



Symbols of a Royal Funeral

The Sovereign's Orb and Sceptre

The sceptre is a symbol of a **monarch's** power, while the orb and cross represent the power of God and it's a reminder to the monarch that their power comes from God. It was first used by King Henry VIII [8th] in 1509 for his own coronation.

It is believed that the sceptre has been used at every **coronation** since 1661. The sceptre was created for the coronation of King Charles II [2nd], and has been used to represent **the crown's power** in every coronation since 1661.

The sceptre, or rod, is one of the oldest symbols **associated with** royalty throughout history. Measuring 92 cm, the sceptre holds the world's largest diamond, the Cullinan I, also known as the First Star of Africa. Found in South Africa in 1905, it was gifted to Edward VII [7th] in 1907.

Vocabulary

Sovereign's

Monarch

Coronation

The crown's power

Associated with ...

Meaning

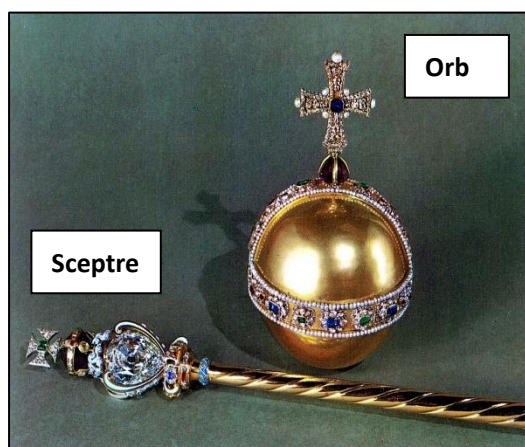
The 'sovereign' is the ruler such as the 'Monarch'. So, the sovereign's Orb is the Monarch's Orb, or King/Queens Orb.

This is the head of state such as the King, Queen, or Emperor.

This is the ceremony, or process to make someone King or Queen.

The 'crown' refers to the King or Queen. So, the 'crown's power' is the King or Queens power.

This means to be 'connected with' or 'linked with' someone or something.



The 'breaking of the wand' at Queen Elizabeth's funeral explained

Queen Elizabeth's **reign** came to an end with the ceremonial 'breaking of the Wand' by the Lord Chamberlain. The **tradition** of breaking the wand of office **signifies** the end of the Lord Chamberlain's service to the Queen.

The lord chamberlain is the most senior position in the royal household. They are responsible for organising ceremonial activities such as weddings, funerals and **state visits**. A **state visit** is when the leader of another country visits the country.

King Charles III [3rd], **will appoint** a lord chamberlain of his own, who will receive a new wand of office. Its **origins date back centuries** when it was used by the lord chamberlain to warn people in the **monarch's court** by tapping them on the shoulder if they were too noisy or disrespectful.

Queen Elizabeth II [2nd] funeral **marked the first time** in history that it was seen by the public.

Vocabulary

Elizabeth's **reign**

Meaning

Reign refers to the time when you are King or Queen. So 'Elizabeth's reign' is the time that she was the Queen.

Tradition

Something that has been done for a long time. It is part of the culture and belief of a group of people.

To **signify** something

This means to indicate something, to show something, to make something known.

...will appoint...

If you appoint someone manager for example, you make them manager. You give them that new position.

Origins

This is where something came from. Where it started.

Date back centuries

This means 'go back hundreds of years.' Hundreds of years old.

The monarch's **Court**

The court is where people, such as government members, came to meet the King and talk with each other.

Marked the first time

This means that it will be remembered as the first time something was done.



The Gun Carriage

The Royal Navy will be pulling the Queen's coffin as part of a tradition that dates back to the reign of Queen Victoria. The State Gun Carriage that they use has been in the care of the Royal Navy since 1901 and has a fascinating history.

The tradition of sailors pulling the coffin was brought in after the horses used to pull Queen Victoria's coffin on a **bitterly cold** day in February 1901 for her funeral, were **spooked** and almost knocked over the coffin.

Captain Prince Louis of Battenberg saved the day and suggested to the new monarch, Edward VII [7th], that the 'senior service' should **step in** and pull the coffin.

Who are the senior service?

The Royal Navy is traditionally the oldest part of the British armed forces, founded during the reign of Henry VIII [8th], and so is known as the 'Senior Service'.

Once this was agreed, ropes were attached to the gun carriage, which weighs 3,000kg (2.5 tonnes), and the team of sailors were brought in to make sure the coffin was carried safely. It was only nine years later, at the funeral of Edward VII [7th], that this became **an integral part of** a Monarch's funeral.

