

Baker Street *Elementary*

PRESENTS
"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"



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THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON

069 -- A TIN OF DIAMONDS -- THE CROWN JEWELS -- FEBRUARY, 2022



WELCOME TO TOPIC # 069... TODAY WATSON AND I WILL BE DISCUSSING THE CROWN JEWELS OF THE KINGDOM.



The crown diamond:
An evening with
Sherlock Holmes ; a
play in one act by

Doyle, Arthur Conan

Note: This is not the actual book cover

SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE REWROTE 'THE CROWN DIAMOND' (ORIGINALLY PENNED AS A ONE-ACT PLAY) AS THE SHORT STORY 'THE ADVENTURE OF THE MAZARIN STONE.' ...THE BASIS OF THE TALE INVOLVES THE THEFT OF A YELLOW DIAMOND, PART OF THE BRITISH CROWN JEWELS.



AS THE STORY OPENS, I SHARE THAT I HAVE DETERMINED COUNT SYLVIUS NEGRETTO IS IN POSSESSION OF A STOLEN DIAMOND – PART OF THE CROWN JEWELS THAT HAD BEEN ON PUBLIC DISPLAY... THE NARRATIVE DESCRIBES HOW I TRICK THE THIEF INTO REVEALING WHERE HE'S HIDDEN THE DIAMOND AND ARRANGE FOR HIS ARREST.



NEGRETTO'S SUCCESS AT HAVING ACTUALLY PURLOINED THE GEM PUTS HIM ABOVE ALL OTHER THIEVES AND THEIR ATTEMPTS TO STEAL THE CROWN JEWELS... COLONEL BLOOD, IN 1671 CAME THE CLOSEST TO ACTUALLY STEALING CHARLES II'S COLLECTION.



*AT THAT TIME, THE JEWELS CONSISTED
PRIMARILY OF A CROWN, A SCEPTER, AN ORB,
SPURS, AN AMPULLA (HELD THE OIL TO ANOINT
THE MONARCH) AND A SPOON (OIL FROM THE
AMPULLA WAS Poured INTO IT).*



BLOOD MADE FRIENDS WITH EDWARDS, THE ASSISTANT KEEPER OF THE JEWELS, WHO WAS ALLOWED TO SHOW THE COLLECTION FOR A FEE.



AFTER BLOOD OVERPOWERED THE 76-YEAR-OLD GUARD, EDWARDS' SON MADE AN UNEXPECTED VISIT TO HIS FATHER AND CAUGHT THE COLONEL AND HIS COHORTS WITH THE EVIDENCE... BLOOD HAD DISGUISED HIMSELF AS A PARSON AND HIDDEN THE CROWN IN HIS ROBES.





**THE THIEVES NEVER MADE IT OUT OF THE TOWER.
THE JEWELS BLOOD ATTEMPTED TO STEAL HAD
BEEN ASSEMBLED FOR CHARLES II'S CORONATION.**





FOLLOWING THE ENGLISH CIVIL WAR AND CHARLES I'S EXECUTION, OLIVER CROMWELL HAD SOLD THE PREVIOUS CROWN JEWELS (SOME DATING BACK MORE THAN 400 YEARS AND USED IN EACH CORONATION) OR MELTED THEM DOWN TO MINT COINS.



ONLY THE AMPULLA AND SPOON SURVIVED.



SOME OF THE GEMS FROM THE PREVIOUS COLLECTION WERE SOUGHT OUT, RECOVERED, AND USED TO ADORN CHARLES II'S REGALIA... THESE INCLUDE SAPPHIRES (ONE DATING BACK TO 1042), DIAMONDS, RUBIES, AND PEARLS.



*THE JEWELS PLAYED, AND CONTINUE TO PLAY,
IMPORTANT SYMBOLIC ROLES IN THE
CORONATION RITUAL.*





THE FUTURE MONARCH ENTERS WESTMINSTER ABBEY, ESCORTED BY TWO MACES (STAFFS REPRESENTING AUTHORITY) THREE SWORDS (SIGNIFYING MERCY, SPIRITUAL JUSTICE, AND TEMPORAL JUSTICE) THE GREAT SWORD OF STATE AND ST. EDWARD'S STAFF.



**THE ANOINTING WITH OIL USING THE AMPULLA
AND SPOON FOLLOWS.**





THE SOVEREIGN IS THEN DRESSED IN THE CORONATION ROBES AND PRESENTED WITH SPURS (INDICATING KNIGHTHOOD AND CHIVALRY) AND ARMILLS (BRACELETS SYMBOLIZING SINCERITY AND WISDOM)... THE ORB (FOR CHRISTIAN SOVEREIGNTY) IS PLACED IN THE RIGHT HAND, THEN RETURNED TO THE ALTAR.



A RING IS THEN PLACED ON THE RIGHT HAND, AND TWO SCEPTERS (ONE FOR TEMPORAL POWER AND THE OTHER FOR EQUITY AND MERCY) ARE PRESENTED... THE FINAL ACT INVOLVES PLACING THE CROWN ON THE NEW MONARCH'S HEAD.



