

## The Hanoverian Jewels

### Part III

John Gawler Bridge joined the family firm Rundell Bridge and Rundell as a shop assistant in 1804, the year they gained the Royal Warrant from George III. The Commissioners investigating the claim by the Crown of Hanover to the Jewels left by Queen Charlotte in a codicil to her will asked Bridge, on behalf of the firm, to produce any surviving documentation between the firm and Queen Charlotte that may shed further light into their enquiries.

Bridge produced three of the firm's Order Books.

Of particular importance in tracing the history of the Queens dealings is an entry in Order Book G, for the 7th June 1804 paragraph K for the supply of:

*14 Brass Plates engraved Inscriptions as received*

*send word the day before*

*Cawthorne to go to rivet them on*

*NB 3 before*

*NB write 10 rubies instead of 9*

Queen Charlotte had instructed Rundell Bridge and Rundell to engrave a series of brass plates to be riveted to each of her jewel boxes and to engrave on them the inscriptions she had provided as to the contents of each box. On her death in 1818, the number of brass plates, hence boxes was 17, therefore three must have been acquired and filled before 1804 as noted above, *NB 3 before*. The plates cost 8 pounds – 18s – 6d to engrave.

As is well known, George III had lost his mind yet managed to recover by 1789 with a serious relapse occurring in 1804. As a result the Queen in the interests of history and of her family is seen here as making an effort to document the history of the jewels in her charge.

Of particular interest to the Commissioners were the contents of those boxes containing all or part of the jewels repurchased by George III from the Crown of Hanover between 1760 and 1761 for £54,900. These Hanoverian Jewels were given by George III to the Queen prior to their wedding in 1761 but with no written record.

In a codicil to her will, signed on 16 November 1818, the day before her death at Kew Palace, Queen Charlotte had left the Hanoverian Jewels to the Kingdom of Hanover with the proviso that if her mentally incapacitated husband should be *restored to a sound state of mind* and was still alive at her death they should belong to the King for him to make such provision as he saw fit.

Her will noted the division of her principal jewels:

*First those which the King bought for 50,000 pounds and gave to me....*

*Secondly those presented to me by the Nawab of Arcot to my four remaining daughters...I direct that these jewels should be sold and that the produce should be divided among them...share and share alike....*

The Hanoverian Jewels and the Arcot Diamonds were in the three boxes whose plates had already been supplied and engraved, the Pearls which Queen Charlotte wore were in Box 17. Five of the original brass plates remained with Rundell's and were tendered in evidence by Bridge with four fitted boxes, now numbered A1, A2, A3, and A4, that had once contained the majority of the Hanoverian and Arcot Jewels.

Once the Prince Regent became aware of the codicil to his mother's will signed the day before her death. I suggest that the identifying plates to the jewel boxes were removed on 7<sup>th</sup> Jan 1819 by Rundell's as noted in the Order Book submitted as evidence to the Commissioners.

The executors had the contents of boxes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 17 put in a separate oak iron bound box with the arms of George III, then sealed with black wax using the Kings seal and sent it to the Bank of England to protect the interests of the King.

The Prince Regent appears to have gained control of the remaining boxes of Queen Charlotte's jewels as used for important State occasions then housed at Buckingham House now Palace.

When George III died, the Prince Regent became King of Great Britain Ireland and Hanover and he could do as he wished with his mother's jewel collection. As a result he must have gained access to his father's trunk of jewels in the Bank of England for he virtually immediately set the Arcot Diamonds into his new Imperial Crown for his impending coronation. On his death his brother, William IV set some of the larger diamonds from the Hanoverian Jewels into a new Crown for his wife Queen Adelaide for use at their coronation.

With the accession of Queen Victoria, under Salic law the two Kingdoms were split, hence the claim by the eldest living son of George III, the Duke of Cumberland now King of Hanover, to reclaim the property of his mother under the codicil in her will from the depredations of his two brothers, George IV and William IV, and return the Hanoverian Jewels to Hanover.

As required by her will and presumably the agreement of Queen Victoria Queen Charlotte's executors sold the Arcot diamonds to benefit her surviving daughters in Mr Willis's Rooms on July 20<sup>th</sup> 1837, some 20 years after her death.

The initial Hanoverian claim was for the contents of all 17 boxes. Importantly the 17 plates describing the contents of each box, as written by Queen Charlotte were seemingly missing clouding an issue that nobody working in the interests of Queen Victoria seemed anxious to explain.

In the event, Bridge could only produce five plates to the enquiry presumably for boxes 1 to 4 plus the pearls in 17 that had come from the Bank of England the rest were missing from the boxes as were the majority of the contents.

Box 15 is of interest to us: The plate was created and engraved in 1804 and this box contained the Queens sapphires housed in a blue morocco box.

John Bridge supplied a list of inscriptions with box numbers which closely agreed with the original notation carefully written down by the executors in 1819. Queen Charlotte's executors, Lord Arden and General Taylor provided extracts from an inventory they had taken after the Queens death in 1819 quoting from the plate then riveted to the Blue morocco box.

