

## Secrets Within a Ring: Elizabeth I's Most Personal Possession

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The *Chequers Ring* is a uniquely intimate piece of Tudor jewellery once worn by **Queen Elizabeth I of England**, crafted in the mid-1570s. Made of *mother-of-pearl*, gold, rubies and diamonds, it stood apart from ceremonial regalia by virtue of its deeply personal significance — a ring the queen chose to wear until her death in 1603, long after she had set aside her coronation ring.

Today, the ring resides in *Chequers*, the country residence of the British Prime Minister, giving the jewel its widely recognised name and underscoring both its historical and cultural value.

### What Makes This Ring Special?

Unlike more public symbols of monarchy, the Chequers Ring carried a private message. On the outside, its bezel is set with a monogram — the letter *E* formed from diamonds alongside a blue enamel *R* for *Regina* (Latin for “queen”).

But the true mystery lies within: the ring opens like a tiny locket to reveal **two enamel miniature portraits**. One clearly depicts Elizabeth I herself, while the identity of the second portrait has fascinated historians for generations.

### A Jewel of Private Reverence, Now Hidden from Public View

Despite its historical importance, the Chequers Ring is *not regularly displayed* to the public. Maintained by the Chequers Trust at the Prime Minister's estate, it remains a largely private artifact, much like the silent emotions and personal bonds it may symbolise.

Historians consider it one of the few surviving pieces of Elizabeth's own jewellery — not just an ornament, but a rare window into her inner life during one of England's most dramatic eras.

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