



Lambeth Palace Library Research Guide Coronations





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1 Introduction

This guide is an introduction to Lambeth sources on the Coronation, both printed and manuscript. Lambeth is one of the major repositories for such material, but there are complementary collections in the College of Arms, Westminster Abbey, the National Archives, the British Library and other locations.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has taken a leading role in the coronation of the monarch since Anglo-Saxon times. The form and order of the service are ancient in origin but not immutable and the Archbishop has played a major part in drawing up the rites and ceremonies. The strength of the Library's holdings lies in the post-Reformation collections: multiple annotated drafts and final copies of the service, archival material in the Archbishops' Papers and other manuscript series on preparations and proceedings, contemporary descriptive works, a substantial collection of secondary material, and items actually used in the service such as the Coronation Bible.

2 Reference Works: Select Bibliography

This is a very brief bibliography of some major reference works from Lambeth's extensive collections. For a much fuller bibliography, researchers should consult the recent and exhaustive book by Roy Strong (noted below), which covers the primary and secondary sources on the coronation in general and on individual coronations.

[You can also access the full Lambeth printed holdings in the Subject Index under Coronations – Great Britain, or by Keyword Index for specific aspects e.g. Coronation oath, Declaration against transubstantiation, regalia or crown jewels, etc.]

C. Blair, and others, *The crown jewels: the history of the coronation regalia ...* (2 vols., London, 1998). Probably the definitive work on the regalia.



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J.P. Crichton-Stuart, marquis of Bute, *Scottish coronations*, (Paisley, 1902).

F.C. Eeles, *The English coronation service: its history and teaching, with the coronation services of King Charles I and of Queen Victoria*, (Oxford, 1902). Short work by an outstanding liturgist. Also 1953 edition.

H. Everett, P. Bradshaw and C. Buchanan, *Coronations past, present and future: essays*, (Cambridge, 1997).

D. Maclean, *The great solemnity of the coronation of a king and queen according to the use of the Church of England ...* (London, 1911). Detailed exposition.

J.H.T. Perkins, *The coronation book; or, The hallowing of the sovereigns of England*, (London, 1902). Solid work by a canon of Westminster. He also produced a substantial handbook for the 1937 coronation.

E.C. Ratcliff, *The English coronation service*, (London, 1936). He also produced an annotated edition of the service for Elizabeth II.

P.E. Schramm, *A history of the English coronation*, trans. L.G. Wickham Legg, (London, 1937). The standard classic on the subject.

R. Strong, *Coronation: a history of kingship and the British monarchy*, (London, 2005). The most recent major work.

A. Taylor, *The glory of regality: an historical treatise of the anointing and crowning of the kings and queens of England*, (London, 1820). A large and still useful compilation with plates.

H.H.C. Thurston, *The coronation ceremonial, its true history and meaning*, (London, 1902). Roman Catholic viewpoint. A revised edition was produced in 1911.

L.G. Wickham Legg, *English coronation records*, (London, 1901). Major printed collection of the most important records including the *Liber Regalis*, the most developed medieval text.

R.M. Woolley, *Coronation rites*, (Cambridge, 1915). Scholarly liturgical work.

N.B. There are scholarly editions of several coronation services in the publications of the Henry Bradshaw Society.

3 Medieval Rites

Medieval coronation rites are represented at Lambeth mainly by later printed editions. Below is a small sample selection:-

W. Ballard, *The coronation of Elizabeth Wydeville, queen consort of Edward IV, on May 26th, 1465: a contemporary account ...*, ed. G. Smith, (London, 1935).



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The coronation of Richard III: the extant documents, ed. A.F. Sutton & P.W. Hammond, (Gloucester, 1983).

Liber Regis Capelle: a manuscript in the Biblioteca Publica, Evora, ed. W. Ullman (Henry Bradshaw Society, 92). An account of the English royal chapel, drawn up in 1449 by William Say, with a 15th century recension of the *Liber regalis* or coronation service.

Liber regalis seu ordo consecrandi regem ... e codice Westmonasteriensi editus, ed. F. Lygon, (London, 1870). Another edition of the *Liber regalis* is in L.G. Wickham Legg's *English coronation records*.

T. Silver, *The coronation service or consecration of the Anglo-Saxon Kings, as it illustrates the origin of the constitution*, (Oxford, 1831).

Three coronation orders, ed. J. Wickham Legg, (Henry Bradshaw Society, 19). Includes an early 14th century version of the *Liber Regalis* and an 11th century order for an Anglo-Saxon king.

N.B. The Pontifical is the liturgical book which contains various ceremonies that only a bishop may perform. Of particular interest for early English coronations are the following Henry Bradshaw Society publications:-

Vol.74. *Pontificale Lanaletense ... a pontifical formerly in use at St. Germans, Cornwall*, ed. G.H. Doble, (London, 1937).

Vol.97. *The Claudius pontifical (from Cotton MS Claudius A.iii in the British Museum)*, ed. D.H. Turner, (Chichester, 1971).

