

Seeing the Coronation is Biggest Style Event

But There Are Plenty of Other Things in England Well Worth Seeing and Doing This or any Other Year

By Bettie Cameron Smail

Are you going to London for the Coronation?

If you are, pack up these tips on how to get the most out of your trip, what you do, see and buy while you're there. If you aren't planning to go, you'll probably change your mind and sail anyway—even if you go steerage—when you hear what glamour and excitement England will offer you this May.

London is already on tip toes with anticipation. The stands are rapidly going up all along the procession route; the restaurants are enlarging their premises; Westminster Abbey is closed for five months preparation and alteration. The houses in Mayfair and St. James' are being lavishly repainted and re-decorated; the decorating committees are removing quantities of "island refugees" from the centres of the main thoroughfares and putting up hundreds of standards which will be festooned with garlands of gay flowers.

The May Day of the Merrie England of Good Queen Bess will not be able to compete with the wonderful pageant now being prepared for the Coronation of George VI and Queen Elizabeth. All the shop fronts are to be ablaze with flowers; the streets and offices covered with flags, bunting in the Royal colours will drape the lamp-posts; and all the famous buildings will be floodlit—as will be St. James' Park and other parks that will be left open all night to those patriots unable to secure lodgings.

Sight Seeing

Sight-seeing will be rather neglected on such a gay-making occasion, but if it's your first visit don't miss seeing the places you've always heard about. You will want to see the National and Tate Galleries, Kensington Palace and the Gardens (the Peter Pan statue and Round Pond made famous by Barrie), Kew, Hampton Court, St. Paul's Cathedral, St. Martin-in-the-Fields which, despite its name, stands right at Trafalgar Square amid London's noisiest, busiest traffic, and just beside the National Portrait Gallery. But you will probably skim by Whitehall and Westminster on top of a bus—en route to the shops of Mayfair and Piccadilly.

Inexpensive shopping can be done in Oxford Street and Regent Street; stunning woollens and tweeds and jerseys—all the "very" English things are found at Jaeger's and Nicholl's—both on Regent Street. The exclusive shopping area is concentrated around Bond Street, Bruton Street, Berkeley Square and Grosvenor Street. Here you will find the impressive members of the British couture... the Hartnells and the Molyneux' and dream hat shops.

Knightsbridge is famous for small exclusive dress shops. Delightful evening things in the windows lure you inside before you have time to think. Harolds and Harvey Nicholl's both have new and inviting cocktail and sandwich bars—good places to remember and write down on your shopping list.

You won't be able to resist the quaint antique shops in Church Street, Kensington, or the ones in Chelsea and off the side streets of Soho. And if you're looking for really Olde English souvenirs that no one else has, and that you can gloat over back in the States, go on a tour of discovery to Berwick Market and the Caledonian. You'll pick up old pewter mugs and plates dated way back and aristocratically crested, old petit point bell-pulls and such things, not to mention rare old calf-bound volumes that will add a century of interest to your library bookshelves.

Tips on Eating

Having given you the most vital part of your programme (shopping, of course), here are important tips on eating—whether snacking or expensive dining:

If you have been lucky enough to secure accommodations at a West End hotel, be on the safe side and arrange to have all your meals there. If you are in a small private hotel in the centre of town or farther out, or in lodgings, take sandwiches with you in your handbag. During the Jubilee Celebrations so many thousands of visitors poured into London that not only was every restaurant packed, but sold out! The blocking and actually complete

stopping of traffic prevented hundreds from getting home until the next morning—and then on foot.

For those who prefer a more English atmosphere than that provided by the large hotels (ranging from the Savoy, the Dorchester, the Regent and Strand Palaces and the Cumberland), there are many small old-fashioned hotels tucked away in Belgravia and Kensington, where the possible lack of central heating—which always appalls an American—goes unnoticed in May. Here the antiquated bathroom has a flavour of Old England and becomes more of an asset than an annoyance... Incidentally, any introductions to clubs are invaluable both for beds and refreshments.

Night Clubs, Too

Mayfair provides the sophisticated restaurants and night clubs: the Mayfair, the Ritz, the Berkeley (which has a famous Buttery for cocktails and snacks), Quaglino's, the San Marco and always the Savoy—where everyone goes some time during a London visit... Coming down from the sublime, there are places that serve in place of America's drug stores and cafeterias: Lyon's Corner Houses reminiscent of Child's or Schrafft's, Sandy's Sandwich Bar off Coventry Street at Piccadilly, and many comfortable small restaurants in Soho... This is London's International Quarter and famous for very inexpensive cooking: French (Le Diner Francais, Moulin d'Or, Chanticleer, Florence), Italian, Hungarian, etc. Here there is no expenditure for upkeep and "front"—which accounts for the excellent fare (with wine "compris" in French fashion) at such a low cost.