*SINCE CHARLES II, DIFFERENT MONARCHS HAVE
ADDED CROWNS AS WELL AS OTHER PIECES TO
THE COLLECTION.*



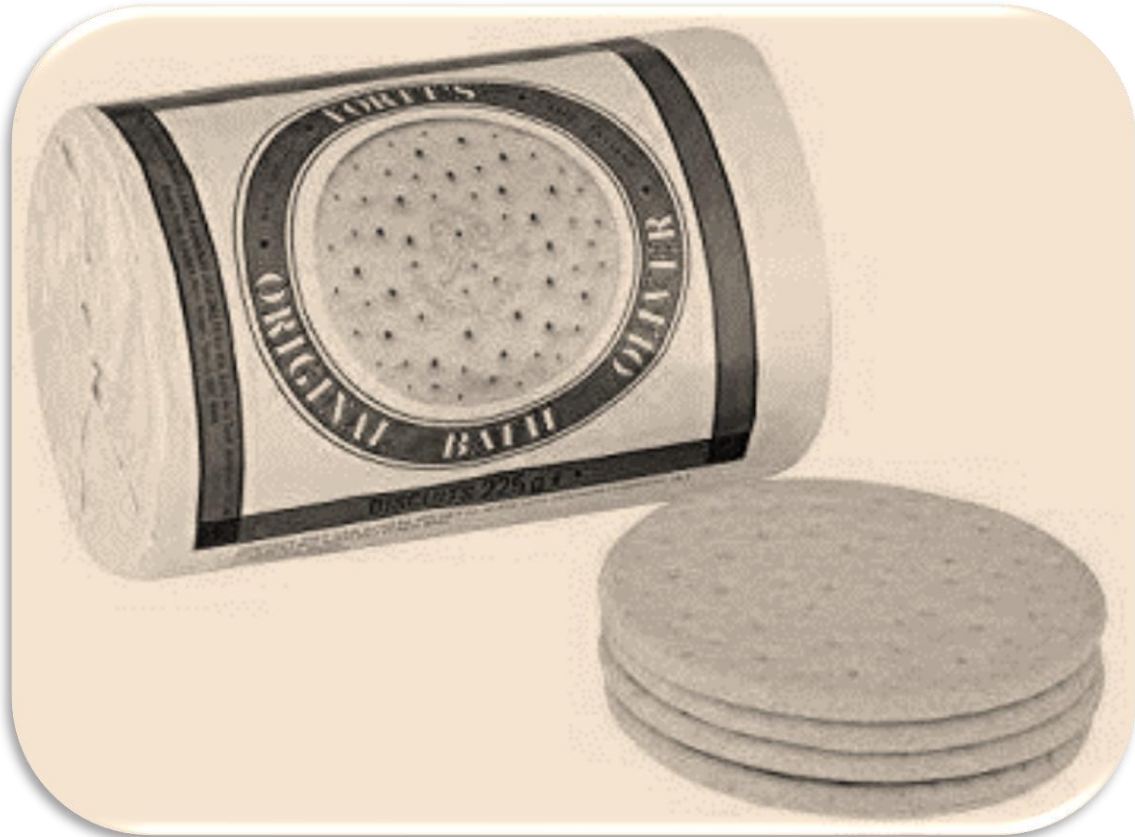
ALTOGETHER, THE CROWN JEWELS CONSIST OF 140 ITEMS INCLUDING ADDITIONAL ORBS, BRACELETS, SWORDS, AND BANQUETING PLATE... DURING THE LONDON BOMBINGS IN WWII, MOST OF THESE ITEMS WERE BURIED IN UNDERGROUND CHAMBERS AT WINDSOR CASTLE.



UNDER A TRAP DOOR HIDDEN BY RUGS IN THE FOOTMAN'S VESTIBULE, AN OLD ESCAPE ROUTE LED TO THE TWO CHAMBERS WHERE THE JEWELS WERE STORED.



THE MOST VALUABLE, HOWEVER, WERE TAKEN FROM THEIR SETTINGS AND KEPT IN A COOKIE TIN, READY FOR A QUICK GETAWAY, IF NEEDED.



