

On Coronations of Kings & Queens of England

No information is to be obtained in the Privy Council Office respecting Coronations prior to the reign of King James 1.st - Such of the following particulars as relate to an earlier period have been collected from the Genealogical History of the Kings of England written by Francis Sandford, Lancaster Herald, in the time of K. Cha.¹. 2.nd, being a book of some reputation for accuracy in its dates.

- Edward 3.rd - Crowned 1.st Feb: 1327, when single. Married in the same year to Philippa of Henault, who was Crowned the first Sunday in Lent of the same year.
- Richard 2.nd - Crowned 16.th July 1377, when single. Married in 1382 to Anne, dau^r of the Emperor Charles 4.th, who was Crowned with much pomp.
- Henry 4.th - Crowned 13.th Oct: 1399, then a widower, and no subsequent Marriage stated.
- Henry 5.th - Crowned 9.th April 1413, when single. Married 3. June 1420 to Katherine of Valois, who was Crowned 14.th Feb: 1420/1.
- Henry 6.th - Crowned in 1429, when single. Married 22.nd April 1445 to Margaret of Anjou, who was Crowned 30.th May following.
- Edward 4.th - Crowned 29.th June 1461, when single. Married 1.st May 1464 to Lady Elizabeth Grey, who was Crowned 26.th May 1465.
- Edward 5.th - Never Crowned: died in the Tower shortly after his Accession.
- Richard 3.rd - Crowned, with his Queen, 7.th July 1483.
- Henry 7.th - Crowned 30.th Oct: 1485, when single. Married 18. Jan: 1486/7 to Elizabeth, dau^r of Edw.⁴. 1.st, who was Crowned 25. Nov: 1487.
- Henry 8.th - Married to Katherine of Spain 3. June 1509 (soon after his Accession), and Crowned, with his Queen, 24.th of the same month. - Secondly married 25. Janry 1532/3 to Jane Bulken, who was Crowned on Whitunday following. No Coronation mentioned of his four succeeding Queens.
- Edward 6.th - Crowned 25. Feb: 1546/7 (single), and died in his 16.th year.
- Mary. - Crowned 30.th Nov: 1553, when single. Married 25.th July 1554 to Philip of Spain, who was not Crowned.
- Elizabeth - Crowned 15. Janry 1558/9, and never married.
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- James 1.st - Crowned, with his Queen, sometime between 11.th & 29.th July 1603, as appears by different Proclamations before & after the Ceremony, which probably had been kept suspended on account of a Contagion then prevailing in London. Sandford dates the Coronation on 25.th July 1603.

Charles

- Charles 1.st - Married 1.st May 1625 to Henrietta Maria of France, a few weeks after his Accession. On 17.th January 1625/6 the Royal Proclamation was issued appointing the 2.nd Feby following for the Coronation of the King and the Queen.
- Charles 2.nd - Restored 1.st May 1660. On 5.th Sept. following His Majesty in Council appointed the 7.th Feby ensuing for his Coronation, and there are two subsequent Orders reciting the former one; but the usual Proclamation is not preserved, and Sandford's History reports the King's Coronation to have been full two months later, namely on 23.rd April 1661. In either case this ceremony was previous to His Majesty's marriage, 21.st May 1662, with Catherine of Portugal, who does not appear to have been Crowned.
- James 2.nd - Married before his Accession in Feby 1684/5. On 6.th March following the Proclamation was issued appointing 23.rd April 1685 for the Coronation of the King and the Queen.
- William & Mary } On 12.th March 1688/9, being about one ^{month} after the Accession, a Proclamation was issued, in the names of the King and Queen, for the Coronation of their Majesties on the 11.th April following.
- Anne - Married to George Prince of Denmark before her Accession in March 1701/2, on the 29.th of which month Her Majesty's Proclamation was issued appointing the 23.rd April following for Her Coronation (alone). This Ceremony was not applicable to The Prince her husband.
- George 1.st - Married in 1682 (before his Accession) to Sophia Dorothy, daughter of the Duke of Zell. This Princess was living at the time of His Majesty's Accession in August 1714, and long after, her decease not happening till the year 1726; but she never appeared in England, a separation, as is said, having taken place in 1694. The King (alone) was Crowned 20.th Oct. 1714; and the previous Proclamation for that Solemnity, dated 4.th of the same month, speaks only of His Majesty's Coronation.
- George 2.nd - Had been married several years before his Accession in June 1727; and the Proclamation, dated 12.th August following, was for the Coronation of the King and the Queen.
- George 3.rd - After his Accession in October 1760 remained unmarried till 8.th Sept. 1761; but His Majesty's intention of Marriage was declared in Council 8.th July 1761, on which same day the Royal Proclamation was issued for His Majesty's Coronation to be celebrated 22.nd September following. In the intermediate time, namely on 26.th July 1761, there was an Order in Council directing the Earl Marshal to prepare for the Coronation of a Queen also.

From the foregoing particulars it appears, that, in early times, when the King had been Crowned before Marriage, the like ceremony of Coronation was afterwards observed with respect to the Queen Consort, as in the time of Edw. 3rd, — Rich. 2nd, — Henry 5th, — Henry 6th, — Edw. 4th, — Henry 7th, — and on the second Marriage of Henry 8th; but this practice seems to have been discontinued on the later marriages of Henry 8th, and was not revived in the time of Charles 2nd, the only subsequent occasion that offered.

It also appears that when the King was married before his Accession, or shortly afterwards, the King and Queen were Crowned together, as in the time of Rich. 3rd, — Henry 8th (on his first marriage), — James 1st, — Charles 1st, — James 2nd, — George 2nd, — and His present Majesty; and that the only exception to this course occurred in the time of George 1st.

As to the form of Proceeding preparatory to this Ceremony, the Council Books shew, that, when the King has resolved to celebrate the Solemnity of his Coronation, or the Coronation of Himself and his Queen, it is made known by a Proclamation specifying the day appointed. Orders are also issued by the King in Council to different Officers of State, that the usual forms may be ascertained & the necessary preparations made; but the full detail thereof can only be learnt by reference to the departments where a Registry of these forms is preserved, and which may probably be found in the Herald's College, or in the Lord Chamberlain's Office.

*In Commemoration
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