

= Elizabeth II 's jewels =

The monarch of the Commonwealth realms , Queen Elizabeth II , personally owns a historic collection of jewels . It is separate from the British Crown Jewels which are part of the Royal Collection held in trust by the Queen for her successors and the nation .

The origin of a distinct royal jewel collection is vague , though it is believed the jewels have their origin somewhere in the 16th century . Many of the pieces are from overseas and were brought to the United Kingdom as a result of civil war , coups and revolutions , or acquired as gifts to the monarch . Most of the jewellery dates from the 19th and 20th centuries .

The Crown Jewels are only worn at coronations (St Edward 's Crown being used to crown the monarch) and the annual State Opening of Parliament (the Imperial State Crown) . At other formal occasions , such as banquets , the Queen wears the jewellery in her private collection . Elizabeth owns more than 300 items of jewellery , including 98 brooches , 46 necklaces , 37 bracelets , 34 pairs of earrings , 15 rings , 14 watches and 5 pendants , the most notable of which are detailed in this article .

= = Value = =

It is not possible to say how much the collection is worth because the jewels have a rich and unique history , and they will never be sold on the open market .

= = History = =

= = = General history = = =

Unlike the Crown Jewels ? which mainly date from the accession of Charles II ? the jewels in the Queen 's personal collection are not official regalia or insignia and do not belong to the Crown . Much of the collection was designed for queens and queen consorts , though some kings have added to the collection . A few diamonds were brought to the United Kingdom from the British colonies and far away lands as the spoils of war . Most of the jewellery was purchased from other European heads of state and members of the aristocracy , or handed down by older generations of the Royal Family , often as birthday and wedding presents . In recent years , Elizabeth has worn them in her capacity as Queen of Australia , Canada and New Zealand , and can be seen wearing jewels from her collection in official portraits made specially for these realms .

= = = The House of Hanover dispute = = =

In 1714 , with the accession of George I , the Kingdom of Great Britain and the Kingdom of Hanover both came to be ruled in personal union by the House of Hanover . Early Hanoverian monarchs were careful to keep the heirlooms of the two realms separate . George III gave half the British heirlooms to his bride , Charlotte of Mecklenburg @-@ Strelitz , as a wedding present . In her will , Charlotte left the jewels to the ' House of Hanover ' . The Kingdom of Hanover followed the Salic Law , whereby the line of succession went through male heirs . Thus , when Queen Victoria acceded to the throne of the United Kingdom , her uncle Ernest Augustus , Duke of Cumberland and Teviotdale became King of Hanover . King Ernest demanded a portion of the jewellery , not only as the monarch of Hanover but also as the son of Queen Charlotte . Victoria flatly declined to hand over any of the jewels , claiming they had been bought with British money . Ernest 's son , George V of Hanover , continued to press the claim . Victoria 's husband , Prince Albert , suggested that she make a financial settlement with the Hanoverian monarch to keep the jewels , but Parliament informed the Queen they would neither purchase the jewels nor loan funds for the purpose . A parliamentary commission was set up to investigate the matter and in 1857 they found in favour of the House of Hanover . On 28 January 1858 , 10 years after Ernest 's death , the jewels were

handed to the Hanoverian Ambassador , Count Kielmansegg . Victoria did manage to hang on to one of her favourite pieces of jewellery : a fine rope of pearls .

