

Museum object: Item Number - GLAHA: 25597



1. Who do you think this woman is?

This is Mary Queen of Scots, who was born in 1542 and died in 1587. She could be considered a legendary figure, and probably one of the most famous Scottish rulers ever.

2. What kind of image is this? (A painting, a sculpture, a photo, etc?)

It is an engraving print (like a small copy) of a royal portrait that was made after she died, and was created for her grandson Charles I. Do you remember potato or sponge prints you made when you were younger, where you made a shape in the potato or sponge, painted it with ink or paint then pressed it on to paper to make an image? This is like that, except it was little cuts made into metal instead.

Challenge:

Make a potato print picture? We'd love to see your art – why not share it with us on social media using #MuseumFromHome



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3. What details do you notice around the woman?

If you look closely, you will see a skeleton at the top right, and below her is a coat of arms with a broken sceptre (which is like a big stick that royalty used during important events like getting crowned) and an axe.

4. What do you think these details mean?

The coat of arms and the sceptre symbolise her status as Queen of Scotland, and how she was forced to give up the crown to her young son after a group of Protestants rebelled against her because she was Catholic. She was put in prison for nineteen years, but because she was still royalty her life in prison was still very nice. The skeleton and the axe represent death coming for her.

5. Do you know how this woman died?

She was beheaded after she was caught planning to murder the Queen of England, Elizabeth I, who was Mary's cousin and the one who was keeping her in nice castles as part of her prison sentence.

Challenge:

Try looking up the object on our online database at

<http://collections.gla.ac.uk/#/advancedsearch> , using the **Item Number: GLAHA: 25597**

Can you find out when this print was made?

This version was printed in 1735. The original painting it was based on was made around 1627. There may be confusion around the two dates listed under Production Date – they are explained in the details in the description text.