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Bakalářská práce

The Coronation of Elizabeth II and Its Representation in British Media

Vyobrazení a význam korunovace Alžběty II. v britských médiích

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Abstract

The bachelor thesis is devoted to the period of the accession of the former queen Elizabeth II to the British throne and her Coronation in 1953. The main attention is paid to the interpretation of the preparations and the course of the ceremony itself. The bachelor thesis also includes a summary of Princess Elizabeth's life up to 1953, analysis and interpretation of examples of the perception of the Coronation and Queen Elizabeth II as queen by the British public from a period perspective of her reign. The conclusion of the thesis is a summary, evaluation, and comparison of the significance of the Coronation and Elizabeth's succession as queen from a period perspective of the press.

Key words: Elizabeth II, Coronation, British monarchy, public opinion, British media, press

Anotace

Bakalářská práce se věnuje období nástupu bývalé královny Alžběty II. na britský trůn a její korunovaci v roce 1953. Hlavní pozornost je věnována interpretaci příprav a průběhu samotného ceremoniálu. Součástí bakalářské práce je také shrnutí života princezny Alžběty do roku 1953, analýza a interpretace příkladů vnímání korunovace a královny Alžběty II. jako královny britskou veřejností z dobového pohledu její vlády. Závěrem bakalářské práce je shrnutí, vyhodnocení a srovnání významu korunovace a Alžbětino nástupnictví jako královny z dobového pohledu tisku.

Klíčová slova: Alžběta II., korunovace, britská monarchie, veřejné mínění, britská média, tisk

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1. Introduction

After several centuries, the second queen named Elizabeth sat on the British throne. A large number of people could watch her Coronation thanks to television sets, which were becoming relatively common in homes at that time. However, many people still listened to the radio and mainly read newspapers or magazines. Period newspaper articles are what I will pay the most attention to in my work.

First, I will focus on the life of Princess Elizabeth before her accession to the British throne – her youth and preparations for the reign. I will explain why her succession was not even planned after her birth and what happened when her father George VI died and she became Queen of the United Kingdom.

The Coronation itself is an important focus of the bachelor thesis. The Coronation Service was divided into six parts (the Recognition, the Oath, the Anointing, the Investiture, the Homage, and the Communion), which are described in detail in Chapter Four. This part also discusses the complex preparations for Elizabeth's Coronation.

The practical part is based on the analysis and interpretation of examples of the perception of the Coronation and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in British tertiary media in a historical context. For this part, I have chosen several articles from British newspapers, published on the day of the Coronation or on the day after the Coronation, that report on the Coronation itself. I drew from two English newspapers (*The Daily Telegraph* and the *Daily Mirror*). However, I also drew from three non-English newspapers (the *Evening Express*, the *Belfast Telegraph*, and the *Western Mail*), which I examined only marginally in order to compare them with English newspapers.

The aim of the thesis is to evaluate and summarize the significance of the Coronation and Elizabeth's succession position as queen for the British public through newspapers.

2. The Life of Princess Elizabeth

Elizabeth Windsor was born on April 21st, 1926, in London to the Duke and the Duchess of York. She came into the world by Caesarean section. (Erickson, 2005, p. 10) The baby girl was baptized on May 29th as Elizabeth Alexandra Mary. She was named Elizabeth after her mother, Mary after her grandmother and the then queen, and Alexandra after her great-grandmother, the then-deceased wife of the former King Edward VII. (Seward, 2018, p. 37)

Her father was Albert, the second-born son of King George V. Albert was overshadowed by his older brother David and suffered from stuttering and fragile physical and mental health. Princess's mother, Elizabeth Angela Marguerite Bowes-Lyon, was a daughter of a Scottish nobleman. (Roche, 2008, p. 38) After three centuries, she became another woman who did not come from a royal family. (Seward, 2018, p. 34)

The Princess was born at a time when disgruntled British miners were protesting against the removal of government subsidies for coal mining and during a dispute between mine owners and miners over wage cuts. (Erickson, 2005, p. 8)

Elizabeth did not remain an only child for long when her sister Margaret was born in 1930. They received a good upbringing from their loving parents. Albert's family behaved like a normal British family. The parents played with their daughters, the girls fought with each other or studied together at home. (Harris, 2016, pp. 14-16)

Neither of the Princesses went to school, as was the custom in the Royal Family at the time. At the age of seven, Elizabeth got a home teacher and tutor, Marion Crawford, who replaced Elizabeth's mother, who had educated her until then. (Parker, 1996, p. 8) Among other things, the Princess also took dancing lessons and rode a horse, which she loved. (Roche, 2008, p. 41) The Princess's education took place only seven hours a week. Therefore, the Princess was educated at Eton College by Henry Marten. Their lessons were devoted to the constitution and history, in which Elizabeth excelled. (Harris, 2016, pp. 26-27) The greatest credit for this goes to Elizabeth's grandmother, Queen Mary, who wanted the likely successor to the throne to receive an education worthy of a monarch. (Seward, 2018, p. 48)

King George V ruled in Britain at that time. The King, Elizabeth's grandfather, adored her and called her Lilibet. Before long, George V fell ill and as he lay on his deathbed, doctors decided to end his suffering with the help of morphine and cocaine, also in order to get the news about the passing of His Majesty in the morning papers. The Prince of Wales, Elizabeth's uncle David, who was notorious for his affairs with women, became the new King Edward VIII on January 20th, 1936, and the Princess became second in line to the British throne, as her uncle had no descendant. (Parker, 1996, pp. 7-9)

However, Edward VIII fell in love with a married and divorced American, Wallis Simpson. Divorce was still considered unacceptable in Britain at the time, and divorced people were not even allowed in the Royal court. Moreover, if the King ever wanted to marry her, he would have no support. Therefore, Wallis Simpson was undesirable by the King's side, and the Royal Family had a cold relationship with her. (Erickson, 2004, p. 38) Simpson divorced for the second time and less than a year after taking the throne, the King decided to abdicate because of his love. Elizabeth became the heir to the throne on December 10th, 1936, at 1.52 p.m. The whole world found out about the abdication through a radio speech where the former King, then only as the Duke of Windsor, said he was going into exile. (Roche, 2008, pp. 66-67) Edward VIII (King Edward VIII, 1936) justified his abdication as follows: "But you must believe me when I tell you that I have found it impossible to carry the heavy burden of responsibility and to discharge my duties as King as I would wish to do without the help and support of the woman I love."

After this moment, the whole family, including Elizabeth, had a very cold relationship with the Duke of Windsor, as they had to move from a quiet life in Piccadilly to royal duties at Buckingham Palace. (Parker, 1996, p. 9) Elizabeth's father Albert was crowned on May 21st, 1937, and decided to use the royal name George VI. (Roche, 2008, p. 40) This fulfilled the wish of King George V, who declared that he had hoped his son David would not have a wife and descendants so that Albert and Elizabeth could rule after him. (Lacey, 2017, p. 151)

The Princesses had to move to Windsor Castle during World War II due to air raids on Buckingham Palace, which was hit nine times. They saw their parents, who continued to stay in Buckingham, only at the weekend. (Harris, 2016, p. 22) They had packed suitcases, even with the Crown Jewels of the United Kingdom, for a possible

escape to Canada, where they were supposed to find refuge in the event of an emergency. (Roche, 2008, p. 42)

Many children were evacuated in October 1940 due to the Battle of Britain. Elizabeth, in the company of her sister Princess Margaret, gave her first speech on the radio: “Thousands of you in this country have had to leave your homes and be separated from your fathers and mothers. My sister Margaret Rose and I feel so much for you as we know from experience what it means to be away from those we love most of all. (...) We know, everyone of us, that in the end all will be well; for God will care for us and give us victory and peace. And when peace comes, remember it will be for us, the children of today, to make the world of tomorrow a better and happier place.” (Princess Elizabeth, 1940)

The Princess was able to encourage the British people in other ways as well. In 1942 Elizabeth received the military rank of Colonel of the Grenadier Guards and at the end of the war she underwent training and learned to drive an ambulance, a bus, and a lorry. (Parker, 1996, pp. 11-12) However, the course the Princess took was modified for her. She was changing wheels and received a basic knowledge of vehicles like others, but her training lasted less than a month and did not cover things like lessons on camouflage, gas, or domestic economy. (Morrow, 1983, pp. 135-136)

World War II ended on May 8th, 1945, in Europe, and Great Britain celebrated this victory with Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret in the London crowd, where they were incognito to experience this momentous event first-hand. (Roche, 2008, p. 43)

Elizabeth became very close to Prince Philip during World War II. Prince Philip of Greece was born on June 21st, 1921, on the Greek island of Corfu. His parents were Prince Andreas of Greece and Princess Alice of Battenberg. Philip's ancestors were of German and Russian origin and also include Charlemagne or Queen Victoria, who was Elizabeth's great-great-grandmother as well as Philip's. (Roche, 2008, p. 59)

They first met in July 1939 when Prince Philip was asked to accompany Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret to the Britannia Royal Naval College in Dartmouth, where the Royal Family was on an official visit. Since then, they corresponded throughout the war. (Seward, 2018, pp. 73-74) Prince Philip visited the Princesses at Windsor Castle in October 1941 while on holiday. During this time, he and Elizabeth probably fell in love. (Erickson, 2004, p. 69)

There were rumours at the Royal court about Philip that he was a gold digger and his sisters were married to Nazis. He was not very fond of the Royal Family either, especially the wife of King George VI, Queen Elizabeth. Princess Elizabeth fell in love with his cheeky behaviour and completely fell for him. However, it was not clear whether he reciprocated her feelings for him. At first, he did not want to accept the fact that he should be the husband of the future queen, who would not be recognized in the same way as he had been in the navy. (Harris, 2016, pp. 31-32)

In the meantime, Elizabeth set off with her family on her first trip abroad, to South Africa. (Harris, 2016, p. 35) Here she also gave a memorable speech to the people of the Empire: "I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong." (Princess Elizabeth, 1947)

When Elizabeth and her family returned from South Africa back to England, the British people were preparing for the Royal Wedding of Elizabeth and Philip, who had meanwhile been loved by the press and the Royal Family had also become more favourable to Philip. (Harris, 2016, p. 38) The engagement of Prince Philip and Princess Elizabeth was officially announced on July 9th, 1947. (Seward, 2018, p. 88) Philip had to change his surname due to his marriage to Princess Elizabeth. Philip von Schleswig-Holstein-Sondenburg-Glücksburg became Philip Mountbatten. (Erickson, 2004, p. 89) The King also granted Philip the title of Duke of Edinburgh, Earl of Merioneth, Baron Greenwich, and he could also use the title His Royal Highness. (Roche, 2008, p. 47)

The Royal Wedding took place on November 20th, 1947, at Westminster Abbey and was the first wedding of its kind to be televised. (Seward, 2018, pp. 17-18) The rationing system was still operating in the country two years after the end of the war and that was the reason why there were debates in the Parliament about whether or not to save money on the wedding. However, the United Kingdom could not afford to show weakness, and Parliament wanted to use the wedding for worldwide publicity. (Harris, 2016, pp. 38-39) The Princess's uncle and former King Edward VIII, was not invited due to his abdication and marriage to Simpson. (Harris, 2016, p. 41) Philip's sisters, who had married German aristocrats and ex-Nazis, were also not allowed to attend the wedding. It would be unacceptable to the Royal Family, the British Parliament, and the public to have someone willingly associating with

ex-Nazis at the Royal Wedding just two years after the end of the war. (Seward, 2018, p. 16)

The Royal Couple received money from the state and the King himself, which was mainly used for the reconstruction of Clarence House, where the married couple wanted to live. (Parker, 1996, p. 19) They lived in Elizabeth's suite at Buckingham Palace after the wedding, until the work on Clarence House was finished. (Seward, 2018, p. 93)

On November 14th, 1948, Princess Elizabeth gave birth to a son, Charles Philip Arthur George, and the streets of London celebrated the birth of the child of the heir to the throne. (Erickson, 2004, p. 103)

Not long after the birth of Prince Charles, Philip moved to Malta, where he devoted himself to the navy as Royal Officer, and Elizabeth commuted to see him. (Erickson, 2004, p. 105) If Elizabeth and Philip had to travel, they left Charles with his grandparents, but he was mostly looked after by nannies. Elizabeth probably experienced the happiest period of her life in Malta, where she had freedom and did not feel like a princess, but like an ordinary woman who could do what she wanted. (Harris, 2016, p. 45)

The turn of the 1940s and 1950s was a happy period for Elizabeth, not only thanks to the informal life in Malta. They could finally move into Clarence House with Philip. (Seward, 2018, p. 97) Moreover, on August 15th, 1950, they had a second child, Princess Anne. (Erickson, 2004, p. 105)

Unfortunately, the happy period came to an end when the Princess had to stand in for her sick father more and more often. The King George VI underwent surgery in which a part of his lung was removed during the autumn of 1951. Elizabeth had to represent him in Canada and the USA because of this procedure. It also meant that Philip had to end his career as a navy officer in Malta. (Parker, 1996, pp. 21-22)

Elizabeth and Philip replaced the King even when travelling to Australia and New Zealand due to his persistent cancer. Their first stop, however, was Kenya, where the anti-British rebellion of the Mau Mau movement was taking place and Elizabeth had to support British rule here. While the Princess was in Kenya, King George VI breathed his last and she became new queen. (Harris, 2016, p. 47)

3. Elizabeth's Accession to the British Throne and Preparations for the Coronation

Elizabeth's fate was full of surprises when she became the heir to the throne after the abdication of her uncle, King Edward VIII, and became queen after the early death of her father. She expected the role of queen much later, but fate did not favour it. (Roche, 2008, p. 37)