= = Tiaras = =

= = = Delhi Durbar Tiara = = =

The Delhi Durbar Tiara was made by Garrard & Co. for Queen Mary , the wife of George V , to wear at the Delhi Durbar in 1911 . As British law prohibited the removal of the Crown Jewels from the country , George V wore a specially made crown (the Imperial Crown of India) to the Durbar , and his consort Queen Mary wore the tiara . It was part of a set of jewellery made for Queen Mary to use at the event which included a necklace , stomacher , brooch and earrings . Made of gold and platinum , the tiara is 8 cm (3 in) tall and has the form of a tall circlet of lyres and S @-@ scrolls linked by festoons of diamonds . It was originally set with 10 of the Cambridge emeralds , acquired by Queen Mary in 1910 and first owned by her grandmother , the Duchess of Cambridge . In 1912 , the tiara was altered to take one or both of the Cullinan III and IV diamonds ; the pear @-@ shaped diamond was held at the top , and the cushion @-@ shaped stone hung in the oval aperture underneath . Mary lent the tiara to Queen Elizabeth (later the Queen Mother) for the 1947 royal tour of South Africa , and it remained with her until she died in 2002 , when it passed to Queen Elizabeth II . In 2005 , the Queen lent the tiara to her daughter @-@ in @-@ law , the Duchess of Cornwall .

= = = George III Fringe Tiara = = =

The George III Fringe Tiara is a circlet incorporating brilliant diamonds that were formerly owned by George III . Originally commissioned in 1830 , the tiara has been worn by many queens consort . Originally , it could be worn as a collar or necklace or mounted on a wire to form the tiara . Queen Victoria wore it as a tiara during a visit to the Royal Opera in 1839 . In Franz Xaver Winterhalter 's painting The First of May , completed in 1851 , Victoria can be seen wearing it as she holds Prince Arthur , the future Duke of Connaught and Strathearn . In a veiled reference to the adoration of the Magi , the Duke of Wellington is seen presenting the young prince with a gift .

= = = Queen Mary Fringe Tiara = = =

This tiara , which can also be worn as a necklace , was made for Queen Mary in 1919 . It is not , as has sometimes been claimed , made with diamonds that once belonged to George III , but reuses diamonds taken from a necklace / tiara purchased by Queen Victoria from Collingwood & Co. as a wedding present for Princess Mary in 1893 . In August 1936 , Mary gave the tiara to her daughter @-@ in @-@ law , Queen Elizabeth , later the Queen Mother . When the Queen Mother , consort of George VI , first wore the tiara , Sir Henry Channon called it " an ugly spiked tiara " . Later , she lent the piece to her daughter , Elizabeth , as " something borrowed " for her wedding to Prince Philip in 1947 . As Elizabeth was getting dressed at Buckingham Palace before leaving for Westminster Abbey , the tiara snapped . Luckily , the court jeweller was standing by in case of any emergency , and was rushed to his work room by a police escort . The Queen Mother reassured her daughter that it would be fixed in time , and it was . She also lent it to her granddaughter , Princess Anne , for her marriage to Captain Mark Phillips in 1973 . It was put on show at an exhibition with a number of other royal tiaras in 2001 .

= = = Grand Duchess Vladimir Tiara = = =

The Grand Duchess Vladimir Tiara (ru : ?????????????? ?????) , sometimes the Diamond and Pearl Tiara , was bought , along with a diamond rivière , by Queen Mary from Grand Duchess Elena

Vladimirovna of Russia , mother of the Duchess of Kent , in 1921 for a price of £ 28 @, @ 000 . The duchess , known after her marriage as Princess Nicholas of Greece , inherited it from her mother , Grand Duchess Maria Pavlovna , who received it as a wedding gift from her husband in 1874 . It originally had 15 large drop pearls , and was made by the jeweller Carl Edvard Bolin at a cost of 48 @, @ 200 rubles .

During the Russian Revolution in 1917 , the tiara was hidden with other jewels somewhere in Vladimir Palace in Petrograd , and later saved from Soviet Russia by Albert Stopford , a British art dealer and secret agent . In the years to follow , Princess Nicholas sold pieces of jewellery from her collection to support her exiled family and various charities .

Queen Mary had the tiara altered to accommodate 15 of the Cambridge cabochon emeralds . The original drop pearls can easily be replaced as an alternative to the emeralds . Queen Elizabeth II inherited the tiara directly from her grandmother in 1953 . It is almost exclusively worn together with the Cambridge and Delhi Durbar parures , also containing large emeralds . Elizabeth wore the tiara in her official portrait as Queen of Canada as none of the Commonwealth realms besides the United Kingdom have their own crown jewels .