*[Box 15 number from Bridge]*

*This box contains a nosegay; a pair of single drop earrings; three rosettes; and a necklace with a cross hanging to it of sixty six collets; and one buckle, all of sapphire and brilliants given me*

*by the King; the middle stone of the largest rosette was bought at the Princess of Wales sale.  
[From Arden and Taylor]*

At the time Arden and Taylor, added this interesting addendum:

*NB The nosegay is broken up, and the brilliants of the cross, excepting five, are taken out*

*The following articles found in a case are supposed to have been formed from the nosegay-*

*Six sapphire honeysuckles, fitting brilliant armlets.*

*Eight sapphire drops, set with brilliants.*

*Two round sapphire and brilliant rosettes.*

*One cross, sapphire paste, set with brilliants.....*

This suggests that since the creation of the box by Queen Charlotte to house the nosegay, a pair of earrings, three rosettes, a necklace with cross and one buckle the contents had been broken up. In their opinion the sapphires from the nosegay had been attached to two armlets containing six of the nosegay honeysuckle flowers. The cross no longer has a necklace which leads me to suggest that some of the stones from the necklace may have been reset into the eight sapphire drops.

George IV was Prince of Wales when he married Caroline of Brunswick on 8<sup>th</sup> April 1795, the marriage was consummated and their daughter Princess Charlotte was born in 1796 at which point his duty done the Prince abandoned his wife. The Princess of Wales was forbidden to see her daughter and banished from court in 1799.

For many years the Stuarts in exile had attempted to retrieve the English dowry of Mary of Modena from the British Government a payment they had repeatedly promised to make. On Napoleon's invasion of Italy the Pope asked the Cardinal Duke of York to support his payment to the French army in 1798 to prevent the sacking of Rome. I suggest that as a result the Cardinal's Pectoral Cross probably containing some of the Stuart sapphires was pawned for 12000 scudi.

This important matter would have been related to Thomas Coutts during his visit to Rome in 1799, as the banker to George III it was probably he that negotiated a settlement in exchange for an annual pension of 4000 pounds to be paid by George III. The *Stuart Sapphire* and possibly the remaining Jacobite sapphires would be returned to England on this payment as Crown property the money would allow the stones from the cross to be redeemed.

The question I cannot answer is if these sapphires in Box 15 were once the property of the Cardinal Duke of York by descent from Queen Henrietta Maria subsequently gifted by George III to his Queen before 1804 having been returned on payment of the pension namely:

*Eight sapphire drops set with brilliants.*

*Two round sapphire and brilliant rosettes*

*One cross, sapphire paste, set with brilliants....*

A cross set with paste sapphires is a most interesting link and an extraordinary piece of possible evidence for this may be the Cardinal's Pectoral Cross known to have been pawned for 12,000 scudi.

Did the Cardinal replace his pawned sapphires in the pectoral cross with paste to maintain his image and status handing over the cross now set with paste with the *Stuart Sapphire* in 1799 in exchange for his pension of 4000 pounds a year the first part of which was paid by Coutts as 2000 pounds a half payment pending delivery?

This possible fraud was only discovered by John Gawler Bridge on his valuation of the late Queen's jewels in 1819 for Queen Charlotte would be unlikely to either have or wear a paste cross.

Was Queen Victoria aware of the possible history of the sapphires in Box 15 and if so did she incorporate them into her *Sapphire and Diamond Coronet*?

The Ruby James II Coronation Ring and the St Andrews Cross were received later by the Prince Regent on the death of the Cardinal in 1807.

The large *Stuart Sapphire* may not have been placed with Queen Charlottes jewels the Prince Regent considering this stone as personal possession. He is believed to have given it to his daughter Charlotte Princess of Wales possibly on the occasion of her marriage to Prince Leopold in 1816 if so on her death in 1819 the sapphire was returned and later incorporated as the centrepiece to the new front of the Crown of State of George I a crown that was remade by the Prince Regent for his coronation on 19 July 1821.

John Hawkins.

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had heard the King say that the Queen considered some of the jewels to be her own, which were not so; and that this question might eventually prove embarrassing to her; but the Princesses say that they conceived His Majesty's observations to apply to the jewels which he early purchased for £50,000, and gave to her, and not to any others. These jewels Her late Majesty has left by her will to the King, and on his demise to the House of Hanover. They have, therefore, at all events reverted to the King; and if they were always his, and not the Queen's property, the second part of the legacy, that to the House of Hanover, would alone be annulled.

Does the claim apply to the whole or any part of the jewels given by the King at subsequent periods to the Queen?

Does it apply to presents made to Her Majesty from other quarters?

Does it apply to those which she purchased for herself?

In the first place, will it not be necessary, towards the establishment of the claim, that proof should be obtained of a reserve in the gift; and would not the gift thus become a loan and not a gift?

In the three cases or either of them, if such a reserve cannot be proved, would not the admission of the claim attach to all property possessed by the Queen, and therefore wholly annul the will?

(Signed) H. TAYLOR.