The King last saw his daughter Elizabeth on January 31st, 1952, when he accompanied her to a plane bound for Nairobi. (Seward, 2018, p. 102) In the early hours of February 6th, 1952, at the age of 25, Elizabeth became the 6th Queen of England. (Parker, 1996, p. 23) The news of King George VI's death came to Martin Charteris, Elizabeth's private secretary, who received it from the editor of the *East African Standard*. Charteris was the first to inform the Prince Philip's personal secretary, Michael Parker, who informed Prince Philip. Philip took on the difficult task of informing his wife that she was new Queen of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth. (Seward, 2018, p. 105)

The Royal couple had to cancel their Commonwealth tour and return to London. First, they had to go from Kenya to Uganda, where a plane to London was waiting for them. (Parker, 1996, p. 27) When Her Majesty got into her car, which was supposed to take her to the airport, the photographers showed her respect by not taking pictures of her at that moment. (Roche, 2008, p. 48)

The Queen had a black dress packed for the eventual death of the King, but it was on a steamer that was ready for the trip to Australia. (Parker, 1996, p. 25) It was not until landing in London that she was handed a black mourning dress, which she put on before stepping off the plane. Ministers, led by Winston Churchill, were waiting for the Queen at the airport. (Parker, 1996, pp. 27-28) Speaking on the BBC broadcast of the death of King George VI, Churchill had this to say about the Queen: "Now I must leave the treasures of the past and turn to the future. Famous have been the reigns of our queens. Some of the greatest periods in our history have unfolded under their sceptre. Now that we have the second Queen Elizabeth, also ascending the Throne in her twenty-sixth year, our thoughts are carried back nearly four hundred years to the magnificent figure who presided over and, in many ways, embodied and inspired

the grandeur and genius of the Elizabethan age.” (Churchill qtd. in “Full text of Churchill's tribute”, 1952)

The Queen immediately went to work answering telegrams of condolence and audiences with other monarchs when the Queen's Royal Secretary, Alan Lascelles, prepared documents for her after Her Majesty returned to her home at the Clarence House. (Erickson, 2004, p. 111) One of the first acts she did was to announce a royal name, which she had already decided on in Kenya. (Erickson, 2004, p. 110) Although she could have been Queen Mary III so that people would not confuse her with her mother, she was officially introduced as Queen Elizabeth II on February 8th, 1952. (Roche, 2008, p. 49) The former Queen, the wife of King George VI and mother of Queen Elizabeth II, began to be titled as Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother to avoid confusion. (Harris, 2016, p. 52)

Her Majesty had her father's funeral organized by the Duke of Norfolk, whose family was involved in royal coronations, weddings, and funerals. Elizabeth II refused to see her father's body because she wanted to preserve happy moments with him. (Parker, 1996, p. 30) On February 13th, the former King and Elizabeth's uncle, the Duke of Windsor, sailed from New York to Southampton but without his partner who remained in the USA and was not welcome at the Royal Funeral. The Duke met the whole family but they received him very coldly. (Parker, 1996, pp. 32-33) He came to his brother's funeral mainly to make sure that the Queen would continue to pay him an appanage of £10,000. (Morton, 2022, p. 126) He was receiving the appanage because he had to live in the USA due to his abdication and marriage to Wallis Simpson. However, Elizabeth refused to pay, which the Duke of Windsor criticized very rudely. (Harris, 2016, pp. 48-49)

Elizabeth and Philip originally wanted to start their royal life at Clarence House, but at the insistence of Winston Churchill and Alan Lascelles, they moved to Buckingham Palace. The Palace had been the official residence of the British monarch since the reign of Queen Victoria and it was to remain so. (Harris, 2016, p. 52) Not long after that, a debate arose regarding the monarch's and her children's surname. Prince Philip was strongly against the Windsor name because he wanted the dynasty to rule under the Edinburgh-Mountbatten name. The Duke of Edinburgh argued that Queen Victoria also adopted her husband Prince Albert's surname. Churchill and Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, and Queen Mary in turn argued that Elizabeth's

grandfather King George V had officially renamed the House of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha to the House of Windsor due to growing anti-German sentiment. The Queen finally decided to sign the law keeping the Windsor name for herself and her descendants on May 9th, 1952. (Morton, 2022, pp. 131-132)

Churchill became the mentor of the new Queen. In addition to the royal surname and the residence of the Queen, he also ruled on the issue of Coronation Day. He convinced Her Majesty not to have her Coronation until 16 months after she became queen. The main reason was that he wanted to keep his prime ministership. No one would want his resignation before such a great event. (Harris, 2016, p. 51)

Prince Philip had to assume his role prematurely. This role included supporting his queen as a husband and being a father while also partly being a mother to their children so that the Queen could carry out her office. (Seward, 2018, p. 11) Philip was having a crisis and felt redundant because his wife was the Queen, they did not live in Clarence House, and their family did not bear Philip's surname. However, he was given an important task, which was the preparation of the Coronation. (Harris, 2016, p. 56) Philip's tasks were, for example, to choose the drawing of the Queen, which should be on coins, seals, and medals, or decide on the order of sittings at the Coronation. (Parker, 1996, p. 46) Philip took his role responsibly. He even chose the best place on the balcony of Buckingham Palace for the parade of the ceremonial fly-by of Royal Air Force planes, which was to take place after the Coronation, so that the Queen's neck would not hurt from the heavy crown. (Seward, 2018, p. 151) Although Philip was Chair of the Coronation Commission, preparations for the Coronation were mainly managed by its deputy Chair of the Coronation Commission, Bernard Fitzalan-Howard, Duke of Norfolk, who had already prepared the funeral of George V and the Coronation of George VI. (Brandreth, 2006, p. 244)

The precision of the Coronation is also evidenced by the fact that there were strict rules on clothing. For example, no one could wear a hat and coat during the Coronation, or some people from the television crew had to be dressed in grey so as not to stand out too much. (Harris, 2016, p. 58)

However, the most contentious point was the BBC's telecast of the Coronation. Most of the Coronation Commission members, including Winston Churchill, Archbishop of Canterbury, or Alan Lascelles, were strongly against Philip's proposal to

broadcast the Coronation live to all households. They argued that it was a religious ceremony and it would be disrespectful to televise it. (Parker, 1996, p. 46)

It was announced on October 20th, 1952, that the Coronation would be broadcast live on radio, rather than on television, which the public opposed. However, on December 8th people received a surprise when the government also approved the television broadcast under a condition that the Queen had set - there would be no close-ups of her face and the Act of Anointing would not be broadcast at all. (Morton, 2022, pp. 136-137) This decision was followed by arrangements to broadcast of the Coronation. The Queen's Throne, the kneeling stool at the Chair of Estate or the Coronation Chair had microphones so that the Coronation could be heard. (Wilkinson, 2011, pp. 32-33)

Even the Queen did not underestimate the preparations for the Coronation and had thought out all the details. For example, she chose a carpet that was well-heeled, had two stars attached to the back of St Edward's Crown so that the Archbishop would not confuse the front and back of the Crown as happened at her father's Coronation, or chose make-up that would look good on camera. (Morton, 2022, p. 140) In the ballroom of Buckingham Palace, the Coronation was rehearsed using stretched ropes to symbolize places at Westminster Abbey. The Queen had an alternative cloak made of sheets and even before the Coronation she wore the St Edward's Crown on her head to get used to its weight. (Brandreth, 2006, p. 244)

On March 24th, 1953, Elizabeth's grandmother, Queen Mary, died. In her last will and at the insistence of Duke of Norfolk, she wanted her death not to disrupt the preparations for the Coronation and the Coronation itself. (Parker, 1996, p. 44)

The coronation rehearsals took place almost daily from May 14th at Westminster Abbey, and the Queen took part in four rehearsals. (Torrance, 2023, p. 25) Prince Philip downplayed the rehearsals as he found the Coronation out of date. During his rehearsal of the homage to the Queen, Prince Philip recited his text as fast as he could and did not even kiss the Queen. He just blew her an air kiss and was about to leave. However, the Queen stopped him and made him to repeat his entire lines exactly as it should had been. (Erickson, 2004, p. 119) The final dress rehearsal was attended by 1,100 guests and 350 members of the press. The Duchess of Norfolk represented the Queen at the rehearsal at the Abbey. (Wilkinson, 2011, p. 31)

The date chosen for Coronation Day was June 2nd, 1953. It was chosen by the Meteorological Institute because it was supposed to be sunny, but the opposite was true. (Lacey, 2017, p. 166)

4. The Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II

The United Kingdom is one of the last countries where the coronation ceremony persists. The first coronations in Europe were already at the time of the Celtic tribes. The reason was to take the territory that the Romans wanted. Kings were not crowned with a crown, but by sitting on a throne. Successors to the throne were chosen by the elder warriors. A spear was placed in the king's hand as a symbol of authority and the people swore allegiance to him. The king grew his hair and wore more expensive clothes and a diadem, the precursor to a crown. (Wibberley, 1953, pp. 15-16)

Queen Elizabeth II was crowned in a ceremony that had been in England since the time of King Edgar, who was crowned in 973. This ceremony was based on chronicles and ancient texts. The coronation is divided into six parts: the Recognition, during which the people acclaim their sovereign, the Oath, during which the sovereign vows to serve the people, the Anointing, during which the sovereign is anointed with the Holy Anointing Oil by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Investiture, which has the sovereign presented with the Regalia, the Homage with the Church and aristocracy pledging their loyalty to the sovereign, and the last part is the Communion, during which the sovereign receives the eucharist. (Wilkinson, 2011, p. 10)

The Collegiate Church of St Peter, Westminster, as Westminster Abbey is properly called, is under the jurisdiction of the Dean and Chapter, subject only to the monarch. (Westminster Abbey, n. d. b) The British monarch has been crowned at Westminster Abbey since William the Conqueror's Coronation on December 25th, 1066. William the Conqueror was the first documented King crowned at Westminster Abbey. The Abbey was built by Edward the Confessor and rebuilt in the Gothic style by Henry III in 1245. There were only two monarchs who never had any coronation. Edward V, who was murdered in the Tower of London before his coronation, and Edward VIII, who abdicated before his coronation. (Westminster Abbey, n. d. a) The latter watched the so far last coronation of the British monarch, his niece's, only on television. (Lacey, 2017, p. 145)

4.1 Coronation Day

As Wasson (2016) says: “Memories of unemployment, mass casualties, aerial bombing, and the threat of invasion faded. The coronation of Elizabeth II (b. 1926) in 1953 was a cathartic moment. It was an assertion of British values and national identity in the face of totalitarianism past and present. Half the people in Britain watched the ceremony live on television, and most of the rest listened on radio. Ben Pimlott argues that the coronation ‘helped to define’, not just royalty, but the British identity for the next generation.” (p. 311)

London was already in chaos a week before the Coronation as huge numbers of people flocked to the city. (Harris, 2016, p. 57) London was the centre of all the action because of the Coronation. Everywhere were decorated ceremonial arches and grandstands (on which there were) with reservations. Grandstand tickets were sold on the black market for £40 or £50, which would be £950 today, and balcony seats were even more expensive. (Lacey, 2017, p. 167) The joy and singing of excited people spread through the streets of London on the day of the Coronation. The weather in the city was typically British, but even the rain and cold did not deter Londoners from waking up outside on the streets for Coronation Day. Some spent the night there to have good seats during the Coronation Procession and see the Queen with the help of purchased periscopes or those they made themselves. The luckier and wealthier ones had already reserved seats by the road for several months. The seats were sold for as much as £3,500. (Erickson, 2004, pp. 117-118)

The estimated cost of the entire Coronation of Elizabeth II is surprising because it was not the most expensive coronation. It cost £912,000, which translates to £18,800,000 in 2021. The Coronation was even cheaper than her father George VI's in 1937, her great-grandfather Edward VII's in 1902 or King George IV's in 1821, whose Coronation cost £21,100,000 in today's prices. As was customary, the Government paid for the Coronation. (Torrance, 2023, p. 30)

The mood in Britain at the time of the Coronation was still gloomy. The country was still rationing sugar or meat, although the war had ended eight years earlier. (Seward, 2018, p. 112) Nevertheless, Churchill decreed on the day of the Coronation that everyone was to receive a higher ration of sugar and special concessions were issued for street entertainment. Thanks to the Coronation, the whole of Britain forgot

about poverty (Parker, 1996, p. 51) Everyone was thinking about the Coronation. Benjamin Britten dedicated his opera *Gloriana* to Coronation Day and Mount Everest was climbed. (Wasson, 2016, p. 311) On May 29th, New Zealander Edmund Hillary and his Sherpa Tenzing Norgay reached the world's highest peak. The expedition was led by the British John Hunt. Therefore, when this information reached London on the morning of the Coronation, people were overjoyed. The news of the conquest of Everest and the Coronation itself felt like a symbol of hope and the beginning of a new era. (Seward, 2018, pp. 111-112)

Selfridge's department store had a life-size statue of the Queen riding a horse on display. (Erickson, 2004, p. 117) Souvenirs with pictures of Queen Elizabeth II were sold, for example. However, the biggest bestseller was television. People bought it to watch the Coronation Broadcast. Those who owned a television set up visits for neighbours who did not own one and watched Her Majesty being crowned together. (Lacey, 2017, p. 167) An incredible 27 million people watched the nine-hour broadcast. (Harris, 2016, p. 57) The Coronation was not only broadcast in British homes but in cinemas and abroad. Even the French bought televisions because of the Coronation. An invention not quite common in households at that time was on the rise then. (Roche, 2008, p. 52)

The arrival of the guests was also planned in such a way that everything proceeded without complications, so the first ones arrived already at 6 a.m. Unfortunately, there was a complication with Churchill's carriage, which caused him to be late. (Harris, 2016, p. 60) Queen Salote of Tonga also suffered a minor complication. She refused to raise the roof of her carriage because of the rain and was therefore loved by the people in the streets. (The Press Secretary, 2003) That morning many carriages or cars went out in the Coronation Procession with the Mayor of London, the monarchs of other countries and the Royal Family, of course. (Erickson, 2004, p. 118)