= = = Burmese Ruby Tiara = = =

Elizabeth ordered the Burmese Ruby Tiara in 1973 , and it was made by Garrard & Co. using stones from her private collection . It is designed in the form of a wreath of roses , with silver and diamonds making the petals , and clusters of gold and rubies forming the centre of the flowers . A total of 96 rubies are mounted on the tiara ; they were originally part of a necklace given to her in 1947 as a wedding present by the people of Burma (now Myanmar) , who credited them with having the ability to protect their owner from sickness and evil . The diamonds were also given to her as a wedding present , by the Nizam of Hyderabad and Berar , who possessed a vast jewellery collection of his own .

= = = Girls of Great Britain and Ireland Tiara = = =

The Queen 's first tiara was a wedding present in 1947 from her grandmother , Queen Mary , who received it as a gift from the Girls of Great Britain and Ireland in 1893 on the occasion of her marriage to the Duke of York , later George V. Made by E. Wolfe & Co . , it was purchased from Garrard & Co. by a committee organised by Lady Eve Greville . In 1914 , Mary adapted the tiara to take 13 diamonds in place of the large oriental pearls surmounting the tiara . Leslie Field , author of The Queen 's Jewels , described it as , " a festoon @-@ and @-@ scroll with nine large oriental pearls on diamond spikes and set on a base of alternate round and lozenge collets between two plain bands of diamonds " . At first , Elizabeth wore the tiara without its base and pearls but the base was reattached in 1969 . The Girls of Great Britain and Ireland Tiara is one of Elizabeth 's most recognisable pieces of jewellery due to its widespread use on English banknotes and coinage .

= = = Queen Alexandra 's Kokoshnik Tiara = = =

The Kokoshnik Tiara was presented to Alexandra , Princess of Wales , as a 25th wedding anniversary gift in 1888 by Lady Salisbury on behalf of 365 peeresses of the United Kingdom . She had always wanted a tiara in the style of a kokoshnik (cock 's comb) , a traditional Russian folk headdress , and knew the design well from a tiara belonging to her sister , Marie Feodorovna , the Empress of Russia . It was made by Garrard & Co. and has vertical white gold bars pavé @-@ set with diamonds , the longest of which is 6 @. @ 5 cm (2 @. @ 5 in) . In a letter to her aunt , the Grand Duchess of Mecklenburg @-@ Strelitz , Princess Mary wrote , " The presents are quite magnificent [...] The ladies of society gave [Alexandra] a lovely diamond spiked tiara " . Upon the death of Queen Alexandra , the tiara passed to her daughter @-@ in @-@ law , Queen Mary , who bequeathed it to Elizabeth in 1953 .

== Cambridge Lover 's Knot Tiara ==

In 1913 , Queen Mary asked Garrard & Co. to make a copy of a tiara owned by her grandmother , Princess Augusta of Hesse @-@ Cassel , using the queen 's own diamonds and pearls . French in its neo @-@ classical design , the tiara has 19 oriental pearls suspended from lover 's knot bows each centred with a large brilliant . Mary left the tiara to Elizabeth II , who later gave it to Diana , Princess of Wales , as a wedding present . She wore it often , notably with her ' Elvis dress ' on a visit to Hong Kong in 1989 , but on her divorce from Prince Charles it was returned to the Queen . In 2015 , the Duchess of Cambridge wore it to a diplomatic reception at Buckingham Palace .