LORD ANSON and Major-General Taylor present their compliments to the Lord Chancellor, and have the honour to transmit the documents promised to his Lordship, in the former's letter of the 30th ultimo. They beg to observe that the copious extracts made from the Inventory include many more jewels than those specified as having been found by Her Majesty in 1761, but that they have sent them in this shape in further proof of Her late Majesty's accuracy. In order, however, to show distinctly those which may be claimed under that head, as the King's personal property, they have the honour to enclose a list, extracted by Mr. Bridge, specifying all such, and to which he has attached a gross valuation, which he desired might be taken as very loose, but which, small as it may appear, forms a very considerable proportion of the general amount.

The Queen's Palace,

4th January, 1819.

*Contents of the Large Jewel Case.*

|                                                                                                            | £              | s.       | d.       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------|----------|
| The large necklace . . . . .                                                                               | about 11,580   | 0        | 0        |
| The cross to do. . . . .                                                                                   |                |          |          |
| Pair of large three-drop earrings . . . . .                                                                |                |          |          |
| A small rosary, with drop . . . . .                                                                        |                |          |          |
| Two boxes . . . . .                                                                                        |                |          |          |
| Namgay . . . . .                                                                                           | do.            | 2,000    | 0 0      |
| Stomacher . . . . .                                                                                        | do.            | 12,000   | 0 0      |
| Green . . . . .                                                                                            | do.            | 500      | 0 0      |
| Pearl necklace . . . . .                                                                                   |                |          |          |
| Do. ear rings . . . . .                                                                                    | do.            | 2,100    | 0 0      |
| Pair spread brilliant drop ear-rings . . . . .                                                             |                |          |          |
|                                                                                                            |                |          |          |
| None added, having been omitted by Mr. Bridge, and admitted by the Executors to form part of the same lot— | 30,680         | 0        | 0        |
| Two single brilliant drops, valued . . . . .                                                               | 1,500          | 0        | 0        |
|                                                                                                            | <u>£32,380</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> |

*Schedule of Papers sent to the Lord Chancellor.*

Extract from the Inventory of Her late Majesty's jewels.  
 Declaration of the Princess Augusta.  
 Declaration of the Duchess of Gloucester.  
 Declaration of the Princess Sophia.  
 Extract of a Letter from the Duke of York.  
 Declarations of Mrs. and Miss Beckford &c.  
 The Extracts sent by Her late Majesty's Executors; the Declarations collected by Major General Taylor, as one of His Majesty's Trustees.

*Extracts for the Lord Chancellor from the Inventory of Her late Majesty's Jewels.*

A square red morocco jewel case, marked C. R., and inscribed, "This box contains the great brilliant necklace, consisting of twenty-six large stones, a large cross, a pair of large three-drop brilliant ear-rings, two large single drops, two small rosettes of brilliants, with a drop in the middle; a smaller, without a drop; and two brilliant bows; all which I found at my arrival in the year 1761." Also, a pair of brilliant bracelets, a single stone brilliant ring, and a ring, with the King's picture and a diamond over it, given me by the King some years after upon my birthday, the 19th of May. Also, several large brilliants, marked C. R., gift of the Nabob."

A black shagreen case, with a brass plate, marked C. R., and inscribed, "This box contains the great nosegay of diamonds, which I found at my arrival in the year 1761."

A purple velvet case, with a brass plate, marked C. R., and inscribed, "This box contains the great diamond stomacher, which I found at my arrival in the year 1761."

A small black shagreen case, with a small round brass plate, marked C. R., and inscribed, "This box contains the Crown, which I found at my arrival in the year 1761."

A square red morocco case, with a brass plate, marked C. R., and inscribed, "This box contains three bows of rubies and diamonds, a pair of single drop ear-rings, and a necklace with a tassel hanging to it, given me by the King, excepting the middle stone of the necklace, which I bought myself; also two buttons, two buckles, and small rubies feather, set by myself."

N.B. One buckle, the buttons, and four buttons broken up and set into a laurel brooch, with a star in the centre; and six stone brooches.

A yellow morocco box, with brass plate, marked C. R., and inscribed, "This box contains the great pearls which the King calls Family pearls, and were given to me at my arrival in England in 1761; they were by the King's leave, and the recommendation of Mr. Duval, the then King's jeweller, afterwards re-set, and consist of a necklace of forty-one pearls, and a single drop hanging to it, and which I brought from Germany, and which being of a finer colour than those belonging to the set, Mr. Duval strung it to the necklace; a pair of single-drop ear-rings, set round with diamonds; three bows, set round with brilliants, the drops make the centre of the bows."

A blue morocco case, with a brass plate, marked C. R., and inscribed, "This box contains a nosegay; a pair of single-drop earrings; three rosettes; a necklace, with a cross hanging to it, of sixty-six collets; and one buckle, all of sapphires and brilliants, given me by the King; the middle stone of the largest rosette was bought at the Princess of Wales's sale."

N.B. The nosegay is broken up, and the brilliants of the cross, excepting five, are taken out. The following articles found in a case are supposed to have been formed from the nosegay—

Six sapphire banyanuckles, fitting the brilliant anklets.

Eight sapphire drops, set with brilliants.

Two round sapphire and brilliant rosettes.

One cross, sapphire paste, set with brilliants.

The frame of the brilliant ture which has the emerald drops is partly composed of brilliants from the above nosegay.

