Saxon royal jewels are stolen from a German museum

Thieves broke into a museum in the eastern German city of Dresden early Monday and made off with three collections of jewelry from the royal house of Saxony, made of gold and precious stones, that authorities said were of immeasurable historical and cultural value.

The break-in took place in the Jewel Room, one of 10 rooms in the Royal Palace known as the Grünes Gewölbe, or Green Vault. The rooms hold a collection of 3, 000 individual objects, gathered by August the Strong, an 18th-century ruler of the German state of Saxony, as well as of Poland and *Lithuania*. The objects in the Green Vault are one of the world's most *intact* collections of Baroque jewels.

intact　完整的　　　　　　　　　　　　　　Lithuania　立陶宛

Police said they received a call at 4:59 a.m. from security guards at the museum who witnessed the robbery on a live video feed from the room in the Green Vault that housed the display case.

At about the same time as the first call to police, firefighters were called to an electrical fire on the nearby August Bridge, said Claudia Kuba of Drewag, the electricity supplier for Dresden.

The ensuing power shutdown caused the streetlights around the museum to go out, police said, adding that officers were investigating whether the fire and power interruption were linked to the break-in.

The stolen jewelry is far more valuable as a collection than as individual pieces, Marion Ackermann, general director of the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen, said, and she appealed to the thieves not to break them apart or melt them down.

Dirk Syndram, director of the Green Vault, said the museum planned to put out detailed information in the course of the day about the exact pieces that were taken, in hopes of helping to relocate them.