



12<sup>TH</sup> MAY 1937

# Holophane Coronation souvenir





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# Holophane Limited

(Scientific Illumination)

Everton Street,

Vincent Square.

London, 22nd September, 1937.  
S.W.1.

Dear Sir,

The beginning of the lighting season of the Coronation year we feel is the opportune time to distribute the enclosed brochure of the Holophane lighting contribution to the Coronation ceremony and celebrations.

The Coronation illuminations were the outstanding event of the past season, and a descriptive record of the lighting effects at Westminster Abbey should prove of great technical interest to Engineers and all who are concerned with lighting work.

The special lighting scheme installed in Westminster Abbey for the Coronation Ceremony ensured the excellent photographic and cinematograph records which enabled millions of people throughout the Empire to see the actual Coronation in pictures for the first time in history.

The colour photographs of the Coronation robes which were specially coloured to our order by an artist on the site, have a historic value now that this valuable collection of gowns has been returned to the owners.

We have pleasure in forwarding you this copy of a limited issue, and hope it will prove of interest as a record of the contribution which Holophane lighting was honoured to provide in the recent Coronation Celebrations.

Yours faithfully,  
HOLOPHANE LIMITED.

*H. C. Jones*

Publicity Manager.



*A Souvenir Brochure to set  
forth the Holophane lighting  
contribution to the Coronation  
ceremony and celebrations of  
Their Majesties King George  
VI and Queen Elizabeth,  
12th May, 1937*

# *The Special Lighting of Westminster Abbey for the Coronation Ceremony*

THE great and solemn pageantry of the Coronation is the most colourful display in the history of our Country and our Empire. During the period of the Coronation, it can be truly said that the eyes of the World were, figuratively speaking, on Westminster Abbey as the centre of the Coronation ceremony.

The number of people which Westminster Abbey had to accommodate for the Coronation ceremony necessitated special seating arrangements, and along the nave extensive galleries were built, the upper tiers of which covered a large portion of the windows, thus darkening the interior. With the reduced daylight effect and the requirements of the Press for photographic records, it was decided to augment the lighting of the interior. A special scheme of lighting was prepared by Holophane Ltd., to the requirements of His Majesty's Office of Works Department, which had the effect of concentrating a high-intensity illumination on the parts of the Abbey used for the ceremony and the procession.

The Nave, 230 feet in length, has 12 bays with sculptured arches, and above the arches is a Triforium Arcade with 2 arches per bay. In each of these arches, 22 each side, 500-watt Holophane projectors with prismatic reading lenses were mounted and adjusted to throw a beam of light along the 17-foot processional way. The mounting height of the floodlights was 54 feet, and the illumination on floor level was a uniform 15 foot candles along the Nave and Choir.

The dais on which the King and Queen's thrones were placed was directly under the Tower and in front of the High Altar. This area was lighted by 4 1000-w. Holophane projectors fixed to the 4 sides of the Tower and focused vertically downward from a height of 100 feet. The Coronation Chair, which was midway between the High Altar and the dais, had 2 additional 1000-w. concentrating projectors focused on it from positions at the side and forward of the position. Illumination readings of this area showed an intensity of 30 foot candles at floor level.

For the lighting of the Sanctuary and the Altar, 8 500-w. projectors were fixed at the Triforium level of 54 feet. Two of these were focused on the Altar, one from each side, with the remaining six units giving a uniform distribution over the rest of the Sanctuary. The general lighting scheme was designed to provide a special zone of high-intensity illumination without any theatrical spot-lighting effect, which increased from the doorway to the Coronation Chair and Altar.

The splendid photographic and cinematograph records of the ceremony testify to the efficiency of the lighting scheme, and the ingenuity of the engineers for the unobtrusive manner in which they achieved the results that enabled millions throughout the world to see the solemn splendour of the Coronation ritual.



*The Procession of H.M. the King leaving the Abbey after the Coronation Ceremony. The positions of the special lighting units can be seen at the top left of the photo.*



*Above: Their Majesties the King and Queen in their Chairs of State at the beginning of the Coronation Ceremony.*

*Two pictures showing the high-intensity lighting effect.*

*Below: His Majesty the King on the Coronation Throne, with the Cloth of Gold supported by four Knights of the Garter before the Anointing.*



## *The Exhibition of the Coronation Robes at the Royal School of Needlework, South Kensington*

THE Exhibition of the Royal Coronation robes was organized to give the general public an opportunity to see the principal costumes and trappings which figured in the recent ceremony at Westminster Abbey.

