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CORONATION SUPPLEMENT



© Artwork by Robert Elliott

Introduction

The Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla will have its traditional content but will also reflect the twenty first century monarch and our diverse nation and commonwealth. The British monarchy is continuously evolving, conscious of the times and age in which we live.

The 1937 Coronation was filmed and broadcast in cinema newsreels, the 1953 Coronation was televised and the 2023 Coronation will be live streamed, such are the advances in technology and the way in which the public views royal events. These capture the events of a momentous day for the people, and for subsequent generations. Earlier Coronations of the twentieth century were preserved in the medium of photography and the early forms of film. Thus the Royal family were 'seen' by more people and therefore became less remote to the general public and the media, newspapers, sparked an interest in all aspects of their lives, promoting both the royals and their sales at the same time.

In 2023, how we view the Coronation and information about its every aspect, is again different. Seventy years have elapsed since the last Coronation and today information gathering and dissemination is multi faceted. Information is there for everyone to access *via* websites, social media, television and radio. In the run up to May 6th there will be more revelations about the service, regalia, invitations and who is doing what.

A Coronation is a 'once in a lifetime' occasion for many of us, especially those under 70, but memories of previous Coronations have been shared by our members and are reproduced in this special Coronation Supplement to *The Heraldry Gazette*. The 1953 Coronation was what inspired a lifelong love of pageantry and heraldry for many of our members.

What is a Coronation?

The ceremonial that we will witness on 6th May 2023 has been in use for over one thousand years. The Saxon Kings of England were crowned and anointed in much the same way as King Charles III will be. These old rites were continued by the Normans after the 1066 Conquest. During the reign of Richard II (1377-1399) the Coronation ceremonial was written down for the first time in a finely illuminated manuscript known as the *Liber Regalis* (Royal Book), one of the Treasures of Westminster Abbey. The *Liber Regalis* gives a full description of the way in which a Sovereign is crowned, a blueprint for every subsequent Coronation. The Coronation Regalia of Crowns, Sceptres and Orbs, and the other objects of Sovereign Power, known as the Crown Jewels, are carried in procession, by nominated Officers of State and Peers, to the centre of the Abbey where a platform, or Theatre, will be erected where the King and Queen will sit during the Coronation ceremonies.

Details of coronations, such as the music used and numbers of guests invited, have changed over the centuries, but the basic 'running order' of this Christian religious and symbolic ceremony remains the same.

In 2023 we will also see the crowning of a Queen Consort, in a similar ceremony to that of the King. The crowning of a consort alongside the King is not new in our recent history, Queen Alexandra, Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth, the consorts of Edward VII, George V and George VI respectively were also Queens Consort.

There are several stages to a Coronation.

1. The **Recognition** whereby the Archbishop of Canterbury, the senior cleric, presents the new Sovereign to the assembled people in the Abbey as the rightful inheritor of the Crown of the Realm asking if those present are willing to do their homage and bounden duty, with the Sovereign turning to north, east, south and west sections of the congregation, who reply with a 'great shout'. In olden times at this point a Litany was said and a sermon preached, but changes have been made over the years.

2. The **Oath** is then administered to His Majesty who will promise to govern the people according to their laws and customs and to maintain the laws of God and the Protestant Reformed religion i.e. The Church of England. The Sovereign will then move from the Theatre to the Altar and laying his right hand upon the Holy Gospel takes the Oath, kisses the Bible, and signs the Oath.
3. The **Anointing** then follows whereby the King is seated in the Coronation Chair which will be placed in front of the Altar. There will also be a chair for the Queen. Traditionally four Knights of the Garter, the senior Order of Chivalry, hold a rich pall of silk or cloth-of-gold over the head of the King. The Dean of Westminster takes the **Ampulla** and **Spoon** from the altar and pours some of the Holy oil from the Ampulla into the Spoon and anoints the King on the crown of the head and on the palms of both hands. There may at this point be the donning of the *Colombium Sidonis*, a muslin undergarment, and the *Supertunica*, a long tunic of cloth-of-gold. The **Spurs** are then presented by the Lord Chamberlain and the **Sword** by the Archbishop of Canterbury into his right hand. The King traditionally then moves to the Altar and offers the sword in its scabbard and returns to the Coronation Chair. The Sword is traditionally redeemed from the Dean of Westminster by the Peer who bore it in the procession for 100 shillings. He then draws the sword from the scabbard and carries it before the Sovereign for the rest of the ceremony.
4. The **Investing of the Sovereign** is the next formality. First the Armills and Robe Royal, or Pall of cloth of gold are put on the Sovereign by the Dean of Westminster, the Lord Great Chamberlain fastening the clasps. The Ring, known as the Wedding Ring of England is put on the fourth finger of the King's right hand. The Archbishop then delivers the Sceptre with the Cross in to the King's right hand and the Sceptre with the Dove into his left hand.
5. The next formality is **Putting on the Crown**. The Archbishop takes the Crown from the Dean and reverently places it on the King's head. Traditionally there has at this point been a rousing shout of 'God Save the King' This time we will also witness the crowning of the Queen with Queen Mary's Crown. Trumpets will sound and there will be a gun salute at the Tower of London. The Holy Bible will be presented to the Sovereign, and the Sovereign having been anointed and crowned and having received the emblems of Royalty will be blessed by the Archbishop.
6. The Enthronisation is next when the Sovereign returns from the Altar to the theatre and the King and Queen are placed on their thrones.
7. **Fealty** is now rendered by the Archbishop of Canterbury on behalf of the Lords Spiritual and this time representative Peers i.e. Princes of the Blood Royal, Dukes, Marquesses, Earls, Viscounts and Barons will do their **Homage** to our Sovereign. Drums beat, trumpets sound and there is a collective shout of 'God Save the King'.
8. Following the Homage to the Sovereign the Anointing, Crowning and Enthroning of the Queen takes place, The Queen will go to the steps of the Altar and be blessed by the Archbishop. The Queen will then be anointed on her head and receive the Queen's Ring. The Archbishop will then take Queen Mary's Crown from the altar and place it upon her head and place her Sceptre with the Cross in her right hand and the Ivory Rod with the Dove in her left hand. After prayers she is conducted to her Throne at the left hand of the King.
9. Their Majesties then return to the steps of the Altar and take off their crowns and make an oblation of a pall or altar cloth and an ingot of gold weighing one pound from the King and a similar pall or altar cloth and a Mark eight of gold from the Queen.
10. There may then be a religious Communion ceremony as has taken place in previous Coronations.
11. The Communion service ending the King and Queen with the four swords borne before them, the King carrying the Sceptre and Rod and the Queen carrying her Sceptre and Rod go to St Edward's Chapel. In the chapel the King will give his Sceptre with the Dove to the Archbishop who lays it on the altar. The Spurs and St Edward's Staff are given to the Dean of Westminster who also lays them on the altar. The Regalia lying on the altar will be delivered by the Dean of Westminster to the Lords who carried them in the procession.