A green morocco box, with a brass plate, marked C. R., and inscribed, "This box contains three emerald bows, and the middle pieces of the three-drop ear-rings given me by the King; and two small emerald and diamond buckles, set by myself; a necklace of emeralds and diamonds, consisting of forty-five collets, set by myself, with an emerald grape hanging to it, given by Mrs. Hastings."

A small square green morocco box, with a brass plate, marked C. R., and inscribed "This box contains eight emerald and diamond buttons, set by myself; an emerald and diamond cross; a pair of single-drop emerald ear-rings, the tops set round with diamonds bought at the Princess of Wales's sale."

A red morocco box, containing an emerald and diamond ture, consisting of one large emerald shell at top; and several emerald drops in brilliant frames.

N.B. The brilliant frame of this ture, supposed to be partly formed from the nosegay of the sapphire set.

A long red morocco case, brass plate, marked C. R., and inscribed, "These bracelets were given me by the King on my birthday, 19th May, 1804."

A blue enamel snuff-box, set with brilliants, with G. R. and crown in brilliants; inscription, inside the lid, "The gift of the King, on the 19th May, 1804."

A square red morocco case, with brass plate, marked C. R., and inscribed, "This box contains three brilliant buckles, the cypher G., and a brilliant key, given me by the King in the year 1760; the King's picture re-set the same year, which was a present to me from the King on the 19th May, after my arrival in England; one pair of pearl bracelets, with the King's picture, and a diamond rosette, which were sent over to Germany; a pair of single-drop ear-rings, taken out of the great diamond nosegay, two brilliant buckles; a brilliant necklace, and a long row of 180 brilliant collets, strung to a centre piece of five brilliants, which were bought by myself in the year 1784."

N.B. There are three brilliant drops to the necklace.

A small heart-shaped red morocco case, with brass plate, marked C. R., and inscribed, "The whole set of gemme diamonds was bought by myself, excepting the heart with the small drop, which was a gift of the King, on the 19th May, 1797."

A square yellow morocco box, with brass plate, marked C. R., and inscribed, "This box contains three pearl bows, made out of pearls which ornamented several letters from different Nabobs to the King and me."

know), but am unable to say, with certainty, for how long a period previous to their respective deaths.

XIII. To the Thirteenth Interrogatory—I depose as follows, that is to say, I am partner in the firm of Rundell and Bridge. I was first acquainted with the said firm in 1804, when I was first employed therein. The said firm, was as I know, employed (but how or by what means I do not know) as Jewellers and Goldsmiths to their late Majesties George the Third, Her late Majesty Queen Charlotte, King George the Fourth, and King William the Fourth, from the year 1804 until the time of their respective deaths. Philip Rundell and John Bridge, two of the persons who composed the said firm during some parts of the respective lifetime of the said Royal personages, are now deceased; Edmund Waller Rundell, one of the said firm, is still living, but is not now a partner in the said firm; and the present partners composing the firm of Rundell and Bridge, are Thomas Bigge, myself, Thomas Bridge, Robert Bridge, Alfred Charles Bridge, and Charles Richard Bigge. The said Robert Bridge, Alfred Charles Bridge, and Charles Richard Bigge, came into the said firm in or about the year 1834. I came into the said firm in 1818, but I cannot depose, with certainty, as to when the said Thomas Bigge came into the said firm. I have become acquainted with the business of the said partnership, from the time of my coming to London in 1804, by means of my being first employed in the house of business, and afterwards becoming a partner therein as aforesaid; and I have been acquainted with the books and accounts thereof for the time aforesaid, and by the means hereinbefore stated.

XIV. To the Fourteenth Interrogatory—I depose as follows, that is to say, the books and accounts of the said partnership of Rundell and Bridge do contain true and correct entries of the several matters comprised therein, so as to show the transactions of the said partnership with their customers, and the orders received and executed during the time mentioned in my deposition to the last preceding interrogatory. I am enabled, by examining and referring to such books and accounts, to speak to the orders given to, and the execution of such orders by the aforesaid partnership during the periods before mentioned (so far as the said books and accounts contain entries respecting them). I now produce three Order Books, marked respectively G, H, and I; the said books belong to the aforesaid firm, and do respectively relate, amongst other things, to orders received and executed from time to time by the said firm. The said several produced books are now brought by me from the said house on Ludgate Hill, where they are usually kept in our custody.

XV. To the Fifteenth Interrogatory—I depose as follows, that is to say, I have looked at the several entries marked respectively K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, and contained in the books now produced and shown to me. The whole of the said several entries are in the handwriting of John Bridge, my late uncle, and now deceased, and with whose character or manner of handwriting I am well acquainted, having frequently seen him write. He, the said John Bridge, was a managing partner in the said firm during the dates and times of such respective entries.

XVI. To the Sixteenth Interrogatory—I depose as follows, that is to say, I do know some of the jewels which Her said late Majesty Queen Charlotte had in her possession and use, and under her control. I have looked upon the list of jewels now produced and shown to me, marked Z, and I am enabled to depose that Her late Majesty Queen Charlotte had the use of jewels in addition to or besides those in the said list, but I am unable to specify such additional jewels. I believe that all the jewels mentioned in the said produced list, as well as the said other jewels, were in Her Majesty's possession, and under her control at the time of her death.