The former King Edward VIII was missing from the Royal Family because he was not invited. (Harris, 2016, p. 57) He was watching the Coronation live with his wife Wallis Simpson and American friends in Paris. (Lacey, 2017, p. 145)

When asked by one of her Coronation Maids that day if she was nervous about the Coronation, the Queen humorously replied that she was, but that she was thinking

about whether her horse would win the race, which was being run a few days later. (Morton, 2022, p. 141)

The Queen embarked on the ten-mile journey from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Abbey together with her husband, the Duke of Edinburgh, in a golden carriage, called the State Coach, drawn by eight Windsor greyhounds. (Erickson, 2004, pp. 118-121) The carriage was made in 1761 for George III. (Lacey, 2017, p. 168) The Coronation Procession from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Abbey has been since 1902. The Procession led, for example, through The Mall, the south side of Trafalgar Square, past Parliament Square to the west entrance of Westminster Abbey. (Torrance, 2023, pp. 39-40) A total of 29,200 officers from the Royal Navy, Army, RAF, Commonwealth and Empire took part in the Procession. In addition, 6,700 reserve and administrative troops took part, 1,000 men of the Royal Military Police and another 7,000 police officers kept order. (Royal Household, n. d. b)

During the journey, the Queen was wearing Queen Victoria's Tiara with the Cross of St George and other symbols of other parts of Great Britain on the Tiara. (Lacey, 2017, p. 168) Her Majesty was also wearing the Coronation Dress made of white satin and embroidered with the emblems of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth in gold and silver thread by designer Norman Hartnell. (The Press Secretary, 2003) The dress had symbolic flowers that represented the individual countries of the Commonwealth: a rose (England), thistle (Scotland), leek (Wales), shamrock (Ireland), lotus (Ceylon), protea (South Africa), wattle (Australia), wheat and jute (Pakistan), maple leaf (Canada) and fern (New Zealand). (Torrance, 2023, p. 19)

The State Coach stopped outside Westminster Abbey at 11 a.m. and the Queen was ready to be crowned. (Lacey, 2017, p. 168)

4.2 The Recognition

Before the Queen entered, the Archbishops, Bishops, Prime Minister Churchill, the Duke of Edinburgh, and others entered the Abbey in turn. (Archive of Recorded Church Music, 2018) Queen Elizabeth entered Westminster Abbey decorated with garlands, tapestries, and candles to the sounds of trumpeters, an organ, and a choir of 400 voices. (Erickson, 2004, p. 121) In total, 182 trebles, 37 altos, 62 tenors and 67 basses were singing at the Coronation. (Wilkinson, 2011, p. 28) In the Abbey,

the Coronation was watched by 8,251 people. The guests were from 129 different nations (Torrance, 2023, pp. 32, 36) and they watched how Her Majesty entered through the western door when the choir was singing 'I was glad' – Psalm CXXII. verses 1-3, 6, 7. (Wibberley, 1953, p. 165) The Psalm was arranged by Hubert Parry and has been associated with coronations since 1902. (Torrance, 2023, p. 37) The Queen walked into the Theatre of the Abbey around her throne, then kneeled at the faldstool, said a short prayer, and took her seat in her Chair. (The Form, 1953, pp. 2-3) The Chair she was sitting on is not a throne, it is the Chair of State, a royal seat the sovereign sits on until he or she is crowned. (Wibberley, 1953, p. 165)

The Bishops then placed the Bible, Paten, and Chalice upon the Altar and the Dean of Westminster placed the Regalia, which had been carried by the Lords, upon the Altar as well. (The Form, 1953, p. 3)

First, the Archbishop of Canterbury introduced the Queen to the whole Abbey - east, south, west, and north. (Lacey, 2017, p. 168) They were escorted by Garter Principal King-of-Arms, the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Great Chamberlain, the Lord High Constable, and the Earl Marshal. (Wibberley, 1953, p. 165) Her Majesty was also accompanied by her Coronation Maids, who were holding her mantle and had smelling salts ready in case they fainted. (Harris, 2016, p. 60)

The Queen stood up and showed herself to the people in the east. Meanwhile, the Archbishop introduced to the east side their new Queen: "Sirs, I here present unto you Queen Elizabeth, your undoubted Queen: Wherefore all you who are come this day to do your homage and service, are you willing to do the same?" In this way the Queen turned south, west, and north respectively, while the Archbishop repeated his text to each side and each side agreed and the people cried out as one: "God save Queen Elizabeth." Trumpets sounded after each approval of the people and the Queen bowed to each side. The Queen returned to her Chair and was ready for another part of the Coronation. (Archive of Recorded Church Music, 2018) As Wibberley (1953) explains: "These shouted replies in the Act of Recognition were because of the riot and bloodshed during the Coronation of William the Conqueror." (pp. 165-166)

4.3 The Oath

The next part of the Coronation was the Oath, which binds the Queen to serve her subjects and to the maintenance of the laws of God. (Archive of Recorded Church Music, 2018) The Queen had already signed the Declaration prescribed by the Act of Parliament on November 4th, 1952, but she had to take the oath in front of the entire Abbey during the Coronation. (Royal Household, n. d. c)

Subsequently, the Archbishop stood before Her Majesty and asked her questions about the Oath. The first of these was: “Madam, is your Majesty willing to take the Oath?” To which the Queen, holding a book, replied: “I am willing.” The Archbishop continued: “Will you solemnly promise and swear to govern the Peoples of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the Union of South Africa, Pakistan, and Ceylon, and of your Possessions and the other Territories to any of them belonging or pertaining, according to their respective laws and customs?” The Queen replied: “I solemnly promise so to do.” Another question from the Archbishop followed: “Will you to your power cause Law and Justice, in Mercy, to be executed in all your judgements?” Her Majesty replied briefly: “I will.” And the last question was: “Will you to the utmost of your power maintain the Laws of God and the true profession of the Gospel? Will you to the utmost of your power maintain in the United Kingdom the Protestant Reformed Religion established by law? Will you maintain and preserve inviolably the settlement of the Church of England, and the doctrine, worship, discipline, and government thereof, as by law established in England? And will you preserve unto the Bishops and Clergy of England, and to the Churches there committed to their charge, all such rights and privileges, as by law do or shall appertain to them or any of them?” The Queen answered this question: “All this I promise to do.” (The Form, 1953, pp. 5-7)

Then the Queen escorted by the Bishop of Durham and the Bishop of Bath and Wells, and with the Sword of State being carried before her, to the Altar, where she confirmed the Oath by laying her right hand upon the Holy Gospel in the great Bible. (The Form, 1953, p. 7) Her Majesty confirmed the Oath with these words: “The things which I have here before promised, I will perform and keep. So help me God.” Then she kissed the Bible and signed the parchment copy of the Oath. (Archive of Recorded Church Music, 2018) Although the Coronation was perfectly

planned, mistakes were found. When signing the parchment, the pen ran out of ink and the Queen only pretended to sign the Oath. (Morton, 2022, p. 143)

The Queen then returned to the Chair of State and was presented with the Holy Bible. The Bible was carried for the first time by the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. (Archive of Recorded Church Music, 2018) He brought the Bible to the Queen and the Archbishop said: “Our gracious Queen: to keep your Majesty ever mindful of the Law and the Gospel of God as the Rule for the whole life and government of Christian Princes, we present you with this Book, the most valuable thing that this world afford.” (The Form, 1953, p. 8) The Moderator continued: “Here is Wisdom; This is the royal Law; These are the lively Oracles of God.” The Queen returned the Bible to the Moderator and the Bible was placed upon the Altar. (Archive of Recorded Church Music, 2018)

Then the choir sang another psalm – ‘The Introit’, Psalm LXXXIV. verses 9, 10. After the Psalm, the Queen and others kneeled and the Archbishop began the Communion Service in which he asked God to give the servant Elizabeth, the Queen, the Spirit of wisdom and government so that she would be devoted to the Church. Next, The Epistle was read by the Bishop of London and then another psalm was sung by the choir – ‘The Gradual’, Psalm CXLI. verse 2. After the end of the Psalm, the Queen stood with the others and the Bishop of York read The Gospel, which was then again replaced by the choir singing ‘The Creed’. (The Form, 1953, pp. 9-14)

4.4 The Anointing

The Act of Oath ended, the Queen kneeled at her faldstool and the choir sang ‘Veni, Creator Spiritus’, the Archbishop said another prayer (The Form, 1953, p. 14) and the choir sang the Coronation Anthem ‘Zadok the Priest’, whose verses were taken from the Old Testament and were traditionally sung during Coronation Ceremonies. (Erickson, 2005, p. 122) Handel composed the music for this Coronation Anthem, whose verses had been recited at Edgar's Coronation in 973. (Lacey, 2017, p. 168) ‘Zadok the Priest’ was originally written for the Coronation of George II in 1727. The music at the Coronation was directed by an organist and Master of the Choristers at the Abbey, Dr William McKie. (Wilkinson, 2011, pp. 24-25)

During 'Zadok the Priest' Elizabeth had to take off her mantle and jewellery, as the next step was the Anointing. The Lord Great Chamberlain and the Mistress of the Robes helped her. (The Form, 1953, p. 17) The Anointing is described in the Book of Kings in the Old Testament, which is the oldest description of a religious Coronation. According to the Book of Kings, King Solomon was the first king who was anointed by Zadok and Nathan. (Lacey, 2017, p. 168)

During the Act of Anointing, the Queen put on a white robe and the Archbishop of Canterbury anointed her hands, chest and forehead with the Oil that was made especially for the Coronation since the Holy Anointing Oil was destroyed because of the war. (Erickson, 2005, p. 122) The new Anointing Oil was made of sesame, alcohol, olive oil, jasmine, cinnamon, musk, civet, and ambergris. (Wilkinson, 2011, p. 44) The Oil had been blessed by the Archbishop of Canterbury and is called chrism. (Wibberley, 1953, p. 18)

The Holy Oil for Anointing is kept in the gold Ampulla which was probably first used in 1399 during the Coronation of Henry IV. (Wilkinson, 2011, p. 32) The original gold Ampulla was destroyed in 1649 and it was supposed to contain the oil that Thomas Becket received from the Virgin. The current one has been used since 1661 and is in the form of an eagle, just like the destroyed one. (Keay, 2002, pp. 11-12) The Ampulla had to be filled with the Oil already in the morning and be ready, together with the Imperial State Crown, in the St Edward's Chapel. (Wilkinson, 2011, p. 40) During the Anointing, the Oil is poured into the gold anointing Spoon from the 12th century. This piece of Coronation Regalia is the oldest surviving one. (Wilkinson, 2011, p. 32) Before the Civil War, the Spoon was among Regalia at Westminster Abbey but originally it was probably used for mixing water and wine in a chalice. Before the Coronation of Charles II, the Spoon was considered lost, so a new one had to be made. However, one of Charles I's Wardrobe officials brought the original spoon, which he had bought for 16 shillings in 1649. The Spoon, the bowl of which is engraved with acanthus leaves and the handle of which is in the shape of a monster's head, was set with four pearls and could be used for its intended purpose of pouring the Oil on it. (Keay, 2002, p. 13)

The Act of Anointing brought the Queen into the presence of the living God and for the Queen, the Anointing was the most important moment of the Coronation, because

of its sanctity and intimacy. So important that the Queen did not allow this moment to be televised. (Brandreth, 2006, p. 245)

As Wibberley (1953) explains, the Act of Anointing was supposed to take place as follows: “The Queen shall sit down in King Edward's Chair (...), wherein she is to be anointed. Four Knights of the Garter shall hold over her a rich pall of silk, or cloth of gold: the Dean of Westminster, taking the Ampulla and Spoon from off the Altar, shall hold them ready, pouring some of the holy Oil into the Spoon, and with it the Archbishop shall anoint the Queen in the form of a cross: On the palms of both the hands, saying, Be thy Hands anointed with holy Oil. On the breast, saying, Be thy Breast anointed with holy Oil. On the crown of the head, saying, Be thy Head anointed with holy Oil: as kings, priests, and prophets were anointed: And as Solomon was anointed king by Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet, so be thou anointed, blessed, and consecrated Queen over the Peoples, whom the Lord thy God hath given thee to rule and govern, In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.” (pp. 17-18)

4.5 The Investiture

After being anointed, the Queen received the blessing from the Archbishop and was divested of her white robes by the Dean of Westminster and the Mistress of the Robes. They put upon her the Colobium Sindonis and the Supertunica over it. (Frost, 1978, pp. 112-114) The Colobium Sindonis means ‘the little gown of linen’ and, together with the Supertunica, is the traditional robe of sovereignty. (Wilkinson, 2011, p. 45)

She sat down again in the King Edward's Chair (Archive of Recorded Church Music, 2018), which was made in 1300 for Edward I and used for every coronation. (The Press Secretary, 2003) There are Gilded lions on the Throne bearing the Stone of Destiny (Erickson, 2005, pp. 121-122) Wibberley (1953) explains the origin of the name the Stone of Destiny or the Stone of Scone: “Around 840 A.D. Kenneth I of Scotland, the first of the Scottish kings, took the stone from Dunstaffnage Castle to Scone, the capital of his kingdom, and here it received its name, the Stone of Scone. He made it the official coronation seat of the Scottish kings. No king could rule in Scotland who was not crowned over the Stone of Scone and so the stone became the greatest treasure of the Scottish people.” (p. 21) It came into the hands of the English thanks to Edward I of England, who conquered Scotland in 1296. He also

claimed that crowned English kings seated upon the Stone of Scone would become the kings of Scotland. King Edward then created the official Coronation Chair by having the Stone of Scone placed on it and taking the Chair, the oldest piece of furniture in the Abbey, into Westminster Abbey. (Wibberley, 1953, pp. 24-25) An interesting fact is that the Stone of Destiny was stolen on Christmas Day 1950. It was eventually returned to the Coronation Chair a few days after the death of George VI. (Torrance, 2023, p. 18)

