Progresses and court entertainments during the reign of Elizabeth I.

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Završni rad

Pula, rujan 2023.

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Završni rad

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U Puli, rujan 2023.

Nikolina Lucić

Table of Contents

1. Introduction

This thesis presents the life of Queen Elizabeth I, her progresses, and court entertainments through a research of the history of England in the 16th century and the reign of Elizabeth I. This thesis was written with the aim of examining the importance of progresses for Elizabeth and her relationship with parts of the country, the display of power and its maintenance, and to explore the entertainments and games which reached their peak during her reign, and are very similar to today's games. The thesis is divided into eight sections, including an introduction and a conclusion. The first section introduces the main topic of the thesis and its overall structure, and it also describes the rulers who immediately preceded Elizabeth I. The second part discusses the Tudor period and the conditions of England at that time. The third section explains how Elizabeth I came to the throne, even though she was declared illegitimate after her parent's divorce. The fourth part describes Elizabeth's life in more detail. The fifth part describes Elizabeth's most famous progresses, their duration and the most important places and people she visited. The sixth part covers entertainment and the most popular games in the 16th century, while the final part of the thesis describes the rules of some popular games, the number of their participants, and the equipment needed for a particular game.

2. Introduction to the Tudor Period

This thesis presents progresses and court entertainments in England during the Tudor Period, which lasted from 1460 until the death of Elizabeth I in 1603. To better understand this period, it is important to know several things about the condition of England at that time. England was an agrarian society like Wales. At that time, the sudden rise in population brought inflation, unemployment, poverty, urban squalor, vagrancy, and speculation in land and foodstuffs (Guy, 1990).

It is important to mention some of the rulers who ruled before Elizabeth I. Henry VII ascended the throne in 1485 after the battle of Bosworth with little knowledge about and experience with government. He spent his youth in Wales and probably visited England only once. He ruled until 1509, and his reign had three distinct phases. The first phase lasted from 1485 to 1492. Finance was at the center of this phase. The second phase was from 1492 to 1503. The third phase was different than the previous two phases because Henry ruled in the most personal way (Guy, 1990).

The next ruler in the Tudor Period was Henry VIII, who eventually became the supreme head of the Church of England. He was crowned on June 24th, just four days before his eighteenth birthday. He married Katharine of Aragon because of his wish to be accompanied by a queen on his coronation day (Ackroyd, 2012). His father, Henry VII, was over-protective towards him – Henry VIII never spoke in public, and when he wanted to leave the palace he was supervised and entered the palace's park through a private door. Henry VIII and his father both valued knowledge. Henry considered himself a great debater in matters of theology, and he sang and played the keyboard and lute (Ackroyd, 2012). Katharine of Argon gave birth to Mary, Henry's first daughter. She could no longer have children so Henry decided to divorce her and marry someone who could give him a son. He decided to marry Anne Boleyn, the mother of his second daughter and heir to the throne, Elizabeth I (Ackroyd, 2012).

In November of 1534, the first Act of Supremacy was passed by Parliament and declared Henry the supreme head of the church of England. In 1537, the Irish Supremacy Act was passed by the Parliament of Ireland, which established Henry VIII as the supreme head of the church of Ireland. Henry VIII was succeeded by Edward VI, who was only nine years old when he came to the throne in 1547 (Ackroyd, 2012).

Lady Jane Grey was Queen of England for a short period of time – her reign lasted for

only 9 days, and was followed by Mary I, who married Philip of Spain in 1554. It was assumed that she had health problems because in 1554/1555 and 1557, she had two false pregnancies. She never had a child of her own and decided that her successor would be Elizabeth I. Mary died in 1558 and Elizabeth assumed the throne (Ackroyd, 2012).

3. Elizabeth's way to the throne

In May 1557, Queen Mary I lost all her hope when she realized that she was not pregnant. All the pregnancy symptoms that she had displayed were actually symptoms of a serious illness. During her reign, in 1558, an epidemic disease called the "new ague" which was a form of flu, ravaged England. In autumn of 1558, Queen Mary and everybody around her realized that she was mortally ill. After realizing that the Queen would die soon, "the attention of the realm and its councillors now turned towards Elizabeth" (Ackroyd, 2012, p. 245). That attention made Elizabeth realize that it was her turn to take over the throne. An urgent request to the council was sent by the Parliament on 5th November. The Parliament was trying to convince members of the council to persuade Queen Mary to accept Elizabeth as her sister and heiress (Ackroyd, 2012). Philip, Mary's husband, sent his envoy to remind Elizabeth that he had suggested to marry her, although his actual intention was to rule England after Mary's death. Elizabeth remained cold towards him because she wanted to inherit the kingdom without Philip's help. Elizabeth informed Sir Francis Walsingham, her principal secretary and spymaster, that her loyalty to her sister had been lost after she had married a foreigner. She did not want to make the same mistake, so she never married (Ackroyd, 2012).

Mary died, and just two hours after her death, the council pronounced Elizabeth queen on November 17, 1558. Before she took formal possession of the Tower, Elizabeth remained at the Charterhouse for five days to prepare herself for coronation (Ackroyd, 2012). Bells, bonfires, patriotic demonstrations, and other public celebrations marked Elizabeth's accession to the throne (Britannica, 2023).

On coronation day, guided by a thousand horsemen, Elizabeth wore a lavish state gown while being carried on an open litter covered in gold brocade: "Accompanied by one thousand horsemen Elizabeth was carried in an open litter covered with gold brocade, she wore a rich robe of state, made out of cloth of gold and lined with ermine." (Ackroyd, 2012, p. 248).

According to Loades (2003), Lord Chancellor Nicholas Heath proclaimed Elizabeth in the Upper House. Her entry into London and the great coronation procession that followed were masterpieces of political courtship. "If ever any person," wrote one enthusiastic observer, "had either the gift or the style to win the hearts of people, it was this Queen, and if ever she did express the same it was at that present, in coupling mildness with majesty as she did, and in stately stooping to the meanest sort" (Britannica, 2023).

People liked her and she liked them. She thanked them, prayed to God to save them, and called them “my people” (Ackroyd, 2012, p. 248).