Vol.104. *Two Anglo-Saxon pontificals (the Egbert and Sidney Sussex pontificals)*, ed. H.M.J. Banting, (London, 1989).

Vols.113-4. *The Leofric missal*, ed. N. Orchard, (London, 2002).

There are a few scattered manuscript sources. For example, the bull of Pope Alexander III to Thomas Becket, 28 September 1170, reasserting the right of the Archbishops of Canterbury to crown the Kings of England (Papal Document, 7), and the coronation oath of Richard III, 6 July 1483, entered in Archbishop Bourgchier's Register (f.177).

4 The Service: Primary Sources

These are found in the manuscript and printed holdings at Lambeth. It is a very substantial collection and includes working drafts and final copies in various editions. Many items have revision notes or contemporary annotations on what actually took place. They are arranged below by order of coronation and some later editions of the texts have been noted. Select contemporary forms of the ceremonial issued by the Earl Marshal and accounts of proceedings have also been appended.



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Edward VI and Elizabeth I

MS1075a. 18th century copies of material on the coronations of Edward VI and Elizabeth I from Harleian MSS 2308 and 6064 in the British Library.

James I

MS 1075b. "A brief aswell out of the rites of the Coronation called Liber Regalis as also other bookes of good recorde in Coronation Order". No final text seems to have survived, but this is the most important draft.

Later printed edition *The coronation order of King James I*, edited by J. Wickham Legg. Based on Lambeth MS 1075b.

Charles I

MS 1076. "The rites and cerimonyes to be observed at the Coronation of King Charles, Anno Domini 1626, Febru.2". Contemporary manuscript, presented to the Library in 1761.

Later printed edition *The manner of the coronation of King Charles the First of England at Westminster, 2 Feb., 1626*, edited by C. Wordsworth, (Henry Bradshaw Society, 2).

Charles II

Sir James Balfour, *The form and order of the coronation of Charles the Second, King of Scotland, England, France and Ireland: as it was acted and done at Scoone, the first day of Ianuarie 1651*, (Aberdeen, 1651). Also 1660 London edition. Scottish coronation.

John Ogilby, *The entertainment of his most excellent Majestie Charles II in his passage through the city of London to his coronation containing an exact accompt of the whole solemnity ...* (London, 1662). Sion College folio now at Lambeth.

John Ogilby, *The king's coronation, being an exact account of the cavalcade ... for his late Majesty Charles the Second ... Also, the narrative of his Majesties coronation ...*, ed. William Morgan, (London, 1685). Also 1689 edition, with plate.

The entire ceremonies of the coronations of his Majesty King Charles II and of her Majesty Queen Mary, consort to James II ..., by E. Ashmole and F. Sandford, heralds, (London, 1761). Printed item bound in MS 1083c.

A circumstantial account of the preparations for the coronation of his Majesty King Charles the Second ... from an original manuscript by Sir Edward Walker, (London, 1820). Sion College copy (B94.2/W15(1)) is extra-illustrated with additional items.

James II

The form of the proceeding to the coronation of their Majesties King James the Second and Queen Mary ... (London, 1685). Broadside.

Francis Sandford, *The history of the coronation of the most high, most mighty, and most*



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excellent monarch, James II ... and of his royal consort Queen Mary ... (London, 1687). Large folio with numerous engraved plates.

William and Mary

MS 1077. "A Formulary of that part of the Solemnity which is perform'd in the Church at the Coronation of their Majesties, K. William and Q. Mary, at Westminster, 11 Apr. 1689". Presented to the Library in 1761.

The form of prayer and services used in Westminster Abby at the coronation of the kings and queens of England. With an account of the procession from the Palace to the Abby, (London, 1689).

Later printed edition in *Three coronation orders*, edited by J. Wickham Legg, (Henry Bradshaw Society, 19).

The form of the proceeding to the coronation of their Majesties King William and Queen Mary ... (London, 1689).

Orders to be observed on the day of the royal coronation of their Majesties King William and Queen Mary ... (London, 1689).

Anne

MS 1078. "A Formulary of that part of the Solemnity which is perform'd in ye Church at the Coronation of her Majestie Queen Anne at Westminster, 23 Apr. 1702." Archbishop Tenison's copy, including his report to the Commissioners for Claims, certifying that the Queen had made the Declaration against transubstantiation, etc., as laid down by Act of Parliament.

The form of the proceeding to the royal coronation of her most excellent Majesty Queen Anne ... (London, 1702). Printed item 36 in MS 938. Another copy is bound with Sandford's history of the coronation of James II.

George I

MS 1078. Queen Anne's formulary (see above) revised throughout for the coronation of King George I. On the reverse of the title page there is a memo "that K.G.F. wch is here sometimes set dow[n] signifies King George's Formularie".