The Queen was ready to receive the Regalia, which is one of the most important things at the Coronation as Keay (2002) explains: “Kings and queens of England have stored crowns, robes and other items of their ceremonial regalia at the Tower of London for over 600 years and since the 17th century, at least, this collection has been commonly known as the ‘Crown Jewels’.” (p. 3)

The Dean of Westminster brought the Golden Spurs of Chivalry to the Lord Great Chamberlain, who brought it to the Queen to touch it. (Archive of Recorded Church Music, 2018) Golden spurs have been part of the coronation ornaments since the Coronation of Richard the Lionheart in 1189. They symbolize the knighthood and the priesthood. The original ones were melted down in 1649 and the current ones were made in 1661 as imitations of the original ones. The last change was made in 1821 when the buckles and straps were changed and have remained unchanged ever since. (Keay, 2002, p. 16)

Then the Marquess of Salisbury brought the Sword of State to the Lord Chamberlain to receive in exchange another sword and brought it to the Archbishop. While placing the Sword upon the Altar, the Archbishop asked God to direct the Queen “to use it as the minister of God for the terror and punishment of evildoers, and for the protection and encouragement of those that do well through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Archive of Recorded Church Music, 2018) Two swords were made for Charles II. The first one was in 1660 and the second one was in 1678. Their original purpose for the monarch was during the monarch's visits to Parliament. (Keay, 2002, p. 32)

The Archbishop took the Sword from the Altar and delivered it to the Queen. He spoke these words: “With this Sword do justice, stop the growth of iniquity, protect the holy Church of God, help and defend widows and orphans, restore the things that are gone to decay, maintain the things that are restored, punish and reform what is

amiss, and confirm what is in good order: that doing these things you may be glorious in all virtue; and so faithfully serve our Lord Jesus Christ in this life, that you may reign for ever with him in the life which is to come. Amen.” The Queen then offered the Sword upon the Altar, gave it in the service of God, returned to the Throne and Lord Salisbury redeemed the Sword for one hundred silver shillings. (Archive of Recorded Church Music, 2018)

The Queen was carrying the Sword for the rest of the service when Lord Salisbury had given it to her and received the Armills from the Archbishop. (The Form, 1953, pp. 22-23) Armills are arm rings that were originally a symbol of nobility and military prowess in Christian and Germanic culture. They are also meant to be a symbol of sincerity and wisdom. Although Charles II had his Armills made in 1661, there is no evidence that monarchs used them at coronations. It was Queen Elizabeth II who re-incorporated the Armills into the Coronation Ceremony. The 22-carat-gold Armills were made for her as a gift from the Commonwealth. (Keay, 2002, p. 16)

The Robe Royal was then put on the Queen with the Stole Royal over her shoulders. (Archive of Recorded Church Music, 2018) This Imperial Robe was a sign of knowledge and wisdom, majesty, and power from on high, righteousness and the garment of salvation. (The Form, 1953, p. 24)

Then came the other crown jewels. One of them was the Orb with the Cross (Archive of Recorded Church Music, 2018) which was given to the ruler in Rome as a sign of rule over the whole world. It has been a part of the coronation in England since 1483 as part of the Coronation Procession and since 1547 as part of the monarch's coronation itself. The Sovereign's Orb, which is currently in use, has been part of the coronations since 1661 and is set with pearls, emeralds, sapphires, rubies, one amethyst and approximately 365 diamonds. The Archbishop places the orb in the monarch's right hand to remember that like the cross over the orb, the world is subject to Jesus Christ. (Keay, 2002, pp. 18-19)

The Orb was taken to the Altar by the Dean of Westminster and the Queen's Ring was delivered to the Queen. (The Form, 1953, pp. 24-25) The Coronation Ring, called ‘The Wedding Ring of England’, was placed on the fourth finger of the Queen's right hand. (The Press Secretary, 2003) The ring is a symbol of kingly dignity. Originally, each monarch had his or her ring. The Sovereign's Ring was made for the Coronation

of William IV, which was later bequeathed to the Crown by Queen Victoria. The Ring with 14 diamonds and sapphire with five rubies in the shape of the Cross of St George has been used by every monarch since 1902. (Keay, 2002, p. 19)

After the Ring was placed on Her Majesty's finger, the Archbishop delivered the Sceptre with the Cross to the right hand of Her Majesty, who received it with the Glove, and the Rod with the Dove into her left hand with the words: "Receive the Royal Sceptre, the ensign of kingly power and justice. Receive the Rod of equity and mercy. Be so merciful that you be not too remiss; so execute justice that you forget not mercy. Punish the wicked, protect and cherish the just, and lead your people in the way wherein they should go." (Archive of Recorded Church Music, 2018) The Sovereign's Sceptre with Cross has been used since 1661. In 1821, the emblems of the United Kingdom were added and in 1910, the First Star of Africa diamond was added. (Keay, 2002, p. 20) The diamond is the largest cut diamond in the world, weighing 530 carats. (Wilkinson, 2011, p. 36) The Rod with Dove, also used and unaltered since 1661, is topped with a dove - the symbol of the Holy Ghost. (Keay, 2002, p. 21)

Then came the most awaited moment of the Coronation: putting St Edward's Crown on Elizabeth II's head. (Archive of Recorded Church Music, 2018) The original crown was destroyed by Oliver Cromwell. (Lacey, 2017, p. 168) The currently used Crown, supplied by Robert Vyner in 1661 for Charles II, has been used only for coronations. Until the beginning of the 20th century, it was set with stones that were rented only for coronations. From 1702 until the 19th century, the crown was only used as a symbolic object in the Coronation Procession. Edward VII renovated the Crown but was not crowned with it due to ill health. The crowning of the monarch with the Crown of St Edward did not take place until 1911 when George V was crowned. Every monarch has been crowned with the Crown since then. (Keay, 2002, p. 23)

The Archbishop of Canterbury said: "O God the Crown of the faithful: Bless we beseech thee this Crown, and so sanctify thy servant Elizabeth upon whose head this day thou dost place it for a sign of royal majesty, that she may be filled by thine abundant grace with all princely virtues: through the King eternal Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen." (The Form, 1953, p. 27) Then he carefully placed the Crown on Her Majesty's head, the people of the Abbey put on their crowns, shouted "God save

the Queen” three times and the trumpets sounded. (Archive of Recorded Church Music, 2018)

The Archbishop continued as follows: “God crown you with a crown of glory and righteousness, that having a right faith and manifold fruit of good works, you may obtain the crown of an everlasting kingdom by the gift of him whose kingdom endureth for ever. Amen.” (The Form, 1953, p. 27) The Archbishop was followed by the choir and the cameras focused on Prince Charles, who sat in the box with his grandmother, the Queen Mother, and his aunt, Princess Margaret. (Archive of Recorded Church Music, 2018)

The Archbishop then blessed the Queen with a prayer and turned to the people in the Abbey to enjoy peace, plenty, and prosperity through the Trinity. (The Form, 1953, pp. 29-30)

The Enthronement is the final part of this Act. The Queen was lifted onto her Throne by the Archbishop and Earl Marshal. Meanwhile, the Peers of the Kingdom gathered around the Queen's Throne and the Archbishop exclaimed: “Stand firm, and hold fast from henceforth the seat and state of royal and imperial dignity, which is this day delivered unto you, in the Name and by the Authority of Almighty God, and by the hands of us the Bishops and servants of God, though unworthy. And the Lord God Almighty whose ministers we are, and the stewards of his mysteries, establish your Throne in righteousness, that it may stand fast for evermore. Amen.” (The Form, 1953, p. 31)

4.6 The Homage

The Queen handed over the Sceptre with the Cross and the Rod with the Dove (Archive of Recorded Church Music, 2018) and the choir began to sing the Confortare ‘Be Strong and of a Good Courage’ by Sir George Dyson. (Wilkinson, 2011, pp. 47-48)

When the Queen was crowned by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Fisher, she became the fortieth crowned monarch since William the Conqueror. (Roche, 2008, p. 50) It was also the Archbishop who first knelt before the newly crowned Queen: “I Geoffrey, Archbishop of Canterbury will be faithful and true, and faith and truth will bear unto you, our Sovereign Lady, Queen of this Realm and Defender of the Faith, and unto your heirs and successors according to law. So help me God.” After the Homage, the Archbishop kissed the Queen's right hand (The Form, 1953,

p. 33) and it was the Duke of Edinburgh's turn, who followed after the Archbishop: "I Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, do become your liege man of life and limb, and of earthly worship; and faith and truth I will bear unto you, to live and die, against all manner of folks. So help me God." Then he touched her Crown and kissed her left cheek. (Frost, 1978, p. 118)

Then the Duke of Gloucester and the Duke of Kent came and after them, Duke of Norfolk Earl Marshal of England (Archive of Recorded Church Music, 2018) and other representatives of the House of Lords – the Dukes, the Marquesses, Earls, Viscounts, and Barons – also came to pronounce the Homage to the newly crowned Queen (Lacey, 2017, pp. 169-170) and to touch the Crown and kiss the Queen's right hand. (Frost, 1978, p. 118)

The Homage ended when the trumpets and the drums sounded and the people shouted: "God save Queen Elizabeth. Long live Queen Elizabeth. May the Queen live for ever." (Archive of Recorded Church Music, 2018)

4.7 The Communion

The choir started to sing the hymn 'All people that on earth do dwell' while the Queen walked to the Altar where she put off the Crown and returned the Sceptre and the Rod. Her Majesty offered bread and wine for the Communion, the Archbishop blessed them and then he said a prayer. After the prayer, the Queen made the offering when she offered the Altar Cloth and an Ingot of Gold of one-pound weight, which the Archbishop placed on the Altar. (The Form, 1953, pp. 37-40) The Duke of Edinburgh also made the offering and the Archbishop blessed him through prayer. Her Majesty then went to her faldstool, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, who went to his faldstool, and the Archbishop said other prayers and the choir sang other psalms. (Archive of Recorded Church Music, 2018)

The Queen and her husband then received the Eucharist while the choir was singing Psalm XXXIV. verse 8 (The Form, 1953, p. 50) and the Archbishop was saying the words spoken by Jesus Christ on the night of the Last Supper. This moment was not televised. (Archive of Recorded Church Music, 2018)

The cameras then captured the moment of the Post-Communion, after which the Queen again received the Crown, the Sceptre and the Rod and walked to her Throne, the choir sang 'Glory Be to God on High' and the Archbishop said last two prayers.

The Ceremony drew to a close as the Queen went to the Communion into the St Edward's Chapel while the choir was singing 'Te Deum Laudamus'. (Archive of Recorded Church Music, 2018)

After the Communion, she strengthened herself with food and drink and exchanged the St Edward's Crown for the Imperial State Crown, which was lighter. (Erickson, 2004, pp. 123-124) The St Edward's Crown weighs 2,270 kg, while the Imperial State Crown weighs 1,360 kg. (Lacey, 2017, p. 168)

The Imperial State Crown was made for the procession, the banquet after the coronation and other ceremonies like the State Opening of Parliament. The original State Crown was destroyed in 1649 and was worth five times more than the St Edward's Crown as the jewels on it did not have to be rented. The Imperial State Crown was made in 1937. It contains several gems, such as the St Edward's Sapphire that Edward the Confessor wore on his ring. The Sapphire is located on the cross above the Crown. Another piece of jewellery is four pearls that Queen Elizabeth I wore as earrings, or the Black Prince's Ruby from 1367, which was allegedly worn by Henry I at the Battle of Agincourt. The Stuart Sapphire, which originally belonged to James II in 1688, is on the back of the Crown. (Keay, 2002, pp. 28-29) The Cullinan Diamond, discovered in South Africa in 1905, is on the front of the Crown and is the second-largest cut diamond in the world. The Diamond was given as a present to Edward VII. (Keay, 2002, p. 61)

Her Majesty also exchanged her Robe for the Robe of Purple Velvet. Then, holding the Sceptre and the Orb in her hands, she and her Maids headed to the west door of the Abbey and the nearly three-hour-long Coronation ended with the singing of the national anthem 'God Save the Queen' (Frost, 1978, pp. 118, 122) and 'Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1 in D'. (Archive of Recorded Church Music, 2018)

4.8 After the Coronation

The Coronation at Westminster Abbey ended before 2 p.m. (Lacey, 2017, p. 183) It was raining during the ceremony and everyone who was waiting outside and could not take cover became soaked. The State Coach was waiting for the Queen to take her from the courtyard back to Buckingham Palace. (Seward, 2018, p. 115) The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh first wondered if their children were all right. Four-year-old Prince Charles was watching only a part of the ceremony with his grandmother,

while Princess Anne stayed at home throughout the Coronation. (Seward, 2018, pp. 115-116) Then the State Coach, accompanied by 27 carriages, 29 military bands, and 13,000 soldiers, was ready for the ride to Buckingham Palace. (Brandreth, 2006, p. 247) The 7.2-kilometre Procession back to Buckingham Palace took two hours. The Procession led, for example, through Parliament Square, Piccadilly, Hyde Park Corner, Oxford Street, Trafalgar Square along the Mall to the Palace. (Torrance, 2023, p. 56)

Unfortunately, after the long ceremony, it was not without scandals. Some of the guests smuggled food or morning papers into the Abbey. They left a big mess on the floor. (Erickson, 2004, p. 123) Princess Margaret caused the biggest scandal. The Princess was photographed brushing a speck off the jacket of Peter Townsend, a member of the Royal Service Staff. (Harris, 2016, p. 63) The press immediately started writing about the romance and was right, as the Princess was having an affair with Townsend. The affair was unacceptable to the Royal court as Townsend was divorced. (Parker, 1996, p. 52)

The State Coach arrived at Buckingham Palace around half past five. First, the Queen ate sandwiches with fish spread, drank a cup of tea, and then went to take pictures for the press, so that the press could have photos as soon as possible. Meanwhile, Cecil Beaton photographed the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret, then the rest of the Royal Family including the restless children, Prince Charles, and Princess Anne in the Green Drawing Room. (Lacey, 2017, p. 183)