4. A virgin Queen

Elizabeth I was the daughter of Henry VIII and his second wife Anne Boleyn. She was born on 7th September 1533 in Greenwich in the Palace of Placentia. Henry VIII had his first daughter, Mary, with his first wife, Catherine. After they divorced, Henry married Anne, and she gave birth to Elizabeth (Singman, 1995). Everybody knew that Henry wanted a son, and Anne never fulfilled his wish, so he executed Anne for adultery and married again. Both of his daughters were declared illegitimate, but at the end, Elizabeth gained the throne (ibid.).

Elizabeth has been described as a powerful and intelligent woman. She was also cautious, talented, imperious, hard-working, and conservative. As a ruler, she controlled her own policy more than any other Tudor – she did not listen to Mary's wishes and requests when it came to ruling. She spoke French, Spanish, Italian and knew how to read in Latin. She was often compared to her mother, Anne, because of her intelligence and ability to play the virginals – an old keyboard instrument. Elizabeth I is one of the most famous women in history and one of the best-known British monarchs. During her reign, she chose one Latin phrase as her motto, "Semper Eadem" – "Always the same." Her motto is ironic, because whenever she had to make a major decision, she would show signs of indecision (Loades, 2003).

While on the throne, she faced significant pressure from people around her. At that time, one of the major issues was religion because England reverted to Protestantism under Elizabeth. During her reign, significant changes happened in England, such as trade, exploration, and the first steps towards colonization. Those conditions marked the Elizabethan era and brought great changes to England, especially London (Levin, 2009).

> Explorations, trade, and the first steps of colonization marked the Elizabethan era, resulting in the beginning of what would eventually become a much more diverse population in England as a whole, but especially in its capital city, London: a very small community of Jews; some Africans as household servants, court entertainers, interpreters for trading companies and prostitutes. (Levin, 2009, p. 1-2)

Elizabeth wanted to keep her private and public life as separate as possible. However, there was one decision made by her that was known to everybody - she would never get married. That was hard to accomplish because marriage was high on the political agenda

(Singman, 1995). For thirty years, she was basically haunted by marriage and its implications. People thought she did not want to get married at an early age, and it was said that she knew herself to be incapable of bearing children, which meant that marriage would have been a loss and no gain. However, there is not enough evidence to support and confirm these assertions (Loades, 2003).

Robert Dudley, 1st Earl of Leicester, wanted to marry Elizabeth but she refused (Royal Museum Greenwich, 2023). Thomas Seymour, the husband of Catherine Parr (Henry VIII's last wife), and the uncle of Elizabeth's younger half-brother, Edward VI, was executed for attempting to get the young Elizabeth to marry him (Royal Museum Greenwich, 2023). Since she never got married, she could have chosen who would be her successor, but she refused to appoint one. At the end of her reign, she was succeeded by James VI and I[1].

Along with the court, she changed her residences during the year according to festival cycles, outbreaks of diseases, weather patterns and royal desires. During Christmas time and New Year, while temperatures were low, she stayed in London to celebrate in royal palaces. In the time of celebration of Easter and St. George's Day, which meant better and warmer weather, Elizabeth took a series of short forays to nobles' palaces and hunting lodges in the counties around London (Hill, 1999).

She was quite successful in avoiding diseases. In the summer, when the weather was hot, she would leave London where sickness was easily spread and spend her summertime in freshly aired residences in the countryside (ibid.). In the summer of 1570, she moved every two to four days to a different place, except for Chenies[2], where she stayed for 26 days. However, she could not always evade diseases (Schmid, 1971). In 1562, at Hampton Court, she contracted smallpox and feared for her life so much that she tried to convince the council to declare Robert Dudley protector in the event of her death (Loades, 2003). That event affected not only her, but also people around her. For example, Lady Mary Sidney, who took care of Elizabeth until her health improved, also contracted smallpox. Afterwards, she became disfigured, and her husband left her (Hill, 1999).

[1] James VI and I was the son of Mary Stuart, Queen the Scots. Scotland was an independent kingdom until 1603, when Elizabeth passed away, and the crown was passed to James VI of Scotland. With Elizabeth's death, he came to the English throne as James I of England, ending the age of the Tudors and beginning that of the Stuarts. (Singman, 1995, p.5-9)

[2] A village in south-east Buckinghamshire

5. Progresses

A progress is a royal journey, or more precisely, a series of royal visits to towns and homes in southern England. Royal progresses comprised those lengthy trips away from London that lasted for a certain number of days to provide hospitality for an itinerant court (Schmid, 1971, p. 7). In this thesis, only those progresses that are the most famous will be described in more detail. Elizabeth I insisted on going on progresses with her court every spring and summer for 44 years: “Her visits to over 400 individual and civic hosts provided the only direct contact most people had with a monarch who made popularity a corner-stone of her reign” (Hill, 1999, p. 20). This means that Elizabeth was able to visit homes of her favorite courtiers, “such as the duke of Norfolk, for whom the private visit might erase past indiscretions and return them to favor” (Hill, 1999. p. 16). Because of those visits, the Queen was able to present herself on a public stage as the people’s sovereign. She could communicate with her subjects to gain their support, but also to keep it.

> On progresses she stayed with her subjects in their country houses or town dwellings, as well as in some of her own royal residences scattered around the countryside, but her preference for residing with her subjects was one of the distinguishing features of her progresses. (Hill, 1999, p. 39)

Elizabeth’s progresses reveal much about her agenda, character, and priorities. However, progresses were expensive, so considerable organization and cost sharing by guests and hosts made progresses possible. Throughout her lengthy reign, the institution of her progresses was maintained thanks to the open participation of numerous hosts:

> Her host usually supported the progresses, while the royal household and financial ministers did not. Because her ministers had to cope with the added expense and inefficiency of her travels that generated extra work for them, concerted opposition to the progresses came more from within the government than from her hosts. (Hill, 1999, p. 18)

For example, Lord Burghley tried to persuade the Queen to abandon traveling because he struggled to find the money from household funds to pay for it (ibid.). Sir Francis Walsingham also “considered those trips wasteful”, and he even thought that they

“distracted the Queen from serious business” (Hill, 1999, p. 18). Progresses cost more than living in some palaces near London. She did not pay that much attention to it - she even increased her travels, instead of abandoning them (Hill, 1999).

