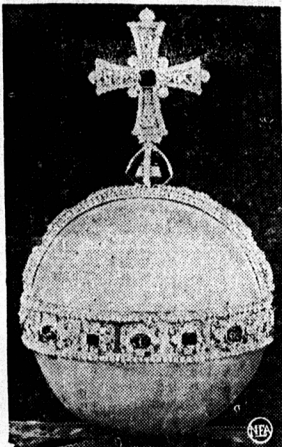
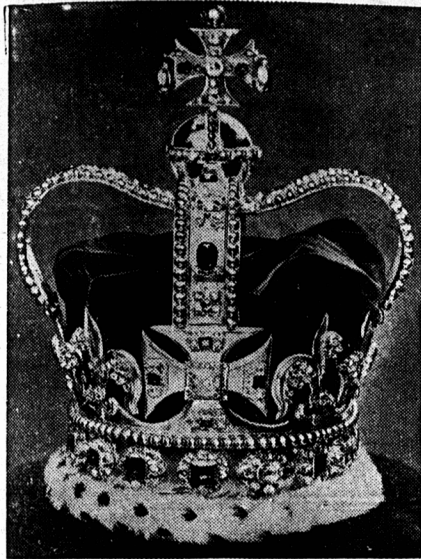


World's Costliest Jewels To Glitter At Coronation

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Regalia Nearly 3 Centuries Old

DEEPLY enshrined in English tradition is the significance of the golden, bejewelled Royal Orb (below), carried by the King during the Coronation ceremony. It symbolizes the world over which His Majesty rules in the spirit of the Cross.



Called St. Edward's Crown, the magnificent jewel above is THE crown that will be used in the coronation. It is not the original, but one made for the coronation of King Charles II to replace that destroyed in the Cromwell revolution. Historic drawings served as the model for this replica of the precious crown of Edward the Confessor (1004-1066).

MORE luxurious, if anything, than the crown used in the coronation of England's kings is the Imperial State Crown (above) which the King wears on all state occasions afterward. Blazing out in front are the ill-starred Black Prince's ruby and the Second Star of Africa diamond, of 309 1-4 carats. It contains 277 pearls, 17 sapphires, 11 emeralds, and 5 rubies.

BY MILTON BRONNER

Eight thousand muchly-favored guests, sitting in Westminster Abbey on May 12 for the coronation of King George VI, will see the greatest, richest and most costly set of precious jewels in the world—those adorning the coronation regalia of the Kings and Queens of England.

Ordinarily many of these things may be seen by the most casual visitor to the Tower of London where, behind stout steel bars under searching electric lights and the close scrutiny of guards the crown jewels are on display.

The early crown jewels used to be kept in the Treasury of England room in Westminster Abbey, but in 1303 a monk broke in and got away with some loot. So old Bluebeard Henry VIII of the many wives decreed that the jewels should henceforth be kept in the Tower of London and that edict holds good down to this day. In modern times it has been held to be utterly impossible for anybody to get away with the glittering gems worth three or four king's ransoms. But this has not prevented several attempts at it—and always in vain.

To the crown belongs what is probably the most famous diamond in the world—the Kohinoor. It came from the once world-celebrated mines of Golconda in southern India and was used in the crowning of the Great Moguls, the Moslem rulers of a greater part of India, until 1739 when the Shah of Persia, having conquered India, ultimately got his hands on the diamond, which had been hidden away. It eventually found its way back to India and when the British conquered the Punjab, they also bagged the diamond. The army sent it to Queen Victoria, who wore it in a brooch, but Queen Alexandra and later Queen Mary had it set in the crown which is placed on the Queen's head at the coronation. Queen Elizabeth, for a brief space on May 12, will be its possessor.