Beaton was the official Coronation Photographer. He had already photographed King George VI and his wife, Queen Elizabeth, after the bombing of England by the Nazis during World War II. On the day of the Coronation, he photographed Queen Elizabeth II against backdrops that represented the ceiling of the vaulted arches in the Lady Chapel in the Abbey or the Victorian engravings of the Abbey towers. (Lacey, 2017, pp. 176, 180)

During the photo shoot, Prince Philip began to organize Beaton and told sarcastic jokes about Beaton, which offended him. Beaton did not like such behaviour and the Duke of Edinburgh realized his mistake and backed off. (Morton, 2022, p. 143) After a short exchange of views, the shooting went on smoothly. The photo shoot of the Duke of Edinburgh took place and finally the last pictures of the Queen with her

Coronation Maids. Everyone went to the balcony to watch the RAF parade after that. (Lacey, 2017, p. 185) Hundreds of planes formed the letters 'ER'. (Torrance, 2023, p. 57)

It continued raining, but there were still crowds outside Buckingham Palace, standing as far as Trafalgar Square. The Queen and the Royal Family went to the balcony to greet this crowd six times during the day. (Seward, 2018, p. 116) On one of these visits, Her Majesty appeared at 9.45 p.m. to turn on the 'lights of London'. The whole of London from the National Gallery to the Tower of London was in colour. (The Press Secretary, 2003) The last time they showed up was at midnight and the people who stayed until the last minute started singing Auld Lang Syne, (Seward, 2018, p. 116) a Scottish song based on verses by Robert Burns and sung mainly at midnight on New Year's Day. (Lewis, 2017)

5. The Representation of the Coronation in British Newspapers

For the practical part of my thesis, I have chosen several articles from five well-known British newspapers which were published on the day of the Coronation (June 2nd, 1953), or the day after the Coronation (June 3rd, 1953). The main newspapers I used for my thesis are English daily newspapers *The Daily Telegraph* and the *Daily Mirror*. For comparison, I also briefly examined the title pages, or the first pages with articles, of the newspapers of other UK countries – i.e. Scottish the *Evening Express*, Northern Irish the *Belfast Telegraph* and Welsh the *Western Mail*.

I focused mainly on the articles in the English newspapers published on their title pages as they were, in my opinion, the most interesting and important for their readers because they bring Coronation Day and the Coronation closer to their audience, or bring reactions to the Coronation from the United Kingdom and abroad. That is the reason why I write in detail about the title pages of the newspapers. However, I also mention other pages of the English newspapers, even if briefly, to give a comprehensive idea of the newspaper issues and to supplement some articles. I do not pay attention to advertisements or articles in the newspapers that are not related to the Coronation or Elizabeth II.

The aim of this part is to introduce the newspapers and their content. I pay primary attention to the explanation of how, what, and why the authors wrote these articles relating to the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. In the conclusion, I compared the newspapers with each other and consider their appeal to their audiences.

5.1 The English Newspapers

5.1.1 *The Daily Telegraph*

The Daily Telegraph is daily newspaper published in London and, along with *The Times* and *The Guardian*, regarded as one of “Britain’s ‘big three’ quality newspapers.” (Britannica, T. Editors of Encyclopaedia, 2023, February 7). As their website says: “*The Daily Telegraph and Courier* was first published in 1855, on a Friday late in June, just as the penny tax on newspapers was repealed. (...) Just 71 days later ‘and Courier’ was dropped from the masthead in preference for simply *The Daily Telegraph*, which is still the title of our daily paper.” (The Telegraph Corporate, n. d. a) “*The Telegraph* is an award-winning, multimedia news brand that has been synonymous with quality, authority and credibility for more than 165 years. Over the years our journalists have reported on the events that have shaped the world, bearing witnesses to history. We continue to set the news agenda, spark debate, and serve our readers on a daily basis.” (The Telegraph Corporate, n. d. b)

The title page of *The Daily Telegraph* issue (full name was *The Daily Telegraph and Morning Post*) from Wednesday, June 3rd, 1953, shows the large headline ‘Elizabeth II is crowned’. Below it, on the right, is a black and white photograph of the new Queen, her two children, Charles and Anne, and her husband on the balcony of Buckingham Palace. The entire page, except for a brief mention of the weather forecast and Royal Drive on June 3rd, is dedicated to the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. The main article on the left side, which has no author listed, has three subtitles. Only one article, entitled ‘Splendour and piety in the Abbey’, has a specific author named, Norman Riley. The rest of the relatively shorter articles are listed without an author, or only under the summary authorship. A reprint of the Queen's broadcast is also part of the title page. The page ends with a picture of Mr. Pepys waving the State Coach and with words pretending to be his diary. The newspaper also includes a 24-page picture supplement, as written on the title page, which offers a detailed photographic overview of the entire Coronation Day. (*The Daily Telegraph*, 1953, p. 1)

The Daily Telegraph's title page leads the reader to the large headline 'Elizabeth II is crowned', followed by the article 'Splendour in Abbey seen by millions', with subtitles 'Queen 6 times on palace balcony: vast crowds' and 'Royal broadcast: pledge to service of her peoples'. It reports that the Queen was crowned in front of eight thousand people in the Abbey. The author of the article mentions that the Queen was crowned in front of so many people, most of whom are high-ranking, and many others watched the Coronation on their televisions, giving the reader the feeling that the event was unique. After the Coronation Ceremony, the article describes Her Majesty's departure to Buckingham Palace and emphasizes: "Here there was one of the greatest demonstrations of popular enthusiasm ever witnessed in the capital." All this in the presence of three million people who lined the streets. ("Splendour in Abbey", 1953) The author sends a message to the world that the British people are enthusiastic and loyal to their new monarch. It is quite obvious why the article had been chosen for the title page. The newspaper wanted to show the United Kingdom, but also the whole world, that June 2nd, 1953, went down in history as the Coronation of the new beloved queen, as if nothing else had happened that day and time had stopped.

In another article called 'Splendour and piety in the Abbey', reporter Riley (1953b) reacts to the comparison of the Coronation to the equally famous coronation of the first crowned Elizabeth. He argues that "the analogy does not hold good". He sees the difference between the two in that Elizabeth II was truly loved by her people, unlike the people who had expressed false loyalty to Elizabeth I. The attitude of the authorities was also different as he explains: "but only one bishop, Oglethorpe of Carlisle, could be persuaded to bestow the Church's blessing on her reign". The rest of the article, found on the title page, describes the course of the Coronation. Riley describes the rich decoration of the Abbey and the enormous tension that prevailed there. A reader who has not seen the Coronation on TV can imagine what was happening at that moment and what the environment was like thanks to the colourful description. The rest of the article then continues on page 11 under the title 'Queen takes the oath', in which the author describes the course of the entire Coronation in complete detail, to bring the ceremony closer to people who did not watch or listen to the Coronation the day before, or to remind people of the festive moments of the previous day. (Riley, 1953a)

The newspaper reprint of the Queen's broadcast from Coronation Day, in which she talks about the future, deserves the most attention. That is probably why the reprint is in the middle of the title page, below the photo, and highlighted around it. It is dedicated to the entire Commonwealth and Empire. In the reprint, Her Excellence appreciates the strength and prayers given to her by all regardless of faith. The sentences "I have in sincerity pledged myself to your service, as so many of you are pledged to mine. Throughout all my life and with all my heart I shall strive to be worthy of your trust," summarize the seriousness and responsibility with which she took over the office from her father. One of her last lines during the broadcast was as follows: "Then we can go forward together in peace, seeking justice and freedom for all men." (Queen Elizabeth II qtd. in "Declaration", 1953) The reason why the broadcast was reprinted was probably that the Queen shows herself to be a monarch who had respect for minority rights, tolerance, and freedom of speech for all, regardless of skin colour or culture. Whoever read this newspaper the day after the Coronation must have gotten the impression from the Queen's broadcast that she was aware that her subjects were not only there for her, but she was there for them as well.

The Daily Telegraph focused not only on domestic events and Coronation Celebrations but also on how the world reacted to their Queen's Coronation. They briefly reported on the two world powers and great rivals of the time – the USA and the Soviet Union. The short US report refers to an American politician, Charles B. Dean, who said that "the Queen had the prayers of millions throughout the free world and even those who are denies freedom today." ("U.S. good wishes", 1953) The other report is about Vyacheslav Molotov, the Russian Foreign Minister, who toasted the Queen, along with his colleagues, at the British Embassy in Moscow. There were also several Soviet celebrities at the embassy, such as the director of Moscow's drama theatre or the prima ballerina Olga Lepeshinskaya. ("Mr. Molotov's toast", 1953) If we compare these two reports, it is clear that both sides were happy about the Coronation and the new queen. The authors of the reports apparently want to show that the tension that was growing between the USA and the Soviet Union may have been alleviated at least a little by the Coronation of the young monarch that day and that the representatives of the two world powers could talk about the most famous woman of that time. This is evidenced by Dean's speech, which may allude to the Soviet Union itself. In the same way, the British Embassy in Moscow toasted the queen of one of

the slowly ex-imperialist powers at that time, which could have contradicted the Soviet anti-imperialist policy, and all this with prominent Soviet politics and celebrities. The reader of the reports may get the feeling that no Cold War going on. The choice of these two countries may also indicate that the authors and society were aware of the tensions rising and participated in creating, or reinforcing the bipolar view.

Among other things, there is a brief mention in the newspaper that the Queen thanked the Mayor of London and the people of London for the message they had sent her. (“London thanked”, 1953) Every Londoner who participated in this celebratory day and read this acknowledgement could be glad to have contributed to this extraordinary day.

It is also briefly mentioned that Sir William Strang fainted right during the Coronation Ceremony and had to leave. Given that the entire page is devoted to Elizabeth II, this report may be quite redundant on the title page. (“Ill in Abbey”, 1953) It may be there because the newspapers wanted to bring the ceremony to readers in detail as if they were attending it, and the authors did not want to miss anything from the Ceremony. Perhaps it was also to remind people that although the Coronation was primarily a religious ceremony evoking eternity, people are mortal.

A reporter for *The Daily Telegraph* reports in another article called ‘River mirrors London's feu-de-joie’ about the fireworks called *feu-de-joie* that celebrated the Queen. The reporter pays attention to the cost of the Coronation celebrations and points out that the £12,500 fireworks brought joy to people on the streets of London. It is interesting how many numbers the author mentions in the article. In this way, it can create a feeling in the reader that this event was not an ordinary event. Like other writers in this newspaper, he or she points out that people did not let the cold weather spoil their mood and enjoyed the day with enthusiasm. A picture of the fireworks can be seen on page 8. (“River mirrors”, 1953)

The Queen's popularity is also evidenced by the fact that even the perfectly planned and minute-to-the-minute prepared cavalcade was delayed due to enthusiasts who wanted to see the Queen with their own eyes. Those who perhaps did not notice what happened on June 2nd in the city of London or did not realize the magnitude of this glory and why the streets are so crowded got an explanation here. (“Late Abbey departure”, 1953)

One of *The Daily Telegraph's* last title-page articles goes back to the opening one. It reports that people stood for approximately six hours in front of Buckingham Palace in a typically English weather. Thousands of people under the Palace balcony could see the Queen waving to them with her faithful husband, the Duke of Edinburgh, every hour until midnight. (“Queen on balcony”, 1953) For the reader, especially a foreign one, this must prove that the British accepted their new monarch without hesitation and were completely obsessed with her.

The new era of the new queen was aptly evoked by the picture in the lower right part of the title page, in which a crowd is waving to Golden State Coach. The text below the image pretends to be an entry from Samuel Pepys's diary. Pepys lived in the time of Charles II but this text styles him as a contemporary witness to the Coronation. The lines about the new Elizabethan age linked with Queen Elizabeth II relate to the new Elizabethan age that the British were waiting for in 1953. The pretend writer (i.e. Pepys) wants to convince the reader that the Queen will certainly be one of the best they ever had, and maybe even the best when he mentions: “Never was money put to better account. So many jewels and ornaments of every land, yet did our Queen outshine them all in majesty.” The author uses Pepys probably because the monarchy was restored during the reign of King Charles II. The same can be felt from this text, which is aimed at the Coronation of the new queen Elizabeth II, which could bring about a new post-war restoration of the monarchy. Below the text is an italicized apology to Mr. Pepys. The apology is there probably because the author borrowed his identity, impersonated him, or imitates his writing style by incomplete sentences and brief descriptions of banal daily routines. Perhaps, the apology is there as an information for readers who may not be familiar with Pepys. Below the text is probably an advertisement for Lloyd's Bank, styled to match the historical occasion and the jolly mood the nation was in. (“Mr. Pepys”, 1953)

The newspaper continues with black and white photographs of dresses worn by certain ladies and The Earl of Lytton at the Abbey with the headline ‘The robes and dresses they wore in the Abbey’. These ladies were dressed in satin, lace, or brocade dresses. The ladies in the photographs include the Countess of Lytton, the Countess of Dundee, Mrs Thorneycroft (wife of the President of the Board of Trade), the Countess of Euston, Madame Massigli (wife of the French Ambassador), Mrs Boyd-Rochfort, Lady Keyes and Lady Bearsted. (“The robes and dresses”, 1953)

On page six there are several more articles about the Coronation. Worth mentioning is the article entitled 'Our undoubted queen', which is devoted to the course of the Coronation, highlights its biggest moments and adds short historical notes. The article also mentions the conquest of Everest: "The conquest of Everest has shown that among her peoples the spirit of Drake and Raleigh still survives, and under her inspiration it will assuredly burst forth with new energy." ("Our undoubted queen", 1953) Francis Drake and Walter Raleigh came to prominence during the reign of Elizabeth I due to England's vast territorial expansion and its position as a maritime power. The author assumes that thanks to the new queen, England might return to lead the world's great powers, at least in terms of prestige.