Elizabeth’s frugality was not reflected in her embellishment. She had a generous collection of luxuriously decorated clothes and priceless jewelry. Political calculation and a severe self-consciousness about her appearance had been tied to her affection for apparel: “She tried to control the royal portraits that circulated widely in England and abroad, and her appearances in public were dazzling displays of wealth and magnificence” (Britannica, 2023).

As a queen, Elizabeth had to find a way to defend her kingdom since she did not fight wars like her father or grandfather. Because of this, she created ceremonies in which she showed the power of England and visited ports where she inspected the defenses of fortified cities:

> Her military duty to defend the kingdom, which her fellow kings fulfilled in invasions, battles and wars, Elizabeth carried out by crafting bellicose ceremonies that expressed England’s power. Visiting ports such as Bristol, Southampton, Portsmouth, and Dover let her inspect the defenses in the fortified towns. These civic visits, with their martial pageants and mock battles, conveyed an impression of English military strength to foreign rulers. (Hill, 1999, p. 16)

One ironic fact about her reign is that she always traveled somewhere but remained in her usual destinations, and therefore never saw much of her kingdom. Her royal plans were different than the ones of her father. Also, wars and defense, marriage and succession had a different significance for her. She would never visit a foreign rival, and that is why her progresses emphasized what was important to her as monarch: her own safety, a lively court and public ceremony (Hill, 1999).

All of her progresses had one characteristic that was noticed worldwide – they all looked like an endlessly repeated coronation. Those progresses enabled her to exchange messages with her subjects, who also inspired and “spread the images of royal sacred governance embodied in a female ruler” (Hill, 1999). She wanted to show everyone that she was the center of attention. She considered herself the most important person in the Kingdom of England. Elizabeth went on 23 progresses in her reign that lasted for 44 years. The progresses usually began in July and ended in September, and they lasted

between 45 to 52 days (Hill, 1999, p. 36). On average, that would be around 23 visits – each typically lasting 2 days. But there are some exceptions. For example, her closest courtiers, such as Robert Dudley and William Cecil, sometimes had the Queen in their houses for longer than a week (ibid.). The length of a visit was relatively short, "in essence two days and the intervening night", which made a royal visit manageable for her hosts in terms of preparations, entertainment, and expense (ibid.).

Elizabeth would sometimes visit people who lived near London, but those local travels do not count as progress. She usually needed one day to travel there. For example, she visited Sir Francis Carew in June in 1580 at his Surrey estate of Beddington (ibid.).

> On progresses she stayed with her subjects in their country houses or town dwellings, as well as in some of her own royal residences scattered around the countryside, but her preference for residing with her subjects was one of the distinguishing features of her progresses. (Hill, 1999, p. 39)

She would dine and spend an evening or several days with hosts, before heading to her river palaces. Such visits did not cost a lot of money and royal household officers were faced with just a few small challenges because provisions like that were close to London. It is important to understand that all progresses contain individual visits, but not all individual visits form a progress. Elizabeth governed a country divided into 53 counties – she only visited 25 of them (Hill, 1999). For example, she never visited Wales. Her progresses often occurred in a 40-mile radius, with London as the center (ibid.). She preferred short destinations from London, which included Oxford, Cambridge, Canterbury, and Reading.

According to Hill (1999), on eight of her progresses, she traveled to destinations distant from about 40 to 80 miles from London, such as Salisbury, Winchester, Dover, Southampton, Stamford, Coventry, Warwick, and Ipswich:

> The farthest from London she traveled was to Bristol, Bath, Norwich, Staffordshire, Lincolnshire, Gloucester, and Worcester. Those longer trips occurred in only 13 years of her 44-year reign; in another 21 years of visits the Queen did not leave the home counties around London. (Hill, 1999, p. 38)

Elizabeth used progresses to emphasize her royal presence in the wealthier, more stable, and populated areas of her kingdom, instead of using them to bring order to troubled regions – which means that “she validated royal authority and social stability” where it had already existed (ibid.). Unlike her father, Elizabeth had not built much, so she failed to uphold all the properties she had inherited. Records made by the King's Works show that numerous royal homes had fallen into ruins in the later sixteenth century (Hill, 1999).

A total of about 420 different people (hosts) opened their homes to the Queen. This means that the “number of hosts during her progresses reached about 320”, while several hosts whom she visited “around the London area were about 140”. It is interesting to mention that among those hosts, there were about 40 of them that were female (Hill, 1999, p. 40). One interesting fact is that in the sources that contain host names, not a single male name appeared next to female names, and vice versa. Therefore, we can conclude that many wives of male hosts participated in the progresses “even though their names did not receive separate notice, while the reverse was not necessarily true” (Hill, 1999, p. 42). Women who served as hosts probably were not married, because otherwise their husbands’ names would have been registered in the sources (ibid.).

Elizabeth began her first summer progress in 1559. Her first journey started in July when she left the palace at Greenwich and visited Kent and Surrey (Schmid, 1971). She visited the royal palace at Dartford on July 18, where she was welcomed by Lord Cobham. In August, she visited Eltham, a royal palace located in Kent (Schmid, 1971). She left and continued her travel towards Nonsuch, the Surrey palace built by her father, Henry VIII, where she stayed for five days (ibid.). On August 10, Elizabeth continued to Hampton Court, a palace built by Cardinal Wolsey (Schmid, 1971).

In May 1560, Elizabeth went to Greenwich where she stayed until July and then started her “short progress through Surrey, Berkshire, and Hampshire” (Schmid, 1971, p. 25). At Lambeth palace, she had dinner with Archbishop Parker before leaving for Richmond in Surrey, where she spent five days (ibid.). From the palace of Oatlands in Surrey she moved to Sutton Place, where Sir Richard Weston had a house. The next stop was later in August, when she visited Winchester and Basing. The Queen traveled to Windsor Castle in September before returning to Westminster where she remained for the rest of the year (Schmid, 1971).

Her progress in 1561, when she traveled through Essex, Hertfordshire, and Suffolk, was a longer one. In July she spent a few days in London at the Charterhouse with Lord North. There, she dined at Mr. Secretary William Cecil’s house in the Savoy (Schmid,1971).

