

The Crown JEWELS



A Weighty Crown

St. Edward's Crown weighs a heavy 2.23kg. It is made of gold and decorated with many precious and semi-precious stones including

sapphires and amethysts. It was considered too weighty for King Edward VII, who was still recovering from a serious operation at the time of his Coronation in 1901. The crown was last used to crown Queen Elizabeth II on 2 June 1953.

The Imperial State Crown contains over 3,000 gems. For the Coronation of The Queen's father, King George VI, in 1937, the gems were all transferred from the old Imperial Crown, which had been made for Queen Victoria in 1838. The crown contains many famous jewels including the Second Star of Africa diamond, the Black Prince's Ruby, the Stuart Sapphire, St. Edward's Sapphire and Queen Elizabeth I's earrings. Her Majesty wears this crown at the

State Opening of Parliament.

Diamonds and Gems

Among the other famous gemstones on display at the Tower is the First Star of Africa. It is mounted in the Sovereign's Sceptre. This is the largest flawless cut diamond

in the world and weighs 530 carats. The First and Second Star of Africa were cut from the famous Cullinan Diamond, the largest diamond ever found. Weighing over 3,000 carats, the Cullinan Diamond was given to King Edward VII by the Government of the Transvaal (South Africa) in 1907.



The legendary Koh-i-nur ('Mountain of Light') diamond, presented to Queen Victoria in 1850, weighs 106 carats. Traditionally the Koh-i-nur is only worn by a Queen or Queen Consort: it is said to bring bad luck to any man who wears it.

Among the other interesting jewels on display are Queen Victoria's small diamond crown and the Imperial Crown of India, made for King George V's visit to India as King-Emperor in 1911 and set with around 6,000 diamonds. This is the only crown that is allowed to leave the country.

Guarding the Jewels

Many millions of visitors go to see the Crown Jewels in the Tower of London every year, where they are guarded by Yeoman Warders (sometimes described as 'Beefeaters').

The priceless jewels remain a central symbol of The Monarchy and the nation.

Just don't think about trying to steal them!!

