

The Marriages of Mary, Queen of Scots Was She the victim of Her Passions?

By Dr. Charles Beem, History

Mary, Queen of Scots (1542-1587) had three husbands: King Francis II of France; Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley; and James Hepburn, Earl of Bothwell. Scholars continue to debate the reasons why Mary consented to marry Darnley and Bothwell. These explanations range from the interpretation that Mary was the victim of her womanly passions to more feminist interpretations that highlight the difficulties for a woman ruling a violent and factious kingdom.

King Francis II of France



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Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley



Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley: In July 1565, Mary, aged twenty-two, married her cousin, Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley, aged nineteen, with Catholic rites. Darnley, who also had a claim to the English throne, was tall, slender, and athletic, and quickly wooed Mary. However Darnley turned out to be spoiled, petulant, and violent, and Mary soon became visibly disenchanted with him. In June 1566, Mary give birth to the future King James VI. Darnley was murdered on 10 February 1567.

James Hepburn, Earl of Bothwell



James Hepburn, Earl of Bothwell: Mary was widely perceived as colluding with the lead suspect, the Earl of Bothwell, who was acquitted in a private prosecution on April 12. A few weeks later, Bothwell kidnapped Mary while she was on her way from Stirling Castle to visit her son. Whether Bothwell raped her or she consented, an already pregnant Mary married him on May 15 with Protestant rites.

Due to her perceived involvement in Darnley's murder, on June 15, a group of Scottish noble successfully defeated Mary and Bothwell's forces at Carberry Hill and imprisoned the Queen on Loch Leven. On July 24 Mary was forced to abdicate her throne in favor of her one year old son. Soon after she miscarried twins. Mary was incarcerated for nineteen years in England before she was convicted of plotting against Elizabeth, and beheaded in 1587.

Main Points to Consider

The Traditional View: Mary Queen of Scots was the victim of her womanly passions, which explains why she made such disastrous choices for husbands, which ultimately led to her deposition. Mary's failure as queen is usually contrasted with Elizabeth I's ability to tame her feminine nature and rule England successfully.

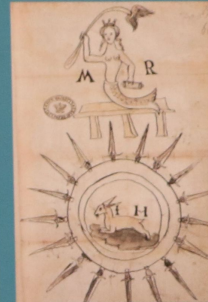
There are a number of contemporary revisionist schools of thought concerning Mary, Queen of Scots:

John Guy: While Guy is a highly respected Tudor scholar, his interpretation of Mary as a spirited and intellectual queen, every bit the equal of Elizabeth I, tries too hard to reinvent Mary as a successful queen as he acquits Mary of any complicity in Darnley's death.

Jenny Wormald: Wormald removes gender as an analytic strategy to assess Mary's performance as a monarch, concluding she lacked the ability to comprehend political reality at key moments of her queenship, such as the decisions to marry Darnley and Bothwell.

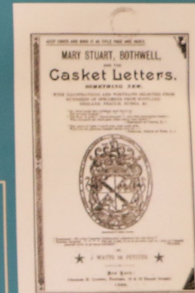
Susan Doran: Doran looks beyond Mary's supposed guilt in Darnley's murder and her other alleged crimes to examine how Mary failed to control *perceptions* about her queenship, especially concerning her alleged complicity in Darnley's murder, which ultimately led to her deposition.

Charles Beem: Beem argues that Mary's training as a consort ill-prepared her for Scottish queenship, in which she prioritized her dynastic ambitions for the English throne over trying to rule Scotland effectively, and offers a more nuanced view of Mary's decisions to marry both Darnley and Bothwell.



The "Casket Letters" were supposedly written between Mary and Bothwell and prove Mary's guilt in Darnley's death, but the originals are long gone and historian still debate their authenticity.

Mary, Queen of Scots depicted as a mermaid, a symbol of "whorish sirens"



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- Wormald, Jenny. *Mary, Queen of Scots: Politics, Passion and a Kingdom Lost*. London: Taurus, 2001.

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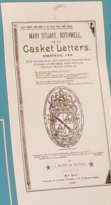
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What People Think About Animal Thinking
Rachel Morrison, Maria Maust-Mohl, and John Fraser

Abstract: The study of how non-human animals think is a scientific and popular media, and a lack of concordance between animal research and how this information is popularly disseminated. This study aimed to explore the development of animal thinking in order to inform the development of educational materials. The study used qualitative research to the New York Hall of Science. The study was a part of a larger project titled "What Animals Really Think".

Method: All were interviewed at the New York Hall of Science and John Fraser was interviewed at the University of Pennsylvania.

Results: The study found that people have different conceptions of animal thinking. Some people believe that animals are capable of complex thought, while others believe that they are not. The study also found that people have different conceptions of animal thinking based on the type of animal. For example, people are more likely to believe that primates are capable of complex thought than they are to believe that birds are.

Conclusion: The study found that people have different conceptions of animal thinking. This suggests that there is a need for more research into animal thinking and how this information is disseminated to the public. The study also found that people have different conceptions of animal thinking based on the type of animal. This suggests that there is a need for more research into animal thinking and how this information is disseminated to the public.