Leaving London on July 14, Elizabeth visited Essex, where she stayed at Wanstead, a house that belonged to Lord Rich. The next places she visited were Havering and Loughton Hall – Sir Thomas Darcy's home. She left for Ingatestone – the home of Sir William Petre, the Queen's Principal Secretary and Privy Counsellor until he died in 1571 (Schmid, 1971). Elizabeth wanted to stay at New Hall, which was at that time the royal property and the former home of her mother Anne Boleyn. In 1573, she granted that property to the Lord Chamberlain, Earl of Sussex. In July she also visited Felix, called Pilliot's Hall, the property of Henry Long – a child who lived with his widowed mother (ibid.). She then went to Havering and Sir Thomas Darcy's house at Loughton Hall (Schmid, 1971). Elizabeth spent the next two weeks traveling to Colchester, Harwich, and Ipswich after visiting Felix. In August, she left Ipswich and visited seven homes during the rest of the month. Before travelling to the royal palace in Enfield, she spent some time in Hertford. This progress ended at the end of September in London at the Palace of St. James (Schmid, 1971).

Elizabeth spent the summer of 1563 at Windsor and Eton Collage because the plague ravaged London. The plague was spreading even the following year, so the Queen decided to stay where she was. Later in July, when the threat of plague lessened, she returned to Richmond. She also stayed at Theobalds, a new home of William Cecil and "this was the first of the twelve visits paid to Theobalds, at a cost of £2000 to £3000 each time". (Schmid, 1971, p. 28)

In 1564, the longest stay was at the University of Cambridge, along with all her court. While there, she received gifts, attended plays and debates, and heard sermons and Latin, English and Greek speeches. Even the Queen herself "made a Latin speech thanking the assembled students and faculty of the university for her visit. The university honored seventeen of Elizabeth's courtiers by creating them "Masters of Arts" (Schmid, 1971, p. 28).

In 1566 Elizabeth made an extensive progress. She visited royal property Collyweston in Northamptonshire. On August 5, she visited Burghley House near Stamford, and then the palace at Woodstock near Oxford (Schmid, 1971). Earl of Leicester, who was chancellor of the university, made the arrangements for her visit along with a company of nobles.

> In the evening the Queen arrived at the outskirts of the university territory. The chancellor, the vice-chancellor, and the heads of the colleges and houses greeted her Roger Marbak, a prominent teacher, made a welcoming speech in Latin. The major presented the Queen with

> his mace and gave a welcoming speech in English. She returned the mace, and the mayor presented her with a silver cup worth £10 filled with £40 of gold. (Schmid, 1971, p. 29-31)

As she entered the city and university, students and citizens were kneeling and crying “Vivat Regina”. One of the students made a Latin speech as she came to the doors of Christ Church. Elizabeth and her court entered the church, where her safe arrival was celebrated (Schmid, 1971).

The next day, on Sunday, services were held in the morning and afternoon in the Cathedral of Christ Church. Elizabeth did not attend service in the morning but did in the afternoon. She listened to Thomas Harrys of New College deliver an English sermon. (Schmid, 1971). The Queen did not attend the performance of a Latin play in the evening because of a slight illness. The Queen and her noblemen visited the schools on Monday to listen to the regular lectures and debates (Schmid, 1971). That afternoon, Hebrew professor Thomas Neale gave the Queen his printed translation of the “Book of the Prophets” as well as some of his Latin poetry about the colleges and other institutions of the university (Schmid, 1971). Poetry written by students was hung on the walls for the Queen to see as she walked through the college (ibid.). On Tuesday, the scholars entertained Elizabeth with debates on natural and moral philosophy. These debates were all in Latin (ibid.). On Thursday, students presented more debates for the Queen. At the end of the debates, Elizabeth gave a speech in Latin, in which she thanked the university for its hospitality and praised the students for the debates they held (Schmid, 1971)

After the Oxford procession was over, citizens, students, and officials of the city and university accompanied the Queen out of the gates through the streets and after the final speech in Latin by Roger Marback, she visited Rycot (ibid.).

During the progress in 1568, she visited more places than in 1567. She visited Essex, Middlesex, Hertfordshire, Northampton Shire, Kent, and Buckinghamshire. In July, Elizabeth visited Greenwich, where she dined with the Duke of Norfolk in London (Schmid, 1971). She visited a royal property that was leased to Earl of Oxford, Edward de Vere at Havering. She stopped by Giddy Hall, Sir Anthony Cooke’s home. Soon after she was at Enfield and Hatfield (ibid.). Next month, in August, Elizabeth went to St. Albans. Then, Easton Neston, the seat of Earl Pomfret. After that she visited a royal property Grafton Regis built by her father in Northamptonshire, near Towcester. Despite having traveled extensively throughout that year, she did not stop there; she also went to Newbury and Reading, Bicester, and Rycot (Schmid, 1971).

In 1569 Elizabeth visited places in Surrey and Hampshire (Schmid, 1971). The first on the list in July was Richmond, and then the cities of Guildford and Farnham. Later in August, she came back to Guildford, and for the next two months she visited Titchfield, The Vyne, and Basing. Elizabeth spent October and November in Windsor because she tried to escape the plague (Schmid, 1971).

The most peaceful, prosperous, and confident time of Elizabeth's reign was from 1569 to 1588, and for those reasons "the progresses during this period were the longest and entertainments the most lavish" (Schmid, 1971, p. 37). Her progress in 1571 started in Essex. In August, she spent some time at Hatfield in Hertfordshire, where she apparently stayed for a month, and then Audley End, Lord Thomas Howard's property (Schmid, 1971). After visiting Audley End, she visited Horham Hall - Sir John Cutt's home. A few days later, she went to see Henry Caroy, her cousin, at Hudson House in Hertfordshire, close to Stansted, where she lived after her mother's execution. His home used to be a royal nursery. Henry Caroy is also known as Lord Hudson and was the son of Elizabeth's sister Mary Boleyn Carey (Schmid, 1971). During that year, she also visited Theobalds, St. James, and finished her progress in October at Richmond (Schmid, 1971).

