

Manuscript Original Appraisal of Crown Jewels of Charles I, taken 10 Jun, 1629

*Received that his Majesty, his private counsellors, his household and privy
council have the of Jewels viz: 20 diamonds and 10 pearls and 10
rubies taken out of the crown and jewels of the late King
Charles the first by his Majesty's command and the said
Jewels according to our Judgment were taken the 10th of June 1629.*

Taken out of the 1 st Chest	
Numero 3	One Corall of gold set with a great diamond, rubies eight table diamonds with 10 small diamonds and 10 pearls and 10 rubies set with pearls 2.000. ^l
4	One collar of gold set with 13 pearls and 10 rubies and 10 diamonds with 10 small diamonds and 10 pearls and 10 rubies set with pearls 0200.
5	One bracelet of gold set with 13 pearls and 10 rubies and 10 diamonds with 10 small diamonds and 10 pearls and 10 rubies set with pearls 0580.
6	One bracelet of gold set with 13 pearls and 10 rubies and 10 diamonds with 10 small diamonds and 10 pearls and 10 rubies set with pearls 0800.
9	Parts of a collar of gold set with 13 pearls and 10 rubies and 10 diamonds with 10 small diamonds and 10 pearls and 10 rubies set with pearls 0100.
14	One top of a collar of gold set with 13 pearls and 10 rubies and 10 diamonds with 10 small diamonds and 10 pearls and 10 rubies set with pearls 0580.
16	Two great half round pearls taken from the necklace of gold set with 13 pearls and 10 rubies and 10 diamonds 0040.
18	One great half round pearl taken from the necklace of gold set with 13 pearls and 10 rubies and 10 diamonds 0100.
19	One great half round pearl taken from the necklace of gold set with 13 pearls and 10 rubies and 10 diamonds 0050.
20	One great half round pearl taken from the necklace of gold set with 13 pearls and 10 rubies and 10 diamonds 1300.
23	One great half round pearl taken from the necklace of gold set with 13 pearls and 10 rubies and 10 diamonds 0060.
25	One great half round pearl taken from the necklace of gold set with 13 pearls and 10 rubies and 10 diamonds 0040.
29	Parts of a collar of gold set with 13 pearls and 10 rubies and 10 diamonds with 10 small diamonds and 10 pearls and 10 rubies set with pearls 0100.
Balance of what was in the 1 st Chest found to be taken the 10th of June 1629 5750. ^l	
Taken out of the 2 nd Chest	
Numero 14	One collar of gold set with 13 pearls and 10 rubies and 10 diamonds with 10 small diamonds and 10 pearls and 10 rubies set with pearls 0150. ^l
19	One collar of gold set with 13 pearls and 10 rubies and 10 diamonds with 10 small diamonds and 10 pearls and 10 rubies set with pearls 1500.
22	One collar of gold set with 13 pearls and 10 rubies and 10 diamonds with 10 small diamonds and 10 pearls and 10 rubies set with pearls 0420.
23	One collar of gold set with 13 pearls and 10 rubies and 10 diamonds with 10 small diamonds and 10 pearls and 10 rubies set with pearls 0320.
25	One collar of gold set with 13 pearls and 10 rubies and 10 diamonds with 10 small diamonds and 10 pearls and 10 rubies set with pearls 0420.
28	One collar of gold set with 13 pearls and 10 rubies and 10 diamonds with 10 small diamonds and 10 pearls and 10 rubies set with pearls 1700.

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This is a manuscript appraisal (approximately one folio sized sheet folded into four pages, written on two) dated June 10, 1629, of certain crown jewels pledged by Charles I and subsequently sold by him. The appraisal was made, and signed, by the following gentlemen— James Herriot, Phillipe Jacobsson, Thomas Sympson and William Tirrey all jewelers of London.

In 1629 the King removed the contents of the Secret Jewel House in the Tower to Whitehall Palace, and inspected them himself on June 5. He took away seven pieces. Sixteen more went into the custody of the Gentleman of the Robes, and an additional twenty-six pieces were pledged to a Groom of the Bedchamber, James Maxwell. The remaining fifty-two pieces were to be sold. This inventory list comprises the twenty-six pieces which were pledged to Maxwell and sold to him in January of 1630 for £12554, the sum at which they were valued the previous June.

This incident is described in detail by A.J. Collins, *Jewels and Plate of Queen Elizabeth I*, 1955, pp. 178, 179.

This valuation list gives no date in June for the King's warrant to the jewellers. It was, in fact, issued after the valuation was made, on June 20, judging from *Calendar of State Papers Domestic 1628-9*, pp. 583, 584. A list of the jewels is printed in *Rymer, Foedra VIII*, part III, 1742, pp. 90-91, but it is not identical with this list.

One of the most interesting elements of this document are the jewelers' comments on "diamonds" which they state are something else (see nos. 4 & 25.) The items bought by Maxwell included ornaments which James I had designated, in 1605, for preservation as heirlooms, e.g. the circlet of gold for Queen Anne (new chest, no. 28) and the collar of 12 pieces of goldsmith's work "lyke fryers knotts" (old chest, no. 9). In fact, Maxwell acquired more than one third of the heirlooms.

This historic document may well be unique. I remember once reading a book, whose title I cannot now recall, that stated that inventories of crown jewels of Charles I are not known to exist!

The following is a transcription of a small part of the first page of the appraisal—

Whereas that his Matie by his speciall warrant under his hand and
seale bearing date the [blank] of June 1629: did com~ande us whose
names are heire underwritten to deliver our opinons of the worth and
valewe of these Jewells ffollowinge, wee have heirby obeyid his
Maties commande and delivererid the same according to our
Judgments under or hands this 20th of June 1629

Taiken out of the olde chestt

Numors:

.3. One Circlett of gold sett with a great ballace rubye eight table
diamonds nyne emraulds thirtye and sixe wth rubyis and fiftye sixe
round pearles at £2000.

.4. One Coller of gold de____ conteyn~ng 13 knotts havinge one
white saphir wch was taken for a diamond, but found by the Jewellers
to be but a saphir... 0200.

Price on Request.