The exhibits were an array of magnificent costumes, made from the finest materials procurable, adorned with masterpieces of embroidery by the members of the Royal School of Needlework.

The stands and showcases were designed and erected by Messrs. Trollope & Sons, Ltd., London, in the rooms of the Royal School of Needlework.

Artificial lighting was necessary because the height of the stands and showcases built across the front of the windows excluded most of the daylight.

The lighting scheme, designed by Holophane Ltd., made use of prismatic reflectors to concentrate the light on the exhibits and impart to them their brilliance and colour as seen during the Coronation ceremony.

We are indebted to the Committee of the Royal School of Needlework for permission to reproduce the photos shown here.

*The illustrations shown in this brochure are the actual colours of the robes as faithfully reproduced as the finest blockmaking, printing, and paper will permit.*



*Left to right—Uniform of a Member of the Hon. Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms—Costume of the Page to Marquess of Salisbury—Page to the Duke of Richmond and Gordon. Peers' Chairs and Stools—Robes of the Duke of Roxburghe—Page to Duke of Abercorn—Page to Duke of Rutland—Duchess of Sutherland—Page to Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry.*

*The Coronation Robes of Their Majesties the King  
and Queen, with the Royal Princesses*



HIS MAJESTY THE KING (on left of photo).  
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN (on right of photo).  
H.R.H. PRINCESS ELIZABETH (centre right).  
H.R.H. PRINCESS MARGARET ROSE (centre left).  
THE CORONATION CROWN (in centre of photo).  
THE ORB OF ENGLAND (on left of photo).  
THE ROYAL SCEPTRE WITH THE CROSS.  
THE KING'S SCEPTRE WITH THE DOVE.  
THE QUEEN'S SCEPTRE WITH THE CROSS.  
THE IVORY ROD WITH THE DOVE (on the extreme right).





# The Coronation Robes of H.M. Queen Mary and the Royal Family



HER MAJESTY QUEEN MARY (in centre, with Queen Mary's  
Crown made for her Coronation in 1911).

H.R.H. THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTER (on left of photo).

H.R.H. THE DUCHESS OF GLOUCESTER.

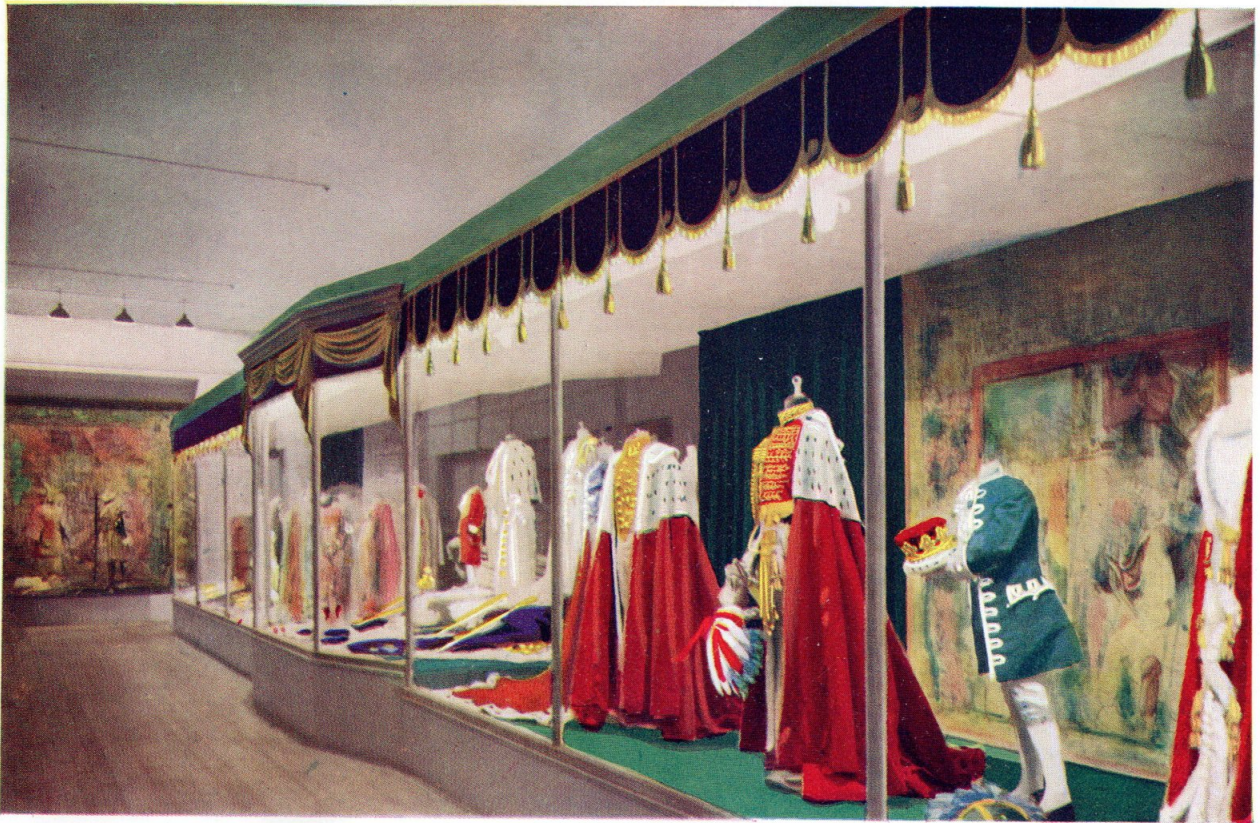
H.R.H. THE DUKE OF KENT (on right of H.M. Queen Mary).