An extensive progress made by Elizabeth in 1572 included visits to Essex, Bedfordshire, Warwickshire, Oxfordshire, and Berkshire (Schmid, 1971). In July she left Whitehall and went to Havering in Essex, then to Theobalds where she remained for three days. While traveling to Warwick she stopped at Gorhambury, at the town of Dunstable, and Woburn Abbey – the new property of Francis Russel, Earl of Bedford. In August, the Queen's coach was met by the bailiff, recorder, and principal burgesses of Warwick. The recorder, Edward Aglionby, "greeted her with a welcoming speech and a gift of £20" (Schmid, 1971). Elizabeth thanked them for the wonderful greeting. Afterward, she was accompanied to Warwick Castle, where she stayed for two days and continued her trip to Kenilworth (Schmid, 1971). After Kenilworth, on August 26 she visited Lord Compton in Compton Manor. From Compton, the Queen went to Berkeley Castle, and from there to her palace at Woodstock. Elizabeth decided to travel a little more, but soon after she became sick and feared for her life. Schmid (1971) states that "at some time towards the end of September Elizabeth was ill of smallpox at Hampton Court, but by October 22 she wrote to Earl of Shrewsbury from Windsor to reassure him or her recovery" (Schmid, 1971, p. 41). She made a few more stops along the way and visited a few more places, the last being the Hampton Court, where she spent Christmas (Schmid, 1971).

Elizabeth's progress in 1573 started by visiting the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Parker

and his palace at Lambeth. On Maundy Thursday, March 15, the Queen performed the medieval custom of washing the feet of the poor. In total, thirty-nine legs were washed. At that time, the Queen was thirty-nine years old. She gave clothes, gifts, food, and money to poor people (Schmid, 1971).

On July 14 Elizabeth visited the palace of the Archbishop at Croydon in Surrey for seven days, and from there, she left for Sussex and Kent. On this three-month journey, she visited an unusual number of people (Schmid, 1971). First, she visited the home of Sir Percival Hart at Orpington, and then Sir Thomas Fisher in Plumstead. The next royal palace on her visiting list was the palace of Knolle, where she stayed for five days. She visited Bodgebury – the home of Alexander Culpepper, a knight who Elizabeth knighted in this progress. After visiting Hempsted, she went to Sissinghurst, Richard Baker's home, who was sheriff of Kent and was knighted in Dover later that year (Schmid, 1971). At Sandwich, she received a welcoming gift - a cup valued at £100 (ibid.). That day, she dined at a royal palace at Wingham, and later continued her trip towards Canterbury. Since she usually stayed at a certain palace for two or three days, she had a rule she would never travel on Sunday because she had always attended church services (ibid.).

In 1574, Elizabeth had one of the longest progresses in terms of distance. She went to Oxfordshire, Bristol. Wiltshire and Gloucestershire (Schmid, 1971). In March she stayed at St. James but held the Maundy Thursday ceremony at Whitehall. She wanted to visit the archbishop in Croydon, but she changed her mind, and this progress started in July. The Queen stopped first at Wadley near Farromgdon, and Berkshire, the home of Sir Edward Umpton (ibid.). Afterwards, in Wilton she visited the Earl of Pembroke, Henry Herbert, who was in charge of the castle of Cardiff and who in 1586 became President of the Council for Wales (Schmid, 1971).

The progress from 1575 is the most famous of all Elizabeth's progresses. This progress is notable "because of the extravagant entertainments at Kenilworth in the home of the Earl of Leicester" (Schmid, 1971, p. 48). Those events were described in a pamphlet entitled "The Princely Pleasures, at the Court at Kenilworth" by George Gascoigne from 1576. Those entertainments were held by Robert Dudley, the first Earl of Leicester upon Queen Elizabeth I's three week-long visit to his castle. She visited Dr. Jon Dee at his home in Surrey. He was a notorious astrologer and was expelled in 1583 by the England authorities because he used magic but was allowed to return in 1589. In July, she arrived at Long Itchington, a ruin belonging to the Earl of Leicester, where she dined and hunted, and after that continued to Kenilworth (Schmid, 1971). The rest of the year she spent at

Windsor, Warwick, Greenwich, Worchester, Gloucestershire, and at Hampton Court during Christmas time (Schmid, 1971). The list of Elizabeth's progresses includes 9 more, which lasted from 1576 to 1603.

6. Court entertainments

When talking of entertainment during the reign of Elizabeth I, we must mention leisure activities which became more varied than in any previous period of English history. That was the first genuine entertainment industry to provide the public with regular events such as theatre performances and animal baiting. Outdoor activities included fencing, tennis, bowling, archery, and team sports like football and hockey. They were more violent than they are today. Board games, gambling, and card games were also played at the court and were extremely popular - just like dancing and music, as those were the events where people could show their talent and skills, and even make new friends (Singman, 1995).

Singman (1995) claims that entertainment at the court in Elizabethan times included riding, concerts, poetry-reading, jousting, dancing, hunting, dramatic performances, and banqueting. Most Elizabeth's entertaining events took place in Greenwich at Greenwich Palace.

As already mentioned, Elizabeth I was a dancer, poet, musician, rider, and hunter, which means that she admired proficiency in these areas in her courtiers. Those entertainments were also a good opportunity for the suitors to interact with the Queen and gain her attention (ibid.). For example, after her coronation, courtiers and citizens attended her first appearance at Greenwich (ibid.). That entertainment lasted for a few days, including a staged military skirmish, a tilt, which is a form of jousting, a masque, a banquet, and fireworks. (Singman, 1995).

Elizabethan pastimes were very important for Elizabeth and people around her. Leisure played an important part in the lives of Elizabethans, just like work. In Elizabethan times, everybody worked, even those who were not obliged to. Even though people worked hard, they still found some free time to enjoy different types of entertainment.

> The landowning classes were not obliged to work at all. Many of them did work quite hard, whether in government, estate management, or some other aristocratic calling; but all of them had plentiful opportunity to pursue leisure activities. Ordinary people had much harder schedules, laboring from dawn to dusk most days of the week, yet they eagerly pursued entertainments in such free time as was allowed them. For such people, the principal leisure time was after church on Sundays and holidays, although religious reformers increasingly objected to Sunday games as a violation of the Sabbath. (Singman, 1995, p. 149)

Theatre was the most popular entertainment in the Elizabethan period, because during that period, a true entertainment sector first began to emerge, especially in the theaters of London (Singman, 1995). At the beginning of Elizabeth's reign, theatrical performances took place in courtyards. The first public theatre was built in 1576 outside the city limits. Although that theatre was initially unsuccessful, by the end of the 1580s, theaters similar to that one had established themselves as a common sight in London (ibid.). After a while, theaters with three-story galleries on three sides, facing a stage that projected out into the yards, were built around courtyards. More privileged people sat in the galleries, while the less privileged stood on the ground, but everyone could attend and watch the plays (Singman, 1995).