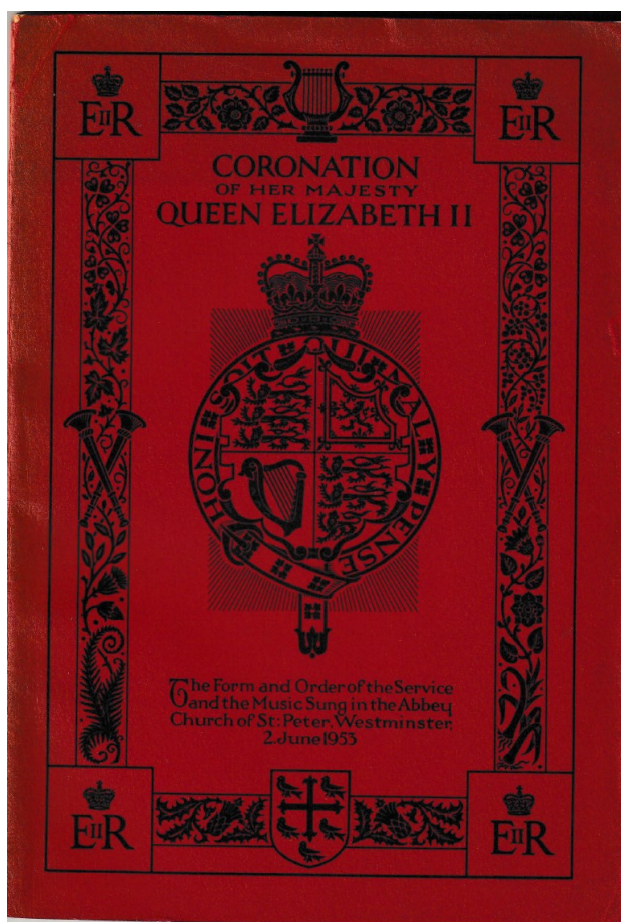
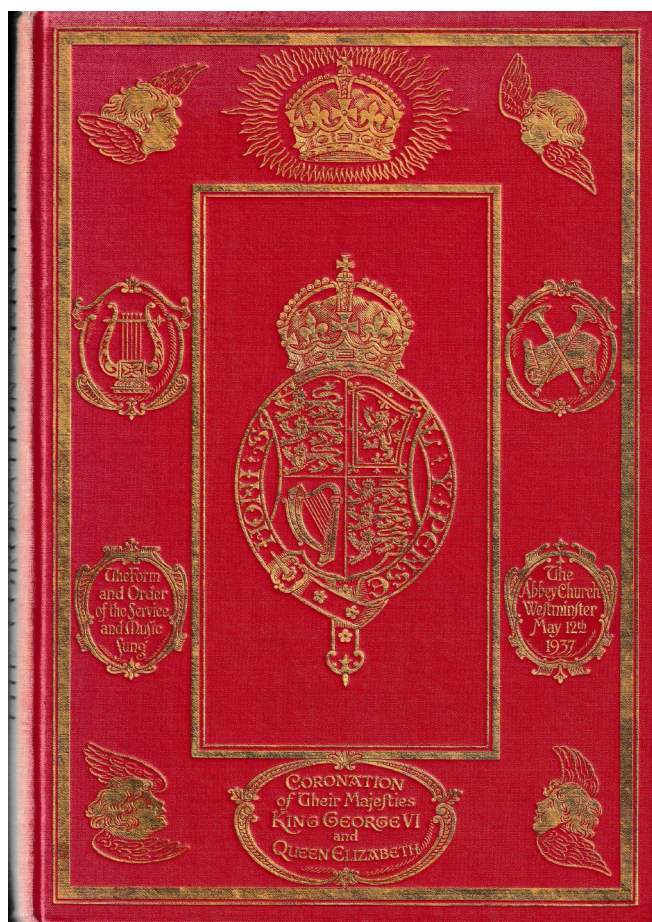
12. At this point there may be a change of clothing from the Royal Robes of State to robes of purple velvet.
13. The King wearing the **Imperial Crown** and bearing in his left hand the **Orb** and in his right hand the **Sceptre with the Cross**, accompanied by the Queen wearing her crown and holding her Sceptre and ivory rod, will return to the West Door of the Abbey and a waiting mode of transportation for the Coronation Procession.

The proceedings above are accompanied and intertwined by music, some traditional, some newly commissioned for the occasion. The music chosen for the 2023 Coronation will have ‘A range of musical styles and performers blend tradition, heritage and ceremony with new musical voices of today, reflecting The King’s life-long love and support of music and the arts’¹. We will have a musical treat with new orchestral, choral and organ music as well as the service being sung by massed Choristers and the traditional ‘Vivat’ from the King’s Scholars at Westminster School. Fanfares, and traditional music of Byrd, Handel, Elgar, Walford Davies, Walton, Parry and Vaughan Williams will also be included in the programme.

Notes

1. <https://www.royal.uk/coronation-music-westminster-abbey>

These two copies of ‘The Form and Order of the Service and the Music Sung in the Abbey Church of St Peter, Westminster’ from May 12 1837 and 2 June 1953 are from the Editor’s collection. Very similar in style, the 1937 issue is case bound and 1953 has soft covers. The Royal Arms are prominent on both with musical and floral motifs. Both the 1937 and 1953 copies were published by Novello and Company Limited, the music publishers.



The Crown Jewels

The Coronation will feature the symbolic items of regalia, part of what is known as The Crown Jewels. Usually under lock and key at the Tower of London the regalia below should be spotted during the Coronation service at Westminster Abbey. How many can you spot on May 6th?



At the anointing of the Sovereign, the **Ampulla** and **Spoon** are used with oil consecrated by the Patriarch of Jerusalem. The oil was created using olives harvested from two groves on the Mount of Olives, at the Monastery of the Ascension and the Monastery of Mary Magdalene where His Majesty's grandmother, Princess Alice of Greece is buried.

St Edward's Crown is historically used at the moment of Coronation, was made for Charles II in 1661 replacing the original which was melted down in 1649. It is decorated with rubies, amethysts and sapphires and weighs 2.07kg

The **Orb** represents the sovereign's power. It symbolises the Christian world with its cross mounted on a globe. The bands of jewels dividing it up into three sections represent the three continents known in medieval times.

The **Sceptre with the Dove** represents the sovereign's spiritual role, with the dove symbolising the Holy Ghost. Traditionally it has been known as 'the Rod of Equity and Mercy'. During the coronation ceremony the **Coronation Ring** is placed on the fourth finger of the sovereign by the archbishop, as a symbol of 'kingly dignity'. Gold **Spurs** were first included among the English coronation ornaments in 1189, at the coronation of Richard I (the Lionheart). They symbolised knighthood, and their use in the coronation ritual derives directly from the ceremony of creating a knight. During the service gold Armlets, or **Armills**, are placed on the sovereign's wrists. Referred to as 'bracelets of sincerity and wisdom' they are thought to relate to ancient symbols of knighthood and military leadership.



Queen Camilla is to be crowned using **Queen Mary's Crown**, with a few alterations and the addition of the Cullinan III, IV and V diamonds in tribute to HM Queen Elizabeth II who often wore the gems as brooches.

The **Imperial State Crown**, worn by the Sovereign to leave the Abbey, was made for the Coronation of George VI in 1937. Set with nearly 3000 diamonds it also includes such famous gems as Cullinan II diamond, St Edward's Sapphire, said to have been worn in a ring by Edward the Confessor and the Black Prince's 'Ruby'. The Sovereign's **Sceptre with the Cross** contains the Cullinan I diamond, the largest cut diamond in the world.



The Ampulla and Spoon

By John J. Tunesi of Liongam

At the time of writing, just under three weeks until the King's Coronation on Saturday, 6th May, it has been announced that the most sacred part of the Coronation, the Anointing, will follow the pattern of the King's late mother's Coronation with the canopy of cloth-of-gold being carried by four Knights of the Garter held over the head of the King whilst the Archbishop of Canterbury anoints the King with Holy oil or chrism upon the palms of his hands, breast and head. And as with Her Late Majesty's Coronation this solemn moment will not be televised, the camera will cut away and only those participants and others within sight of the Anointing will bear witness to it.

Prior to the Anointing, the Dean of Westminster will recover the Ampulla and the Anointing Spoon from the high altar and stand ready before the King with the Archbishop of Canterbury. The Dean then pours the Holy oil from the Ampulla into the Anointing Spoon and then the archbishop anoints the King.

Most of early Royal regalia was broken up and sold off to the highest bidder to raise revenue for administration of the country as well as an element of revenge against the royal house with this action.



We are fortunate that the Anointing Spoon survived, virtually intact, to be used in every subsequent coronation of British monarchs since the restoration of the monarchy in 1660. The Anointing Spoon is believed to date from the 12th Century, being recorded the Westminster Abbey's inventory in 1359. It is thought that it was first used for the Coronation of King Henry II in 1154 or for that of his son, King Richard I (the Lionheart). The spoon's saviour was Clement Kynnersley, who served as Yeoman of His Majesty's Wardrobe. He managed to acquire the spoon for 16 shillings and thus saved the spoon for both the Crown, nation, and posterity. After interregnum, Clement presented the spoon to King Charles II to be used at his coronation in 1661. It is thought at that time, Sir Robert Vyner added the four small seed pearls to the spoon's handle its only addition in some 500 years. Clement himself during the new reign was the King's First Yeoman of the Removing Wardrobe, with the responsibility of overseeing the moving of the Court's furniture from place to place when the King travelled within his realm.

King Charles II was crowned in 1661 with a new suite of Crown Jewels made by the Royal goldsmith, Sir Robert Vyner. It must be noted that Sir Robert was able to recover many pieces of the old regalia, especially the jewels that he then reworked into the new assemblage we see today in the Jewel House at the Tower of London, and will see at the Coronation in May.



The Ampulla is said to date from the time of the Restoration, but some writers have stated that the original Ampulla was not broken up entirely in 1649 and the eagle's body at least may date to the 14th century, with the wings and base added by Vyner. It takes the form of an eagle and is the vessel for holding the Holy oil or chrism which is poured from the eagle's beak into the Anointing Spoon.

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Here is Wisdom: Heraldry and the Coronation Bible

By The Revd Dr Michael Brydon

The Bible plays an important part in the Coronation. The oath has always been taken on the Gospels and since 1689 the presentation of the Bible has been part of the Rite. It was introduced for the Coronation of William and Mary, at the behest of Bishop Compton of London as a way of emphasising the Protestant credentials of the monarchy. But it is possible that Compton was also inspired by a fictional story of John Bale, the historian and controversialist, published in 1559, which described how Edward VI, the young reforming Josiah, on seeing three swords about to be processed before him 'asked yet for a fourth, the sword of the Spirit, the word of God, that is the Bible.' It is not difficult to see that it would have suited Compton to identify William of Orange, who had come to maintain the Protestant settlement, with an earlier impeccable Protestant king of England.

