

Upper Gallery Case 9

Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee (display 1)

2022 marks Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee. As Britain's longest reigning Monarch, having reigned for 70 years, she is the first British Monarch to celebrate this milestone. Behind her is Queen Victoria, who reigned for 63 years, and King George III, who reigned for 59 years.

Elizabeth Alexandra Mary was born on 21st April 1926 at the London home of her maternal grandparents, the Earl and Countess of Strathmore. The daughter of George V's second son, there was little expectation of her succeeding to the throne. This changed in 1936 with the abdication of her uncle, King Edward VIII.

Following the death of her father, King George VI, on the 6th February 1952 Princess Elizabeth was proclaimed Queen Elizabeth II. At age 25, she was the third youngest queen ever to succeed to the throne.

Her Coronation took place on the 2nd June 1953, and was the first to be broadcast live on television. It was watched by 27 million people in the UK – equivalent to 75% of the total population of the UK at that time! It was also broadcast live on radio, and 3 million people are said to have lined the streets of her processional way from Westminster Abbey to Buckingham Palace.

She celebrated her Silver Jubilee in 1977, with a ceremony at St Paul's Cathedral, and her Golden Jubilee in 2002 – the first Monarch to celebrate one since Queen Victoria.

In this display, we have brought together items from the Museum's collections and items on loan from Volunteers, Moray Society members and Friends of Elgin Museum.

Commemorative souvenirs have been a popular way of marking Royal events such as Jubilees for the last three centuries. The earliest known English commemorative items date from the Restoration of Charles II as king in 1660. The first British monarch to mark 50 years on the throne in a significant way was George III. The arrival of new manufacturing methods in the last 250 years made such items more affordable by the general public. Popular items which have been used to commemorate Jubilees past and present include coins, stamps, ceramics, textiles and even jigsaw puzzles.



- 1. Pearlised Plastic Souvenir Box.** Art Deco style box, possibly in Bakelite, made by Kleen-eze of Bristol to commemorate the 1953 Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. On top is a bronze-coloured plastic medallion showing the royal crown with the wording *Elizabeth R 1953*
On loan from C. Clerk

- 2. Souvenir Coronation Pen.** Moulded plastic pen with decorative metal plaque with coloured glass “gemstones”.
ELGNM: 1994.4.2

- 3. Coins & Medals (L-R): 1953 Five Shilling Coin** Copper-nickel commemorative coin minted to commemorate the 1953 Coronation. On one face is a portrait of HM Queen Elizabeth II mounted on her horse Winston, dressed in her uniform as Colonel-in-Chief of the Grenadier Guards, with inscription translated as: *Elizabeth the Second by the Grace of God Queen of all the Britains Defender of the Faith*. On the reverse are the four quarterings of the Royal Arms each contained in a shield and arranged in saltire with, in the intervening spaces, a rose, a thistle, a sprig of shamrock and a leek.
(*On Loan from T. & M. Stanning*); Medal commemorating the 1953 coronation awarded to serving Police offerings (ELGNM: 2006.19.18); Plastic medal issued to school pupils by the Aberdeenshire Education Authority to commemorate the Coronation (ELGNM: 2001.33.7)

- 4. Commemorative Stamp Set.** Limited edition postage stamp set issued by the Royal Mail to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II’s Platinum Jubilee in 2022. ale figure, seated, with arms folded resting on knees (height 12 cm). Originally labelled “Tarascan Culture”.
On loan from C. Herbert

- 5. Platinum Jubilee Souvenir Chocolate Bar.** Compare the modern souvenir with the Coronation version adjacent!
On loan from C. Herbert

- 6. Coronation Souvenir Tin & Chocolate Bar.** This tin was produced by Cadbury Bros of Bournville in 1953, and originally contained a bar of Dairy Milk chocolate and a gift card inscribed “*To commemorate the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II June 1953. With Compliments.*”. It is decorated with a portrait of Queen Elizabeth, surrounded by a fleur-de-lis pattern and the rose of England, the thistle of Scotland, the yellow daffodil of Wales and the shamrock of Northern Ireland.
Donated by F. Bing