According to Singman (1995), all the plays had to be licensed. Authorities had to be careful because of overcrowding, plague, and disorder caused by plays. What is more interesting, "laws against vagrants were often used against actors and other performers, because they usually lived wandering lives, unattached to any employer or household" (Singman, 1995, p. 151). Theatrical companies found a way of evading punishment by placing "themselves under the patronage of the great noblemen of England", so technically, "they were servants of the lord" (Singman, 1995, p. 151). Plays combined violence, humor and contained music as well as dazzling special effects. People wanted to see more and more plays, so actors became very popular figures. In a way, they became "the first stars" (ibid.). Playwrights were typically university graduates, and they often lived very short and turbulent lives. In addition to the theaters in London, there were fewer formal settings for theatrical performances. London companies sometimes transported their shows to the provinces. There were numerous sideshow performers, part-time folk players, puppeteers, acrobats, and other similar performers (Singman, 1995).

Theatre was not the only form of commercial public entertainment. Elizabethan presses churned out all kinds of literature: ballads, technical works, news reports, history books, and political and religious tracts. Those texts varied in format from lavish volumes richly illustrated with fine woodcuts or engravings – sometimes even colored by hand – down to cheap pamphlets and broadsides. They were produced for the mass market, and they cost one penny (Singman, 1995, p. 151).

Other Elizabethan pastimes involved people as producers as well as consumers. The most prominent example is probably music. Elizabethans had no access to recording technology, so all the music had to be performed live. Wealthy people sometimes hired

musicians to play during dinner, while the people in the countryside considered ringing the church-bell as a form of entertainment.

> A wealthy householder might hire musicians to play during dinner, and major towns had official musicians known as "waits" who sometimes gave free public concerts - such as took place at the Royal Exchange in London after 7 p.m. on Sundays and holidays. (Singman, 1995, p. 152)

On the other hand, some people made their own music when they could not listen to musicians. For example, workers and craftsmen sang while they worked, and after meals, people sang duets (Singman, 1995). Music was expected in polite society and well-bred people could often play or sing.

> Favored instruments among the upper class included the lute, the virginals[3], the viol[4], and the recorder. Among common folk the bagpipe was popular, especially in the country; other common instruments were the fiddle and the pipe-and-tabor[5]. Public music was most often performed on loud instruments, such as the shawm[6] and sackbut[7]. (Singman, 1995, p. 152)

Dancing was also a popular activity, and it was one of the best chances for the unmarried couple to interact. The preferred style of dancing varied depending on one's socioeconomic level (Singman, 1995).

> Those of social pretensions favored the courtly dances, especially imported from the Continent, especially Italy. These dances were mostly performed by couples, sometimes by a set of two couples; they often involved intricate and subtle footwork. Ordinary people were more likely to do the traditional country dances of England, which were danced by couples in round, square, or rectangular sets, and were simpler in form and footwork. The division was not absolute: ordinary people sometimes danced almains, which were originally a courtly dance from France, while Elizabeth herself encouraged the cultivation of country dances among the aristocracy. (Singman, 1995, p. 153)

However, not all Elizabethan pastimes were as gentle as music and dance. One of the

[3] A keyboard instrument in which the strings are plucked rather than struck. (Singman, 1995, p. 152)
[4] Resembling a modern viola or cello. (Singman, 1995, p. 152)
[5] A combination of a three-hole recorder played with the left hand and a drum played with the right. (Singman, 1995, p. 152)
[6] A powerful double-reeded instrument. (Singman, 1995, p. 152)
[7] A simple trombone. (Singman, 1995, p. 152)

preferred sports of gentlemen was hunting, mostly for deer, sometimes for foxes, hares, or birds. Ordinary people were not allowed to do these sports, but generally they did not hunt or fish. Compared to sports like bullbaiting[8], cockfighting[9] or bear-biting[10], hunting does not sound so terrifying and fierce (Singman, 1995).

Some sports pitted animals against each other, while others involved human combatants. The aristocracy practiced the medieval sport of jousting[11] and fencing as a spectator entertainment and a participatory sport (Singman, 1995). Weapons used in fencing had rounded tips and blunted edges, yet they were still dangerous. The only layer of protection was a padded jacket. Occasionally, a big round button was attached over the tip of the blade to reduce the chance of losing an eye. They could also use the rapier – an Italian weapon. Rapiers can be supplemented by the shield whether round or square, called a "target". If someone did not want to use the rapier and preferred English traditions, they could fight with a sword, even though it was a bit heavier. These martial arts have some practical application, because "in London, street fights and brawls were known to break out in broad daylight. For many people, the ability to defend oneself was an important life skill" (Singman, 1995).

Physical games were also popular. They were not as dangerous as martial sports but were also perilous. The lower class loved football, the most characteristic English outdoor game, played by men. Singman (1995) says that the Puritan social critic described football as "a violent, loud, and dangerous game for bystanders and players". More violent, and similar to football, were the versions known as "camp-ball" in England and "hurling" in Cornwall in Wales. These games frequently resulted in serious injuries. Therefore, people have created games with violent content for both sexes. Hot Cockles, Blindman's Buff, and Penny Prick were just a few of them (Singman, 1995).

People enjoyed playing other outdoor sports such as "Stoolball": "Stoolball was an ancestor of cricket and baseball in which a stool was set on its side, and players tried to hit the seat with a ball" (Singman, 1995, p. 157). Then tennis, a game introduced from France during the Middle Ages, which was the most athletic game played by men. Due to the high cost of equipment, wealthy individuals favored it (ibid.).

[8] A bull was chained in the middle of a large arena with one or more bulldogs or bull mastiffs. The dogs were trained to clamp their jews closed on the bull's nose or ears and hang on until the bull fell down exhausted. The bull meanwhile tried to shake the dogs free and gore them to death. (Singman, 1995, p. 152-153)

[9] Cockfighting involved pitting roosters against each other in a „cockpit," a small round arena surrounded by benches; (Singman, 1995, p.153)

[10] Similar to „bullbaiting"; the bull was replaced by a bear; (Singman, 1995, p. 154)

[11] Jousts were sometimes the centrepiece of major public festivals; (Singman, 1995, p. 154)

Outdoor “Bowls” was a simpler activity. It was a common activity which involved throwing balls at a target in an attempt to have your balls land closest to the target. In bowls, there were many ball shapes, a formalized system of betting, and a description of the ground and the course of the ball. Moralists often criticized the game but would play it when betting was not involved (Singman, 1995).