Prior to 1953 the Bible was presented after all the other regalia; for Elizabeth II's Coronation it was moved to just after the oath. One of the alternative suggestions was to draw upon Bale's account of Edward VI's reference to the Bible as the 'Sword of the Spirit' and to link the presentation of the Bible to the investiture with the 'Sword of Justice'. This would certainly have given the presentation of the Bible a more chivalric feel.

Even though that idea wasn't taken up the Bibles used at the Coronations were routinely decorated with heraldry. We know that Charles II swore his Coronation oath on 'ye great Bible cover'd with gold' from the King's Chapel at Whitehall, which would have had the Stuart Arms on it. Although Charles II's Bible does not survive its appearance would almost certainly have mirrored that of another King's Chapel Bible, which is preserved in the Royal Collection. This Bible and its companion Prayer Book of 1660 have a fine embroidered binding using metallic threads on velvet to illustrate the Royal Arms. These surviving volumes may well be the ones which are known to have been gifted to Bulstrode Whitelocke, the Parliamentary lawyer, in advance of Charles' Coronation.

The first known surviving Bible to have been indisputably presented to a monarch is that of George III, which also has his Royal Arms on it. Interestingly this Coronation Bible, which survives in the Royal Collection, still has the French Quartering in the Royal Arms, which reminds us that it was not until much later that George III formally dropped the monarch's longstanding claim to the title of King of France. Charles II, for whom the Coronation regalia was remade, had considered dropping the French quartering, but had been persuaded not to make the change by Elias Ashmole, Windsor Herald, on both antiquarian and political grounds.

The next known Coronation Bible is that of Queen Victoria, which is preserved in the library of Norwich Cathedral. This is bound in a sumptuous blue velvet and decorated with the Royal Arms in gold and was presented to the cathedral in 1874 by Bishop Edward Stanley, who inscribed that it was upon this Bible that 'Her Majesty QUEEN VICTORIA took the usual Oaths at her Coronation.' Stanley recalled that it had been given to him because he was Clerk of the Closet, which put him in charge of the ecclesiastical household. Norwich Cathedral was naturally proud of this treasure, and it was displayed on the newly restored Medieval lectern until they discovered that the son of late Bishop Sumner of Winchester also claimed to have the Coronation Bible. Bishop Sumner was listed as carrying the Bible in procession and his copy was authenticated by Queen Victoria's signature.

Bishop Stanley was no longer living, so Stephen Tucker, the Somerset Herald, was deputed to play detective and to see if he could explain the existence of two rival Bibles. He produced the summary of his research on 24th July 1886 and explained that somewhat unusually two Bibles had been used at Victoria's Coronation. The Winchester Bible was lighter, so Victoria had used it to take the oath on but had signed the oath on the Norwich one.

Victoria's son, Edward VII, also broke new ground by being the first monarch to receive his Bible as a joint gift from the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. The two universities rose to the challenge and produced a magnificent Bible with a fine binding in red polished levant morocco leather with the Royal Arms on the front, and the Arms of Edward the Confessor and the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge on the back. There were also roses, shamrocks and thistles to symbolise the three kingdoms. A similarly sumptuous volume was produced for George V and uniquely among the surviving Coronation Bibles, it also had a bookmark incorporating both the Royal Arms and

cypher! The Bible prepared for George VI's oath and presentation was equally grand, but turned out to be too heavy to carry, so a much smaller one, just with the Royal Arms, had to be rushed through at the last minute. The problem of weight was anticipated in 1953 by the avoidance of standard issue paper and its replacement by India Paper. The accomplished engraver and artists, Lynton Lamb, designed a fine scarlet levant morocco cover with a large cream-coloured lozenge containing the Royal Arms. This showed up rather well on the television broadcast when the Moderator of the Church of Scotland presented it.

The Moderator of the Church of Scotland will also be presenting the Bible at the May Coronation, but at the time of writing it is not known whether there will be any heraldry on the binding.

As we were going to press it has been announced that the Archbishop of Canterbury has received the 2023 Coronation Bible. He commissioned Oxford University Press to produce the Bible which is hand bound in red leather and decorated in gold leaf by the London bookbinders, Shepherds, Sangorski & Sutcliffe. The announcement has been broadcast via newspapers, the internet and social media. The motifs on the red leather binding include the Royal Arms surrounded by flora and crowns and on the spine is the King's cypher.

For this Coronation, four copies of the Bible have been made. The Bible used in the Service will be kept in Lambeth Palace Library, one will be given to the King, and the other two placed in the Archives of Westminster Abbey and the Oxford University Press.

The Bible used in the Coronation I feature in an Exhibition at Lambeth Palace which will showcase religious items used in Royal Coronation ceremonies going back to the reign of Henry I in 1100 to the present day. The Exhibition runs from 12 April to 13 July 2023 and can be visited 9:30 to 17:00 Monday to Friday and Saturday 13 May, 3 June and 8 July from 10:00 to 17:00. The Library and exhibition will be closed on 4-5 May.

The Editorial Assistant is getting ready for the Coronation too, she's got a new diamante collar and a regal cape. Let's see if she will pose in it for the June issue!



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EXHIBITION
OF
ENGLISH ROYAL HERALDRY
AT
BURY ST EDMUNDS CATHEDRAL



2ND TO 16TH MAY 2023

www.suffolkheraldrysociety.org.uk



Heraldry at the Coronation

The most prominent heraldry seen at any Coronation has to be the depiction of the Royal Arms. The Royal Arms in their present combination have been the same for some time, but this wasn't always the case as this brief resume of the evolution of the royal arms shows.



From around the reign of Richard I to the reign of Edward III (c1198-1430) the Royal Arms of England were the three gold lions passant with blue tongue and claws on a red background. The three lions were a recognisable symbol for the whole country. This is still true today with the three lions featuring on the England football kit, albeit in different colour palette.

During the reign of the Plantagenet Kings Edward III to Henry IV (1340-1405) where the English had a claim to the throne of France, the Royal Arms changed to reflect this with the Royal Arms now being quartered, 1 & 4 France Ancient (semy of gold fleur de lis on a blue background), 2 & 3 England.



From the reign of Henry IV to Elizabeth I (1405-1603) the Royal arms were similar, but the French arms changed to France Modern (three gold fleur de lis on a blue background).

With the death of Elizabeth I in 1603 with no heir, the Crowns of England and Scotland were amalgamated with the inheritance of the English throne by King James VI of Scotland, The Royal Arms needed to reflect this change. The Royal Arms were still quartered, but in a different combination. Quarters 1 & 4 are now the old quartered Royal Arms of France Modern and England, 2. is the Arms of Scotland – a red lion rampant within a double tressure on a gold background 3. The symbol of Ireland, the gold harp in a blue background.



However, with the reign of William III (1699-1702) the widower of the Stuart monarch Mary II who ruled solely until his death in 1702, the Royal Arms changed to reflect his Dutch heritage with an inescutcheon of pretence of Orange.

From 1707 with the Act of Union for Great Britain the Royal Arms again needed to reflect this change. 1 & 4, England impaling Scotland, 2. France Modern and 3. Ireland. Britain still had the last vestiges of a claim to the throne of France.



With the death of Queen Anne in 1714 the search for a protestant heir took place with the throne being inherited by the German George of Hanover, a descendant of Charles I. Quarters 1, 2 & 3 of the Royal Arms remained the same with the quartered arms of Hanover appearing in 4. until 1801.

From 1801 to 1816 the Royal Arms again changed, with the removal of the Arms of France and the addition of an escutcheon of pretence of the Elector of Hanover.



From 1816 to 1837 the escutcheon of Hanover is surmounted by a King's crown as Hanover became a Kingdom which could only be inherited by the male line. Therefore with the inheritance of the British throne by Victoria in 1837 the Hanoverian Arms disappeared from the Royal Arms to be replaced by the familiar Royal Arms in use today.

© Artwork by Roland Symons

A Discovery of Heraldry and a childhood footprint.

One of the gifts of heraldry, in all its' complexions, is that it attracts people from all walks of life. It is rather like an iceberg there is more beneath the surface than is immediately seen. The stories of what people find in heraldry and how they came to discover it are 'legion'.

For myself, as a little boy, still at junior school, it can be said, that heraldry found me. Our form teacher announced, that, "If you all behave yourselves" at the end of the day we would each be given a little book which she then held up, taken from a small pile on her desk, sure enough at the end of the day the class all left for home with a copy of this most wonderful treasure.



This was a thin book in a royal blue cover displaying front and back the colourful shields of the principal towns in the county of Essex. It was titled *Royalty in Essex* published for the benefit of the school children of Essex, by the then Essex Education Committee. It was published to commemorate the Coronation of the late Queen Elizabeth II.