== Princess Andrew of Greece 's Meander Tiara ==

This tiara was a wedding present to Elizabeth from her mother @-@ in @-@ law , Princess Andrew of Greece and Denmark . The Meander Tiara is in the classical Greek key pattern , with a large diamond in the centre enclosed by a laurel wreath of diamonds . It also incorporates a wreath of leaves and scrolls on either side . The Queen has never worn this item in public , and it was given in 1972 to her daughter , Princess Anne , who has frequently worn the tiara in public , notably during her engagement to Captain Mark Phillips and for an official portrait marking her 50th birthday . Anne lent the tiara to her daughter , Zara Philips , to use at her wedding to Mike Tindall in 2011 .

== Halo Tiara ==

This tiara , made by Cartier in 1936 , was purchased by the Duke of York (later George VI) for his wife (later the Queen Mother) three weeks before they became king and queen . It has a rolling cascade of 16 scrolls that converge on two central scrolls topped by a diamond . Altogether , it contains 739 brilliants and 149 baton diamonds . The tiara was given to Elizabeth on her 18th birthday in 1944 , and was borrowed by Princess Margaret , who used it at the 1953 coronation of Queen Elizabeth II . Later , Elizabeth lent the Halo Tiara to Princess Anne , before giving her the Greek Meander Tiara in 1972 . The Halo Tiara was lent to the Duchess of Cambridge to use at her wedding to Prince William in 2011 .

== Earrings ==

== Coronation Earrings ==

Like the Coronation Necklace , these earrings have been worn by queens regnant and consort at every coronation since 1901 . Made for Queen Victoria in 1858 using the diamonds from an old Garter badge , they are of typical design : a large brilliant followed by a smaller one , with a large pear @-@ shaped drop . The drops were originally part of the Koh @-@ i @-@ Noor armlet . After they had been made , Victoria wore the earrings and matching necklace in the painting Queen Victoria by the European court painter , Franz Winterhalter .

== Greville Chandelier Earrings ==

These 7 @. 5 cm (3 in) long chandelier earrings made by Cartier in 1929 have three large drops adorned with every modern cut of diamond . The earrings were purchased by Margaret Greville , who left them to her friend the Queen Mother in 1942 , and Elizabeth 's parents gave them to her in 1947 as a wedding present . However , she was not able to use them until she had her ears pierced . When the public noticed that her ears had been pierced , doctors and jewellers found themselves inundated with requests by women anxious to have their ears pierced too .

== Greville Pear @-@ drop Earrings ==

As well as the chandelier earrings , and 60 other pieces of jewellery , Mrs Greville left the Queen Mother a set of pear @-@ drop earrings that she had bought from Cartier in 1938 . The pear @-@ shaped drop diamonds each weigh about 20 carats (4 g) . Diana , Princess of Wales , borrowed them in 1983 to wear on her first official visit to Australia . At a state banquet , she wore the earrings with a tiara from her family 's own collection . The Greville Pear @-@ drop Earrings passed to the Queen upon her mother 's death in 2002 .

= = = Queen Victoria 's Stud Earrings = = =

A pair of large , perfectly matched brilliant cut diamonds set as ear studs for Queen Victoria .

= = Necklaces = =

= = = Queen Anne and Queen Caroline Pearl Necklaces = = =

Both necklaces consist of a single row of large graduated pearls with pearl clasps . The Queen Anne necklace is said to have belonged to Queen Anne , the last British monarch of the Stuart dynasty . Horace Walpole , the English art historian , wrote in his diary , " Queen Anne had but few jewels and those indifferent , except one pearl necklace given to her by Prince George " . Queen Caroline , on the other hand , had a great deal of valuable jewellery , including no fewer than four pearl necklaces . She wore all the pearl necklaces to her coronation in 1727 , but afterwards had the 50 best pearls selected to make one large necklace . In 1947 , both necklaces were given to Elizabeth by her father as a wedding present . On her wedding day , Elizabeth realised that she had left her pearls at St James 's Palace . Her private secretary , Jock Colville , was asked to go and retrieve them . He commandeered the limousine of King Haakon VII of Norway , but traffic that morning had stopped , so even the king 's car with its royal flag flying could not get anywhere . Colville completed his journey on foot , and when he arrived at St James 's Palace , he had to explain the odd story to the guards who were protecting Elizabeth 's 2 @,@ 660 wedding presents . They let him in after finding his name on a guest list , and he was able to get the pearls to the princess in time for her portrait in the Music Room of Buckingham Palace .