On page six, the most eye-catching text is a poem named 'A June Day' by The Very Rev. W. R. Matthews, Dean of St. Paul's. In the poem, the author compares the Queen to a flower, which is young, beautiful, and courageous, and briefly describes the course of Coronation Day and also highlights the religious part of the ceremony. (Matthews, 1953) The ceremony affected and influenced artists as well. Perhaps that is why, in addition to the articles, this poem is also in the newspaper - to let a reader know that the Coronation is special and the new queen represents hope for artists and is a symbol of something transitory and new for them.

The rest of page six does not deal much with the Coronation, except for one article. 'London day by day' with the subtitle 'The Best-Rehearsed Coronation: Irish Reactions' appreciates the care with which the Coronation was prepared and organized and again compares it with the Coronation of 1937. The unspecified author clearly points out that time had moved on since then. It is also worth noting that he mentions a coronation garden party in Dublin hosted by the Ambassador in Dublin. According to the article, invitations had been sent to respectable Irish people, but the anti-Partitionists objected, arguing that it would not be good to accept an invitation to celebrate someone who had claimed dominion over Northern Ireland. ("London day by day", 1953) Although Ireland had had a very long and complicated history with England, the Coronation was celebrated in Dublin. However, the celebrations may have partly taken place as part of maintaining diplomatic relations between Ireland and the United Kingdom and were probably not very sincere as the Irish movement protested strongly against the new imperialist queen.

Even though page seven has a larger number of image advertisements, it includes a large photograph in which the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland is presenting the Bible to the Queen. The top half of the page is devoted to coronation articles. The largest title 'Commonwealth's day of dedication and joy' describes the perception of the Coronation in the Commonwealth – Canada, South Africa, Australia, and Kenya. I have selected interesting parts from the articles. According to the reports, Eskimos and Canadian Indians listened to their radios in Canada. South African civic authorities boycotted a military parade because the British national anthem was not played and the Union Jack flag was not flown. There were also parades in Australia, planes flew by the Royal Australian Air Force, there were special church services throughout Australia. Although the anti-British Mau Mau movement was still active in Kenya, the soldiers who fought against the movement enjoyed the celebrations on Coronation Day and guard units and tribal police in the Kikuyu Reserve sent contingents for the celebrations. ("Commonwealth's day", 1953) Although the mentioned Commonwealth countries are thousands of kilometres away from the British Isles, we learn that these countries were loyal to Britain. Although Kenya was practically in civil war due to the imperial United Kingdom, the soldiers found time to support their new queen. Interestingly, although most people from the Commonwealth did not attend the Coronation celebrations directly in London, they did make their own celebrations in honour of the Queen.

Even in Korea, where the war was going on, they paid attention to the Coronation as reported in the article called 'Korea troops cheer Queen'. South Korean President Rhee commented on the Coronation as follows: "In eight hours' time, Queen Elizabeth II will be crowned in Westminster Abbey. Only a few of her 600-million subjects will be able to be there in person but the thoughts and prayers of each one of us in the British Commonwealth are with her today." (Ridley, 1953) This statement makes it clear that South Koreans were extremely grateful for the UK's help in fighting the communists in Korea. The author certainly expresses his support for South Koreans in his article, and it is obvious that the world was really divided into West and East at that time.

The article '£30,000 haul from Duchess of Sutherland' briefly reports on the heist of jewellery at the home of the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland. As the title of the article says, the damage was £30,000, but it could have been more. ("£30,000 haul", 1953)

The last article I have selected from page seven is indirectly devoted to the Queen. It is about the conquest of Everest. Elizabeth, the Duke of Edinburgh, and Churchill sent cables with congratulations to Mr Summerhayes, British Ambassador at Kathmandu. The most interesting part is that Churchill writes openly about the British achievement. (Reid, 1953) News of the conquest of Everest was a celebration of both Britain and Elizabeth II in the British press, despite the appropriation of a foreign success. They probably wanted to note that an already special day like the Coronation could be even more special.

Page eight contains the article 'Bonfires blaze the length of the land', which mentions the police alert in Ulster, Northern Ireland, due to nationalist threats of violence, which was unnecessary as there was no incident. The Governor of Northern Ireland, Lord Wakehurst, himself expressed his loyalty to the Queen in a telegram. ("Bonfires blaze", 1953) The police in Scotland were also on alert because of the nationalist threats, but there was no incident either. ("E II R ciphers", 1953) Although the United Kingdom no longer had anything to do with the Republic of Ireland, the article mentions that the Irish lived for the Coronation as if it had concerned them directly. ("Eire listens", 1953) It is interesting to read that although these countries were, or still are, parts of the United Kingdom, the article is dedicated to the police who were supposed to protect against nationalists and defend the honour of their queen. It is perhaps an indication that not everyone was impressed by the Coronation, despite the fact that nothing subversive happened.

The last article I have selected is from page eight. It is named '12,000 march in Queen's triumphant cavalcade'. Although the article is comprehensive, it does not bring anything that has not already been written. However, there is some interesting information. The only representative of India present at the event was Mr Nehru and India did not provide an escort or troops for the Coronation Procession. (Steele, 1953) India, which had gained independence from the United Kingdom in 1947, showed that it was already a fully independent country. As part of maintaining diplomatic relations, they had sent at least one representative.

The rest of the newspaper describes everything mentioned in more articles in more detail, especially the course of Coronation Day in the Abbey and on the streets of London and the reactions of all important representatives. That is why I did not discuss them in more detail as with the previous ones. (*The Daily Telegraph*, 1953, pp. 9-12)

5.1.2 *Daily Mirror*

Regarding the history of the *Daily Mirror* newspaper according to *Britannica*: “*The Mirror*, official name *The Daily Mirror*, daily newspaper published in London that frequently has the largest circulation in Britain. *The Mirror* was founded by Alfred Harmsworth, later Viscount Northcliffe, in 1903 as a newspaper for women. Its photo-rich tabloid format has consistently stressed sensational, human-interest, and personal types of stories, and its politically independent stance has enabled it to adopt a ‘common man versus bureaucracy’ approach to many stories. (...) *The Mirror* continues to be one of the leading mass-circulation papers in Britain.” (Britannica, T. Editors of Encyclopaedia, 2023, March 27)

The title page of the *Daily Mirror*, published on June 3rd, 1953, features a photograph of the Queen with her husband, their two children Charles and Anne, and others on a balcony. The photo is across the entire title page. The large headline ‘Happy’ above the photo, continuing with the words ‘-and glorious’ below the photo, emphasizes the importance and excitement of the previous day when the Coronation took place and introduces the Royal Family. (*Daily Mirror*, 1953, p. 1) The words ‘happy and glorious’ are not there by chance. It is one of the verses of the British national anthem (Royal Household, n. d. a) that the editors used for the photo of their newspaper. In the lower-left corner is the inscription ‘This was the happiest picture of all’. (*Daily Mirror*, 1953, p. 1) The editors of the *Daily Mirror* chose not a photo of the crowned Queen but a photo of her entire nuclear family for the title page. The headline ‘Happy and glorious’ corresponds perfectly with the photo showing the happy British family that every UK citizen lived with that day. The editors probably wanted to make the Royal Family approach even the most ordinary family and give them a sense of joy.

‘The multitude sang, the trumpets sounded – the Queen was crowned’ is over a quarter of a page large headline at the top of the second page of the newspaper. This page includes four articles, but only two of them name an author. In addition to the Queen, this page talks about the behaviour of Prince Charles during the ceremony, the Duke of Edinburgh's gentlemanliness, and the perfectly planned Royal Journey by State Coach or Elizabeth as a symbol of a new era. (“The multitude sang”, 1953)

Surprisingly, the first lines of the article named 'Prince Charles sees crowning' are not dedicated to Her Majesty but to her eldest son, Charles. During the ceremony itself, the article describes his behaviour as that of a child who was probably not very aware of what was going on around him. According to the article, his eyes were wide, he was even sucking his thumb and his grandmother, the Queen Mother, had to convince him after the ceremony that it was time to go home. The little Prince finally relented and was taken home after the Coronation. ("Prince Charles", 1953) I dare say that the heir to the throne is as important to British citizens as their queen. From the photo on the title page, it is clear that the editors may have targeted families as their audience. That is why the very first article of the entire newspaper is dedicated to the little heir to the throne, who was also so carefully looked after by his grandmother throughout the ceremony.

Noel Whitcomb reports in his article called '(There was even a burst of sunshine while they were in the Abbey)': "And a new sun shone in this reawakened land..." It indicates that a new era has dawned with a new queen who represents hope for their country. Although it rained that day, it did not stop the people of London from celebrating. People sang along with the service, watched fireworks, or roasted oxen. The mood in the London streets was festive and everyone was enjoying having a new queen and a new era with this monarch. The author wants to emphasize that the celebration of the Queen was a celebration of the beginning of new Britain, which was to have a modern, young, and beautiful monarch whom her people were supposed to love and be loyal. (Whitcomb, 1953)

Another article by Audrey Whiting highlights the Duke of Edinburgh's pride and loyalty to his wife. The author appreciates how deeply he loved his wife and was always by her side, especially on one of her most important days. According to Whiting, he treated her in a truly gentlemanly manner. (Whiting, 1953) Again, the author works here to create the impression of a perfect family, more specifically a perfect husband who lives for his wife with all his heart and will follow her throughout his life. The Duke of Edinburgh is portrayed as a true gentleman in the article.

The article also mentions the Coronation Lunch where smoked salmon, cold chicken, salad, crackers, and cheese were served to the Royal Family. After lunch and a toast to the Queen, the Royal couple spent their only free moment of the day talking together. (Whiting, 1953) The author describes a moment of free time at lunch,

which the Queen spent with her closest relatives. The conversation with the Duke is especially mentioned. The article continues to create an idea of an ideal family.

The last article on the second page of the *Daily Mirror* mentions what the Queen had planned on June 3rd and what the weather forecast was for that day. Everything was perfectly planned to the minute, including the drive in the Royal car through the street where school children were supposed to be waving their flags, Trafalgar Square until returning to Buckingham Palace. (“Little streets”, 1953) We can assume that the entire page two is devoted to presenting the Royal Family as a caring family that love each other and maybe that the new monarch will care about her people in the same way. That is probably why the editors put Her Royal Highness's drive through the streets full of children as one of the first articles. They do not report about politicians or businesspeople, they report about children to show that the Queen's heart belongs to them. (*Daily Mirror*, 1953, p. 2)

Across page three is a photograph of the Act of Homage and below it is the headline ‘The sacred moment’. The Archbishop of Canterbury and bishops are kneeling by the Queen. There is a caption next to the photo: ‘And then this...Now-the first act of homage. The Archbishop of Canterbury kneels before the Queen he has crowned, and says on behalf of all the bishops: “I will be faithful and true.”’ (“The sacred moment”, 1953) According to the photo and its commentary, we can conclude that the British people should not forget that they are subjects of the Queen, just like the Archbishop.

On page four is an article called ‘A great, a noble show’ (Connor, 1953) by William Connor, who wrote under the pseudonym 'Cassandra'. (“Sir William Connor”, 1967) Cassandra reports that the whole country and all the inhabitants were united on the day of the Coronation. In his view, the Queen was sad and lonely because she surely realized that she had a heavy burden and duty upon her. What he highlights the most is the confidence with which the Queen performed, how precise the entire ceremony was and also the fact that it was also broadcast to the USA and Britain was at the peak of its power. For the first time, we read something about foreign countries, specifically about the USA. The article sounds as if the author is mocking the Americans and taking them as rivals. He confidently ranks The United Kingdom at the top. (Connor, 1953)

On the same page, in the article 'These were TV's finest hours', the faultless production of the BBC's Coronation telecast is especially praised. For many who watched the telecast for the very first time, it must have been a feeling like from another world. Therefore, the author decides to appreciate the work of the telecast and the work of the people who worked on it. (Davis, 1953)

There are three photos on page five. A photograph of Prince Charles breathlessly watching the Coronation with his grandmother and aunt Princess Margaret, a photograph of Sir Winston Churchill leaving No. 10 for the Coronation and a photograph of the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret also leaving for the ceremony. The page has the headline 'The future generation looks on'. The title clearly refers to Charles, the heir to the throne. The editors probably wanted to imply that the same thing would happen to Charles one day. Again, the editors here also focus on the Royal Family. ("The future generation", 1953)

Almost the whole of page six is devoted to the article 'Inside the Abbey with Joan Reeder', which is written around a photograph of the Queen and the Duke entering the Abbey. The article begins as follows: "As a mother moves to greet her child, so a nation moved to greet its Queen within this church today." Here again, is a reference to the family. The Queen is depicted here not only as the mother of her children but also as the mother of the entire Kingdom, whose children - the inhabitants - look up to her. (Reeder, 1953)

In the article, the author mentions mainly the course of the Coronation but she also mentions: "And suddenly we didn't want to see her. Not yet. This would be a stranger to us. Not the happy girl we knew, laughing with her children, waving from a car, fishing in waders in a Scottish river. This would be a Queen." It feels like the author is feeling sorry for the Queen, but not in a negative way. The author realizes what a difficult duty the Queen has to perform and probably sympathizes with her. Instead of enjoying a quiet family life, 'Lillibet', as she calls her, is the Queen. When she was stripped from her expensively decorated Coronation Dress to a simple robe during the Oath, the author associates her figure in a simple robe with loneliness and adds: "Suddenly there she stood, the Elizabeth we knew." Here again, she emphasizes her vulnerability and the fact that she is subjected to a difficult task - to rule. She also mentions that even her family felt her loneliness. Up to this point, the newspapers had praised the Royal Family as the ideal family. However, in this article, the reader can feel that the author thinks

that the Queen could be lonely, that she could do a lot of things on her own, even though she had her family by her side. (Reeder, 1953)