The content, with some well-chosen pictures, presented a flavour of the relationship that various monarchs have had with the county both past and present. A short text recalls a state visit made by Queen Elizabeth I to Harwich in 1561. Queen Elizabeth described Harwich as "a pretty little town, and lacks nothing". Not an epic speech but, to a nine-year-old boy the ordinariness, of this remark made this Queen a real person, not just a page of history. Queen Victoria was received at High Beech in 1881 when she dedicated forest land

for the enjoyment and recreation of her subjects forever. Known as Epping Forest, it had once been formally a royal hunting ground. There was a photograph of King George V and Queen Mary opening a new Hospital at Ilford in 1931 along with other tantalizing glimpses of Royal connections down the ages. The castles they built and the houses were visited by royal progress.

This little book certainly stimulated my imagination and instilled in me a sense of seeing history, not, through a scruffy old dog-eared school textbook with dated illustrations and ink stains, but something I could feel a part of, a tangible heritage to be discovered and understood.

For seventy years this book has held a secret. I was looking at the shields on the front cover, just enjoying the presentation colour and display, then as I moved it slightly, I could see what was not, easily visible in direct light, a shield showed up as an indentation in the book cover where a shield had been drawn on tracing paper. A distant memory was unlocked of a little boy carefully placing a sheet of paper over the surface and tracing a shield onto the paper which left the ghost of the tracing indented in the cover by the pencil on the paper.

Like a forensic marker this confirmed to me that it was some time in 1953 that I was attempting to copy and absorb, what this coronation memento presented and what it was triggering in my imagination while I was discovering a new world of heraldic symbolism, which has stayed with me ever since then.

In 2004 King Charles III, then in his office as Prince of Wales, visited the remarkable resurrection of the Georgian house of Copped Hall in Epping Forest, now being preserved by the team of dedicated volunteers of the Copped Hall Trust. Royalty once again in Essex.

Hopefully Essex and the home counties with such a rich history will continue to be patronised by members of the Royal Family, as it has been since Saxon times.

God save the King.

Clive Alexander

Memories of Coronations past

1937

Oliver Harris writes.....

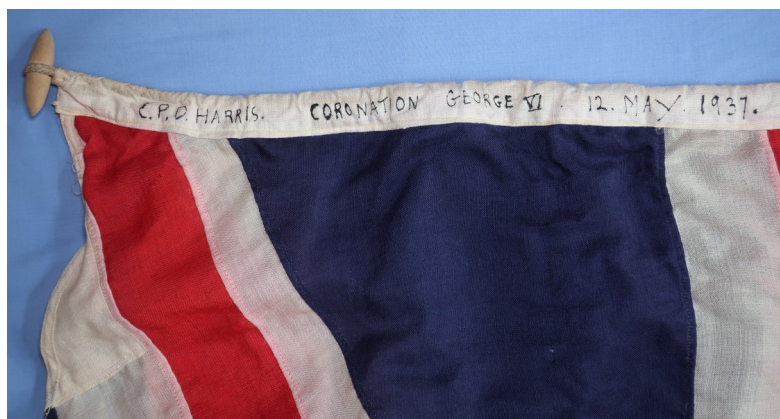
In 1937, my father, Philip Harris, was a 19-year old cadet at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. On coronation day, the cadets were sent to London to help line the processional route, close to the Abbey in Parliament Square. A few days later, he sent his mother an account of his experiences.

'I saw all the royalty quite clearly as their coaches passed just in front of me, but of course I only recognised the King, Q[ueen], Princess Elizabeth and Margaret Rose & Queen Mary, the Duchess of Gloucester, and the Dukes of Kent & Gloucester who were riding behind the Royal Coach. I saw all the Cavalry, the Yeomen of the Guard, the Lord Mayors Coach & the Speakers Coach. We got up at 1.15 a.m., having gone to bed at about 7.30 the night before. Then breakfast at 1.45, and we formed up at 2.30 outside. Then we went by bus to the station, w[h]ere we got on a special train to Waterloo, where we arrived about 4.15. Then we had a standing up breakfast on the platform, hot tea (¼ cup, because of p.p.) sandwiches, then we did p.p. Etc. and about 5.45 we formed up & marched out of Waterloo, crossed the Thames by Hungerford Bridge. A railway bridge with a footbridge next to it. Then we marched along the Embankment through New Scot: Yard, Whitehall & Parl Squ. We were there about 6.15, & it might have been the middle of the day, millions of people & empty cars which had taken people to the abbey, some people came in beautiful coaches with powdered lackeys behind, it looked just like those old pictures from Punch. Then about 8 o'clock the first procession passed & so they went on till the K. & Q. passed about 11. We of course did not see anything. Then after they had all gone we were given rations which we eat standing in the road in our places. We were allowed to go to the W.C.'s in the middle of Pl. Squ. in turn. Then about 1.45 the Cavalry formed up in front of us while all the Inf. Marched from Whitehall into Bridge Street. Then about 2.15 the procession started and then we saw all the royal family, Prime Ministers E tc E tc . Then just as the last coach had passed it started to pelt with rain & we got soaking wet. Then we formed up again & marched back to Waterloo, where the train was waiting & we got in and sat down for the first time since 5 a.m. that morning. We were given hot tea & rations at the station sitting in the train. Then it went off & we all fell asleep in my compartment. We formed up at Camberley & marched back from the station, and arrived back about 6 p.m. Then we had Mess about 7 (we did not have to change) and then I went to bed about 8.'

Meanwhile, his mother, Gertrude Harris, with other family and friends, had watched the procession from a vantage point somewhere else on the route.

To mark the occasion, and to serve as a backdrop, she bought a large Union Jack, which I still have, inscribed at the hoist with my father's name and the coronation date. After the event, this passed into the hands of Gertrude's mother, Angelica Neuerburg, who lived in The Hague.

Angelica kept it through the years of the war and German occupation; and in May 1945, when The Hague was liberated - by Canadian troops - she hung it out of the window of her flat as part of the general celebrations.



1953

Bernard Juby writes.....

I was the Troop Leader of the 161st North London Scouts and all of the London-based Scout Troops were asked to sell programmes for the Coronation. I remember cycling into the City centre very early in the morning along near-deserted streets to the storage depot of a London superstore where the Souvenir programmes were stored. We were provided with large bags to put them in and



off we went amongst the crowds lining the street. They were half a crown each & business was brisk!

It was pouring with rain but everyone was happy and I remember Queen Salote of Tonga in her open carriage & no

umbrella - the crowd loved her.

On a more sombre note as an aside my father was in charge of the construction of the catafalque for the lying in state of her father. He was caught in the centre-spread photograph of the London "Illustrated". He is standing in the doorway. I have a small box made from the oak that was used, together with the lining from a piece of the velvet.



Joan Brown remembers that she was still at school at the time of the 1953 Coronation but husband Bob was in the crowd lining the Mall and saw the procession go past.

John Gallagher writes

'I am nearly seventy-five and was five at the time of the 1953 Coronation.

My grandfather worked for The GPO, the bit that became BT, so we had one of the few televisions in our road, near Osterley in Hounslow, Middlesex. As a result almost all the children in the street and many of their parents came round for the day to watch the ceremony. My older cousin, Marie, was allowed to come over from Belfast to join in as well. Most of us went to the same infants' school, where we had been making cardboard coronets and paper coronation robes for a week or two before the event. As I remember, the coronets were the four crosses patee and alternating fleurs-de-lys of younger children of the sovereign but what the robes represented was anyone's guess. I suppose we were meant to put the coronets on when the peers, peeresses and heralds put theirs on at the crowning but some were put on then, others were on all the time and others were sat on, torn to pieces or presumably eaten with the celebratory jelly and cream. We children were mightily impressed and I suppose it started my interest in heraldry and ceremonial. I think I saw the filmed version three times. I vaguely remember some parents getting excited by what appeared to be a mishap with St Edward's crown.

I remember that it rained all day; a thunder bolt took down a tree in Granddad's front garden after we watched the return to Buckingham Palace. I remember the rain then and twenty-four years later at the Silver Jubilee. At the Diamond Jubilee, when I was the immediate past mayor of the London Borough of Ealing and standing in for the mayor at events in Acton during another wet day I was telling the story of the coronation to lots of small children and a few parents. I don't think they all understood the irony of Long May She Rain Over Us.'

Brendon Clarke writes.....

The ten bulky, six-foot tall statues that became well known as “The Queen’s Beasts” were drawn up around an especially-assembled glass entryway into Westminster Abbey so that when Princess Elizabeth arrived for her coronation and disembarked from the horse-drawn, golden, State Coach arrayed in a silk dress with the emblems of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth embroidered onto it in gold and silver thread, she progressed by the statues of the beasts step by step, escorted in a procession as she advanced inwardly towards the six-hundred-and-fifty years old “Saint Edward’s Chair.”