- 7. Commemorative medallions.** Limited edition decorative medallion coins. The large coins commemorate the Silver, Golden, Sapphire and Ruby Jubilees; the small coin was issued in 2015 when Queen Elizabeth became Britain's longest reigning monarch.
On loan from C. Herbert
- 8. 1953 Coronation Souvenir Handkerchief** (hanging at top of case).
On loan from C. Herbert
- 9. Rectangular enamelled box.** Limited edition hinge-lidded enamel box, issued in 2021 to commemorate the 95th birthday of Queen Elizabeth II. The image depicted is "*The Coronation Theatre*" a painting by Ralph Heimans which marked the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Her Majesty is portrayed standing in the centre of the Cosmati pavement in Westminster Abbey.
On loan from C. Mathieson
- 10. Square enamelled box.** Limited edition hinge-lidded enamel box, commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. Depicted around the box are the stages of the Sacred Rite: The Recognition, The Oath, The Anointing and The Homage. On the lid is Her Majesty in Coronation Robes holding the Royal Orb and Sceptre and wearing the Imperial State Crown.
On loan from C. Mathieson
- 11. Oval enamelled box.** Limited edition hinge-lidded enamel box, commemorating the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.
On loan from C. Mathieson. Chris told us: While enamel boxes originated in the 18th Century, they were revived by Halycon Days (makers of the boxes on display) in the 1970s. As a Silver Jubilee year baby, one of my earliest boxes is from 1977 and I've enjoyed collecting these boxes ever since. As with most collecting "bugs", I then started looking for other items to enhance my collection, which was when I began collecting related paper ephemera"
- 12. Set of Six Engraved Tot Glasses.** Commemorative glasses, each is engraved *ER II June 2 1953*.
On loan from T. & M. Stanning
- 13. Silver Jubilee Mugs.** (L-R): Three mugs by Mason's (*On loan from T. & M. Stanning*); Blue mug (*On loan from J. McKenzie, who told us the mug was presented to all teachers & pupils at a school in South London where she was teaching in 1977*)

14. **Glass Coronation Tankard.** *On loan from C. Clerk.*
15. **1953 Coronation Mugs.** (L-R): Mug by Sadler's (*On loan from J. McKenzie, who told us the mug was bought for her, aged 2, as a souvenir of the event*); tankard-style mug by Ridgways (*on loan from C. Clerk*); Hughes of Longport ceramic mug (*On loan from E. Cameron*)
16. **Commemorative Tea Caddies.** L: modern commemorative Coronation Tea Blend tea caddy; R: Longest Reigning Monarch souvenir tea caddy. Both issued by the Royal Collection Trust. *On loan from C. Herbert*
17. **Souvenir Menu.** Menu and programme from a Royal Luncheon hosted by Moray County Council and held at the County Buildings, Elgin on 14th August 1961. The meal started with melon cocktail, followed by fresh Spey Salmon with sauce mayonnaise, cauliflower and boiled potatoes, and ending with raspberries & cream. *On loan from C. Mathieson*
18. **Souvenir issue of Picture Post magazine, vol 59, no 10, published 6 June 1953.** Picture Post magazine was a photojournalistic magazine published in the UK from 1938 to 1957. The Coronation Issue featured eye-catching illustrations of various features of the event (see the image at the back wall of the upper shelf).
ELGNM: 2005.1.13
19. **Coronation Souvenir Menu.** Menu and programme from the Trocadero Restaurant, London, from their commemorative dinner and cabaret held on the night of the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.
ELGNM: 2005.1.12
20. **Coronation Thanksgiving Service Souvenir Programme.** From an event held at St Paul's Cathedral on 9th June 1953. Hymns at the Service included *Rejoice, O land, in God thy Might* and *The Doxology*.
On loan from C. Mathieson

We would like to thank all of those who loaned items for inclusion in the display.

This exhibition was prepared May 2022 by Claire Herbert, Museum Volunteer