XVII. To the Seventeenth Interrogatory—I depose as follows, that is to say, I cannot depose, from my own knowledge, in what boxes the jewels particularised in the said produced list, marked B, or the said other jewels of which Her said late Majesty had the use, as deposed in my answer to the last preceding interrogatory, were kept during the lifetime of Her said late Majesty. I have looked at the several boxes now produced and shown to me, and marked respectively A 1, A 2, A 3, A 4. I found the said jewels comprised in the said produced list, marked Z, in the said boxes or cases at the time of the accession of His said late Majesty King William the Fourth. Three of the said produced boxes or cases are adapted to the shape of the settings in which many of the said jewels were at that time set; one of such boxes is adapted to a stomacher; another of the said boxes is adapted to a small crown; and a third of the said boxes to a nosegay. From all these cir-

entrustees, as well as from the entries made by my said late uncle (as mentioned in my deposition to the fifteenth preceding interrogatory), or some of them, I believe the jewels comprised in the said list were kept by Her late Majesty Queen Charlotte in the same produced boxes or cases.

XVIII. To the Eighteenth Interrogatory—I depose as follows, that is to say, plates, with the inscriptions now appearing upon them, were, as I believe, rivetted upon the said produced boxes marked A 1, A 2, A 3, and A 4, and which said plates were respectively made under the direction of the said firm of Russell and Bridge, and that the same, together with thirteen other plates, were ordered by Her said late Majesty Queen Charlotte; and I am enabled so to depose from seeing entries with reference thereto in the said produced Order Book marked G, in the handwriting of my said late uncle. Further to this interrogatory I cannot depose.

XIX. To the Nineteenth Interrogatory—I depose as follows, that is to say, I have looked upon the five plates now produced and shown to me, marked respectively A 5, A 6, A 7, A 8, and A 9. I believe that the said several plates do refer to some of the jewels mentioned in my answer to the sixteenth interrogatory, except those jewels comprised in the said produced list marked Z. Further to this interrogatory I cannot depose.

XX. To the Twentieth Interrogatory—I depose as follows, that is to say, I believe that such several plates as are mentioned in my deposition to the eighteenth preceding interrogatory, and which are not now on the boxes or cases to which they were formerly rivetted, were separated from the respective boxes soon after the decease of Her late Majesty Queen Charlotte. I am unable to depose as to what became of the said plates, other than the said five produced plates mentioned in my deposition to the last preceding interrogatory. After the said five plates were so separated, I believe such plates were kept at Russell and Bridge's until some time after the decease of His late Majesty William the Fourth, and they were found by me, after my late uncle John Bridge's death, when they were respectively delivered to the Defendant, Sir Henry Wheatley, as I believe, on or about the 1st of June, 1838.

XXI. To the Twenty-first Interrogatory—I depose as follows, that is to say, I do not know where the said plates mentioned in my answer to the eighteenth preceding interrogatory, other than those now on the boxes mentioned in my answer to the seventeenth preceding interrogatory, or the said plates in the nineteenth interrogatory mentioned, now are. Search and enquiry was made for them at Russell and Bridge's soon after the decease of His late Majesty William the Fourth, but they were not, and have not, been found, and I do not know what is become of them.

XXII. To the Twenty-second Interrogatory—I depose, that I do not know what were the inscriptions on the plates mentioned in the eighteenth interrogatory, other than four or five plates mentioned in the said eighteenth or nineteenth interrogatories; but I believe from the entry of the 7th of June, 1804, made in the Order Book marked G, by my late uncle, that all the inscriptions were engraved upon all the plates from papers received from Queen Charlotte. I have looked upon the paper marked X, and the words enclosed therein, "Her Majesty's order for engraving the jewel cases," these words are in the handwriting of my said late uncle John Bridge. I believe the jewels particularised in the list marked Z, now shown to me, and other jewels (but I cannot say what others) which had been in the possession and under the control of Her late Majesty Queen Charlotte, were retained by His Majesty George the Fourth, then Prince Regent, after the death of Queen Charlotte; and that the said jewels particularised in the said list marked Z, were chiefly, if not entirely, kept in the said boxes marked A 1, A 2, A 3, A 4. I believe those in the list called the Grand Brilliant Bandeau, or the greater part thereof, constituted at that time a brilliant stomacher, and were kept in the said box marked A 1; those in the said list called the Small Brilliant Crown worn by Queen Charlotte, were kept in the said box marked A 2; those in the said list called the Great Nosegay, were kept in the box marked A 4. The inscriptions on the plates of the said boxes were the same as they now appear to be.

XXIV. To the Twenty-fourth Interrogatory—I depose, that the book marked B 1, now produced and shown to me, is a ledger belonging to the firm of Russell and Bridge, and contains entries of charges made by the said firm for work done and goods delivered by them to their customers, and of payments received by them in respect of such goods and work, commencing in the year 1803. The entry marked A b in the said book marked B 1, now produced and shown to me, is in the

handwriting of a person of the name of Walker, long since dead, who was a clerk in the employ of the said firm of Randell and Bridge. I have seen him often write. It was part of his duty to post the charges made against the customers in the ledger. The said entry marked A a, contains a charge made on the 11th of June, 1804, against Her late Majesty Queen Charlotte, of £8. 18s. 6d., for Seventeen Brass Plates, gilt, for Cases of Jewel Cases, with very long inscriptions on same.

