

Britain's 700-year-old Coronation Chair

St Edward's Chair, the oldest dated piece of English furniture made by a known artist, has been used for the coronation of every monarch since the 14th century

HISTORY

- **1296:** *King Edward I* invades Scotland and seizes **Stone of Scone** – sandstone seat used for centuries in coronations of Scottish monarchs at **Scone Abbey**
- Edward commissions **Walter of Durham** to build chair incorporating stone as its seat
- **1301:** Oak chair, covered in decorative gold leaf and glass mosaics, placed in shrine of **St Edward the Confessor** at **Westminster Abbey**



- **1308:** Chair believed first used in coronation of **Edward II** (above)
- **1324:** Stone secured to abbey floor by iron rings
- **1500s-1800s:** Abbey visitors carve graffiti and prise away souvenirs
- **1727:** Plinth added for coronation of **George II**
- **1887:** Chair painted brown for Golden Jubilee of **Queen Victoria**. Gold leaf badly damaged when paint is removed
- **1914:** One pinnacle blown off, and stone cracked, in **Suffragette** bomb attack
- **1939-45:** Chair stored in **Gloucester Cathedral** for duration of **World War II**
- **1950:** **Scottish Nationalists** remove stone, damaging it and chair



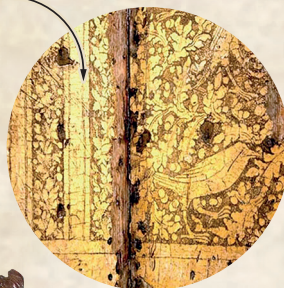
- **1951:** Stone recovered. It returns to Westminster Abbey for 1953 coronation of **Queen Elizabeth II**
- **1996:** British government returns Stone of Scone to Scotland. It resides at **Edinburgh Castle**, and will return to London only for coronations
- **2010-12:** Extensive conservation of chair
- **2022-23:** Further conservation ahead of coronation of **King Charles III**



Stone of Scone, also known as **Stone of Destiny**

CHANGES OVER TIME

Some intricate gold leaf decoration survives



Ancient graffiti

Front quatrefoil: Replaced in 2012

Stone of Scone: Signs of damage caused over centuries

Plinth: Features four gilt lions

Replica at Scone Abbey shows how stone may have looked before 1296