Page six ends with an article entitled 'A mightier choir joined in', which discusses the hymn 'All people that on earth do dwell' which the choir sang during the ceremony and describes how the sound echoed and people outside heard the hymn. The author makes it clear that the people on the streets could have been part of the Coronation as well and may also suggest the power and importance of the nation. ("A mightier choir", 1953)

On page seven is a photograph of the Queen leaving the Abbey. Then on page eight is a photograph of a crowded Trafalgar Square watching the Coronation Procession. Page nine shows a photograph of the Queen riding in the State Coach through Trafalgar Square. (*Daily Mirror*, 1953, pp. 7-9) Below the photo on page nine, the *Daily Mirror* printed Her Majesty's broadcasting transcript, as did *The Daily Telegraph*. The *Daily Mirror* was more concise, as they did not print the entire broadcast and unfortunately did not give the Queen's sentences as they came. It is hard to write what led them to it. Perhaps they wanted to add more sparkle to it as the *Daily Mirror* is more of a tabloid. It is not very understandable why the newspaper edited the Queen's speech when her speech was probably written by experts, maybe she even wrote it herself. It may be also disrespectful that there are several advertisements around the reprint that are not related to the Queen at all. (Queen Elizabeth II qtd. in "This day", 1953)

The newspaper continues on page ten, where there is a photo that captures the moment of the crowning. The page is entitled 'London weaves a golden strand of history'. A large photograph is across pages ten and eleven showing the moment the Queen was waiting to be crowned. (*Daily Mirror*, 1953, pp. 10-11)

In the article entitled 'He wore his coronet-in the train', it is written that some peers and ministers travelled on a London Underground train, hired by the Lord Chamberlain. The article explains why it was difficult to take the underground or why some peers did not participate in the Coronation Procession. ("He wore his coronet", 1953)

Like *The Daily Telegraph*, the *Daily Mirror* reports on the robbery that happened to the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland before the Coronation. They describe the event quite similarly, but the *Daily Mirror* reports a slightly higher price estimate of the stolen jewellery. This is demonstrated by the title of the article '£50,000 gem raid at

Duke's home' (“£50,000 gem”, 1953), which exceeded *The Daily Telegraph's* estimate by £20,000. (“£30,000 haul”, 1953)

The *Daily Mirror* also mentions in the report ‘Queen salutes Everest men’ that the Queen sent a telegram to Kathmandu in Nepal and congratulated the British expedition on conquering Everest. So did the Duke of Edinburgh and Prime Minister Churchill. The reports from the *Daily Mirror* and *The Daily Telegraph* are not very different from each other. (“Queen salutes”, 1953)

On page twelve, in addition to the photo of the Procession through the Mall, there is the report ‘Scots pay homage for English nobles’. This report is slightly critical that the TV commentator forgot to focus on the Scots during the Coronation. For the Scottish population, this report can be at least a small vindication. (“Scots pay”, 1953)

Page thirteen is again devoted to photos from the Coronation under the title ‘Coronation close-up...’. Photographs show the Duchess of Kent with her daughter, Princess Alexandra, and another photograph shows the Queen leaving the Abbey. At the bottom of the page is a photo of the Royal footmen toasting the Queen. The editors wanted to show that there was a very relaxed and friendly atmosphere during the day. (“Coronation close-up...”, 1953) Page fifteen shows a photograph of the Queen preparing to enter the Abbey, and page sixteen again shows her leaving the Abbey. (*Daily Mirror*, 1953, pp. 15-16) Almost identical photographs are repeated in the newspaper, most often photographs of the Queen leaving the Abbey. It is most likely because the Queen had already completed the demanding and serious ceremony and the nervousness probably fell off her.

On page seventeen is a short reprint of a Mrs Kelsall's letter. Before her sixty-third birthday, she was selected for the Coronation talent contest and is asking everyone to keep their fingers crossed for her. It is interesting to note that the competition was called ‘The Coronation talent contest’. Even a singing competition was named in honour of the Queen. The editors did not forget to point out the solemn moment of the Coronation even in this rather redundant report. (“Life begins”, 1953)

Page eighteen shows a photograph of people with umbrellas waiting for the Queen to pass. The editors show that people were willing to wait in bad weather to see the Queen and most likely published the photo to prove how much the Queen was in

their hearts. (“Brollity never stopped”, 1953) Below the photo is a report about a picture book by Beverley Nichols. According to the report, the book was to be published on June 11th, a few days after the Coronation. The editors show that the Coronation did not end on June 2nd, it continued and people lived with it for a long time. (“Pitkin's”, 1953) I also mention Beverley Nichols in Chapter 5.6, as he contributed an article to the *Western Mail*.

The article ‘Why not every year?’ indirectly mentions the Coronation. The author asks a rhetorical question why the Coronation should not be celebrated every year. Using citizens' views, he wants to emphasize that after the Coronation, the streets were left in a mess. A progressive and ecological article wants to make the reader think about the environment. (“Why not”, 1953)

Page nineteen begins with the article ‘First day of Coronation Epsom’. This article is about the horse races that ran on Saturday, where the Queen's colt Aureole, among others, competed. The Friday races were then called ‘the Coronation Cup’. The editors mainly informed sports fans about the big racing week. However, a reader will not miss the fact that the article about horse racing, published in an issue that is practically entirely dedicated to the Queen and that is not in the sports section, is indirectly related to the Queen, (“First day”, 1953) as she was a big fan of horse racing, which I write about in Chapter 4.1.

The last page, page twenty, shows two photographs. Both are with the Queen and her husband. It returns to the beginning of the issue, which seems to be focused, as I mentioned earlier, on the Royal Family. The first photo shows the Duke of Edinburgh kissing the Queen's right cheek. The second then shows the couple in the Golden State Coach. The newspaper wants to show, perhaps through photographs, that it may be symbolic that Philip is a loving husband, but at the same time, he is aware that he is the husband of the Queen. The editors of ‘the biggest daily sale on earth’, as they confidently mention on the last page, want to show the whole world what a model married couple looks like. The lower-left corner includes an announcement saying that another picture issue of the newspaper was to be published the following day. (“Philip's kiss”, 1953)

5.2 The Newspapers of Other UK Countries

5.2.1 *Evening Express*

According to the online catalogue, held by *the University of Aberdeen*, the *Evening Express* is a newspaper produced on a daily evening basis. The newspaper, published by *Aberdeen Journals* for the north of Scotland, has been published since 1879. (Archive Collections of University of Aberdeen, n. d.) An issue of the *Evening Express's* is published six times a week in association with *The Press and Journal*. (O'Donnell & Walker, 2021)

On the title page of the evening newspaper, which was published on the same day that Queen Elizabeth II was crowned, there is a photograph of her just after the crowning with the headline 'The Queen is crowned' above the photograph. (*Evening Express*, 1953, p. 1) It is clever to place the most important moment of the entire Coronation on the title page. It can create a sense of wonder, certainty, and devotion in the reader.

On the second page, the large headline 'Young Prince Charles sees mother crowned' dominates. Below the headline is a black and white photograph of Sir Winston Churchill with his granddaughter when he was leaving 10 Downing Street. It is indeed interesting that there is no member of the Royal Family in the photograph. The editors must have respected Sir Winston Churchill so much that they published the photograph with him as the second photo of the evening newspaper. The entire page is devoted to the Queen, except for an advertisement. The second page contains three articles with no author names, five reports, again unauthored. (*Evening Express*, 1953, p. 2)

The first article 'Fascinated Boy In Gallery' is the longest one. It takes a closer look at the Coronation through the eyes of Prince Charles and the Coronation itself. The article emphasizes the heir to the throne and the Queen. However, unlike the first four paragraphs, which are devoted directly to Charles, the next paragraphs leave him out or do not give him full attention. The lines that belong to Prince Charles describe him as a serious and focused boy. It is probably meant to give the reader the impression that the future King will also have his Coronation and will be their king one day. After reading the article, the reader may realize that Prince, as the successor, had certain urgent obligations and perhaps his carefree childhood ended at that moment.

This feeling might be interrupted by a paragraph in which the reader can read: "Prince Charles, who had waved farewell to his parents as they had set off on their drive to the Abbey, had been taken by car 'off the route' from the Buckingham Palace after the ceremony had begun." The reader then might get the impression that Charles is still a child who cannot fully realize everything and may even be relieved that the time of his reign has not yet come. The author continues writing about the Coronation and the rest of Coronation Day. These paragraphs are a celebration of Queen's Coronation and the Queen herself. At the same time, the article always unexpectedly returns to Charles, whom the author portrays as a child who looked up to his mother. ("Fascinated boy", 1953)

Below the article at the bottom is a report entitled 'Coronation souvenir', which boasts that the *Evening Express* reports on the Coronation already on Coronation Day and invites readers to the issue of *The Press and Journal*, which was to be published the next day, describing Coronation Day in more detail on sixteen pages. The editors must have published the report to entice readers to buy their paper and to maintain their battle with rival newspapers. ("Coronation souvenir", 1953)

The next article, below the photograph of Prime Minister Churchill, is entitled 'Rain-soaked but cheering' and comes directly from 'Our London Staff', as indicated. It describes the Coronation Procession and crowds of cheering and 'rain-soaked' people. Once again, the author wants to highlight the people who cheered faithfully and enthusiastically and probably to make readers from abroad feel that people love their Queen. TV and radio broadcasts are praised again. After this, Prince Charles is mentioned again. According to the article, he was very interested when he asked other members of the Royal Family about individual details about the Coronation. Here again, the author portrays Charles as a child who looks up to his mother. ("Rain-soaked", 1953)

The reports 'Back to palace' 'From Our London Staff', and 'Exquisite picture' 'From a Woman Correspondent' are part of the middle column of the newspaper. The first mentioned report depicts the crowd who wanted to see the Queen arriving at Buckingham Palace. The report can be read as a depiction of a crowd that is fanatical, yet it shows the Queen not being afraid of the crowd. ("Back to palace", 1953). The second mentioned report briefly describes and praises the Queen's dress, jewellery and make-up. It is quite logical that the editors chose a woman for this report, which

may be the reason why they refer to the author as ‘a woman correspondent’. However, they did not give her the opportunity to describe the Queen in more detail on this page, which may be disappointing for female readers. (“Exquisite picture”, 1953)

The last article on page two is entitled ‘Princess has coronet hitch’. The first paragraph is dedicated to Prince Charles again and reports that after an hour and a half in the Abbey he returned home by car. (“Princess has coronet”, 1953) The authors focus in some way on Charles in every article on the second page. Perhaps they want to evoke in the reader the feeling that the little Prince should not be forgotten, as a successor, or they only paid him more attention because the Queen is featured more in the issue that came out the next day. To explain the title of the article, the author says: “Princess Margaret seemed to have some difficulty in balancing her coronet. Several times she laughingly adjusted it as she waited in the Royal porchway of the Annexe vestibule”. The author probably just wanted to lighten the whole serious day with a funny moment and point out that the Princess is also just an ordinary person. (“Princess has coronet”, 1953)

In the rest of the article, the author briefly mentions other participants in the Procession, such as the Queen Mother, Queen of Tonga, government ministers and Sir Winston Churchill. We might have an explanation for why the editors chose Churchill's photo on the second page of the newspaper. The author comments in the article: “The Prime Ministers were also cheered, but the greatest roar of cheering came for Sir Winston and Lady Churchill. Sir Winston was wearing his Garter robes and before his carriage moved off he doffed his hat and waved to the huge crowd.” (“Princess has coronet”, 1953) There are two final reports ‘Fly-past’ and ‘Coronation Kittens’ on page two. The former deals with the delay of the fly-past of the R.A.F. (“Fly-past”, 1953) The latter deals with the birth of kittens while their cat mother was listening to the Coronation. The reader may find the information about the kittens redundant, perhaps even inappropriate but the author probably wanted to mention that this event affected even relatively ordinary events and wanted to add some human touches to the grandiosity of the occasion. (“Coronation kittens”, 1953)

5.2.2 *Belfast Telegraph*

The newspaper's history is introduced as follows: “*The Belfast Evening Telegraph* was rushed out on September 1, 1870 after the owners, the Baird brothers from Randalstown, discovered a rival paper was about to go into print. Its tens of thousands

of front pages over 150 tumultuous years have often been windows onto a world of global conflicts, natural disasters and man-inflicted misery, but unlike other regional newspapers in the UK the headlines have also demonstrated how the *Belfast Telegraph* has also had to rise to the challenge of reporting on a long and bloody war on its own doorstep.” (Little, 2020)

The issue of the *Belfast Telegraph* from June 2nd, 1953 begins with the subtitle 'A colourful pageant, so rich in history, and such that no other land on earth could show to the world'. Below it is a large headline 'Elizabeth the second crowned queen'. On the title page, below the headline, is a big photograph of the Queen riding to the Abbey. There is a subtitle 'Cheers of the nation follow golden coach to the Abbey', one longer article 'Millions share dramatic moment of enthronement', one shorter article 'Visit to her children started Queen's day' and six reports, four of which are devoted to the Queen. In the upper right-hand corner, the title page informs that the evening newspaper certainly does not end with these mentions of the Coronation and will be devoted to it on other pages as well. (*Belfast Telegraph*, 1953, p. 1)

In the first and relatively long article, the author describes the Queen's journey in the State Coach and the joy of all participating spectators. He calls that time: “the magic of this Elizabethan age”. There may again be a link to the early Elizabethan era but when he continues: “millions of her subjects were able to watch her progress on television screens”, the author is clearly pointing out that time has advanced thanks to the television broadcast. At the same time, the article calls the event: “a mediaeval picture”, by which the author compares the modern Coronation, in which the features of old rituals from the Middle Ages prevail, and highlights its colourfulness. This may be a fusion of history and modernity because it seems to reflect the contrast between the young queen embodying the nation's hopes for the future and the ancient coronation ritual, and its symbolic power. The article describes the event from the Procession to the ceremony in the Abbey. The author then describes in relative detail the location of a piece of furniture located and the colour of clothing worn by a spectator of the ceremony. The author tries to bring the readers closer to the Coronation so that they can imagine better. The author also mentions the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret in the article, which again shows the attention devoted to the rest of the Royal Family. However, the article does not mention other members of the family. Towards the end of the article, the television broadcast and orchestra are praised. The article ends with

the words: “It was a pageant such as no other land on earth could show to the world.” Here we can again see the pride of the British nation and the self-confident claim that the British are once again better than others. (“Millions share”, 1953)

