

QUEEN AT OPERA

The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, justified its name when it presented Benjamin Britten's opera Gloriana to an audience which included several members of the Royal Family. Not since 1736 has the first night of an opera in England enjoyed royal patronage. Many Coronation visitors helped to make up the very distinguished audience, paying a tribute to British music. Among members of the Government was Lord Alexander.

Now came the Canadian Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent....

With Mr. Menzies, Australia, were his wife and daughter Heather.

~~With~~ Mr. Holland, the New Zealand premier, was followed by the Speaker of the House of Commons, Mr. W. S. Morrison....

Sir David Eccles.... The Crown Prince and Princess of Norway.

The Duke of Gloucester wore the ribbon of the Garter....

The Duchess of Kent accompanied the Princess Royal. The Earl and Countess of Athlone. The Earl of Harewood is an operatic critic of distinction....

The former Sir John Anderson, now Lord Waverley, received the guests as Chairman of the Opera House. The Queen Mother wore a gown of white tulle, ~~a diamond tiara and the ribbon and star of the Garter.~~ Princess Margaret wore a pale blue gown beneath her ermine cape.

Finally came Her Majesty and the Duke of Edinburgh. The Queen wore a full-skirted white silk gown, diamond tiara, diamond necklace and ear-rings.

It was far more than a royal and social occasion. Linking the Palace with the Arts it began a new era in the nation's cultural life.

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