Each of the ten sculptures that she was conducted past represented either one of the dominions she would rule over, or an esteemed branch of her lineage. Each bore an armorial shield appropriate to the domain, or to the ancestral line that it signified.

Of the countless souvenirs sold in 1953 saluting the investiture of the new monarch, many depicted the arranged parade of sculptured “Queen’s Beasts.” I use one of these keepsakes that has survived - a memento of the beasts printed onto cloth as a tea-towel - to bedeck the interior of a hefty and lockable, silver-ware storage chest from Lord Muncaster’s Castle in Cumbria that I acquired a few years ago during an auction, to keep some of my heraldic oddities in.



The first ‘Queen’s Beast’ pictured at top left of the fabric is The Falcon of the Plantagenets.

Amongst the street parties that took place at the time of the coronation my mother won a fancy-dress prize for creating outfits for my older brother and myself out of some old fabric left over from the war she found in the loft space beneath the eaves of our small terraced house in Leicester.

We were photographed in our triumphant array but I don’t remember it well. I fell asleep in my second-hand pushchair.

Antony Noel Baxter writes.....

I can quite clearly remember hearing of the King's death on the radio, although I was only four and a bit at the time. Through some Army connections my father acquired two tickets for the Coronation stand in Piccadilly, so we all went down there in our old Jowett van (A1 only - no motorways, of course) and stayed with relatives in Ilford.

On Coronation Day I was woken at about 4am and my father and I went in a motorcycle sidecar to Stratford Underground station, where we caught the Tube to Marble Arch. We walked down towards Buckingham Palace and then took our places in the stand. It poured with rain, but I didn't seem to notice. Couldn't see too much of the procession but clearly remember Queen Salote of Tonga in her open carriage, and the State Coach. We got back to our relatives' house, where they'd been watching on one of those tiny TV sets. Two months later we'd got a set, but with a significantly larger screen. My father clearly wasn't going to get soaked twice.



I still have a Coronation programme, as well as a map showing the route and transport arrangements. I also have other souvenirs, such as a perpetual calendar, a tray, a thimble, and a small mug that children of my age got from the County Council, to judge by the coat of arms. It's only about 3in high and 3in diameter.

I also have a programme for the 1947 Royal Wedding, which I managed to find on a bookstall in a Bradford market. Nice heraldic cover.

I knew two people who'd been in the Coronation parade. One, who was my barber, had been in the Royal Tank Regiment route-lining platoon, as part of his National Service, an experience I think he quite enjoyed. He had pictures and mementoes in his shop.

The other, with whom I once worked, had been a Regular in the Household Cavalry. He had been on guard duty when Prince Charles was born, and they received a crate of champagne from the folks above. During the Coronation procession he was dismounted. Now I don't know how many

readers have Service experience, but with a rifle you can change arms and have a bit of variety whilst on the march. It's a move you see repeatedly during the Birthday Parade, as the current weapon is much heavier than the Lee Enfield or the SLR, on which I learned rifle drill, and so changing arms is more of a necessity to make life easier.

However, as Cavalry, his personal, weapon was a sword. Held at the 'carry' in the right hand, with the left gripping the scabbard. You can't change arms, or have a decent rest. By the time they'd finished for the day, they'd covered some 13 miles like that. No wonder he saw the day differently to my barber.

As an aside, there was an Open Day at the Bradford Corporation Depot in 1961, to celebrate 50 years of electric traction in the city. Trolleybuses would run in Bradford until 1972, although the trams were long gone by then. Apart from the surviving tram (now in the local Industrial Museum), there was a lorry that had obviously been used in some procession, decorated for the Coronation. They must have thought that 1953 might come round again, and wanted to be ready !!



The Editor writes.....

My Aunt gave me all her memorabilia relating to the royal family, from the 1937 Coronation to the 1953 Coronation, and everything in between. Newspapers, scrapbooks and souvenir issues of magazines. These souvenir issues of *Picture Post*, *Illustrated* and *The Daily Mirror* not only give day by day coverage of the run up to and the day of the Coronation but can also give useful historical details of day to day news and advertisements.

Royal Beasts

There are Beasts associated with Royalty which may also make an appearance at the Coronation, they certainly did during the 1953 Coronation. The original Beasts now reside in Canada with replicas at Kew Gardens in West London UK. They were heraldic beasts used as Badges or as Supporters by the royal family over the years.



The Lion of England

Three golden lions set one above the other on a red field have appeared on the coat of arms of every Sovereign of this country since the King of the Beasts was chosen as royal device by Richard I 'lionheart', the son of Henry II (1133-1189), at the very beginning what developed into the use of heraldic devices by royalty, knights and peers.

The supports of the royal arms were fixed after the accession of James VI and I in 1603, namely a crowned golden lion of England on one side and the Scottish unicorn on the other.

In this image, the crowned lion holds a shield with the Royal Arms as they have been borne since the accession of Queen Victoria in 1837.

The Griffin of Edward III

The griffin is one of the most ancient of mythical beasts and despite its formidable appearance was regarded as a beneficent creature. The griffin was closely associated with Edward III and was engraved on his private seal.

The griffin supports a shield upon which is the round tower at Windsor Castle, the badge of the present House of Windsor.



The Falcon of the Plantagenets

Apparently the first English monarch to use the falcon as a badge was Edward III and it was also adopted by his sons the Black Prince, John of Gaunt and the Duke of York. Through the latter it descended to Edward IV who took it as his personal badge, seated within an open fetterlock, as it may be seen upon the shield supported by the falcon.

The significance of the slightly opened padlock is assumed to refer to the struggle Edward IV had to ascend the throne of England - he forced the lock and won the throne.

The Black Bull of Clarence

This beast together with the White Lion of Mortimer have both descended to the Monarch through Edward IV. Lionel, Duke of Clarence, whose badge was a black bull, was the third son of Edward III. He married Elizabeth de Burgh, the heiress of the Earls of Ulster, and his grandson became Edward IV. The shield is charged with the royal arms as they were borne 1405-1603 not only by Edward IV and Richard III but also by all the Sovereigns of the House of Lancaster and Tudor.



The White Lion of Mortimer

This beast descends to the monarch through Edward IV who inherited it from his grandmother Anne Mortimer, the heiress of the Mortimers, Earls of March. Unlike the lion of England this beast is uncrowned. The badge upon the shield is really a combination of two - a white rose and a golden sun. Both of these appear on the great seals of Edward IV and Richard III, and were used by George VI when Duke of York.



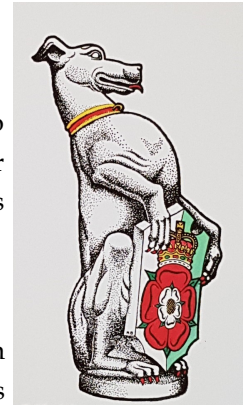
The Yale of Beaufort

The Yale descends to the monarch from Henry VII who inherited it from his mother Lady Margaret Beaufort. The Yale is a purely mythical beast whose peculiar characteristic was the ability to swivel each horn independent of the other. In colour it was covered with round white spots.

The shield portrays a portcullis surmounted by the arched royal crown. The portcullis (uncrowned) was a Beaufort badge but was also used by Henry VII both crowned and uncrowned.

The White Greyhound of Richmond

This beast was the badge of John of Gaunt, Earl of Richmond, son of Edward III, but it was also used by Henry IV and perhaps more so by Henry VII. On the shield can be seen the Tudor double rose, one rose within another and both surmounted by a crown. The device symbolises the union of the houses of York and Lancaster.



The Red Dragon of Wales

The Red Dragon which is now one of the Monarch's Beasts is Welsh in origin. Owen Tudor, the grandfather of Henry VII, took a dragon as his device, and the latter used it as a token of his descent from Cadwaladr, last of the line of Maelgwn, King of Wales.

The dragon supports a shield with four quarters in each of which is a red leopard. This was the coat of Llewelyn ap Griffith, the last native prince of Wales.

The Unicorn of Scotland

On the death of Elizabeth I in 1603 the crown of England passed to James VI of Scotland. King James took as the supporters of his arms a crowned Lion of England and a Scottish unicorn. A unicorn was certainly a royal beast at the time of James I of Scotland (1406-37) and in the latter part of the 16th century, two unicorns were adopted as the regular supporters of the Scottish Royal Arms, which are to be seen on the shield held by the unicorn.



The White Horse of Hanover

On the death of Queen Anne in 1714 the crown of Great Britain passed to George, Elector of Hanover, who was a grandson of Elizabeth, sister of Charles I. The Elector of Hanover thus became George I, King of Great Britain, France and Ireland, and in addition Duke of Brunswick-Luneburg. A white horse has been part of the armorial ensigns of the House of Brunswick from early times and our statue representing the beast bears a shield which portrays the titles of the Elector after he became George I. On the shield the quarters representing the kingdom of Ireland (Harp) and France (fleur de lys) are readily made out. In the first quarter are the leopards of England and the lion of Scotland side by side. In the fourth place are the arms of Hanover.