MS 1079a. "The form and order of the service that is to be performed and of the ceremonies to be observed in the Coronation of their Maj[est]ies King George the IId and Queen Caroline ...". According to the Archbishop's notes "no book could be got of the late King's Coronation [George I]" until George II produced his own copy. The present manuscript (MS 1079a) was then "made exactly agreeable" both to Queen Anne's formulary and to "A formulary of that part of the Solemnity wch is performed in the Church at the Coronation of his Matie Kg George at Westmr Octr 20, 1714". [Unfortunately Lambeth does not have this copy of George I's formulary.]



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An account of the ceremonies observed in the coronations of the kings and queens of England ... (London, 1760 and 1761 editions) includes "The manner of the grand proceeding to the coronation of King George the First, October 20, 1714" (processions and ceremonial, not the service).

George II

The form and order of the service that is to be performed and of the ceremonies that are to be observed, in the coronation of their Majesties King George II and Queen Caroline, in the Abby Church of S. Peter, Westminster, on Wednesday the 11th of October, 1727.
Printed edition.

MS 1079a. (See above under George I). MS copy presented to the King in Council and ordered by him to be used at the coronation. Bound with related material including Archbishop Wake's notes.

MS 1079b. Copy of the service annotated by Archbishop Wake with notes of numerous mistakes in the actual performance: the first anthem was omitted due to "the negligence of the choir of Westminster", a following anthem was "in confusion" and 'Zadok the Priest', first composed for this occasion, was sung in the wrong place. Presented to the Library by Archbishop Secker in 1767.

MS 1080. Copy with annotations by the donor, the Rev. Thomas Baker.

MS 1081a. Copy collated by hand with the original of Charles I's coronation by Archbishop Laud in the library of St. John's College, Cambridge.

William Hawkins, Ulster King of Arms, *The ceremonial of the coronation of his most sacred Majesty King George II and of his royal consort Queen Caroline ...* (Dublin, 1727). Printed item in MS 1081b.

A particular account of the solemnities used at the coronation of his sacred Majesty King George II ... 2nd ed., (London, 1761). Printed item in MS 1083c.

George III

The form and order of the service that is to be performed and of the ceremonies that are to be observed, in the coronation of their Majesties King George III and Queen Charlotte ... 22d of September, 1761.

4 copies, including the copy used by Archbishop Secker at the service and with notes for George IV's coronation (MS 1083a) and a copy with notes by Archbishop Howley for William IV's coronation (bound in MS 1083b).

MS 1082. Copy of the service for George II, revised by Archbishop Secker for the coronation of George III and approved by the Council for use.

The form of the proceeding to the royal coronation of their most excellent Majesties King George III and Queen Charlotte ... (London, 1761). Printed item in MS 1083c.



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A number of unofficial works on the coronation were published in 1760-1761, including:-

An account of the ceremonies observed in the coronations of the kings and queens of England ... (London, 1760). With plates. Also 1761 edition. Based on edition of 1727.

A companion for the coronation: being the order of the grand procession at the coronation of his most sacred Majesty and his royal consort ...(London, 1761).

Queries submitted to publick consideration relating to the approaching solemnity of their Majesties coronations, (Gloucester, 1761). MS attribution to Josiah Tucker, dean of Gloucester.

Thoughts on the coronation of his present Majesty King George the Third ... (London, 1761). Edited by Samuel Johnson. Printed item in MS 1083c, with folded plate of the procession and the route.

R. Thomson, *A faithful account of the processions and ceremonies observed in the coronation of the kings and queens of England, exemplified in that of their late most sacred Majesties King George the Third and Queen Charlotte ...* (London, 1820). With plates. Sion College copy (B94.2/W15(1)) is extra-illustrated with additional items.

George IV

The form and order of the service that is to be performed and of the ceremonies that are to be observed, in the coronation of His Majesty King George III in the abbey church of S. Peter, Westminster, on Thursday, the 19th of July, 1821.

Final editions, including the copy used by Archbishop Manners-Sutton with the signature of George IV at the foot of the oath.

MS 1083a and MS 1312. Services for George III, both revised by hand for the coronation of George IV, with all reference to the crowning of the Queen Consort erased as he was estranged from his wife Caroline of Brunswick.

The ceremonies to be observed at the royal coronation of his most excellent Majesty King George the Fourth ... (London, 1821). Sion College copy (B94.2/W15(1)) is extra-illustrated with additional items.

[The ceremonies to be observed at the royal coronation ...], (London, 1821). 26 parts each relating to a specific person or item of regalia.

R. Huish, *An authentic history of the coronation of his Majesty King George the Fourth, with a full and authentic detail of that august solemnity ...* (London, 1821). Substantial work, with plates.

A brief account of the coronation of his Majesty, George IV, (London, 1821). With hand-coloured plates.



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[N.B. Unfortunately Lambeth does not hold a copy of George Naylor's *The coronation of his most sacred Majesty King George the Fourth*, which was such a lavish undertaking that it was not published until 1839.]