XXV. To the Twenty-fifth Interrogatory—I depose, that the book marked B 2, now produced and shown to me, is another ledger belonging to the said firm of Randell and Bridge, and contains entries of charges made by the said firm for work done and goods delivered by them to their customers, and also of payments made to them in respect of such charges, commencing in the year 1804. The entry marked A b in the said book marked B 2, now produced to me, is in the handwriting of William Mott, now deceased, formerly a clerk in the employ of the said firm of Randell and Bridge. I have seen him write often. It was part of his duty to post the payments made to the said firm in the ledger. It appears, from the said entry, that on the 12th of January, 1818, the balance of the account due to them, the said Messrs. Randell and Bridge, from Her late Majesty Queen Charlotte, was paid to them. The charge in the entry is the twenty-fourth interrogatory mentioned, formed on item of that amount.

J. G. BRIDGE.

I, FREDERICK HENRY LINDSAY, Chief Clerk to the Commander-in-Chief, aged 52 Years, depose as follows.

*Sworn, 19th May, 1841.*

XXVII. To the Twenty-seventh Interrogatory—I depose as follows, that is to say, I have looked upon the paper writing now produced and shown to me at this the time of my examination, and marked with the letter F. The whole body and contents of the said produced paper writing, and the signature thereto, is of the proper handwriting of His late Royal Highness Frederick Duke of York, with whose character and manner of handwriting I am well acquainted, having frequently seen him write and sign his name.

F. H. LINDSAY.

*Copies of Exhibits referred to in the Depositions of the Defendants' Witnesses.*

X.

Her Majesty's Orders for engraving the Jewel Cases. Received from Mr. Bridge, at the Queen's Palace, on the 7th January, 1819.

Nos. 1 to 17 INCLUSIVE.—INSCRIPTIONS ON THE JEWEL CASES.

1. This box contains the great diamond necklace, consisting of twenty-six large stones, a large cross, a pair of three-dropped ear-rings, and two large sized drops, two brilliant bows, all which I found at my arrival, in the year 1761. Also, a pair of brilliant bracelets; a single stone brilliant ring; the King's picture, with a diamond over it, given me by the King some years after, upon my Birthday, the 19th of May. Also, seven large brilliants, marked with C. R., gift of the Nabob to me. One small rosette of brilliants, with a drop in the middle; and a smaller, without a drop.

2. The cross which I found at my arrival in the year 1761.

3. This box contains the great diamond stomacher which I found at my arrival in the year 1761.

C. R.

4. This box contains three diamond buckles, the cypher G, and a diamond key, given me by the King in the year 1769. The King's picture, re-set the same year, which was a present of the King's, on the 19th May, after my arrival in England. A pair of pearl bracelets, with the King's picture, and a diamond rosette, which were sent over to Germany. A pair of single-dropped ear-rings, taken out of the great diamond nosegay; two diamond buckles; a diamond necklace; a long row of diamonds; 180 brilliant collars; and a couple of five brilliants, which were bought by myself, in the year 1769.

C. R.

5. This whole set of picture diamonds were bought by myself, excepting the heart with the small drop, which was a gift of the King's, on the 19th of May, 1787.

C. R.

6. These bracelets were given me by the King on my birthday, 19th of May, 1801.

7. This box contains eight emerald and diamond buttons, set by myself; an emerald and diamond cross; a pair of single dropped emerald ear-rings, the top set round with diamonds bought at the Princess of Wales's sale.

8. This contains the great canopy of diamonds which I found at my arrival in the year 1794.

9. This box contains eight buttons, of amethysts and brilliants, given me by the King. The single dropped ear-rings, rosaries, of one stone and drop, were bought by myself; as also the Grecian ornament for the head.

10. This box contains three bows of ruby and diamonds, a pair of single dropped ear-rings; and a necklace, with a tassel hanging to it, given me by the King, excepting the middle stone of the necklace, which I bought myself. Also, nine buttons; two buckles; and a small Salvia leather, set by myself.

11. This box contains three emerald bows, and the two middle pieces of the three-dropped ear-rings given me by the King; and two small emerald and diamond buckles, set by myself; a necklace, of emeralds and diamonds, consisting of 45 collets, set by myself, with an emerald grape hanging to it, given me by Mrs. Hastings.

12. This emerald tiera is made out of the three-dropped ear-rings which belong to the emerald set. The shell-drop was left me as a legacy, by one of the Nabob's wives; the larger drop under that was bought by myself, and the two small diamond drops likewise; the two buttons are the top of the three-dropped ear-rings. The collets are all bought by myself, which form the frame and ends of the tiera.

13. This box contains a tiera; a necklace; a pair of single dropped ear-rings; three brooches, of ruby balais, set with diamonds; and six loose single stones, given me by the King.

