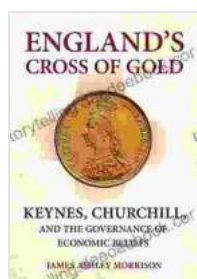


England's Cross of Gold: A Timeless Symbol of Royal Power and Prestige

An Enduring Legacy of Sovereignty

In the annals of British history, few objects embody the grandeur and majesty of the monarchy as profoundly as the Cross of Gold. This exquisite artifact, crafted from the finest gold and adorned with precious gemstones, has graced the crowns of England's sovereigns for centuries, serving as a tangible symbol of their regal authority.

The Cross of Gold's origins can be traced back to the reign of King Ethelred the Unready in the 10th century. Legend has it that the king ordered the creation of a gold cross as a sign of penitence for his perceived shortcomings during the invasions of England by Danish Vikings. The cross was subsequently used as a processional cross during religious ceremonies and was often carried before the king.



England's Cross of Gold: Keynes, Churchill, and the Governance of Economic Beliefs (Cornell Studies in Money) by James Ashley Morrison

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 8630 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
X-Ray : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 397 pages
X-Ray for textbooks : Enabled



Over the centuries, the Cross of Gold underwent several modifications and enhancements. In the 12th century, King Henry II had the cross adorned with precious stones, including rubies, sapphires, and emeralds. During the reign of King Edward III in the 14th century, the cross was further embellished with pearls and became known as the "St. Edward's Cross."

A Crown Jewel of Unparalleled Significance

The Cross of Gold's status as a crown jewel was firmly established during the Tudor period. King Henry VIII had the cross set upon the Imperial State Crown, which became the centerpiece of the British Crown Jewels. The cross has since adorned the crowns of all subsequent monarchs, including Queen Elizabeth II, who wore it during her coronation in 1953.

The Cross of Gold not only symbolizes the sovereign's temporal power but also holds deep spiritual significance. It is used in the coronation ceremony to bless the monarch and represents the Christian values upon which the monarchy is founded.

Iconography and Symbolism

The Cross of Gold's intricate design is rich in symbolism. The cross itself represents the Christian faith, which has played a central role in English history and culture. The gemstones embedded in the cross are believed to have protective and healing powers, representing the monarch's role as protector and healer of the realm.

The four arms of the cross are said to symbolize the four cardinal virtues: fortitude, justice, prudence, and temperance. These virtues are essential qualities for a wise and benevolent ruler.

The cross is surmounted by a large, faceted ruby, known as the Black Prince's Ruby. This gemstone is believed to have been acquired by Edward, the Black Prince, during the Battle of Crécy in 1346. The ruby is said to bring victory in battle and protect the wearer from harm.

Captivating Stories and Legends

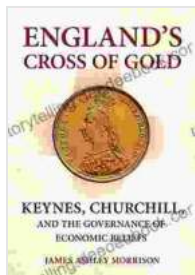
Throughout its long history, the Cross of Gold has been associated with numerous captivating stories and legends. One such legend tells of how King Richard II lost the cross during the Battle of Bosworth Field in 1485. The cross was later found by a Welshman named Humphrey Blayney, who returned it to King Henry VII. In gratitude, the king granted Blayney and his family the hereditary right to carry the Cross of Gold in coronation processions.

Another legend relates to the coronation of King George IV in 1821. During the ceremony, the cross fell from the king's crown and landed on the head of the Archbishop of Canterbury. This was seen as an ill omen, and it is said that the archbishop died shortly thereafter.

Preservation and Heritage

The Cross of Gold is a priceless national treasure and is carefully preserved within the Tower of London. It is on display to the public as part of the Crown Jewels exhibition. The cross is also used in official state ceremonies, such as coronations and state banquets.

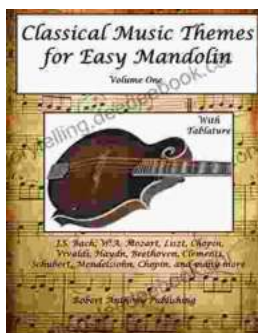
The Cross of Gold is not only a symbol of royal power and prestige but also a testament to the rich history and enduring legacy of the British monarchy. It continues to captivate and inspire awe in all who behold it.



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