William IV

The form and order of the service that is to be performed and of the ceremonies that are to be observed, in the coronation of their Majesties King William IV and Queen Adelaide, in the abbey church of S. Peter, Westminster, on Thursday, the 8th day of September 1831.

1831 editions, including Archbishop Howley's copy.

1837 edition.

MS 1083b. Service for George III (see above), revised for William IV. Archbishop Howley noted that William IV's service "was printed from this copy: but some farther alterations were introduced as it passed through the press".

The ceremonies to be observed at the royal coronation of their most excellent Majesties King William the Fourth and Queen Adelaide ... (London, 1831).

The Earl Marshal's order concerning the robes, coronets, etc. which are to be worn by the peers ... (London, 1831).

Coronation, 1831, (London, 1831). Collection of proclamations and orders issued by the King and the Privy Council Coronation Committee.

Victoria

The form and order of the service that is to be performed and of the ceremonies that are to be observed, in the coronation of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, in the abbey church of St. Peter, Westminster, on Thursday, the 28th of June, 1838.

Proof copies of 28 May, 1 June with Archbishop Howley's corrections, and 6 June.

Final editions, one with Archbishop Howley's admission ticket.

1875 edition, edited by J.F. Russell; 1897 edition with plan; 1901 memorial edition.

The ceremonies to be observed at the royal coronation of her most sacred Majesty Queen Victoria ... (London, 1838). Printed item in MS 2189.

Coronation, 1838, (London, 1838). Collection of proclamations and orders issued by the Queen and the Privy Council Coronation Committee.

The order of the music, &c., to be performed at the coronation, June 28, 1838.

Some account of the coronation service of her most gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, June 28th, 1838.

Coronation of her most sacred Majesty. Procession from the west door of the Abbey into the Choir ... (London, 1838).



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Edward VII

The form and order of the service that is to be performed and of the ceremonies that are to be observed in the coronation of their Majesties King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra in the abbey church of S. Peter, Westminster, on Thursday, the 26th day of June, 1902.

[N.B. The date was changed to 9 August owing to the King's illness]

Draft B by Archbishop Frederick Temple, annotated and submitted to the King.

Drafts B1, C, D and F with amendments.

Draft C with amendments and note "With some queries for the King".

Draft G and 2nd copy annotated for the coronation of George V.

Draft K for the Earl Marshal and congregation, 26 June.

Confidential draft issued by the Archbishop and the Earl Marshal.

Confidential memo on the changes needed to shorten the service.

Annotated summary edition for the use of the Archbishop.

2 copies collated with the 1838 service for Victoria.

Final editions, varying formats, for 26 June, including Archbishop Davidson's copy with royal arms, and the Bishop of Stepney's copy with admission ticket.

Drafts L and L1 altered for use on 9 August.

Draft M annotated to show time taken by shorter service.

Private copies for special use on 9 August. Copies belonging to Archbishop Temple, Archbishop Davidson and the King (marked to show his part in the service).

Critical edition by J.H. Pemberton, 1902.

The ceremonies to be observed at the royal coronation of their most excellent Majesties King Edward the Seventh and Queen Alexandra ... (London, 1902). Several variant editions, for both June and August. Some annotations.

The coronation of their Majesties ... Categories of persons who received the King's invitation ... (London, 1903. 232 pages).

J.E.C. Bodley, *The coronation of Edward the Seventh: a chapter of European and Imperial history*, (London, 1903. 497 pages). Published by royal command.



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H.F. Burke, *The historical record of the coronation of their most excellent Majesties King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra ...* (London, 1904). Giant folio with colour plates. Given to the Archbishop by the Earl Marshal.

W.J. Loftie, *The coronation book of Edward VII, king of all Britain and emperor of India* (London, 1902). 2 copies bound for presentation, one belonging to Archbishop Davidson.

George V

The form and order of the service that is to be performed and of the ceremonies that are to be observed, in the coronation of their Majesties King George V and Queen Mary, in the abbey church of S. Peter, Westminster, on Thursday, the 22nd day of June 1911.

Proof copies 2-4 and annotated copies of the 1902 service.

Final editions, varying formats, including Archbishop Davidson's copy, and a copy given to Archbishop Tait's daughter by Davidson.

The ceremonies to be observed at the royal coronation of their Majesties King George V and Queen Mary ... (London, 1911). Typescript, proof copies and final edition, with royal arms. Also rehearsal copy no.2, and proceedings of the Coronation Executive Committee.

H.F. Burke, *The historical record of the coronation of their Majesties King George the Fifth and Queen Mary ...* (London, 1911). Folio with colour plates.

Edward VIII

[Not crowned. No texts published]

George VI

The form and order of the service that is to be performed and the ceremonies that are to be observed, in the coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, in the abbey church of S. Peter, Westminster, on Wednesday the 12th day of May, 1937.

Proof copies, some annotated by Archbishops Lang and Davidson.