Soho is conveniently situated in the heart of theatre-land, behind Piccadilly, Shaftesbury Avenue and near Charing Cross Road.

There are over 50 theatres to choose from, but of course you will want to see Diana Wyrward, Jack Buchanan, Leslie Henson, Edith Evans or some equally famous English star. One thing you can be sure of in London is that any play that's running is bound to be good, for it comes off in three days if it is below

standard. There are cinemas sprinkled everywhere—the once-famous Cochrane revue theatre, the London Pavilion at Piccadilly Circus, is now a cinema, The Empire Leicester Square, the Tivoli on the Strand and the Regal Marble Arch all have good shows. Tickets for theatres and cinemas can be booked at Keith Prowse offices at no extra cost and with a good deal less trouble than buying them direct.

An Oxford Week-end

Time spent out of London should include a week-end in Oxford and the Stratford district—all of it Shakespeare country and unbelievably picturesque and unspoiled. Spend at least a day in Cambridge; a visit to Windsor; a pilgrimage to Canterbury Cathedral; a tour of Surrey villages—old, quaint, and restfully different from the small villages of any other country. (The prettiest include Holmbury St. Mary, Friday Street and Abinger Hatch.) If there is still time to motor into Sussex and over the Downs, don't miss it. Go by a luxurious Green Line bus if you haven't a car available.

For the Coronation Procession on May 12th, seat-holders will have to be in their places about nine a.m. Therefore, those planning to take good standing positions along the Mall, Whitehall or at the Marble Arch should be in their places (with camp stools AND sandwiches in hand) as early as eight o'clock. Acting the early bird on that day will be well worth the effort. In the procession there will be other kings and queens, eastern potentates, princes and princesses, dukes and duchesses from every country, peers of the realm and their peeresses in magnificent velvets and ermine, lords and ladies and countless other notable subjects of the Crown—back from the east, the west, the colonies—from the remotest corners of the Empire.

Bright New Handbags For Overnight Travel

For the woman who does a lot of overnight traveling, or for the long-distance tripper who wants overnight things conveniently at hand, there are jars and bottles, with room for a nightie and a toothbrush. These bags—which serve also as daytime purses—are mostly satchel shaped, and can be locked. They are finished with chiffon morocco leather that is shiny and has a fine natural grain. The two small jars and two bottles are mounted on removable

panels inside. The bags come in red, black or brown. Some are lined with beige grosgrain silk, other in contrasting leathers.

Colour Features the Fashions This Year

Owing to the Coronation Many New Shades Are to the Front

Colour and more colour is the theme song of fashion this spring. Not only have the hues that proved so popular last spring been retained in new modes but, owing chiefly to the coronation, many new colours have been added. Exaggerations and unnecessary accents have been eliminated.

"In the style picture this spring will be seen short, fitted boleros and loose Mexican versions," said Earl Severid, advertising manager at Sam Bucovet-sky's in an interview this week. "An absence of revers is noticed and a new emphasis on pockets, decorative as well as useful but always an integral part of the line.

"Necklines are shorn of their collars but remain as high as ever.

Tailored Blouses Important

"Since suits have become style important, blouses have become an interesting part of a woman's wardrobe. The fact that suits are worn the year 'round is stimulating. Tailored blouses are considered extremely important this year on account of the tailored suit trend.

"The fabric like quality of the new straw hats makes them very wearable early in the season. Veils are definitely a part of the trimming this season. They are feminine and flattering too."