Some games required a lot of running and little or no equipment, for example, “Base” or “Prison Bars,” which were primarily played in schoolyards. A game called “Barkley Break” was a particular favorite during this period. It was a chasing game in which two mixed-sex couples were running away and hiding from the third couple, so they do not get caught. Leaping and vaulting, swimming, and throwing weights were included in other athletic sports. People also simply liked to take walks for exercise, and members of the upper classes were especially fond of strolling in their gardens after a meal (Singman, 1995).

It seemed logical to create games specifically for indoor enjoyment because there were outdoor games. The most prestigious indoor game was chess, and the game rules are the same as today, but back then, people could not bet on it as they can in modern times (ibid.). Cards were also popular in Elizabethan society, and they were available everywhere. Each deck contained the same range of cards. There were slight differences in the names of the cards. There was no Joker back then, the face cards were named King, Queen, and Knave, and the first three were called Ace, Deuce, and Tray (ibid.). The cards had just pictures - there were no letters or numbers. Also, the images on the cards were similar to modern ones, but they had full-body portraits painted on them – without the mirror image of modern cards (Singman, 1995).

Next on the list is dice. It was cheap, highly portable, made of bone, and favored by soldiers. Even though dice were the classic pastime of lower classes, they were played by aristocracy as well. The spots were called the “ace,” “dauce,” “tray,” “cater,” “sink,” and “sise,” while the roll of 6 and 1 was called “sise-ace” (Singman, 1995).

Another indoor game, probably not so popular but fun, was called shovelboard or shove-groat. Metal discs were pushed across a table to land as close as possible to the other end without falling off. The discs were laid out on the board in horizontal lines, and points were scored according to which set of lines the piece stopped between. It was a fun game, and “wealthy households sometimes had special tables built for this game” (Singman, 1995, p. 159).

Two simple board games, “Fox and Geese” and “Nine Men’s Morris,” were played so that each player had to move the pieces on a geometric board, trying to capture or pin his

opponent's pieces. Boards for these games could be made by cutting lines into a wooden surface or by writing on it with chalk or charcoal. The most complex board game was Ticktack, in which the general idea was to move all pieces from one end of the board to the other (Singman, 1995).

Singman (1995) states that one of the simplest of games involved the tee-totum, a kind of top. It had four sides, and each side had a letter: T for "take," P for "put," N for "nothing," and H for "half,". So, the player would take everything, get nothing, take half of the stakes out of the pot, or even put another stake into the pot, depending on which side came up. During Elizabeth's reign, a few new table games appeared – Billiards and The Game of Goose that came from the Continent in 1597.

Some entertainments involved just words – jokes were very popular, and people printed joke books. Riddles were also common in this society. In general, Elizabethans enjoyed conversations. They loved to hear news from others because they did not have mass or electronic media as we have today. That was the way they connected and discovered what was happening in the world around them (ibid.).

The tradition of playing games started in childhood, as in modern times. Back then children played some games that are popular even now. In autumn, children would pick up nuts and play at Cob-Nut. The rules of the game are simple. Nuts on strings were stuck against each other - a person whose nut broke first was the loser. Children also liked to play hide-and-seek, called "All Hid" back then; whip tops, swings, blowing bubbles, hobbyhorses which were associated with May Day celebrations, and Morris dance; muskets and swords, see-saw and cup-and-ball. Unlike modern people who tend to put their childhood games aside as adults, Elizabethan adults continued to play games as a big part of their daily lives. (Singman, 1995).

Women never participated in martial, dangerous, or overly vigorous sports such as football, handball, tennis, or fencing. However, they participated in less risky physical games such as "Blindman's Buff". Women played games with minimal physical activity. They did not attend violent games, but they liked to watch bearbaiting (ibid.).

The rules of the games were different and varied from one locality to the next. For example, children's games and folk games were not formalized, while table games and games of the upper class were generally more elaborated and formalized. One big problem that pervaded Elizabethan culture was gambling. You could bet on any game, and frequently, betting was an integral part of the game itself (Singman, 1995).

7. Rules for Elizabethan games

According to Singman (1995), almost no rules for games survive from the late sixteenth century, but there are quite a few from the late seventeenth century. As games tend to be conservative, these rules are probably quite close to their Elizabethan forms.

A popular physical game is “Barkley Break”. The game is played by 3 mixed-sex couples. The game rules dictate that two pairs had to stand on the edge of the playing field while the third pair was in the middle. The couples had to hold hands until one couple at the edge of the playing field signaled that the couple in the middle had to start chasing the other two couples. In the case that a pair from the middle catches a person who has not reached their pair, the game ends (Singman, 1995).

“Bowls” was a game that did not have a certain number of players. For the game it was necessary to have, as claimed by Sigman (1995), “two hardwood balls for each player, about 3 ½” in diameter (each pair of balls should be color-coded to distinguish them from other pairs), and one “Mistress”[12] or one “Jack”[13]” (Singman, 1995, p. 163). The rules of the game are simple. Mistress was placed at a certain distance that depended on the players. She served as a place from which the ball was thrown. The player who used Jack had the right to throw the ball first. After that, each player threw the ball towards Jack or Mistress as close as possible. The rule was that the first player to collect 5 or 7 points won (Singman, 1995).

“Primero”, which is related to modern poker, appears to have been one of the most popular card games in Elizabethan England, states Singman (1995). The rules of the game are also simple. All suits of 8s, 9s and 10s should be separated to the side. Each player was dealt two cards. After the players have decided whether they wanted to bet or trade one or two cards, the game begins. Once a player bets, the others may play with the cards they have or drop out of the hand. Of course, any bet may be refused. In that case, Singman (1995) explains that if each subsequent player refuses the bet, it must be withdrawn, and play continues with the betting at the previous level: “After the initial round of betting, each player remaining receives two more cards. At this point there is another round of betting, during which players declare the rank of their hand as they place their bets.” (Singman, 1995, p. 169). An initial bet is called a bid. Players are required to declare their hand’s alleged point total, the type of hand, and the amount of the bid.