Final editions, varying formats. Some bound with royal arms.

Archbishop Lang's copy, with the signatures of King George and Queen Elizabeth.

Music edition.

The ceremonies to be observed at the royal coronation of their most excellent Majesties King George the Sixth and Queen Elizabeth ... (London, 1937).

Also annotated proof copy and copy for rehearsal.

Collected volume of the papers of the various coronation commissions and committees.

Lord Chamberlain's lists of royal and other guests.

Elizabeth II

The form and order of the service that is to be performed and the ceremonies that are to be observed, in the coronation of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, in the abbey church of St. Peter, Westminster, on Tuesday the second day of June, 1953.

Several annotated proof copies.



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Final editions, varying formats, including Archbishop Fisher's copy with the royal arms, which enclosed his plain working copy with annotations.

Public edition, with red title page and royal arms, on sale to the public; also rejected proof and the Archbishop's copy as passed from the press 12 March 1953.

Edition distributed to guests in the Abbey, with royal arms; also annotated proof copies.

Music editions, including Archbishop Fisher's copy.

Critical edition by E.C. Ratcliff.

For the Queen: a little book of private devotions in preparation for her Majesty's coronation; to be used from first of May to second of June 1953, composed by Archbishop Fisher.

Privately printed, not published. Library has 2 copies with royal cipher on covers.

The ceremonies to be observed at the royal coronation of her most excellent Majesty Queen Elizabeth II ... (London, 1953).

Additional copy with an insertion for the procession of the Queen Mother.

Coronation of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II ... Ceremonial detail, notes and plans, (London, 1953). Archbishop Fisher's copy.

The coronation of her Majesty ... Categories of peers and peeresses who received the Queen's summons and persons who received the Queen's invitation ... (London, 1953. c.350 pages).

Printed papers of the various coronation commissions and committees.

Related Services

The Archbishops were also involved in the authorization of services in connection with the coronation to be held throughout the country and later throughout the Empire. Lambeth has a substantial, though not exhaustive, collection of such services, and a few items relating to the coronation celebrations of Churches other than the Church of England.

5 Archival Sources

Again these are listed in order of coronation. Summaries and quotations have been included to give some sense of the material involved, but it is difficult to convey both the volume and the detail of the later Archbishops' Papers.

Coronation of George III

MS 1719, ff.39-43. Copy of letter from Catherine Talbot, member of Archbishop Secker's household, dated Lambeth, 22 September 1761: "... His Majesty's behaviour was so nobly edifying, that every spectator was struck and delighted ... Have you heard that he knew every part of the Ceremonial better than all the Heralds, and had as much patience and good humour in bearing their numberless mistakes and stupidities, as quickness and attention in setting them right? ... [The Queen] was much to be pitied for she had a violent pain in her teeth the preceding night, and all that day, and was besides quite wearied with so much walking and standing in a very heavy dress; half frightened with the state of a Canopy that being ill put together, and worse held, seemed likely to fall on her every minute".



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Coronation of George IV

MS 1751, ff.26-46. Letters and papers, mainly formal, concerning the coronation.

Archbishop Howley Papers

MS 2189, ff.1,47-69. Miscellaneous material relating to the coronations of George IV, William IV and Queen Victoria, including royal mandates, tickets of admission, printed orders and a menu card for the City of London Entertainment for distinguished foreigners attending Victoria's coronation.

Archbishop F. Temple Papers

Coronation of Edward VII. F. Temple, v.57, ff.70-295, 310-400; v.58, ff.25-391.

Archbishop Temple was elderly and not very well, so Davidson, his eventual successor, took on much of the work. However Temple's papers still contain much correspondence on the revision of the service, the authorization of other official services for the day, and practical arrangements such as the dress of the bishops and the production of a new Coronation Bible. Vol.58 includes a collection of large annotated plans for the actions, movements, positions and processions during the service.

Related archives:- MS 1469, ff.134-148. Archbishop Temple's correspondence on the possible provision of a Coronation Bible by the British and Foreign Bible Society.

Archbishop Davidson Papers

Coronation of Edward VII. Davidson, v.278

The prospect of a coronation after so long a period caused great interest. From the volume of correspondence it must have seemed to the organizers that everyone, whether invited or not, had something to suggest. The scope and sheer quantity of subjects to be dealt with is astounding.

Vol. 278 is 400ff. long. It begins with notes on the coronation of George IV, possible damage to the Abbey fabric from the scaffolding, the coronation litany, the attendance of the King's chaplains, bishops' caps, and then on ff.30-2, a memorandum "Points on which His Majesty's Desires must be known":- Bishops (preacher, Queen's supporters, singing the Litany), Dress of Bishops (copes and caps), Anointing (on temple, head, breast and hands or the reduced ceremony since William IV), Girding with the Sword (restoration), Armill and Royal Robe (restoration of 18th century rubrics), Peers putting on their Coronets (timing), Kiss to the Archbishops and Bishops Assisting (restoration), White Towel at Communion (restoration), Pall over St. Edward's Shrine "to conceal the more ruinous parts of the upper woodwork", Musical Director (appointment), King's Chaplains (dress and procession), Revestment of Archbishops and Assisting Bishops (timing). The revisers were hoping to reinstate parts of the service which had been cut for the coronations of William IV and Victoria.