H.R.H. THE DUCHESS OF KENT.

THE EARL OF HAREWOOD, K.G.



*View of the Main Showcase containing  
the Royal Coronation Robes*



*Above: The Royal Robes are in the centre portion, with the Robes of the Archbishops and Clergy on the left of photo and Officers of the Royal Household on the right. Figures nearest camera on right of photo: Master of the Horse—Duke of Beaufort, K.G., with his page. Next on left, the Lord Chamberlain—the Earl of Cromer, and Mistress of the Robes—Duchess of Northumberland.*



*Left:*

*The centre figure is the Coronation Cope worn by the Dean of Westminster in 1902 and 1911.*

*Two Velvet Copes worn at the Coronation of Charles II.*

## *Floodlighting of Westminster Abbey for Coronation Celebration, May, 1937*

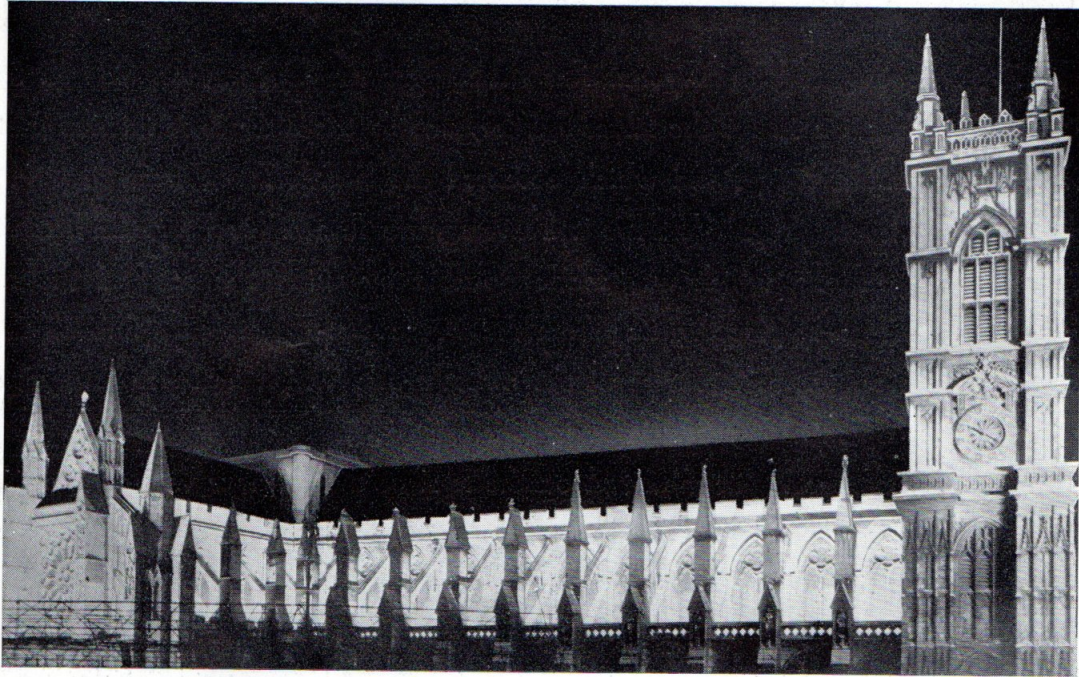
THE floodlighting of Westminster Abbey for the Coronation differed from the scheme used for the Silver Jubilee, due to the altered conditions of the new Annexe and a lofty stand which obscured the North Front from ground to the Clerestory level. The West Front Towers were floodlighted for the first time from close-up positions, which was made possible by using the roof of the new Annexe. This close-up floodlighting from the Annexe roof enabled a fine depth of light and shade on the architecture of the West Front, which had previously been lacking because no suitable mounting positions existed.