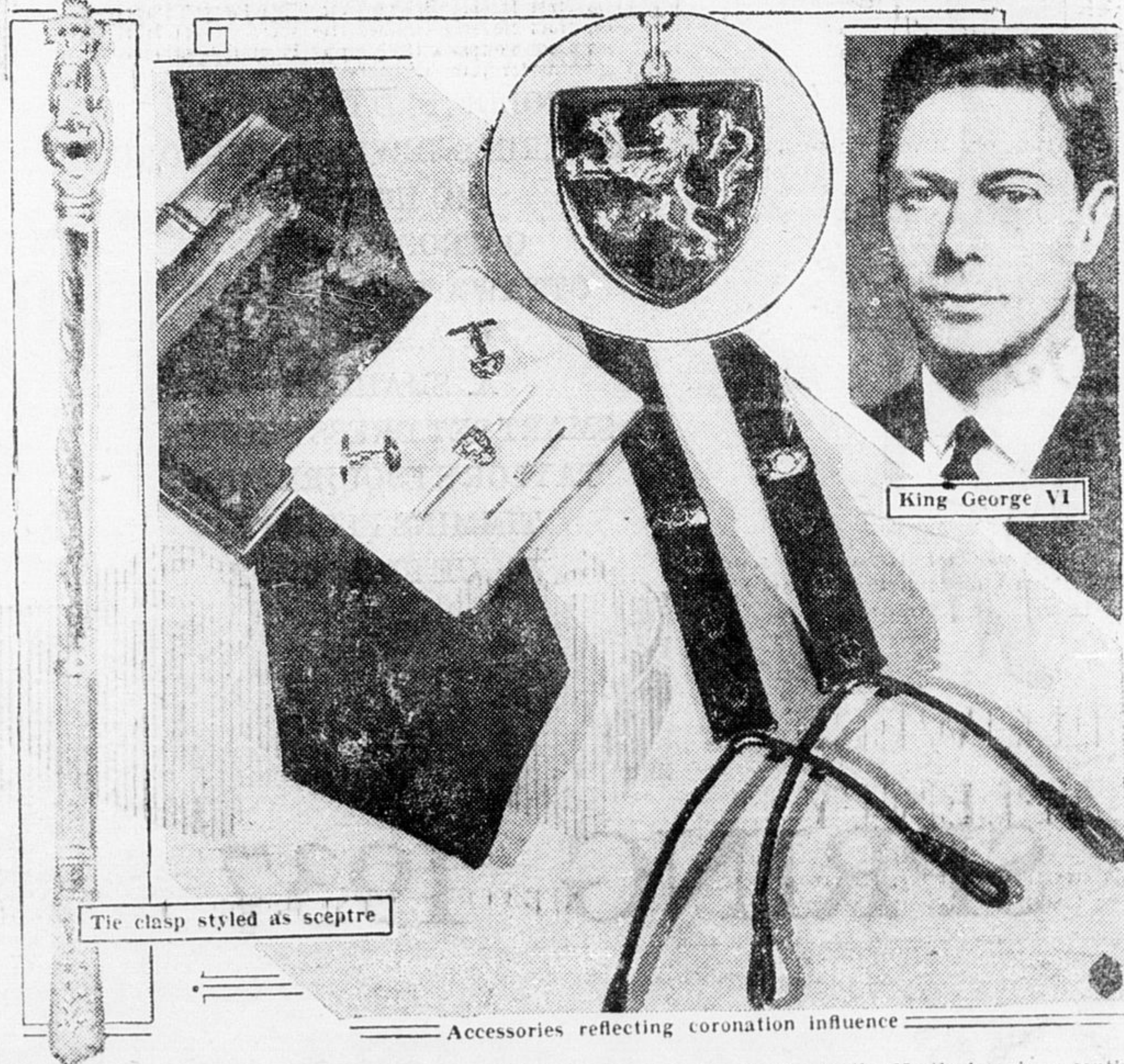
"Gabardine plays an important part this spring and will be found in a wide variety of colours in patent leather trimmings.

"The many new styles in gloves go hand in hand with the new spring ensembles.

"And through the whole spring style story you'll find the coronation colours."

Yellow silk is gala for afternoon. It's lovely in a dress whose bodice and skirt are draped toward the back, where a row of fabric bows add the finishing detail.

Smart New Accessories For Men Reflect Coronation Influence



England has always been the source of style inspiration for men insofar as the North American continent is concerned, and it is interesting how the Coronation is affecting men's styles in Canada and the United States. Coronation fashions for men are running the gamut of accessories from cuff links to robes. Necktie clasps become miniatures of the British royal sceptre; neckties feature a small heraldic shield emblazoned with the British lion rampant; suspenders and garters display small coronets woven into the pattern; and even pajamas have gone Coronation. Some have printed patterns of famous London scenes, while others are made up in Coronation colours. The Coronation takes place on May 12th, but the sale of accessories and other Coronation features will continue for several months.