

# **DESCRIPTION OF THE REGALIA OF SCOTLAND**

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Description of the regalia of Scotland by Sir Walter Scott

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**SIR WALTER SCOTT**

**DESCRIPTION OF  
THE REGALIA OF  
SCOTLAND**



*For Objects of Interest in or near Edinburgh,—see Third  
and Fourth Pages of Cover.*

DESCRIPTION

OF THE

81866

REGALIA OF SCOTLAND.

BY

SIR WALTER SCOTT, BART.

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“ The steep and iron-belted rock,  
Where trusted lies the Monarchy's last gems,—  
The Sceptre, Sword, and Crown that graced the brows,  
Since Father Fergus, of an hundred Kings.”

ALBANY, a Poem.

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EDINBURGH :  
PRINTED BY ROBERT ANDERSON, HIGH-STREET.

1875.

( *Weight of Crown—Fifty-Six Ounces.* )

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ADDITIONAL JEWELS

*Deposited in the Crown-Room of the Castle of Edinburgh, by order  
of His Majesty William IV., December 18, 1830.*

The late Cardinal York, the last male descendant of King James VII., bequeathed to his Majesty George IV., four ancient Jewels that had always remained in the possession of his family; and soon after the accession of his present Majesty (William IV.) these Jewels were, in His Majesty's presence, delivered to Sir Adam Ferguson, Knight, Deputy-keeper of the Regalia of Scotland, with an injunction that these interesting reliques of Scottish Royalty should, under the direction of the Officers of State in Scotland, be forthwith deposited in the Crown-Room. These Jewels were accordingly deposited in presence of certain Officers of State, on the 18th December 1830, and are as follow:—

1. A Golden Collar of the Order of the Garter,—being that presented by Queen Elizabeth to King James VI. of Scotland, on his being created a Knight of the Garter.

2. "The St. George," or Badge of the Order of the Garter, of Gold, richly enamelled, and set with diamonds, being probably that worn by King James VI., appendant to the Collar.

3. The St. Andrew, having on one side the image of the Patron Saint finely cut on an onyx, set round with diamonds—on the other, the Badge of the Thistle, with a secret opening, under which is placed a fine miniature of Queen Anne of Denmark.

4. A Ruby Ring, set round with diamonds, being the Coronation Ring of King Charles I.

91-47-27, DP

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THE REGALIA OF SCOTLAND, after having been secluded from public view since the year 1707, being at length opened to the inspection of the curious, and to the veneration of those who see in them the symbols of the ancient independence of Scotland, a short description of them, and some account of their history, so far as it can be traced, may be found interesting.

The Regalia, properly so called, consist of three articles,—the CROWN, the SCEPTRE, and SWORD OF STATE, with which was found, in the same chest, a silver Rod or Mace, now ascertained to be the Badge of the Lord Treasurer of Scotland.

The form of the Crown is remarkably elegant.—The lower part consists of two circles, the undermost much broader than that which rises over it, both are composed of the purest gold, and the uppermost is surmounted or relieved by a range of FLEURS-DE-LIS, interchanged with CROSSES FLEUREES,



and with knobs or pinnacles of gold, topped with large pearls, which produces a very rich effect. The under and broader circle is adorned with twenty-two precious stones, betwixt each of which is interposed an oriental pearl: the stones are topazes, amethysts, emeralds, rubies, and jacinths: they are not polished by the lapidary, or cut into facets, according to the more modern fashion, but are set plain, in the ancient style of jewellers' work. The smaller circle, which surmounts this under one, is adorned with small diamonds and sapphires alternately, and its upper verge terminates in the range of the crosses, FLEURS-DE-LIS, and knobs topped with pearls, which we have described. \* These two circles, thus ornamented, seem to have formed the original Diadem or Crown of Scotland, until the reign of James V., who added two imperial arches, rising from the circle, and crossing each other, and closing at the top in a mound of gold, which again is surmounted by a large cross PATEE, ornamented with pearls, and bearing the characters of J. R. V. These additional arches are attached to the original Crown by tacks of gold, and there is some inferiority in the quality of the metal.

The bonnet or tiara worn under the Crown was anciently of purple, but is now of crimson velvet, turned up with ermine—a change first adopted in the year 1695. The tiara is adorned with four su-

perb pearls set in gold, and fastened in the velvet which appear between the arches. The Crown measures about nine inches in diameter, twenty-seven inches in circumference, and about six inches and a half in height from the bottom of the lower circle to the top of the cross. The whole appearance of this ancient type of sovereignty does great credit to the skill and taste of the age in which it was formed.

Of its antiquity (meaning that of the original Diadem) we can produce no precise evidence; but many circumstances induce us to refer it to the glorious reign of Robert the Bruce.

The Scots, indeed, like other nations in Europe, are known to have employed a Crown as the appropriate badge of sovereignty at a much earlier period. After the memorable revolution in which Macbeth was dethroned, and Malcolm Ceanmor was placed on the throne, the new monarch was crowned in the abbey of Scone on St Mark's day, 1057, and among the boons granted to requite the services of Macduff, Thane of Fife, that nobleman and his descendents obtained the privilege of conducting the King of Scotland to the royal seat on the day of his coronation—a ceremony which, of course, implied the use of a Crown. But although such was the case, there is little doubt that the Scottish Crown which was used in these ancient

times must have fallen into the hands of Edward I. when, in the year 1296, he dethroned John Baliol, and took with him to England every monument of Scottish independence. The invader, who carried off the celebrated stone called Jacob's Pillar, was not likely to leave behind the Crown of Scotland, an emblem of supremacy so much more portable, and so much more valuable. Indeed, if we are to understand the following passage literally, it would imply that the regal ornaments were stripped from the very person of John Baliol, at the time when he surrendered his kingdom to Edward I. after the disastrous battle of Dunbar, in 1296. This disgraceful ceremony took place in the castle of Montrose, or, according to other authorities, in that of Brechin. To save unnecessary difficulty, we have modernized the orthography of the passage, as it occurs in the Prior of Lochleven's Chronicle:—

" This John the Baliol on purpose,  
 He took and brought him till Muntros,  
 And in the castle of that town,  
 That then was famous in renown,  
 This John the Baliol despoiled he  
 Of all his robes of royalty;  
 The faloun,\* they took off his tabart,  
 (Toom-tabart\* he was called afterwards),  
 And all other inseygns  
 That fell to Kings on ony wise,

Fur or ermine.

\* Empty doubtlet.