The battery of floodlights mounted on the roof of the Annexe was composed of 6 1000-w. wide-angle units for lower section, 4 1000-w. concentrating-type floods for the centre section, with 3 sets of 4 1000-w. long-range units for the tops of the Towers. From a position on roof of Westminster Hospital 8 1000-w. long-range floods were fixed for lighting north side of the Towers. The east side of the Towers was lighted by 10 1000-w. units, 5 on each side of the main roof, at a distance of 50 feet from the Towers. The new Annexe was lighted from 4 positions, as follows: 4 long-range floods on the roof of Westminster Hospital, 2 similar units from the roof of Central Hall, 2 500-w. units from No. 4 The Sanctuary for South Side of Annexe, and 1 500-w. on the scaffolding for North Side.

The North Clerestory, which appeared above the stands, as shown in photo on following page, was lighted by 24 1000-w. wide-angle floodlights. The North Entrance facing Whitehall was lighted by 5 1000-w. projectors from the roof of St. Margaret's Church and 5 1000-w. units fixed behind the stand on the Field of Remembrance. Henry the Seventh Chapel, with its wonderful filigree architecture facing on to Millbank, was lighted by 13 1000-w. wide-angle floods on the Clerestory and 17 similar units close up to the building at ground level.

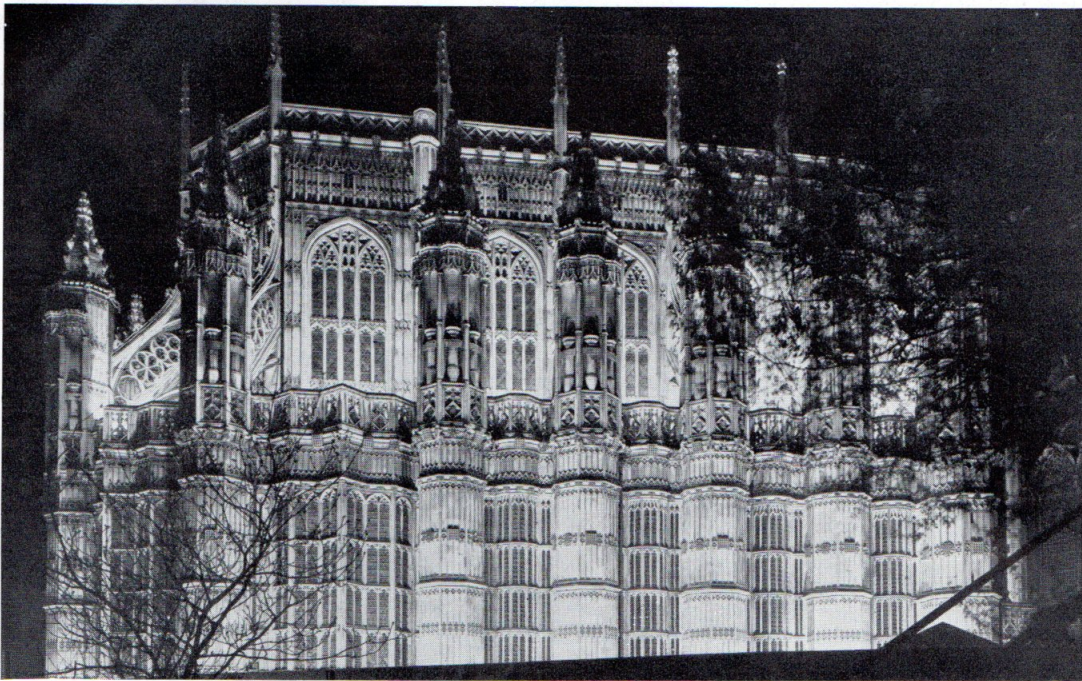
We should like to take this opportunity of paying tribute to the courtesy and assistance of the members of His Majesty's Office of Works Dept., whilst engaged on this work.