It has also been used for the funerals of several other monarchs, including those of King George V [5th] and the Queen's father, King George VI [6th], in 1952. Furthermore, part of the tradition of the gun carriage is to have the '**Royal Company of Archers**' and the '**Yeomen Warders**' walk either side of the carriage, but who are they?

Vocabulary

Bitterly cold

Spooked

To step in

Founded

An integral part of

Meaning

This means very cold.

If you are 'spooked' by something, you are scared/afraid of something.

If you 'step in', you take control of something.

This means when something was first started/created.

A 'very important part' of something.



The Royal Company of Archers

The Royal Company of Archers, serve as the sovereign's **bodyguard** in Scotland. As of now, they are the Kings bodyguard for Scotland.

They have performed this role since 1822 during the reign of King George IV [4th], when the company provided a personal bodyguard to the King on his visit to Scotland. They are a **voluntary unit** and perform duties **at the request of the King**.

Although known as the King's Bodyguard for Scotland, they are also known as 'The Royal Company' and are located in Edinburgh, the capital of Scotland. **Steeped in history**, The Royal Company of Archers **has long celebrated** the talent of **local archers**.

The company actually dates back to 1676, where gentlemen were encouraged to take part in archery. They often competed in Edinburgh to win the Musselburgh Arrow, believed to be the oldest **sporting trophy** dating back to around 1603.

Vocabulary

Bodyguard

Voluntary

At the request of the King

Steeped in history

...has long celebrated...

A sporting trophy

Meaning

This is someone whose job is to protect you.

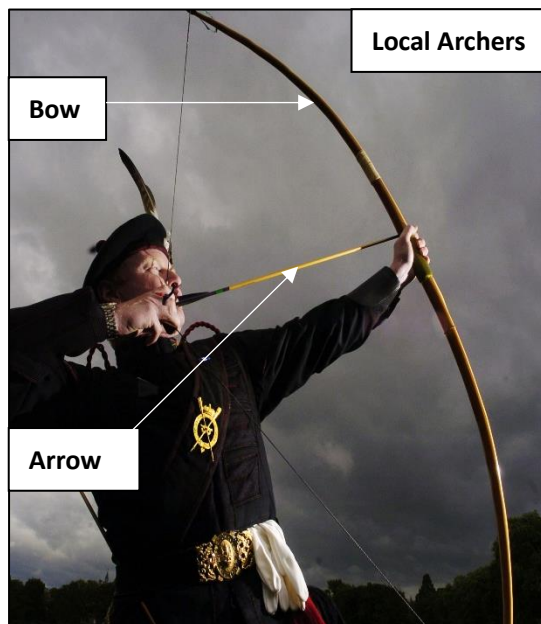
If you do something voluntary, you don't get paid for it. You choose to do it for free.

This means the King has asked them to do something.

Something has a long and interesting history.

This means that something has been celebrated for a long time.

A trophy is something like a cup that is given to someone or a team that has won something.



Yeoman Warders

The Yeoman Warders were **formed in** 1485 by the first Tudor monarch, Henry VII [7th], after the Battle of Bosworth. They were originally part of the Yeoman of the Guard – the monarch’s personal bodyguard who travelled with him everywhere.

Later, Henry VIII [8th] decided that the Tower of London should be protected by part of the royal bodyguard in 1509. They have been guarding the Tower of London ever since.

Also known as ‘Beefeaters’, they can live in the Tower of London and be surrounded by history 24 hours a day.

Why are the King’s guards called Beefeaters?

Dating back to 1485, there are a number of **theories** surrounding the origin of the name. One is that it comes from the old French word ‘buffetier’, which means ‘food taster’. After Henry VII [7th] had two of his wives **executed**, it’s thought that he was worried that he might be **poisoned** so had his guards taste the food first.

Good for the King, but not so good for the guard who was chosen to taste the food.

Another theory is that the guards were paid in beef rather than money, while a third theory suggests they were called ‘Beefeaters’ because they ate far better than many of the other royal servants at the time.

No matter what the real reason is, they have a great history and have been **loyal** servants of kings and Queens since 1485.

Vocabulary

Formed in

Theory

Executed

Poison

Loyal

Meaning

This means when something was created/first started.

This is an ‘idea’ that might explain why something happened.

If you are executed, you are killed.

This is something that if eaten or drunk, can kill you.

If you are ‘loyal’ to someone, you give them 100% support.



Guarding
the Queen



You will always be loved around the world for your
kindness and warm smile.

You will always be my Queen

RIP

Patrick McMahon

NicheEnglish



Let the journey of discovery begin



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