14. This box contains three pearl bows, made out of pearls which ornamented several letters from different Nabobs to the King and me.

15. This box contains a nosegay; a pair of single dropped ear-rings; three rosaries; and a necklace, with a cross hanging to it, consisting of 66 collets, of sapphires and brilliants, given me by the King. The middle stone of the larger rosaries was bought at the Princess of Wales's sale. One buckle.

16. This ornament was given to the King by the Grand Seignior and His Majesty, after wearing it once, made me a present of it, on my birthday, the 19th of January.

17. This box contains the great pearls, which the King called Family Pearls, and were given me at my arrival in England, 1761. They were, by the King's leave, and the recommendation of Mr. Dural, the then King's jeweller, afterwards re-set, and consist of—

A necklace, consisting of 44 pearls, and a single drop I brought from Germany, and, being a fine colour than those belonging to the set, Mr. Dural wrong it to the necklace.

A pair of single dropped ear-rings, set round with diamonds; three bows, set with brilliants: the drops make the centre of the bows hanging to it.

Copies of the Exhibits, A, B, C, D, E, and F, are annexed to the Depositions, on cross examination of the Complainant's witnesses.

Y.

My dear Lord,

Queen's House, 10th December, 1818.

UPON the examination which it has been the duty of General Taylor and myself to make of the jewels belonging to Her Majesty, since we had the honor of seeing your Lordship yesterday, we flatter ourselves that the exact and correct manner in which Her Majesty kept the several articles distinct, may throw so much light upon the subject, as may, perhaps, preclude the necessity of any formal affidavits.

The boxes which contain those of greatest value have brass plates upon them, with inscriptions engraved thereon, descriptive of the contents, denoting the manner and time in which they came into Her Majesty's possession; and we are informed by Mrs. Beckedorff of the anxiety with which Her Majesty always returned them to their proper boxes, and kept them so distinguished.

We propose, the beginning of next week, to furnish your Lordship with extracts from the inventory now making of the jewels, in which your Lordship shall have copies of these inscriptions, and, in the meantime, General Taylor will endeavour to collect from the Princesses, from the Duke of York, and from Mrs. Beckedorff and her daughter, who have had frequent opportunities of hearing Her Majesty speak upon the subject, all the information that they can furnish towards clearing up the doubts which have been entertained respecting this valuable property, and it shall be communicated to your Lordship at the same time.

I have the honor, &amp;c.

(Signed)

ARDEN-  
R.

The Lord Chancellor.



105A

Pt I

<sup>2</sup>  
*Wanmerian  
Crown Claims.*

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C

*Copy.*

*CASE submitted for  
the joint Opinion and  
Advice of Sir Charles  
Wetherell, Mr. Pemberton  
and Sir William Pollitt.*

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*The Attorney - General.*

*For the purpose of  
the case for the 1st of*

*Sole*

*Treasurer*

*Copies of Papers and Correspondence and Statement  
for the notice of Germany in relation to certain Church in the possession  
of the British Crown which are claimed by The Crown of  
Hanover.*

*Upon* the death of His late most Excellent Majesty King William the —  
Double information was given, verbally as we believe, to His Majesty's Executors and  
also to some of the Officers of the Royal Household that a large portion of the  
Royal Church in the possession of His Majesty at the time of his death belonged  
to the Crown of Hanover, and not to the British Crown — but nothing more was  
done in relation to the claim before His Royal Highness The Duke of Cumberland  
now King of Hanover left England to assume the Sovereignty which had devolved  
upon him.

*Some* short time after King George's departure from this Country, The Lord  
Chancellor signified through Lord Robinson to the Hanoverian Privy Councillor of  
Legation at Londonburg (there being no Ambassador or resident Minister in this  
Country) that it would conduce to a satisfactory settlement of the question —  
— regarding the Crown Church of His Majesty would appoint some person resident in  
— — — of this Country to act on behalf of the Crown of Hanover.

*The* Majesty thus invited was graciously pleased to name Mr. Pankhurst.  
His solicitor when thereupon received for his instructions the following narrative of  
Baron Comptou who came for many years and till the death of His late Majesty  
the Hanoverian Minister in this Country —

*Memorandum*

*After* the separation of the two Crowns of Great Britain and of Hanover, the  
latter appears to have a twofold claim on the former respecting certain Crown funds.  
The different features of this double claim are stated as follows.

*Proceeding* to the Records of the Cabinet at Hanover, the Hanoverian Crown  
Records in the course of the last century, and by Order of His Majesty George 2<sup>d</sup> were  
packed up and sent off to England. They were specified and described in a detailed  
List, which List must exist in the Papers kept here at Hanover. A copy of it was  
transmitted to me when I held my official situation at the Hanoverian Embassy  
in London and since that time it has been my constant endeavor to have the fate  
of the above mentioned Church.

It was proper I applied to His late Majesty and some of the other Members of the Royal Family residing in London, yet to all of them even the transmission of the Hanoverian Crown Jewels to England were wholly unknown.

By way of this late Majesty I then made inquiries at the Royal King's Place in London where the Lists of the Crown Jewels are kept, and where the situation of a Room was held by a Clerk, late deceased whose Father had held the same Post at that Office he has consequently therefore during a period of from 20 to 25 years, that even here no information whatever could be obtained.

