

1st Place

I often
think of
when I
will become
Canadian
take the oath
and pledge allegiance
to Her Majesty
Queen Elizabeth
but in
my heart
will it
be untrue
she split
my country
into two
If it
weren't for
colonization
I may
never have
needed
to undergo
the
self-destructive
pain of
immigration

By Afreina Noor, Montreal

2nd Place

Victorious

Render unto Caesar, that which is : Caesar`s.

To the Lord...

Plain pencil-skirted girl,

Wellborn, well-bred

As horses, hounds, corgis;

(Bloody instinct!)

Goldfishes circling

Still waters not deep, above

One-eyed portraits:

Princess, matron, crone.

Three letters sent

By grace of your profile--

Birthdeathinfinity: Is it love?

All ends in grimy clutches,

Rendered by Caesar...But

You would for Lucian Freud

Remove not even your crown.

Your dignity unto the Lord, alone.

By Donna Davis, Montreal

3rd Place

Platinum Fizz

Dearest Liz

Felicitations ma reine !

It's your Platinum jubilee,
Will you celebrate *en famille*
with a glass or two of fizz?

In keeping with your status
will it be a *Grande Marque bouteille*
of *meilleur Grand Cru classé ?*
Bollinger, Pol Roger or Krug,
Lanson, Laurent-Perrier *ou*
la véritable Veuve Cliquot?

No one knows more than you do
That *Prestige cuvée* champagne and cake
Make an ultramundane
Fête royale.

By Wanda Potrykus, Westmount

4th Place

Seventy-Year Reign

At school
in Chibougamau
We sing
God Save The Queen
Portraits of her on walls

One day
when I'm eight
I visit
Windsor Castle
wow
Queen Mary's dollhouse
I am mesmerized

In Girl Guides,
a silver jubilee badge
we receive
To sew onto
our blue uniforms

As an adult
near Rimouski
in May
my neighbour asks
'Do you like the Queen?'
It's a loaded question
I pause
Then respond
'Yes.'

By Catherine Parceaud, St-Valérien de Rimouski

We moved to London from Montreal in 1953, Coronation Year. I was 9. I remember joining the crowd along the Queen's carriage route, madly waving my Union Jack as she passed by and thinking I was part of history. Years later I was shocked to realise I couldn't have been there. Coronation Day was June 2 and we moved at the end of June. Guess I watched it on TV!

By Suzanne Belson, Montreal

As a journalist in London, England I was honoured to have been invited to a garden party at Buckingham Palace. It rained so the party was moved indoors! When I was at Radio Senegal in Dakar, the Queen inaugurated the English Center there. President Senghor held a reception for her and Prince Philip. They reciprocated and I was invited to both receptions.

By LaFlorya Gauthier, Châteauguay

Queen Elizabeth II

When Her Majesty acceded the throne,
passenger flight became reality.
Jamaica gained independence,
as the Beatles sang their first.
U.K. joins the E.E.C., the Concorde takes off.
War in the Falklands as Charles and Diana marry.
Windsor fire, Gulf war, divorces equal annus horribilis.
Twin towers fall with deaths of Queen Mother and Margaret
Scotland stays, U.K. leaves the European Union
This is a life worth celebrating.

By Phyllis Sise, Foster

Platinum Jubilee

Silver Jubilee

I was 12 years old
The Queen's dazzling jewels,
glittery gowns,
long white gloves
Impressed me.

Now,
Platinum Jubilee.
Devotion,
sense of duty
resilience,
are the attributes
I admire
in Queen Elizabeth.

An exceptional monarch,
trailblazer
stateswoman
From first televised coronation
to cellphones and Internet
The Queen has witnessed
exponential change
countless world events.

Through 70 years,
she has displayed
grace,
adaptability
and
steadfast service.

By Catherine Parceaud, St-Valérien de Rimouski

The Queen

As I knit a little doll in the image of my queen
I ponder her long life dedicated to service
She is immediately recognizable
Needles click, she takes shape
A short person, simply dressed
No pant suits for her
Body and dress are done
Now the head, white hair and hat
Signature handbag and string of pearls complete
But it is the beautiful colours that I love
How about you?

By Judy Parceaud, St-Valérien de Rimouski

The Queen

Stoic through family scandal
Nothing our Queen cannot handle
From long ago promise to serve
Her devotion will never swerve
Throughout her smile victorious
Grace and charm most glorious
Elegantly riding horseback
Not everyone has her knack
Her love for every creature
Always a dominant feature
Now Philip her love is gone
Can she keep calm and carry on?
Birthday photo with shires beside
Sadly without Philip in carriage ride

By Judy Parceaud, St-Valérien de Rimouski

Platinum Jubilee Questions

Dearest Liz

Aren't you tired sick of
all the pomp and circumstance?

Hasn't the romance and sheen

at being made

our queen

Palled somewhat in 70 years?

Don't you long to quit the scene

Rest your weary bones?

Wouldn't you like to groan a bit

Maybe scratch an itch or two

While you sit watching grandkids play?

Say what's the family business truly given you?

Aren't your dues fully paid?

By Wanda Potrykus, Westmount

THE LADY ON THE METAL TIN

Once it hosted a coffee cake
My granny had made for us.
Later, cookies of all sorts were welcomed,
Even pastel glazed French Petits Fours.
Now the tin lodges a multitude of buttons;
Hundreds of them
Thousands,
All exist in different shape or color.
But never mind how fun what's inside is,
And in spite her beautiful gown and sparkling tiara,
The pretty queen on the lid looks sad.

By Ellie Chartier, Montreal

The card

I sent a hand-made card to Queen Elizabeth, thanking her for supporting the Canadian Cancer Society. The cover included my own hand-made drawing, with a message about courage and hope. My hands trembled when a thank-you note came from the Queen's secretary on her behalf. I felt like royalty, *She knows I'm*

Alive! I did not need to be invited for tea at Buckingham Palace.

By Shira Katz, Cote Saint-Luc

Haiku -Congratulations!

Flip a coin, Heads, Queen E!

Seventy years of loyalty

Shining royally!

By Shira Katz, Cote Saint-Luc

The dolls

As I reflect on your seventy-year reign, I arrange my Royal dolls on the display table to celebrate your Platinum Jubilee. They are having high tea at a Charity Ball for the Canadian Cancer Society thanks to your loyal service to charities and caring for the community. Fashionably dressed, curtsying or bowing politeness and service. Holding toy coins with your image to inspire each of us to reach for hope.

By Shira Katz, Cote Saint-Luc

Not Exactly Acrostic Because Royal Life Can Be Chaotic:

SEVENTY years

Elizabeth II, Her Majesty the Queen

ser**V**ing the community

r**E**igning

coro**N**ation

authori**T**y

unit**Y**

all**E**gience

pl**A**tinum Jubilee

Respect

SEVENTY years, congratulations!

By Shira Katz, Cote Saint-Luc