Coronation of George V. Davidson, v.20, ff.271-81, v.280.

The monarch's statutory declaration against transubstantiation had been initiated in 1689



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and was clothed in robust 17th century language offensive to the king's Roman Catholic subjects. In 1901 a Royal Declaration Bill had been brought in but not passed (F. Temple Papers, v.44, ff.343-401). In 1910 the declaration was finally toned down to a general affirmation of Protestantism and the Protestant succession in preparation for the 1911 coronation (Davidson, v.149, ff.237-44, v.279 *passim*).

Other coronation material is similar to the matters dealt with in 1902. It is noticeable how diplomatic the Archbishop had to be on delicate and disputed points, for example, the claim (which was denied) of the Archbishop of York to crown the Queen Consort, the rights of the Oxford and Cambridge University Presses to produce the Coronation Bible, the right of the Master of the King's Music to be consulted on the music in the Abbey, the necessity for the retiring Dean of Westminster to soldier on a bit longer as his successor was staying in Egypt for the sake of his health. To one (of many) requests for an invitation to the service, the Archbishop replied somewhat wearily: "But you realise – or perhaps you hardly realise – what the difficulties are. The Abbey unfortunately grows no bigger and the number of persons who can logically prove that they have an absolute right to be present multiplies by leaps and bounds" (Davidson, v.280, f.108).

Related archives: - MS 1973, ff. 67-76. Letters on the text of the service; MS 2160, ff.31-3, Photographs of the coronation.

Archbishop Lang Papers

Coronation of George VI: Lang v.21, ff.149-354; v.22; v.23, ff.170-280; v.152, ff.1-3; v.193/20; v.218; v.223, ff.234-56; v.318, ff.53-55, 145-6,147-150, 181-7, 230-1

The papers cover in detail historical precedent and liturgy, coronation music, the coronation oath, coronation bible, involvement of other Churches and of the Dominions, printing the service, proposed filming, and many other aspects of the planning. The abdication in December 1936, euphemistically called the "new circumstances", did not delay arrangements for the coronation. The personal aspects of the correspondence show that Lang found the new monarch and his wife much easier to deal with. He had been seriously worried by the attitude of Edward VIII.

Coronation of Edward VIII. Lang v.21, f.22, Lang to the Dean of Westminster, 21 July 1936 : "I have seen the King [Edward VIII] this morning and I am happy to say that he will not insist upon any vital changes in the age-long Rite of the Coronation, though I must try to effect certain abridgements ..." and in a memo of the same date: "He did not seem to know much about the origin or contents of the Service ...". In confidential letters to the Bishop of Birmingham, 4 and 11 November, 1936: "His temperament predisposes him to be restive about these religious obligations" and "I need scarcely add that the King's personal position with regard to this matter [taking communion] is one that gives me great concern" (Lang, v.21, ff. 117-9, 128).

Coronation of George VI. Letters of gratitude from the new King and Queen.

Lang v.318, ff. 147-150. King George VI to Lang, 13 May 1937: "I can never thank you [enough] for those words of encouragement you gave me in the course of that very trying ordeal. An ordeal it was, but I felt I was being helped by Someone Else as you said I would when you came to see me on Sunday. I have never felt that feeling of real calm before, as I



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was very nervous before I came in to the Abbey”.

Lang v.318, ff.184-7. Queen Elizabeth to Lang, 15 May, 1937: “I write to you with a very full heart, to thank you for making our Coronation such a spiritual and wonderful service, & to congratulate you on the incredibly beautiful way that you did everything ... I was more moved & more helped than I could have believed possible ... You told us last Sunday evening that we would be helped and we were sustained & carried above the ordinary fear of a great ceremony”.

Related archives:- Bishop Bell Papers v.205, ff.169-180, “How I saw the coronation in Westminster Abbey”, by Mrs Bell, 12 May 1937, with personal observations, for example, “This [procession] was led by the Princess Royal with Princess Elizabeth and Margaret, one on each side, the little Princesses very demure with diminutive trains. They sat temporarily just under me until the Queen (Mary) came and they could follow her into the Royal Box ... Princess Margaret wriggled back into her chair and was much tempted to swing her legs, but Princess Elizabeth glared at her severely from the other side of the Princess Royal”.

Archbishop Fisher Papers

Coronation of Elizabeth II: Fisher, v.80, ff.275-6; v.103, ff.394-408; v.123-125; v.127, f.190; v.128, ff.315-25; v.129, ff.195-200, 316-56; Later proposals in 1958 for the revision of the coronation service 1958, Fisher v.202, ff.56-89.