Coronation Collectables

How many of us have a souvenir of a Coronation in the house, your own or which has been passed down in the family?

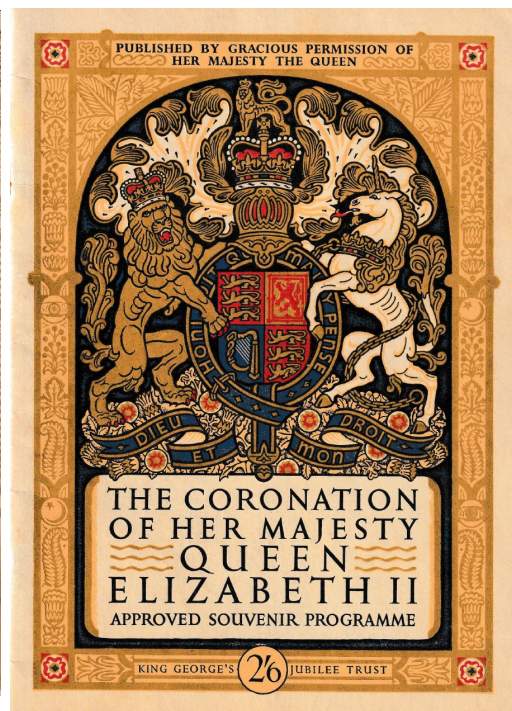
Many of us will have a commemorative pottery mug or plate, cup and saucer or biscuit tin. Some of these were purchased and others would have been given out to young people at school or youth groups. Sometimes these are to be found in charity shops for very little money. There are of course the 'official' and the 'unofficial' commemorative items in just about any medium you can think of: pottery, glass, silver, gold, textile, paper and plastic. Most will have artwork on them, the predominant theme being the Royal Arms and the Union Jack, together with symbolic flora of the Commonwealth. Much is therefore heraldic in nature.



Affordable commemorative ware, like this item of Edwardian Goss china, started to appear with the Golden and Diamond Jubilees of Queen Victoria in the late nineteenth century and with the Coronations of Edward VII in 1902 and George V in 1911. By the 1930s books, booklets and newspaper supplements and special editions celebrated the Silver Jubilee of George V, the accession and subsequent abdication of Edward VIII and the Coronation of George VI.

For the Coronation in 1937 there were books given out to schoolchildren to educate them about the monarchy and the Coronation, together with mugs and teaspoons inscribed with the town council who presented it. There were also educational items for young people to collect, such as cigarette cards issued by Player's and Churchman's. As well as the pageantry and history of a Coronation, there was also a focus on the King as a person and his family, a gradual transition in the angle in which the royal family were viewed by the people. The Great War was the changing point with the King visiting battlefields and Princess Mary's brass tins given out to soldiers. However, the Buckingham Palace Balcony appearance was first performed after the Coronation of Edward VII and Queen Alexandra in 1902.

The Official Souvenir Programme for the 1937 and 1953 Coronations are visually similar, with the Royal Arms taking centre stage, but with subtle differences in style. The 1937 issue incorporates the rose, thistle, leek and shamrock and also the maple leaf, silver fern, wattle, and lotus. Inside there are photographs of the King, Queen, Princesses and Queen Mary, an illustrated biography of the King, details of the Coronation Procession, a map of the Procession, articles on the Coronation



Ceremony, Coronation Service and the Form and Order of the Coronation and a genealogical table showing the descent of the crown. Something to buy to use on the day, and to read in more detail afterwards. The 1953 Official Souvenir Programme is very similar to the 1937 one with photographs of the Queen, Prince Philip, Prince Charles and Princess Anne, The Queen Mother, Princess Margaret and the Princess Royal, the Countess of Harewood.

There are then the same sections as in the 1937 edition, and a new genealogical table showing the descent of the crown. Both have a page with the coats of arms and symbols of the Dominions of the time and it is interesting to compare the two and note the changes from 1937 to 1953. Will there be something similar for the 2023 Coronation showing the Commonwealth etc, or a more modern spin?

Many examples of Coronation commemorative ware in glass and pottery, such as those illustrated, can be found in antique and charity shops, if you know where to look. Stylistically there is a recurrent theme: flags, crowns, the Royal Arms, images of the monarch and in some cases symbolism.



It is interesting to look at the way in which the 'run up' to a Coronation was handled by the Press in the 1930s and 1950s and compare it to the many ways in which information is handled in 2023.

Although here will no doubt be Coronation souvenirs of the traditional kind, there are also websites, news channels on TV, streamed and online and social media which is playing a big part in the dissemination of information for the Coronation. Snippets of information about the event, the history, the people involved, the things being used and the ceremonial are being drip fed to the public in the run up to May 6th in a myriad of ways. There is even a Coronation Emoji of St Edward's Crown which appears automatically when specific official Coronation hashtags are placed in social media posts.

John Player & Son cigarette cards from the 1937 Coronation

On 9 April 2023 the government announced the people who will undertake historic roles at this year's Coronation Service. Rather than being decided by the traditional Court of Claims, the applications for such roles this year were considered by the Coronation Claims Office which took advice from senior legal, ceremonial and ecclesiastical experts.



On the same day as the announcement, whilst in the second hand book shop at a National Trust property, I spotted an album of John Player & Son cigarette cards showing 50 ceremonial outfits expected to be seen at the 1937 coronation of George VI and Elizabeth (née Bowes-Lyon).



Just as cigarette cards are a thing of the past, given Charles III's reported desire for a 'slimed down' Coronation, so might be some of the splendid outfits worn in 1937. This article includes a small selection of images from the 1937 album, focusing on some of the individuals with roles announced by the Claims Office for 2023.

Peers. Many of those with such roles are peers, including the Earls of Errol (as Lord High Constable of Scotland), Dundee (as Royal Banner Bearer for Scotland) and Loudoun (as Bearer of the Golden Spurs). Previously peers have worn their coronation robes (also referred to as Robes of State) for such events. The Robe of State of a peer is of crimson velvet,

edged down the front with miniver pure (i.e plain white fur), with a full cape of miniver with rows of ermine tails according to peer's degree: two rows for a baron, two and a half for a viscount, three for an earl, three and a half for a marquess (as shown here) and four for a duke.

For practical reasons (most life peers do not own coronation robes) it has been reported that peers will not wear coronation robes to this year's event, but rather their ordinary parliamentary robes.



The arms of the Earl of Errol, including behind the shield in saltire two Batons Argent tipped Or as Lord High Constable of Scotland with the badge of the Great Constable of Scotland - two arms vambraced issuing out of clouds and gauntlets proper, each holding a sword erect in pale argent, hilted and pommelled or - at the side of the escutcheon
Creative Commons: Wikipedia (Saltspan)



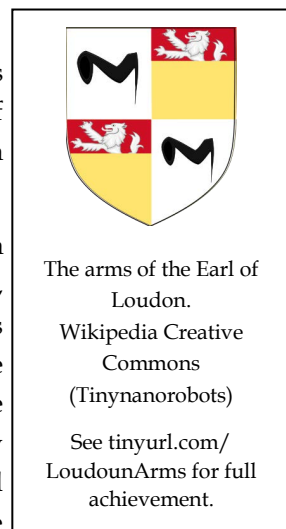
The arms of the Earl of Dundee, including behind the shield in saltire two Royal Banners of Scotland.
Creative Commons: Wikipedia (Mostepic)

From a heraldic perspective, peer's red and ermine robes are reflected in their mantling and the badges of office of the Earls of Errol and Dundee are shown here in their achievements.

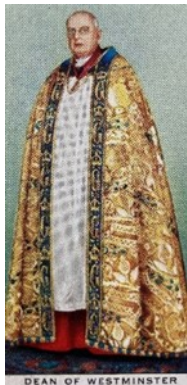
Heralds. The heralds are represented in the 1937 album by Garter, Norroy, Bluemantle and Lord Lyon. The Claims Office announced that Lord Lyon and the Scottish heralds and pursuivants will be part of Charles III's procession, most likely wearing their tabards of the Scottish Royal arms. Perhaps these will be some of the few outfits at this year's event that would be familiar to those who watched in 1937.



The official arms of the Lord Lyon showing the batons of office in saltire behind the shield.



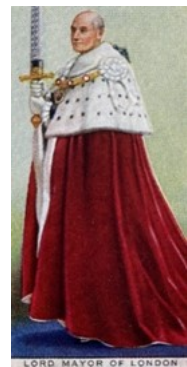
The arms of the Earl of Loudoun.
Wikipedia Creative Commons (Tinynanorobots)
See tinyurl.com/LoudounArms for full achievement.



