Queen”* (History today, 1978).

she was intersexed.<sup>27</sup> However, she keeps them guessing and all that modern tests can prove is that she was the Queen of Sweden.<sup>28</sup> Today Queen Christina is remembered as one of the most educated women of the 1600's.<sup>29</sup> Christina's collection of books and manuscripts is now in the Vatican library. She was also renowned, for her militant protection of personal freedoms, for her charities.<sup>30</sup> She is responsible for revamping the Swedish education system, which even today is considered the best in the world.<sup>31</sup> She herself brought many philosophers, writers and mathematicians to Sweden. During these great meeting of some of the best European minds of the 1600's, she commissioned many books and artwork.<sup>32</sup>As she herself loved to read, she felt that all her subjects should have access to knowledge. These beliefs are still prevalent in Sweden where, thanks to Queen Christina, education is a high priority to all citizens. Scholars and historians both agree that she was a patron of all that is intellectual.<sup>33</sup>

Queen Christina is also remembered as an unattractive woman, with a slumped shoulder ,who made up for her lack of physical allure with a personality and education that could light up a room and stump even the best of scholars.<sup>34</sup> It is said that Queen Christina was one of the most influential women of her time; she is attributed for bringing the renaissance to Sweden. In addition to all of her accomplishments I think we can all agree that her contribution and support of the arts and education has far surpassed her time as Queen. Christina died in 1689, her tomb is in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.<sup>35</sup>

---

<sup>27</sup> *Encyclopedia Britannica Online*, s. v. "Christina",(2012)

<sup>28</sup> Tangran, "Women in World History"(Yorkin2001)722-729

<sup>29</sup> Tangran, "Women in World History"(Yorkin2001)722-729

<sup>30</sup> *Encyclopedia Britannica Online*, s. v. "Christina",(2012)

<sup>31</sup> *Encyclopedia Britannica Online*, s. v. "Christina",(2012)

<sup>32</sup> Mara M J Egherman "Queen Kristina as a Reader"(2008)

<sup>33</sup> Tangran, "Women in World History"(Yorkin2001)722-729

<sup>34</sup> Tangran, "Women in World History"(Yorkin200)722-729

<sup>35</sup> *Encyclopedia Britannica Online*, s. v. "Christina",(2012)

## Bibliography

Clark, M.L. "The Making of a Queen" *History Today* 28, (April 2001):228-235.  
Ebscohost.com.oswald.clark.edu/login.aspx=ehost-live&scope=site

*Encyclopedia Britannica Online*, s. v. "Christina", accessed June 12, 2012,  
<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/115660/Christina>

Mara M J Egherman "Queen Kristina as a Reader" *University of Iowa*. (October 2008) accessed May 28, 2012

<http://www.unomaha.edu/esc/2008Proceedings/EghermanSweden.pdf>

Stolpe Sven, "*Christina of Sweden*" New York: Macmillan, 1966

"Sweden" *Encyclopedia of Occultism and Parapsychology*, 5th ed. Vol.2 Edited by J .Gordon Melton, 1515 Detroit: Gale Group, 2001.

Tangran, Alexander "Women in World History-Christina of Sweden (1626-1689)" A Biographical Encyclopedia .Ed.Anne Commire. Vol.3. Detroit: Yorkin Publications, 2000.722-729.*Gale reference Library* Accessed. May 4, 2012

Hhttp://0-go.galegroup.com.oswald.clark.edu/ps/i.do?-GALE%