There is a short report in the newspaper that mentions Belgium: “King Boudouin of the Belgians attended a service in connection with Queen Elizabeth's Coronation in a British church in Brussels this morning.” It is certainly a point to the fact that the Coronation was worldwide and again it can be a matter of highlighting the British nation. (“Belgium and Coronation”, 1953)

The *Belfast Telegraph* is a Northern Irish newspaper. It also mentions a report about its own country. The editors printed the message of Dr. D'Alton, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Armagh and Cardinal Primate of all Ireland, in which he wishes a successful reign to his queen. At the same time, there may be an obvious call for “the old historic Ireland” to be united. The editors and the author of the report probably want to call on the Irish to respect their queen. (D'Alton qtd. in “Dr. D'Alton”, 1953)

The report is followed by another report featuring a telegram from the Governor of Northern Ireland, Lord Wakehurst. Lord Wakehurst pledges his loyalty to the Queen on behalf of all of Northern Ireland and looks forward to the Queen's official visit on July 2nd. Again, we have a nationalist undertone in the report but not in the interest of greater autonomy. The report shows that Northern Ireland was proud to be part of the United Kingdom. (“N.I. Governor's message”, 1953)

In a short report, the newspaper is proud of the fact that the *Belfast Telegraph* had photos from the Procession almost immediately. This shows the rush that day, as every newspaper wanted to be the first to report the Coronation. (“‘Telegraph’ photos”, 1953)

The last article on the title page is dedicated to the early morning when Queen's Day began. Here is already a mention of Prince Charles and Princess Anne, whose parents picked them up from the Royal nursery before the Coronation. In the article, the author describes Charles as a naughty boy, but he understands that he is still a child. Again, the newspaper mentions the crowds in the streets and their willingness to wait for the Queen despite the persistent rain. Here, the author wants to evoke in the reader the feeling of loyalty expressed by the crowds to the Queen. A footnote mentions that within four hours a million people were transported to the Coronation area by London

transport. The author reports to let the reader know that it was absolute madness in the streets of London. (“Visit to her children”, 1953)

5.2.3 *Western Mail*

The history of the *Western Mail* is referred to by *The National Library of Wales* as follows: “Wales's oldest daily newspaper circulating across Wales and the border counties. Founded in 1869 by John Crichton-Stuart (1847-1900), the newspaper's main content is Welsh, British and international news. The newspaper was bought in 1877 by Henry Lascelles Carr (1841-1902), one of its first editors, and Daniel Owen, with the Western Mail Ltd proprietors between ca.1900 and 1930, the Western Mail and Echo Ltd until the 2000s, and Media Wales in 2011. Originally a conservative newspaper it was politically independent by 1975.”

The title page of the Welsh newspaper the *Western Mail* published on June 3rd, 1953 shows a photograph with the caption ‘The Coronation’. The photograph shows the Royal Family, including the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret, on the balcony of Buckingham Palace. Below the photo is the page headline ‘Elizabeth the radiant is crowned’. The title page is entirely devoted to the personality of Queen Elizabeth II and her Coronation. The page contains seven articles and three reports. (*Western Mail*, 1953, p. 1)

The first article is called ‘Climax of a supreme moment of history’ and is authored by Beverley Nichols. It is incomplete on the title page and continues on page three. Nichols describes the Queen as follows: “a tiny figure, she seems, frail and feminine, yet invested with an aura of indescribable majesty, for now at last she is Queen indeed.” Although he describes her as a small woman, he sees her as a woman who has the whole world at her feet. Nichols describes the Coronation in a very bookish way. The article seems to pay a deep tribute to the Queen and to evoke in the reader a sense of the specialness of this event, and the Queen herself. (Nichols, 1953)

Stanley Bonnett entitled the second article ‘Abbey was wonderland for Prince Charles’. The article focuses on the little Prince, who watched the Coronation in amazement. The article also indirectly describes a part of the Coronation Ceremony, but Prince is the main focus here. Bonnett observed that Charles pretended to hold a crown when leaving the Coronation. He portrays him as an inquisitive and innocent boy who was probably influenced and impressed by the Coronation of his mother.

The reader must be captivated by the fact that despite his young age, Charles was calm, if inquisitive throughout the Ceremony. (Bonnett, 1953)

The article entitled 'Palace crowd get balcony waves' informs about the multiple visits of the Royal Family on the balcony of Buckingham Palace, the Coronation Procession, the fly-past, and the happy crowds. Compared to articles in other newspapers, this text does not bring much new. ("Palace crowd", 1953)

The short report '6,873 casualties on processional route' informs that some people fainted during the event, 313 of whom were taken to hospital. It is difficult to say whether the author wished to note that people were so excited that they fainted, or that they felt sick in the crowds. ("6,873 casualties", 1953)

In the article 'A pledge to the nation' the author briefly describes and summarizes the Queen's speech, which can be read in full on page three. Unlike the *Daily Mirror*, this newspaper has the Queen's speech in full and is printed as the Queen said it. In the same article, the author also discusses the five-minute speech given by Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill. ("A pledge", 1953) The editors decided to print the speech of probably the second most famous person from the United Kingdom, who helped defeat Hitler. Sir Winston Churchill was a prominent figure, so it was adequate to publish his speech, which encourages the national spirit in the British citizen through their love for the Queen: "Let in not be though that the age of chivalry belongs to the past. Here, at the summit of our world-wide community, is the lady whom we respect, because she is our Queen and whom we love because she is herself." (Churchill qtd. in "A pledge", 1953) In the last paragraph of the article, the author does not forget to mention the Prime Minister of Canada and the popular Queen Salote of Tonga, who sent their greetings to the Queen. ("A pledge", 1953)

The report 'A beautiful and gracious woman' does not feature a Welsh representative, but a Scottish one, Dr. Charles L. Warr, Dean of the Thistle and Chapel Royal. He gave a speech in Edinburgh about 'a beautiful and gracious woman', meaning the Queen, and about Prince Philip, about whom he says: "We remember, also, who bears the title of our ancient Scottish capital. No-one could have stood by the Queen's side better equipped in mind and heart and disposition to be her counsellor and consort of these difficult and changing times. Much will be expected from the both, but we can be assured that our expectations can be abundantly and radiantly fulfilled." (Warr qtd. in

“A beautiful”, 1953) The editors probably printed this speech to show how much the Scots esteemed Prince Philip, who had been given the title of Duke of Edinburgh. Perhaps there is again an attempt to evoke a sense of national pride, although it is interesting that a Welsh newspaper is writing about Scotland. Perhaps this indicates that the individual countries of the United Kingdom were really united and held together on Coronation Day.

The article entitled ‘The drive in triumph through joyous London’ again does not bring much new. The author describes the Coronation Procession noting an interesting detail: “Several times during the ride, the Queen and the Duke clasped hands.” The author may want to assure the reader that the Queen had a loving husband and they were a perfect couple. The article also mentions Winston Churchill who was greeted enthusiastically by the crowds. Mentioning him in the article just shows how much the British loved him. (“The drive”, 1953)

The last article on the title page is devoted to the Procession, the soldiers' clothing and to Winston Churchill again, noting that the Prime Minister's carriage took a turn and went in the wrong direction, probably due to an unruly horse. (“Gaily colour”, 1953) The page ends with the report ‘Sweets for the gunners’, which informs: “As a contingent of the Royal Artillery, which had been lining part of Piccadilly, waited to move off spectators at windows in a building above them threw down sweets, fruit and cigarettes. The officer in charge eventually held up his hand towards the windows as a signal that no more should be thrown, but next moment a well directed orange landed in his hand. He staggered back and his cap fell off.” (“Sweets”, 1953) Both the article and the report act as a lightening of the gravity of the demanding day. The article explains to viewers who may have been confused about what happened to Churchill's carriage and the report may be a comic strip for a laugh.

6. Conclusion

Queen Elizabeth II was undoubtedly an exceptional monarch. Her path to the British throne, where she was not supposed to sit in the first place, was full of unexpected moments – whether it was the abdication of her uncle, King Edward VIII, or the early death of her father, King George VI. With the death of King George VI, the United Kingdom lost a monarch, who had, however, raised a modern sovereign who was loved by her subjects perhaps even more than himself. At the age of 26, Her Majesty had to deal with the loss of her father, with her husband's disagreements, raise her two children, handle political conflicts and rule the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth.

The solemn ceremony – the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II – reached the whole world, not only thanks to the radio or television broadcast, but also thanks to the newspapers. The practical part of my thesis concerned the analysis of selected British newspapers. I examined how the newspaper editors reported on the Coronation, how the British public and foreign audiences reacted to the ceremony and the Queen, what the issues were specifically devoted to and how much they differed from each other or what they agreed on.

All newspaper issues were almost entirely devoted to the Coronation Day. *The Daily Telegraph* focused more on politics and foreign reactions to the Coronation (the USA vs the USSR, celebrations in the Commonwealth, South Korea, India at the Coronation), highlighted the enthusiasm of the people, the uniqueness of the Coronation and described the Coronation Day in detail. *The Daily Mirror* was more focused on a family audience and their emotions, which might be a strategy of a tabloid. They focused on the Queen and were not afraid to mention that the Queen was only a human and could feel lonely and vulnerable. In addition to the Queen, they also focused on her close family members, especially Prince Charles and Prince Philip, who received numerous mentions in the newspaper. Equally, the *Evening Express* was more focused on the Royal Family, especially Charles and other members of the Family. *The Belfast Telegraph* tried to present a more serious concept of the Coronation by reporting about foreign reactions (reactions from Belgium); they were more nationalistic but showed loyalty to the United Kingdom. On the other hand, they also partially devoted their issue to the Royal Family. *The Western Mail* then paid significant attention to interesting or slightly unimportant things from the Coronation.

All issues published photographs directly from the Abbey or the Coronation Procession, and all newspapers praised the Queen, the successful Coronation and TV broadcast. Probably the most photographs were published by *The Daily Telegraph*, which had a special 24-page supplement to its issue. However, the *Daily Mirror* also published many photos, which in my opinion were of higher quality and showed the Coronation Day better to their audience. On the other hand, these photos were not published in the supplement but in the standard issue, which meant a smaller number of articles compared to *The Daily Telegraph*. It could also be a surprise that the *Evening Express* published a photograph not of the Queen, but of Sir Winston Churchill on the second page.

Surprisingly, a lot of attention was given to Winston Churchill by the *Western Mail*, where the editors published his speech or complications with his carriage. After the Queen, it was Prince Charles who received probably the most mentions in the newspapers. The *Western Mail* describes Charles as a son who looks up to his mother. Charles was at least mentioned in most of the articles in the *Evening Express* and in the *Daily Mirror*.

The *Daily Mirror* issue was very focused on both the Royal Family and their family audience. The Queen's love for her children, which can symbolize love for her subjects, a family lunch, and most of the articles glorifying the Royal Family were covered here. Above all, the newspaper admired Prince Philip as a husband and his faithfulness. Philip was equally esteemed by the *Western Mail*, which mentioned him holding the Queen's hand in the Golden State Coach or in relation to his title of the Duke of Edinburgh. The *Belfast Telegraph* was also devoted to the Royal Family (the Royal Couple picking up their children from the Royal nursery).

Probably the least Queen-focused issue was the *Evening Express* where the editors focused more on other members of the Royal Family, such as the situation with Princess Margaret's coronet problem. The reports about the birth of kittens in the *Evening Express*, the throwing of sweets and oranges in the *Western Mail* or fainting in *The Daily Telegraph* might seem relatively redundant. On the other hand, they might have been published to lighten things up or show that even a solemn ceremony with religious overtones can be human and ordinary.

It is interesting to compare the ways in which the newspapers published the Queen's Speech. While *The Daily Telegraph* and the *Western Mail* published the speech as delivered by the Queen, the *Daily Mirror* rather disrespectfully changed the order of the sentences, and even added several advertisements around the reprint.

In general, Elizabeth II was repeatedly compared to Elizabeth I and her coronation. While the *Belfast Telegraph* mainly highlighted the progress of the times due to television broadcast, *The Daily Telegraph* compared the personality and periods of Elizabeth II and Elizabeth I. They also compared the contemporary conquest of Mount Everest to the Elizabethan era when England was a maritime power. Mentioning the conquest of Mount Everest, *The Daily Telegraph* attributed New Zealand's success to the United Kingdom. The *Daily Mirror* also mentioned the conquest but with lesser confidence. However, the *Daily Mirror* described the United Kingdom more confidently (broadcast of the Coronation in the USA). *The Daily Telegraph* tried rather to highlight the United Kingdom to the world more tactfully.

In my opinion, *The Daily Telegraph* was the most serious newspaper mentioning the Coronation. The issue was the most political, with reporters trying to make readers think about situations abroad. Furthermore, they were not afraid to publish articles that did not glorified the Queen but made readers doubt whether she was regarded equally everywhere in the United Kingdom (the threat of nationalists in Northern Ireland, Scotland, and the threat of Irish anti-monarchists). At the same time, however, it brought the most comprehensive information from around the world and from foreign reactions to the Coronation.

With the forthcoming Coronation of Elizabeth's son, Charles III, it will be interesting to see what new things will bring his Coronation. Coronation of Elizabeth II was followed by the media, mainly thanks to the press, and the television and radio broadcast. Coronation of Charles III will certainly receive more media coverage than the coronation of his mother, as there are more media now than there were in 1953. However, it will be interesting to see which of these sovereigns wins more favour with his people.

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