

# Four Reigning Queens Had Consorts



**EARL OF LEICESTER** (1532-1588) was a man of princely tastes. Though he never married Elizabeth I he was regarded as one of two men who were close to her.



**SECOND EARL OF ESSEX** was other man in stormy life of first Queen Elizabeth of England.



**PRINCE GEORGE OF DENMARK** (1653-1708) alone of all the consorts failed to leave a lasting impression of his personality behind him. Marriage was happy.

## Nearly All Were Strong

**FIVE** queens reigned in England before the accession of Elizabeth II. All married except Elizabeth I, so should the Duke of Edinburgh seek precedents for the conduct of a consort he has the lives of four predecessors to guide him. With the exception of Queen Anne's husband, Prince George of Denmark, all were men of robust character who left an enduring impression on the age in which they lived. Interesting too, and even inspiring, are the careers of the two men to whom Elizabeth I was most attached — the Earls of Leicester and Essex.



**WILLIAM III** (1650-1702) was husband of Mary and shared her throne but also was king in his own right. He was invited over from Holland to take throne.



**KING PHILIP II OF SPAIN** was married to Bloody Mary, later launched the Spanish Armada of 1588.



**ALBERT PRINCE CONSORT OF VICTORIA** is regarded as the classic example of a consort. He came from the German princely family of Cobourg, was handsome.