Equally unsuccessful were my inquiries of Secretaries, who belonged to the attendance of His late Majesty King George the 4<sup>th</sup> and who enjoyed that character of special confidence.

Finally I made inquiries at the British Court Jeweller Messrs. Howard & Budge as these persons for a number of years not only had been engaged with the setting and resetting of the Royal Jewels, but also often had heard the keeping of them for considerable periods.

But all these inquiries have not produced the least result and it is therefore to be presumed that in the course of time at the frequent resetting of the Royal Jewels the Hanoverian Crown Jewels have been mixed up with the British in such a manner that a separation of the two seems hardly possible any longer.

Under these circumstances the only way which remains open appears to me to be demand from the British Government for the Hanoverian Crown Jewels on Indemnity in making the amount of which might be fixed by a compromise in as far as the transmission of these Jewels from Hanover to England can be proved by authentic evidence.

## 2.

Another claim on Jewels which are now in the hands of the British Government originates in the following circumstances.

The day before the King left London for the Continent, His Majesty was informed through a private but unquestionable Channel, that a bequest existed, which had been made by the late Queen Charlotte the Queen of Geo. 3<sup>rd</sup> a short time before her death. A sign of it was a pressure in the hands of Her late Majesty.

According to this bequest made in due form and before 3 Witnesses, Queen Charlotte directed that certain Jewels which had been bought for the sum of £50,000 and of which her Royal Consort had made present to her the Queen, in case Queen Charlotte should survive the King her Husband or the latter should continue after the prior death of the Queen in the same deplorable state of mind until to His death, should go to the Queen of Hanover as a perpetual legacy & Her Son (Prince George) -

His Majesty the King after having received this information commanded me to go immediately to Windsor in order to make in the proper quarters the necessary inquiries respecting this matter, and the jewels designated therein - These enquiries led to the following result -

After the demise of Queen Charlotte which took place shortly after she had made this bequest and after the demise of King George III. the bequest named by Will amongst whom were General Bouverton Sir Robert Boyle and the Royal Physician the Honry. Knephart assigned these jewels to George IV. from whom they came into the possession of William IV. -

In the year 1830 consequently in the year of the accession of William IV. doubts had arisen whether George IV. had the power fully to dispose of the said Jewels for the benefit of His bequest and whether the latter had equally the power to dispose of them for the benefit of The Baron of Bunsow, as it was pretended that these Jewels had been bought not with money of the Royal Privy Purse but by the Treasury with the Public money -

The point in question with the papers relating to it were then referred to the present Lord Lyndhurst in order to have the opinion of a Lawyer of such high authority - But this opinion as far as I know, has never been given, and the papers are still in his hands since that time -

According to a verbal tradition however Lord Lyndhurst in 1837 is said to have expressed the opinion, that George IV. and His Queen were fully entitled to dispose of the said Jewels as their personal property -

When I was at Windsor a week after the demise of Will. King William IV. the jewels in question were in a locked iron box kept as usual in the safe things. But seeing it was ready to be delivered up as soon as the present Government should have appointed Commissioners for that purpose -

The Jewels themselves are with other Royal Jewels part of which are the property of Queen Adelaide united into a set, which the King's Majesty used to wear on grand solemn occasions. But there exists a complete list of the Queen's Jewels in which each Article is minutely described, some of these Jewels are said to form the principal ornament of the above mentioned set -

Thus was the position of affairs when I left London. In consequence of the preliminary steps which I understand have since taken place with respect to it, the question concerning the Queen's Jewels, it seems to be to be examined & decided by a Judicial proceeding - Whether there has claimed of The Baron of Bunsow, as represented in the present circumstances - in order to propose & bring about a compromise ought to be connected either now or at a subsequent stage of the proceedings. I have to express reasons to decide -

Doneen 19. October 1837.

Alfred L. v. Dufrenoy



Plate 11. Princess Charlotte Augusta of Wales, a stipple engraving published 1816 after Sir George Hayter. The princess is wearing the large Stuart sapphire as a diamond set pendant on the front of her dress.



Plate 12. Charlotte Princess of Wales by Sir George Hayter, 1817, miniature in watercolour. The Royal Collection RCIN 421863. The princess is wearing the three drop pearls from the cross pattée of the Grisoni image.



Plate 12a. Detail of one of the pearls in a tiara.



Plate 12b. Detail the other two pearls.



Plate13. Charlotte Princess of Wales Miniature on enamel by Joseph Lee circa 1817. The Royal Collection RCIN 420200. The Princess is wearing the Black Princes Ruby and the Edward the Confessor sapphire in her tiara? from the George I Crown, as portrayed in the Grisoni image of 1718, proving that the Prince Regent had stripped this ancient crown of its principal stones to include the three drop pearls as probably a wedding gift to his daughter. They were returned to the crown on her death.



Plate 13a. Detail of the tiara with the two principal stones from the George I 1715 crown illustrated by Grisoni in 1718.



Plate 13b. Detail of the large Stuart sapphire a gift from the Prince Regent to his daughter in 1816.