= = = King Faisal of Saudi Arabia Necklace = = =

A gift from King Faisal of Saudi Arabia , it is a fringe necklace in design and set with brilliant and baguette cut diamonds . King Faisal bought the necklace , made by the American jeweller Harry Winston , and presented it to her while on a state visit to the United Kingdom in 1967 . Before his departure , the Queen wore it to a banquet at the Dorchester hotel . She also lent the necklace to Diana , Princess of Wales , to wear on a state visit to Australia in 1983 .

= = = Festoon Necklace = = =

In 1947 , George VI commissioned a three @-@ strand necklace with over 150 brilliant cut diamonds from his inherited collection . It consists of three small rows of diamonds with a triangle motif . The minimum weight of this necklace is estimated to be 170 carats (34 g) .

= = = King Khalid of Saudi Arabia Necklace = = =

This necklace was given to the Queen by King Khalid of Saudi Arabia in 1979 . It is of the sunray design and contains both round and pear shaped diamonds . Like the King Faisal necklace , it was made by Harry Winston , and the Queen often lent the necklace to Diana , Princess of Wales .

== The Queen Mother 's Collet Necklace ==

For the coronation of her husband , Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother wore Queen Victoria 's collet necklace along with a much larger one . The necklace 's carat weight has never been disclosed , but it is clear from photos that it contains approximately 45 large diamond collets .

== Coronation Necklace ==

Made for Queen Victoria in 1858 by Garrard & Co . , the Coronation Necklace is 38 cm (15 in) long and consists of 25 cushion diamonds and the 22 @-@ carat (4 @. @ 4 g) Lahore Diamond as a pendant . It has been used together with the Coronation Earrings by queens regnant and consort at every coronation since 1901 .

== Nizam of Hyderabad Necklace ==

A diamond necklace made by Cartier in the 1930s . It was a wedding gift to Elizabeth on her wedding to Prince Philip from the last Nizam of Hyderabad , Mir Osman Ali Khan , in 1947 . The Duchess of Cambridge wore the necklace to a charity function at the National Portrait Gallery in 2014 .

== Brooches ==

== Cullinan III & IV (" Granny 's Chips ") ==

Cullinan III and IV are two of several stones cut from the Cullinan Diamond in 1905 . The large diamond , found in South Africa , was presented to Edward VII on his 66th birthday . Two of the stones cut from the diamond were the 94 @. @ 4 @-@ carat (18 @. @ 88 g) Cullinan III , a clear pear @-@ shaped stone , and a 63 @. @ 6 @-@ carat (12 @. @ 72 g) cushion @-@ shaped stone . Queen Mary had these stones made into a brooch with the Cullinan III hanging from IV . Elizabeth inherited the brooch in 1953 from her grandmother . On 25 March 1958 , while she and Prince Philip were on a state visit to the Netherlands , the Queen revealed that Cullinan III and IV are known in her family as " Granny 's Chips " . The couple visited the Asscher Diamond Company , where the Cullinan had been cut 50 years earlier . It was the first time the Queen had publicly worn the brooch . During her visit , she unpinned the brooch and offered it for examination to Louis Asscher , the brother of Joseph Asscher who had originally cut the diamond . Elderly and almost blind , Asscher was deeply moved by the fact the Queen had brought the diamonds with her , knowing how much it would mean to him seeing them again after so many years .

== Cullinan V ==

The smaller 18 @. @ 8 @-@ carat (3 @. @ 76 g) Cullinan V is a heart @-@ shaped diamond cut from the same rough gem as III and IV . It is set in the centre of a platinum brooch that formed a part of the stomacher made for Queen Mary to wear at the Delhi Durbar in 1911 . The brooch was designed to show off Cullinan V and is pavé @-@ set with a border of smaller diamonds . It can be suspended from the VIII brooch and can be used to suspend the VII pendant . It was often worn like this by Mary who left all the brooches to Elizabeth when she died in 1953 .