The material covered is similar to that described in the Lang Papers above. Some additional problems were raised, for example the use of the word “Protestant” in the coronation oath, and the wearing of mitres. The problem of dress was always important. In April 1952 for example, the Archbishop was fretting “...whether the Chaplains are going to wear the purple cloaks designed for the last Coronation, and if not what are they going to wear? I object to them simply on the ground that they are really too funereal in colour ...”. Much debate followed with a colour illustration of the proposed cape (Fisher, v.103, ff. 139-408).

Archbishop Fisher kept a fairly frank diary of proceedings from 20 March 1952 to the actual day of the ceremony. The first entry begins:” Don [Dean of Westminster] fired the first shot raising in particular fears that the Church of Scotland would demand some share in the Coronation Ceremony. He had earlier mentioned that if it helped to keep the peace he would be willing to allow the Moderator to carry the Bible to me to be presented to the Queen, foregoing his own privilege of doing so ...”.

One subject which caused much controversy was televising the service. On 24 October 1952 for example “The P.M. called an informal conference ... From the first word it was quite obvious that he had made up his mind that everything should be televised except possibly the Consecration and Communion ... I was willing that the whole ceremony should be filmed, but that I could not agree to television of those entirely spiritual parts of the Service. There was all the difference between reception of a film in a Cinema and the completely uncontrolled reception of the Service on a Television screen. The P.M. found this too subtle for him ...”

During the rehearsals Fisher noted that despite all the preparations “It is astonishing how



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many little points suddenly presented themselves ...". However all went very well on the day with few errors. At the Entry "The Queen made her only mistake in that she forgot to curtsy when she reached the north pillar ... Most people, of course, did not notice, but the Maids of Honour regretted it because they had taken so much time to get it just right, and I regretted it because from the Altar the sight of the Queen and the Maids of Honour curtsying was a very lovely one".

(Fisher, v.123, ff.1-33).

Fisher v.129, ff.316-56. The coronation had been so successful that an annual day of commemoration was proposed by many. Fisher confessed "I have not encouraged these suggestions knowing how easy it is to embark on an annual commemoration and how difficult it often is to give it any continuing life" (f.337) and indeed nothing came of the proposals.

Related archives:- MS 1641, ff.61-6. Memorandum by Claude Jenkins in 1952, "Some practical considerations humbly submitted by the Lambeth Librarian". Jenkins, Lambeth Librarian from 1910-1952, played a major part in the revision of the 1911 ceremony and was still active at the coronation of Elizabeth II.

MS 1545, ff.1-53. Papers of F.C. Eeles, the liturgist, on the coronation 1902-1953.

6 Related Primary Material

Coronation Ceremonial and Arrangements

The Archbishop was primarily responsible for the service, but the Earl Marshal was responsible for the ceremonial and other arrangements, with such bodies as the Privy Council Coronation Committee, Coronation Executive Committee, Court of Claims, the Lord Chamberlain's Office, Coronation Commission, the Army, etc. Lambeth has substantial collections of such material but is not the main repository.

The ceremonials, some related papers, and important accounts of the proceedings are appended to the Library's holdings of the service for each coronation, as the material is closely related.

Coronation Bibles

The presentation of the Authorized Version of the Bible was first introduced into the service for William and Mary in 1689. Lambeth holds the elaborately decorated Bibles used at the coronations of Edward VII, George V, George VI, and Elizabeth II. There is some related correspondence in the archives. For example, the splendid volume originally produced for George VI proved too heavy for use and had to be replaced at short notice by a smaller Bible "bound as suitably as we could in the time, which I think the Bishop of Norwich will be able to wield" (Oxford University Press to the Archbishop, 11 May 1937. Lang, v.22, ff.81-2)

Coronation Sermons

The sermon preached at the coronation service itself often made a political statement; for example, Bishop Morley in 1661, at the Restoration coronation, on the divine right of kings,



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Bishop Turner at the coronation of James II in 1685 on the importance of hereditary right to the text "Then Solomon sate on the Throne of the Lord, as King, instead of David his Father, and all Israel obeyed him", and Bishop Burnet after the Glorious Revolution in 1689 in very different mode to the text "He that ruleth over men, must be just, ruling in the fear of the Lord" preaching that "It is a Rule, and not an Arbitrary Power, without Laws and Measures. Man is indeed born free, and so he has a Right to Liberty".

The sermons were separately printed from 1603 onwards. Lambeth has the Sion copy of Bishop Bilson's sermon for the coronation of James I and a complete set of the sermons from 1662 onwards, up to and including Archbishop Davidson's copy of the 1902 sermon 'The heart of a king' by Bishop Winnington-Ingram, which had to be jettisoned when the service was shortened due to the illness of Edward VII. The sermon was dropped permanently from later coronations.

Many other sermons were preached to mark the coronation of the sovereign. Lambeth has a large collection of all coronation sermons. [Most are entered in the Subject Index under Sermons – Coronation or you can do a combined Keyword/Date search.]