Clergy. The 1937 album contains cards for each of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, Bishop of London and Dean of Westminster. Whilst the Archbishop of Canterbury is expected to play a key role at Charles III's coronation, only the Dean of Westminster was specifically included in the announced list of historic roles for this year's event. He will be charged with instructing Charles in the forms, rites and ceremonies. The Dean in 1937 was the William Foxley Norris whose arms are shown impaling those of Westminster.



Politicians. The 1937 album show a cabinet minister in the "less imposing" levee dress civil uniform; an ambassador is shown in the full-dress civil uniform including gold oak leaf embroidery. This year we will be lucky if MPs attending wear morning suits!



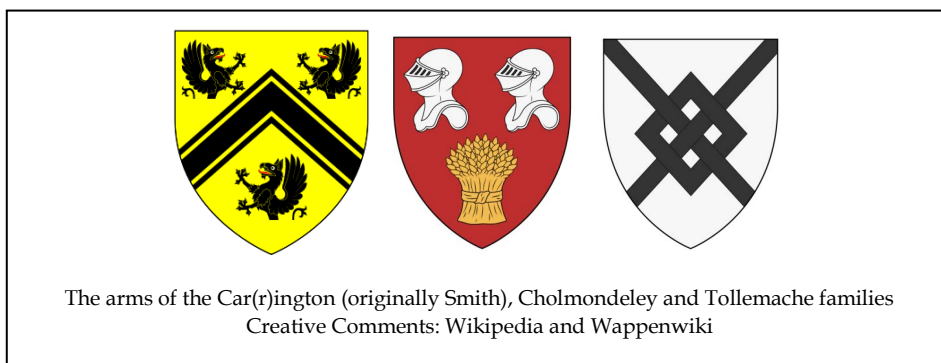
The Lord Mayor of London's participation in Charles II's coronation was approved by the Claims Committee. Since there is already one in Mansion House, I hope that the current Lord Mayor, Nicholas Lyons, whose arms can be seen on his shrieval chain at tinyurl.com/LyonsArms, will wear the ermine robe of state an earl to which the Lord Mayor is entitled - given the rumours about the robes of peers it may be our only opportunity to see one this year.



Pages of honour. As well as members of the Royal and Parker-Bowles families, the pages of honour for King Charles' coronation include Ralph Tollemache, grandson of the 5th Baron Tollemache and Lord Oliver Cholmondeley, the younger of the 7th Marquess of Cholmondeley's twin sons. Until 2022 Lord Cholmondeley was the Lord Great Chamberlain. A whole article could be written about how and why that office rotates between certain families but in short it now resides with the 7th Baron Carrington. The Claims Committee determined that he will take part in investing King Charles III with the Crown Jewels.



The arms of the Very Rev. Dean William Foxley Norris: The arms of Westminster impaling Norris, quarterly argent and gules, in the second and third quarters a fret or, over all a fesse azure. All within the collar of the Dean of the Most Hon. Order of the Bath.
Source: *Armorial Families* by A.C. Fox-Davies



The arms of the Car(r)ington (originally Smith), Cholmondeley and Tollemache families
Creative Commons: Wikipedia and Wappenwiki

The Lord Great Chamberlain's uniform is a scarlet version of the full dress civil uniform mentioned above. Lord Carrington wore the uniform, last worn by his Carrington forebear in 1935, during the Lying-in-State of the late Queen and said: "Not only did it fit but it's still in pretty good condition, except for the collar. I took it back to Henry Poole, the Savile Row tailor, and they made a new one. They were thrilled to see it again." I'm sure we will all see it again on 6th May.

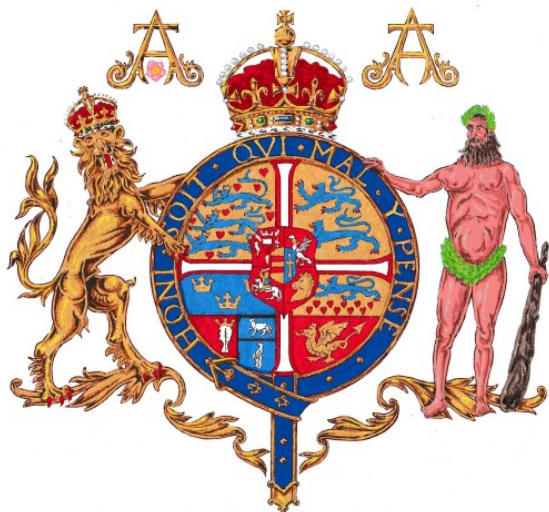
Colin Lafferty-Smith

Queens Consort of the 20th Century and their Heraldry

Since the death of Queen Victoria in 1901 there have been three other Queens Consort who after their Coronation alongside their husbands, the reigning Sovereign, were known as Queen. Times change and our new King and Queen have both been previously married, and divorced, before they married in a civil ceremony at Windsor Register Office followed by a blessing at St George's Chapel, Windsor. All three former Queen's Consort of the 20th century have been ground breaking and helped to modernise the monarchy which was further carried on by the late Queen Elizabeth II and will be by our new King and Queen in the twenty first century.

The Queen of King Edward VII was the seemingly ageless Queen Alexandra. Born Alexandra Caroline Marie Charlotte Louise Julia on 1 December 1844, she was the daughter of Prince Christian of Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderburg-Glücksburg, and Princess Louise of Hesse-Kassel. She had five siblings: Frederick, William (later George I of Greece), Dagmar (later Empress of Russia), Thyra and Valdemar. Alexandra married Albert Edward, Prince of Wales on 10 March 1863 at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. 1863 was also the year in which her father became King of Denmark, as Christian IX and her brother William appointed King of Greece as George I. Alexandra was Princess of Wales from 1863 to 1901, an unsurpassed record. Albert Edward and Alexandra had six children in total, Albert Victor, George, Louise, Victoria, Maud, and Alexander.

Alexandra was very popular with the British public and the press, and was a fashion icon in her day. To mask a childhood operation scar on her neck she took to wearing choker necklaces and high necklines, setting fashions which were adopted for fifty years. 1892 saw tragedy with the death of their eldest son, Prince Albert Victor, the Duke of Clarence and Avondale. In 1901 Edward VII succeeded his mother Victoria as King. Alexandra and Edward were crowned together in August 1902. From 1910-1925, as a dowager Queen and the mother of a reigning monarch, Alexandra became the Queen Mother. As was customary at the time, she did not attend the Coronation of her son and daughter in law.



The First World War saw upheaval in Europe, family loyalties being tested and the formal changing of the British royal family surname to Windsor from the German Saxe-Coburg-Gotha. It also saw the Russian Revolution and assassination of Tsar Nicholas II, Alexandra's nephew, and Tsarina Alexandra Feodorovna, the former Princess Alix of Hesse and by Rhine, niece to both Edward and Alexandra. Alexandra's sister, the dowager Tsarina, was rescued from Russia in 1919. Alexandra died on 20 November 1925 at Sandringham. She lay in state at Westminster Abbey and was interred on 28 November next to her husband in St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. Many roads, streets and boats were named for her, as was Alexandra Palace, the public exhibition and arts centre in North London, Ally Pally.

Queen Alexandra's Arms are the Danish arms of her father surmounted by the imperial crown, and supported by the crowned lion of England and a wild man or savage from the Danish royal arms.

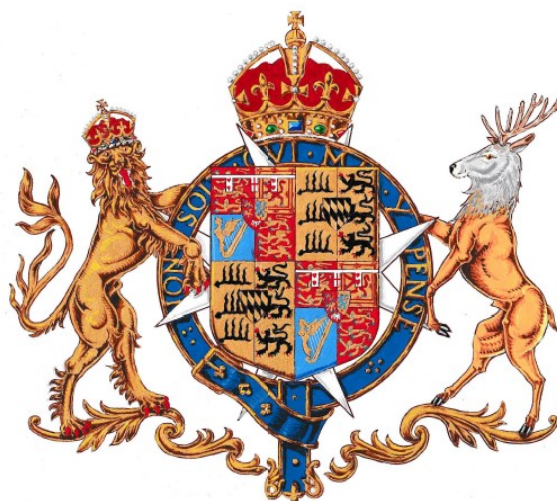
The Queen of King George V was the statuesque Queen Mary. Born on 26 May 1867 at Kensington Palace, Victoria Mary Augusta Louise Olga Pauline Claudine Agnes was the only daughter of Prince Francis, Duke of Teck, the son of Duke Alexander of Württemberg by hismorganatic wife, Countess Claudine Rhédey von Kis-Rhéde and Princess Mary Adelaide of Cambridge, a granddaughter of King George III and the third child and younger daughter of Prince Adolphus, Duke of Cambridge. In 1886 Mary was presented at Court and as the only unmarried British princess who was not descended from Queen Victoria she was a candidate for the royal family's most eligible bachelor, Prince Albert Victor, Duke of Clarence and Avondale. On 3 December 1891 the couple became engaged, but, tragically Albert Victor died six weeks later of influenza. The Duke of York, as second son, became second in line to the throne and in May 1893, George proposed, and Mary accepted.