== Prince Albert Sapphire Brooch ==

The Prince Albert sapphire brooch was given by Prince Albert to Queen Victoria at Buckingham Palace on 9 February 1840 . It was the day before their wedding , and Victoria wrote in her diary that Albert came to her sitting room and gave her " a beautiful sapphire and diamond brooch " . The

centre stone is a large oblong sapphire surrounded by 12 round diamonds . It passed from Victoria to the queen consorts , Queen Alexandra , Queen Mary and the Queen Mother , then passed to Elizabeth on her accession to the throne .

= = = Queen Victoria 's Bow Brooches = = =

Commissioned by Queen Victoria in 1858 , Garrard & Co. made a set of three large bow brooches containing more than 506 diamonds . There is no record of Queen Victoria ever wearing them ; Queen Alexandra , Queen Mary , the Queen Mother and Elizabeth were seen wearing them frequently . The brooches are often adjusted to contain a large pearl or emerald diamond drop . Queen Mary was pictured on more than one occasion with the smaller Cullinan diamonds as the drops .

= = Parures = =

A parure is a set of matching jewellery to be used together which first became popular in 17th @-@ century Europe .

= = = Brazil Parure = = =

The Brazil Parure is one of the newest items of jewellery in the collection . In 1953 , the president and people of Brazil presented Elizabeth II with the coronation gift of a necklace and matching pendant earrings of aquamarines and diamonds . It had taken the jewellers Mappin & Webb an entire year to collect the perfectly matched stones . The necklace has nine large oblong aquamarines with an even bigger aquamarine pendant drop . The Queen had the drop set in a more decorative diamond cluster and it is now detachable . She was so delighted with the gift that in 1957 she had a tiara made to match the necklace . The tiara is surmounted by three vertically set aquamarines . Seeing that the Queen had so liked the original Coronation gift that she had a matching tiara made , the Government of Brazil decided to add to its gift , and in 1958 it presented Elizabeth II with a bracelet of oblong aquamarines set in a cluster of diamonds , and a square aquamarine and diamond brooch .

= = = George VI Victorian Suite = = =

The George VI Victorian Suite was originally a wedding present by George VI to his daughter Elizabeth in 1947 . The suite consists of a long necklace of oblong sapphires and diamonds and a pair of matching square sapphire earrings also bordered with diamonds . The suite was originally made in 1850 . The stones exactly matched the colour of the robes of the Order of the Garter , although this may have been a coincidence on George 's part . Elizabeth had the necklace shortened by removing the biggest sapphire in 1952 , and later had a new pendant made using the removed stone . In 1963 , a new sapphire and diamond tiara and bracelet were made to match the original pieces . The tiara is made out of a necklace that had belonged to Princess Louise of Belgium , daughter of Leopold II . In 1969 , the Queen wore the complete parure to a charity concert .

= = 1937 coronets = =

For the coronation of their parents in 1937 , it was decided that Elizabeth and Margaret should be given small versions of crowns to wear at the ceremony . Ornate coronets of gold lined with crimson and edged with ermine were designed by Garrard & Co. and brought to the royal couple for inspection . However , the king and queen decided they were inappropriately elaborate and too heavy for the young princesses . Queen Mary suggested the coronets be silver @-@ gilt in a medieval style with no decorations . George VI agreed , and the coronets were designed with

Maltese crosses and fleurs @-@ de @-@ lis . After the coronation , Mary wrote : " I sat between Maud and Lilibet (Elizabeth) , and Margaret came next . They looked too sweet in their lace dresses and robes , especially when they put on their coronets " . Both coronets are thought to be in the Queen 's private collection .