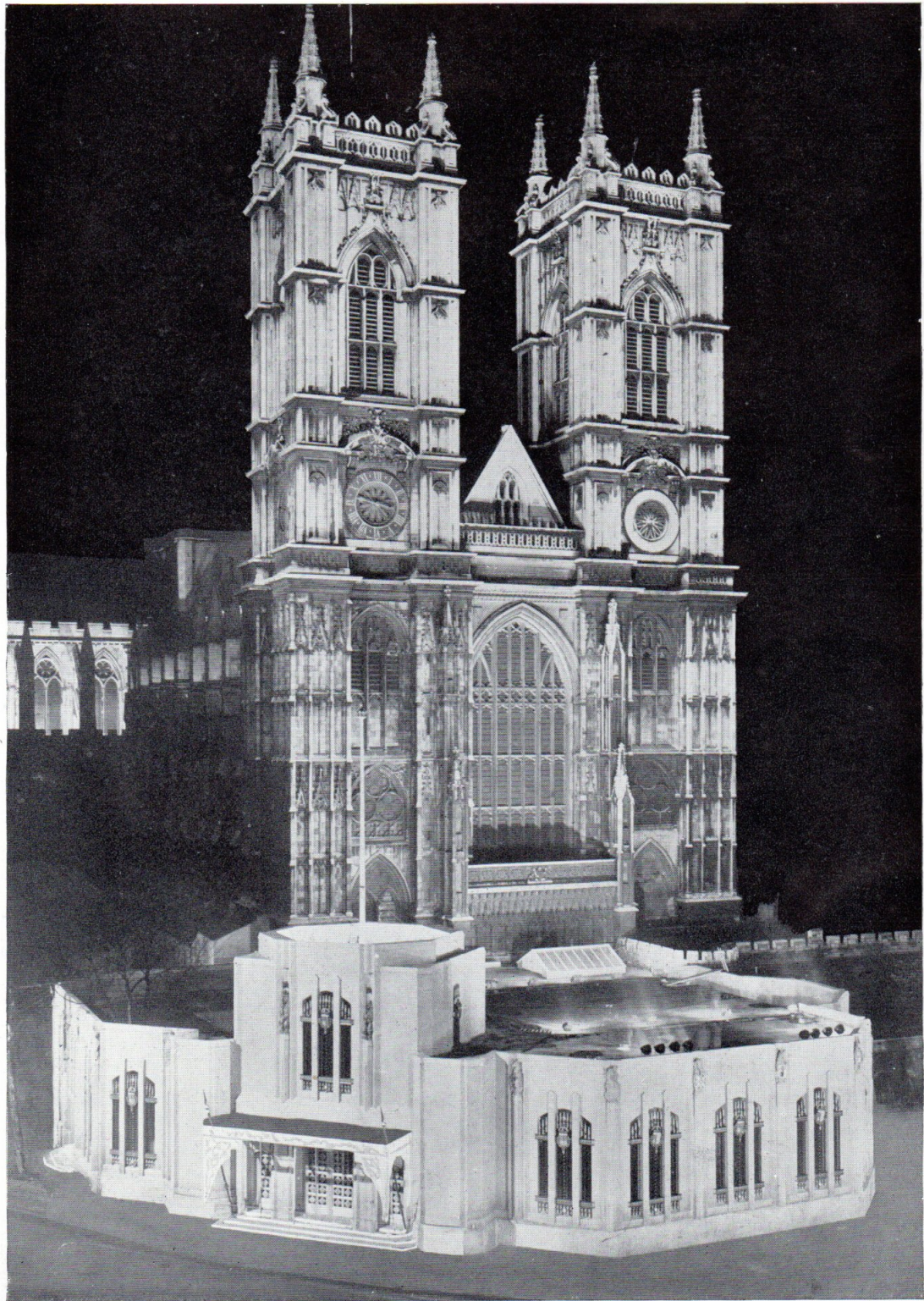
We also extend our thanks to the Electrical Contractors, Messrs. G. W. Day & Co., Ltd., 10 Daere Street, Westminster, for their collaboration and the excellent manner in which they carried out a difficult task.



*Above: View of North Frontage of Westminster Abbey, showing the North Clerestory top floodlighted. The skeleton framework of the stands can also be seen across the Rose Window, on left.*

*Below: View of Henry VII Chapel floodlighted.*





*West Front and Towers of Westminster Abbey, with New Annexe,  
floodlighted for the Coronation.*



*North side of the Towers floodlighted from top of Westminster Hospital. The silhouettes of the special stands can be seen, as well as a portion of the large stand covering North Front of the Abbey.*



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THE HALLMARK OF GOOD LIGHTING