The couple were married on 6 July 1893 at the Chapel Royal, St James's Palace. They had six children: Edward, Albert, Mary, Henry, George, and John. Although Queen Mary had an austere public image she was evidently a caring mother. In 1901, as the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York, they undertook an ambitious 8 month tour of the British Empire, visiting Gibraltar, Malta, Egypt, Ceylon, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, Mauritius, South Africa and Canada. On their return, on the King's sixtieth birthday on 9th November, George was created Prince of Wales. At the death of King Edward VII in 1910, Mary became Queen Consort and was crowned alongside her husband on 22 June 1911 in Westminster Abbey. Later in the year, the new King and Queen travelled to India for the Delhi Durbar held on 12 December 1911, and toured the sub-continent as Emperor and Empress of India.

During the First World War, Queen Mary instituted an austerity drive at the palace, where she rationed food, and visited wounded and dying servicemen in hospital and supported her husband with the major political changes arising from the aftermath of the war to end all wars. In 1935, King George V and Queen Mary celebrated their Silver Jubilee, with celebrations taking place throughout the British Empire. In his Jubilee speech, George paid public tribute to his wife. George V died on 20 January 1936 and Mary then became styled Her Majesty Queen Mary. Her eldest son, Edward VIII, ascended the throne but he abdicated later the same year in order to marry twice-divorced American socialite Wallis Simpson. Mary supported her second son, Prince Albert, Duke of York, as he ascended the throne on Edward's abdication, taking the regnal name George VI. When Mary attended the coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, she became the first British dowager queen to do so. In 1939 Britain again declared war with Germany and in 1942, her youngest surviving son, Prince George, Duke of Kent, was killed in an air crash whilst on active service.

Queen Mary was an avid collector of items with a royal connection, spending much money on acquiring jewels from the estate of Dowager Empress Marie of Russia, and the Cambridge Emeralds and tracking down missing items from the Royal Collections. In 1924, the famous architect Sir Edwin Lutyens created Queen Mary's Dolls' House for her collection of miniature pieces. Mary died on 24 March 1953 at the age of 85, ten weeks before her granddaughter's Coronation, scheduled for 2 June 1953. She lay in state in Westminster Hall where large numbers of mourners filed past her coffin and she is buried beside her husband in the nave of St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle.

The ocean liner, *The Queen Mary*, a battlecruiser, *HMS Queen Mary*, and a university, Queen Mary University of London, were named in her honour.



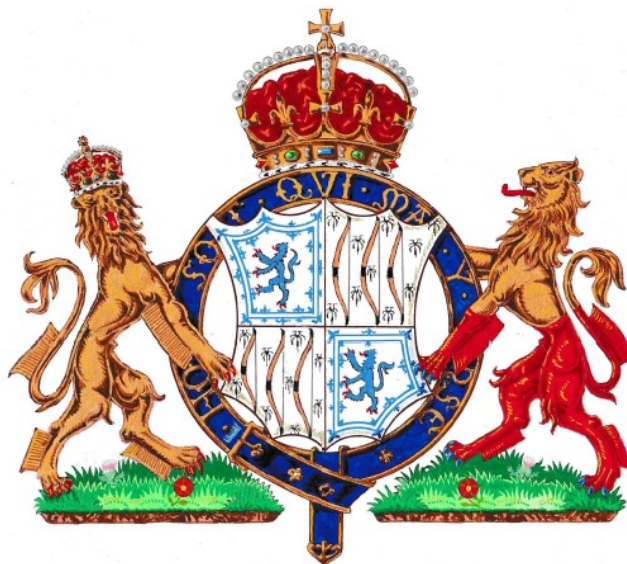
Queen Mary's arms are those of her grandfather, Prince Adolphus, Duke of Cambridge, in the 1st and 4th quarters, and the arms of her father, Prince Francis, Duke of Teck, in the 2nd and 3rd quarters. The shield is surmounted by the Imperial crown, and supported by the crowned lion of England and "a stag Proper" as in the arms of Württemberg.

The Queen of King George VI was Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. Born on 4 August 1900, Elizabeth Angela Marguerite Bowes-Lyon was the ninth of the ten children of Claude Bowes-Lyon, Lord Glamis, later the 14th Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne in the Peerage of Scotland, and his wife, Cecilia Cavendish-Bentinck. Through her mother she could claim descent from British Prime Minister, William Cavendish Bentinck, the 3rd Duke of Portland and Governor General of India and also Richard Wellesley, 1st Marquess Wellesley, the elder brother of another Prime Minister, Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington, the victor of Waterloo. On her 14th birthday War was declared on Germany. Four of her brothers served in the Army; her brother Fergus, an Officer with the Black Watch, was killed in action at the Battle of Loos in 1915 and another brother, Michael, was a POW. Glamis, like many large family residences, was turned into a convalescent home.

After the War, Prince Albert, the second son of the King, proposed several times to Elizabeth before eventually, in January 1923, Elizabeth agreed to marry him despite her misgivings about royal life. A Prince marrying a

commoner, despite being the daughter of a Peer, was considered at the time a nod in favour of modernisation. Previously Princes were expected to marry Princesses from other royal families. The First World War had done much to change attitudes. The couple married on 26 April 1923, at Westminster Abbey. In a last minute change Elizabeth laid her bouquet at the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior on her way into the abbey, in memory of her brother Fergus, which started the tradition of royal ladies laying their wedding bouquets in the same spot. After her marriage she became Her Royal Highness, The Duchess of York. Between prolonged royal overseas tours, the couple welcomed their first child Princess Elizabeth in 1926 with a second daughter, Princess Margaret Rose born in 1930.

After the Abdication of Edward VIII, they were crowned King and Queen of the United Kingdom and the British Dominions, and Emperor and Empress of India, in Westminster Abbey on 12 May 1937, the date previously scheduled for Edward VIII's Coronation. Elizabeth's crown was made of platinum and was set with the controversial Koh-i-Noor diamond. During the Second World War, the royal couple became symbols of the fight against fascism. The Queen publicly refused to leave London declaring "The children won't go without me. I won't leave the King. And the King will never leave." In January 1952 a delayed Commonwealth tour with Princess Elizabeth and her husband the Duke of Edinburgh going in place of the King and Queen departed, captured on film with the King waving them off. George VI died in his sleep on 6 February 1952 while Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh were in Kenya. On his death, his daughter immediately became Queen Elizabeth II, as King Charles III did on the death of his mother in September 2022. Shortly after the death of the King, the dowager Queen became styled as Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother to differentiate her from her daughter, also Queen Elizabeth.



As the 'Queen Mum', after the initial devastation of widowhood, she gradually returned to royal life continuing to travel extensively on official visits overseas. 90th and 100th Birthdays were causes for celebration with parades and Buckingham Palace balcony appearances. In August 2001 she made her traditional appearance outside Clarence House to mark her 101st birthday. On 9th February 2002 her younger daughter Princess Margaret died, and despite being frail she attended the funeral at St George's Chapel, Windsor. She died on 30 March at the Royal Lodge, Windsor, at the age of 101. Her surviving daughter, Queen Elizabeth II, was by her side. She lay in state in Westminster Hall with estimated 200,000 people filing past over three days. Members of the armed forces stood guard at the four corners of the catafalque and at one point, her four grandsons, Prince Charles, Prince Andrew, Prince Edward and Viscount Linley, mounted the guard as a mark of respect, an honour similar to the Vigil of the Princes at the lying in state of King George V, and at the lying in state of Queen Elizabeth II last year. Her final resting place is in the King George VI Memorial Chapel in St George's Chapel, Windsor. Known for her personal and public charm and humour, Elizabeth was one of the most popular members of the royal family, and helped to stabilise the popularity of the monarchy after the War. The Cunard White Star Line's *RMS Queen Elizabeth* was named after her.

Queen Elizabeth's coat of arms shown are the canting arms of her father, the Earl of Strathmore; the latter being: 1st and 4th quarters, *Argent, a lion rampant Azure, armed and langued Gules, within a double tressure flory-counter-flory of the second* (Lyon); 2nd and 3rd quarters, *Ermine, three bows stringed paleways proper* (Bowes). The shield is surmounted by the imperial crown, and supported by the crowned lion of England and a lion rampant per fess Or and Gules.

The Artwork that accompanies this article have been painted by David Hopkinson FHS .



The design of the Coronation invitation, designed by heraldic artist Andrew Jamieson has just been released - © <https://www.royal.uk/new-photo-coronation-invite>



David Hopkinson's latest page in his lovely collection of artwork of the armorial achievements of 'Arms of the Queen and Prince Consorts 1066-2022'. Every consort from Matilda of Flanders, wife of William the Conqueror to Queen Camilla is included.