

EUROPEAN ROYALTY—1910

This may very well be the most kings ever photographed at once. Represented are Norway, Bulgaria, Portugal, the German Empire, Greece, Belgium, Spain, Great Britain, and Denmark.



The Nine Sovereigns at Windsor for the funeral of King Edward VII, photographed on 20 May 1910. Standing, from left to right: Haakon VII of Norway, Ferdinand of Bulgaria, Manuel II of Portugal, Wilhelm II of Germany, George I of Greece and Albert I of Belgium. Seated, from left to right: Alfonso XIII of Spain, George V of the United Kingdom and Frederick VIII of Denmark.

Nine Kings 1910

In May 1910, European royalty [gathered](#) in London for the [funeral of King Edward VII](#). Among the mourners were nine reigning kings, who were photographed together in what very well may be the only photograph of nine reigning European kings ever taken. Of the nine sovereigns pictured, four would be deposed and one assassinated. Within five years, Britain and Belgium would be at war with Germany and Bulgaria. Only five of the nine monarchies represented still exist today: Norway, Spain (thanks to a restoration after nearly half a century without a king), the United Kingdom, Denmark, and Belgium. Oddly, the four sovereigns whose monarchies would not survive the twentieth century (Bulgaria, Portugal, Germany, and Greece) all stood together. It would not be possible to take a photograph of nine reigning European kings today, as there are only seven kingdoms remaining, two of which are currently headed by queens regnant.

The Nine Kings in order of seniority:

Country	Sovereign	Born	Reigned	Died
Greece	King George I	24 December	1845 27 June	1863 18 March 1913 18 March 1913
Spain	King Alfonso XIII	17 May	1886 17 May	1886 14 April 1931 28 February 1941
Bulgaria	King Ferdinand I	26 February	1861 7 July	1887 3 October 1918 10 September 1948
Germany	Emperor Wilhelm II	27 January	1859 15 June	1888 18 November 1918 4 June 1941
Norway	King Haakon VII	3 Aug	1872 18 November	1905 21 September 1957 21 September 1957
Denmark	King Frederik VIII	3 June	1843 29 January	1906 14 May 1912 14 May 1912
Portugal	King Manuel II	19 March	1889 1 February	1908 4 October 1910 2 July 1932
Belgium	King Albert I	8 April	1875 23 December	1909 17 February 1934 17 February 1934
United Kingdom	King George V	3 June	1865 6 May	1910 20 January 1936 20 January 1936

Standing: 1st from left – King Haakon VII of Norway



The Kroner

King Haakon VII ruled from 1905 until 1957, and he is regarded as **one of the most important Norwegians of the 20th Century** for his stoicism during WWII.

The **1 Kroner coin** shown here was struck from 800/1000 Silver up until 1915. After this, Norway's regular coinage was almost all cupro-nickel, **marking the end of an era.**

Standing: 2nd from left – Tsar Ferdinand of the Bulgarians



The Lev

Tsar Ferdinand established the Royal dynasty in independent Bulgaria, in 1908 he was pronounced their **first ever 'King.'** But he was forced to abdicate during WWI, and he lived to see his monarchy deposed by Socialists in 1946.

However one thing did survive, and that was the Lev – the Bulgarian currency which is **still in use today.**

Standing: 3rd from left – King Manuel II of Portugal



The Reis

King Manuel II was **the last ever King of Portugal**, as their monarchy was dissolved in October 1910 and Manuel spent the rest of his life in exile.

This makes Manuel II coins **particularly sought after by collectors** as they were only struck in **three** years – like the 500 Reis shown here.

Standing: 4th from left – Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany and Prussia



The Mark

In 1910, when this photograph was taken, Kaiser Wilhelm II was still held in some regard in Britain. The **last ever Emperor of Germany and Prussia**, he abdicated in 1918 after losing support from the military, marking the end of the German monarchy.

He left behind him a legacy of **attractive 900/1000 silver Marks** however, like the 2 Mark coin pictured here.

Standing: 5th from left – King George I of Hellenes



The Drachmai

Originally a Danish prince, George was born in Copenhagen. He was only 17 years old when he was elected king and he reigned for almost 50 years – **the longest in Modern Greek history**. Unfortunately, King George's reign came to an end on 18th March, 1913 when he was assassinated during the First Balkan War.

The distinctive 2 Drachmai which carries the King's portrait **features the Greek goddess Thetis** with shield of Achilles, seated upon a seahorse.

Standing: 6th from left – King Albert I of Belgium

Sitting: 1st from left – King Alfonso XIII of Spain



The Pesetas

Alfonso was monarch from birth as his father Alfonso XII had died the previous year. Until his 16th birthday in 1902, his mother, Maria Christina of Austria, served as his regent.