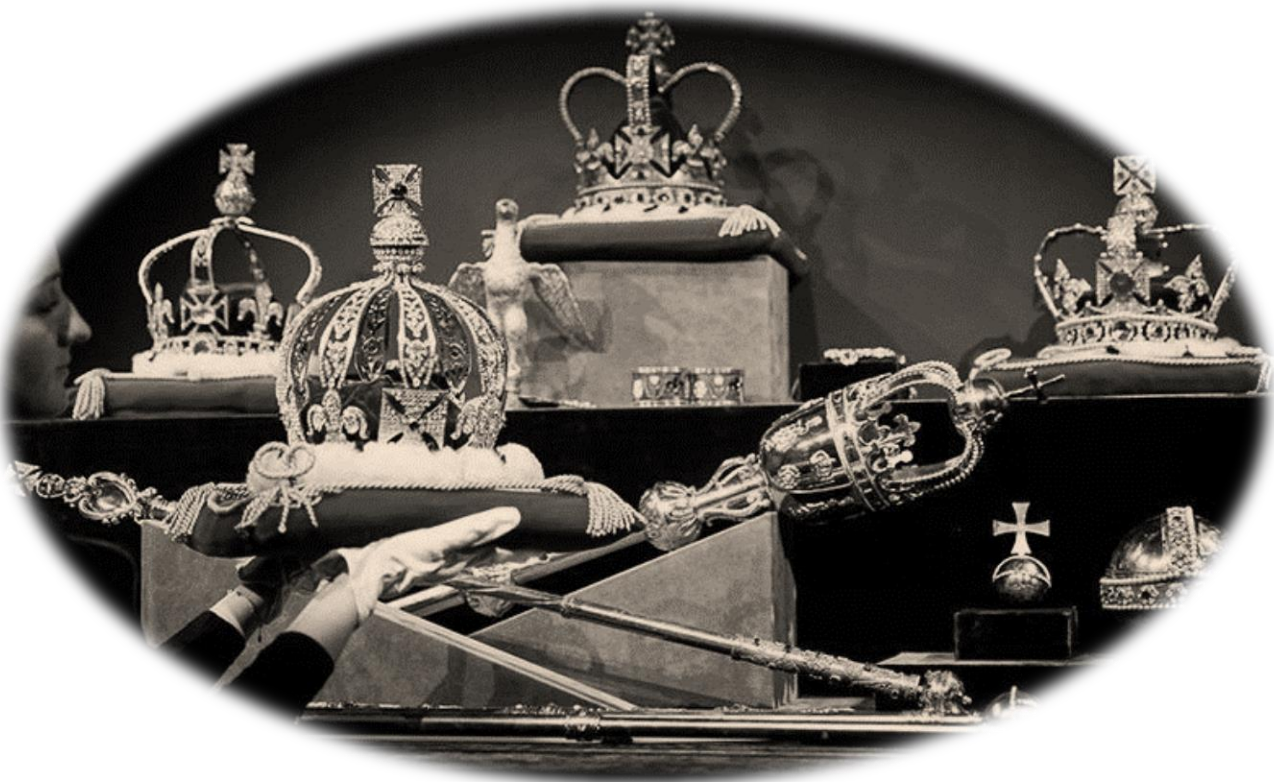
THESE INCLUDED THE SECOND STAR OF AFRICA,
THE LARGEST DIAMOND IN THE WORLD; THE
FIRST STAR OF AFRICA TWO ADDITIONAL
DIAMONDS; THE STEWART SAPPHIRE; AND THE
BLACK PRINCE'S RUBY.



THE HIDING PLACE FOR THESE SPECIAL PIECES
WAS ONLY RECENTLY UNCOVERED DURING
RESEARCH FOR A DOCUMENTARY ON QUEEN
ELIZABETH'S RISE TO POWER... THE ROYAL
LIBRARIAN DISCOVERED LETTERS DETAILING HOW
THE FAMILY HAD SECRETED THE GEMS.



TODAY, THE ENTIRE COLLECTION CAN BE VIEWED AS PART OF A TOWER OF LONDON TOUR FOR ABOUT \$27... THE JEWELS ARE KEPT IN THE JEWEL HOUSE BEHIND BOMBPROOF GLASS AND SURVEILLED BY CAMERAS.



SUCH CURRENT PRECAUTIONS REPRESENT A MUCH MORE SECURE SYSTEM THAN WHEN A SON'S UNEXPECTED VISIT OR THE CAREFUL INVESTIGATION OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST CONSULTING DETECTIVE SAVED THE DAY.



SO, WE HAVE COMPLETED TOPIC # 069 IN OUR SERIES...

IN TOPIC # 070, WE WILL BE LOOKING AT THE DISEASE, 'YELLOW FEVER',
DURING THE VICTORIAN PERIOD.



ORIGINAL SOURCE MATERIAL FOR THIS TOPIC:

- 1) [HTTP://WWW.ENGLISHMONARCHS.CO.UK/CROWN_JEWELS.HTM](http://www.englishmonarchs.co.uk/crown_jewels.htm)
- 2) [HTTPS://WWW.RCT.UK/COLLECTION/THEMES/TRAILS/THE-CROWN-JEWELS/THE-REGALIA-OF-CHARLES-II](https://www.rct.uk/collection/themes/trails/the-crown-jewels/the-regalia-of-charles-ii)
- 3) [HTTPS://WWW.ROYAL.UK/CROWN-JEWELS](https://www.royal.uk/crown-jewels)
- 4) [HTTPS://WWW.WASHINGTONPOST.COM/NEWS/RETROPOLIS/WP/2018/01/13/AS-THE-NAZIS-BOMBED-BRITAIN-THE-ROYALS-HID-THE-CROWN-JEWELS-IN-THE-LEAST-LIKELY-PLACE/](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/retropolis/wp/2018/01/13/as-the-nazis-bombed-britain-the-royals-hid-the-crown-jewels-in-the-least-likely-place/)
- 5) [HTTPS://EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/JEWEL_HOUSE](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewel_house)



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"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"

IS CREATED THROUGH THE INGENUITY & HARD WORK OF:

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