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516-CARAT DIAMOND SET IN KING'S SCEPTRE

ANOTHER similarly priceless gem is the one known as the Black Prince's ruby. It belonged to a King of Granada, Don Pedro, King of Castile, wanted it. Finding no other means to obtain possession, Pedro killed the owner and pocketed the ruby. Then he did a Quixotic thing in keeping with Castilian character. An English army under the famous Black Prince had rendered him much-needed aid in a battle near Vittoria. So Don Pedro gave the Black Prince the ruby which, after many vicissitudes, now adorns the imperial state crown.

The most recent of famous crown gems is the Star of Africa. It was found in 1906 in a mine near Pretoria, South Africa. The government of that dominion purchased it and presented it to the late King Edward VII to be used as an addition to the crown jewelry. It was

cut into a number of brilliants, the biggest being set in the King's sceptre. It weight 516 1-2 carats and is 2 and 5-16 inches long.

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REGALIA IS ALMOST MODERN IN ORIGIN

BRITISH monarchy and coronation go back very far in time, but the regalia now in use only dates from the reign of King Charles II in 1661. The ancient regalia disappeared, partly because some earlier king sold part of it for cash which they needed. The balance was sold under Cromwell's republican rule. The money was turned into the treasury of the commonwealth, the Puritans of that day having no use for royal baubles. When Charles II came to be crowned, an entire new set of regalia was made, being modelled from ancient drawings of the things which had disappeared.

St. Edward's Crown, the one with which the King is crowned in Westminster Abbey, is a circlet of gold, adorned with rosettes of precious stones, which rise from the crown. From the circlet rise four crosses and four fleur-de-lis alternately, all crusted with diamonds and other gems. From the tops of the crosses there rise two completely intertwined arches. From their intersections there is an arch on top of which is a golden cross, also set with colored gems as well as diamonds. At the very top of the cross is a very large pearl.

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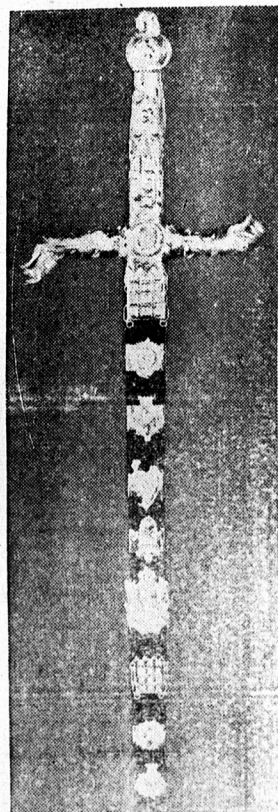
VICTORIA'S CROWN ALSO TO BE USED

THE other crown used in ceremonies is the Imperial State Crown which was made for Queen Victoria in 1838. Its weight is over 39 ounces. It is a circlet of open work in silver, having in front part of the famous star of Africa diamond previously mentioned. On the reverse side, it has a famous sapphire from the crown of Charles II. The rest of the circlet is alternately emeralds and sapphires enclosed in borders in which diamonds predominate. The crosses, which rise from the circlet, have each a fine emerald in the center except the very front one, which contains the Black Prince's ruby.

The sceptre, which is placed in the right hand of the King at his coronation, is of gold and throughout its length of three feet it is richly ornamented with diamonds, rubies and emeralds. The sceptre with the dove, which is placed in the King's left hand, is also of gold and is three feet seven inches

long. At the top is a golden cross with a white enamelled dove. Its eyes, beak and feet are of gold. The rest is adorned with precious stones.

In addition to an orb and spurs which are of gold and precious stones, there is the famous jewelled sword of state, the most costly of its kind in the world. It was made for that famous rake, King George IV, and cost \$30,000. Its value today would be a great deal more. The sword is of dull gold set with a myriad of gems of all colors.



A DAZZLING example of the jeweler's art is the gem-crusted sword of state (above) worn by the king. It was made at a cost of \$30,000 for King George IV and is today worth many times that sum.



A KING'S ransom of gems is worked into the King's sceptre (above) which George VI will hold briefly at the coronation. The heart-shaped gem is the 516 1-2 carat Star of Africa Diamond.