As he was born King, early coins from Alfonso's reign featured his portrait as a child, such as this 5 Pesetas from 1898 which **pictures the King at just 12 years old**.

Sitting: 2nd from left – King George V of the United Kingdom



The Half-Crown

Upon the death of King Edward VIII, King George V became the new King of the United Kingdom, **inheriting the throne at a politically turbulent time**. He wrote in his diary:

"I have lost my best friend and the best of fathers ... I never had a [cross] word with him in my life. I am heart-broken and overwhelmed with grief but God will help me in my responsibilities and darling May will be my comfort as she has always been. May God give me strength and guidance in the heavy task which has fallen on me"

His portrait was struck upon the half-crown, a British denomination **equivalent to two shillings and sixpence**, or one-eighth of a pound.

Sitting: 3rd from left – King Frederick VIII of Denmark



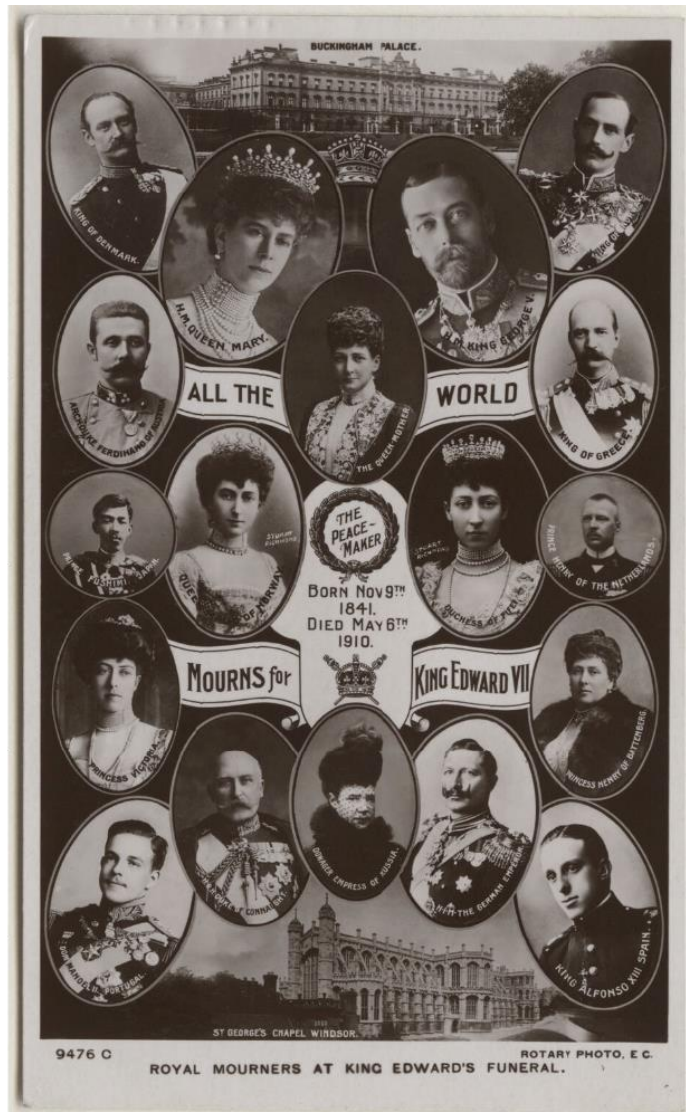
The Kroner

Frederick ascended the throne late in life, and **only ruled for 6 years.**

To mark both the death of his father King Christian IX in 1906 and Frederick's accession to the throne, a 2 Kroner coin was issued that features both Christian IX and Frederick VIII – an **extremely unusual and collectable 'double obverse' design.**

I've only just scratched the surface of the coinage behind the remarkable photograph. Suffice to say, we will probably never see an assembly of Monarchs like it ever again.

Royal Mourners at funeral of King Edward VII of England



First Column at Left, Top to Bottom: King Frederik VIII of Denmark, Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria, Prince Fushimi of Japan, Princess Victoria (1868-1935), King Manuel II of Portugal. Second Column: Queen Mary (1867-1953), Queen Maud of Norway (1869-1938), Prince Arthur Duke of Connaught.

Centre Column: Queen Alexandra (1844-1925), Dowager Empress Maria Feodorovna of Russia (1847-1928).

Fourth Column: King George V, Princess Louise Duchess of Fife (1867-1931), Kaiser Wilhelm II. Fifth Column at Right: King Haakon VII of Norway, King George I of Greece, Prince Henry of the Netherlands, Beatrice Princess Henry of Battenberg (1857-1944), King Alfonso XIII of Spain.