[12] a stake that can be set upright in the ground. (Singman, 1995, p. 163)
[13] a ball smaller than the others, preferably of a bright contrasting colour. (Singman, 1995, p. 163)

Players are allowed to understate their hand, but they cannot overestimate its true worth (English historical fictional authors, 2016).

> The one exception is if a previous player has declared a Flush or Primero and your hand is a Chorus[14], in which case you may declare your hand to be equal to the hand already declared. After this round of betting, players may trade in 1 or 2 cards. Finally, all remaining players reveal their hands, and the highest hand[15] takes the pot. If two hands tie the one closest to the right of the dealer wins. (Singman, 1995, p. 169-170)

[14] The ranks of hand are as follows:
„Numerus" is the lowest hand, consists of 2 or 3 cards of the same suit. The point value is equal to the sum of the cards in that one suit.
"Primero", or *"Prime"*, ranks next, consisting of 1 card of each suit. The value of Primero is the sum of the cards in the hand.
"Supreme", or *"Fifty-Five"*, is a hand containing the Ace, Six, and Seven of one suit. The value of this hand is always 55.
"Flush" consists of 4 cards of the same suit. Its value is the sum of the cards in the hand.
"Chorus", the highest hand, is 4 of a kind; (Singman, 1995, p.170)

[15] Card values are as follows:
Seven: 21
Six: 18
Ace: 16
Five: 15
Four: 14
Three: 13
Two: 12
Face cards: 10; (Singman, 1995, p.170)

8. Conclusion

This thesis examines the reign of Queen Elizabeth I with an emphasis on her progresses and popular types of entertainment in the 16th century. During her long reign of 44 years, Elizabeth traveled around England and visited the homes of her favorite courtiers. In total, she went on 23 progresses in which she showed her power and kindness to her people. One significant problem that arose because of her travels was of financial nature, as the hosts who accommodated her had to spend a lot of money, as did the court, which sometimes meant that people had to confront debts. During Elizabeth's progresses, her hosts prepared various entertainments for the queen in their homes, such as music, board games, dancing, poetry-reading, and card games. Entertainments such as theatre, music, dance, martial games and team sports were studied in the thesis. The rules for card games, ball games and hunting games are also described. People who lived in the Elizabethan era enjoyed hunting, dancing, singing, and playing different kinds of sports such as football, handball, hockey, tennis, and bowls. Some games have not survived to this day because they were too aggressive, and society rejected them over time. It is possible to conclude that progresses and court entertainments were important for both Elizabeth and England at large because they played a role in politics, cultural development, public relations, social and cultural exchange, and they served as a form of both education and escapism.

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Summary

The Queen of England, Elizabeth I, was on the throne for 44 years. She is known for going to royal processions during her reign, which allowed her to show her power. Elizabeth’s royal processions were composed of a series of visits to towns and homes in southern England. In 44 years, 23 royal progresses were noted, each of which was significant in some way. Elizabeth visited more than 400 individual and private civil hosts. When she did not attend royal processions, she hosted entertainments at the court. Entertainments at court during Elizabeth's reign included horse riding, concerts, poetry-reading, jousting, dancing, dramatic performances, and banqueting. In addition, there were outdoor and indoor parties. Outdoor amusements included fencing, tennis, bowling, archery, football, and hockey, while board games, gambling and cards were played inside the court. The aim of this undergraduate thesis is to show readers the life of Queen Elizabeth I, royal processions and types of entertainment, which are very similar to today's games.

Key words: court entertainment, dance, England, games, progresses, Queen Elizabeth I

Sažetak

Kraljica Engleske, Elizabeta I, na prijestolju je bila 44 godine. Poznata je po tome što je za vrijeme svoje vladavine odlazila na kraljevske procesije, koje su joj omogućile da pokaže svoju moć. Kraljevska procesija je niz kraljevskih posjeta gradovima i domovima u južnoj Engleskoj. U 44 godine, zabilježene su 23 kraljevske procesije, od kojih je svaka bila značajna na neki način. Elizabeta I. je posjetila više od 400 individualnih i privatnih građanskih domaćina. U vrijeme kada nije odlazila na kraljevske procesije, održavala je zabave na dvoru. Zabave na dvoru u vrijeme vladavine Elizabete su uključivanje jahanje, koncerte, čitanje poezije, viteško nadmetanje, plesanje, dramske performanse i gozbe. Pored toga, postojale su vanjske i unutarnje zabave. Vanjske zabave su uključivale mačevanje, tenis, kuglanje, streljaštvo, nogomet i hokej, dok su se društvene igre, kockanje i kartanje igrali unutar dvora. Cilj pisanja ovog dodiplomskog rada je prikazati čitateljima život kraljice Elizabete I, njezinim životnim odlukama koje su bile neprihvaćene u ono doba, njezinim stavovima, kraljevskim procesijama i zabavama na dvoru, koje su vrlo slične današnjim igrama.

Ključne riječi: dvorska zabava, igra, kraljevske procesije, Kraljica Elizabeta I, ples

Riassunto

La regina d'Inghilterra, Elisabetta I, è stata sul trono per 44 anni. È nota per aver partecipato a processioni reali durante il suo regno, le quali le hanno permesso di mostrare il suo potere. La Processione Reale è stata una serie di visite reali a città e tenute del sud dell'Inghilterra. In 44 anni, sono state registrate 23 processioni reali, ognuna delle quali è stata significativa in qualche modo. Elisabetta ha visitato più di 400 ospiti civili pubblici e privati. Nei momenti in cui non partecipava alle processioni reali, teneva feste a corte. Le feste a corte durante il regno di Elisabetta includevano passeggiate a cavallo, concerti, letture di poesie, competizioni cavalleresche, balli, spettacoli drammatici e feste. Inoltre, c'erano state feste organizzate all'aperto e al coperto. Le feste all'aperto includevano scherma, tennis, bowling, tiro con l'arco, calcio e hockey, mentre giochi da tavolo, giochi d'azzardo e giochi di carte venivano fatti all'interno della corte. Lo scopo della mia tesina è quello di illustrare la vita della regina Elisabetta I, le sue decisioni di vita che all' epoca non venivano accettate, i suoi atteggiamenti, le processioni reali e le feste di corte, che sono molto simili ai giochi di oggi.

Parole chiave: la regina Elizabeth I., processioni regali, feste di corte, giochi, danza