Coronation Prayer Books

The Library has Archbishop Tenison's Prayer Book, with the royal cipher, which he used at the Coronation of Queen Anne, (and previously during the illness of her sister Mary).

As well as the Prayer Books used during the coronation, special editions of the Book of Common Prayer were published during the 20th century to mark the occasion. They were usually illustrated and issued with the text of the coronation service. Lambeth has various editions for 1902 and 1911, as well as elaborately bound presentation copies to the Archbishop from George V to mark his accession in 1910.

Controversial Material

Aspects of the coronation, and even its existence, were sometimes the subject of controversy, for example the decision not to crown George IV's estranged wife. Of particular importance were pamphlets on the significance of the coronation oath, the monarch's declaration against transubstantiation and other Roman Catholic doctrines, and many suggestions for the revision of the service. Some pamphlets were less serious.e.g. *The coronation: a piece of antiquate foolery*, published in 1902 under the pseudonym Romwell Colliver.

Miscellanea

Lambeth has eulogies and poems from the 17th century onwards. During the 20th century, miscellaneous material proliferated. There were official and unofficial souvenir programmes, handbooks and histories, specially composed hymns, songs and poems, exhibitions, speeches and meetings, etc. Lambeth has a large but certainly not exhaustive collection. Of particular interest from the visual aspect is a collection of coronation issues 1902-1953 from the illustrated magazines, including *Country life*, *Everybody's weekly*, *The Field: the country gentleman's newspaper*, *The Graphic*, *Illustrated*, *The Illustrated London News*, *Picture Post*, *The Sketch*, *The Sphere*, *The Windsor Magazine*, and *World-wide SPCK pictorial*.



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Prompt Scrolls

Most unusual of all the coronation holdings at Lambeth are the prompt scrolls printed in gigantic type and attached to the reverse of banners, made to assist the aged and enfeebled Archbishop Temple in 1902 (he died the same year). "Today Clay [the printer] sends me some suggestions of types for the rolls. The biggest and darkest may perhaps do ... They will print on parchment & put handles. I think that the rolls should be held as shewn on enclosed [sketch]!" (Davidson Papers, v.278, ff.209-211).

7 Related Topics

Foreign Coronations

Lambeth has a small collection. A sample selection is appended:

A brief rehearsal & discription of the Coronatio of the hye and myghti Prince Maximilian Kyng of Romans, Boheme, Hungeri, &c ...yn the year of owr Lord 1562, (Ghent, 1565. Facsimile edition, 1971).

E. Aggas, translator, *The order of ceremonies observed in the ... coronation of the Most Christian King of France & Navarre Henry the IIII ...* (London, 1594).

J. Garsenius, *De pontificia electi Romanorum imperatoris coronatione ...*[1609].

C. Villette, *Les raisons de l'office ... Ensemble, les raisons des ceremonies du sacre de nos Roys de France...* (Paris, 1611). Arms of Archbishop Abbot.

G. Sabinus, *Erudita et elegans descriptio electionis et coronationis Caroli V ...* (1612).

O. Panvinio. *Inauguratio, coronatio, electioque aliquot imperatorum: nempe a D. Maximiliano Primo ad D. Matthiam Austriacum &c ...* (Hanover, 1613).

J.F. Matenesius, *De parentela, electione, coronatione Ferdinandi II, Ungariae et Bohemiae regis ...* (Cologne, 1621).

W.B., *A new history of the Roman conclave; containing the rites and ceremonies used and observed at the death, election and coronation of the pope ...* (London, 1691).

The form of proceeding in the choice and coronation of an Emperor of Germany, extracted from the Golden Bull of Pope Gregory ... (London, 1711).

E.S. Dewick, editor, *The coronation book of Charles V of France (Cottonian MS. Tiberius B.VIII)*, (Henry Bradshaw Society, 16).

J. Porta, *Liber de coronatione Karoli IV Imperatoris*, ed. R. Salmon, (Hanover, 1913).

C.A. Bouman, *Sacring and crowning: the development of the Latin ritual for the anointing of kings and the coronation of an emperor before the eleventh century ...* (Groningen, 1957).



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There are accounts in the Lambeth MSS of the coronations of Frederick I, King of Prussia (MS 929, item 4) and of Gustavus Adolphus, King of Sweden (MS 250, item 30).

Westminster Abbey

Most histories and guidebooks to the Abbey will refer to the coronation. Lambeth has too large a collection to list. [You can access the printed holdings in the Subject Index under Westminster Abbey.]

Church and State

There are many other subjects which relate to the coronation and might be gathered under Church and State as a general theme. In the printed books Subject Index for example there is the heading Church and state itself, subdivided by country, Kings and rulers, Monarchy, Liturgics, individual rulers and archbishops, and History subdivisions under Great Britain and Church of England. There is similar material in the manuscripts and archives.