

The City of Edinburgh Council jewellery – The Rosebery Jewel

**The Rosebery Pendant, worn by Edinburgh's
Lady Provost, has little known royal
connections.**

Prince Albert presented a similar piece to Queen Victoria on their wedding day. The gift, which became a Royal heirloom, remained one of The Queen's most prized possessions throughout her life and copies were created for all of their daughters. Queen Victoria herself described the gift as a 'splendid brooch, a large sapphire set round with diamonds, which is really quite beautiful'. On the wedding day itself she recorded that she wore 'dear Albert's beautiful sapphire brooch' with her Turkish diamonds, given her in 1838 by Sultan Mahmud of Turkey and made into a necklace and earrings the following year by Rundells.

It is unclear where Prince Albert purchased the gift for his bride, however, it is agreed it was probably at one of London's most esteemed jewellers of the time such as Kitching & Abud or Mortimer & Hunt. Prince Albert was a significant customer there during the early years of the marriage.



The design of the piece reflected the simplicity of the early nineteenth-century jewellery design and gained a lot of attention.

Further copies were made by nobility of the time, including by the Rosebery family, hence the Rosebery Jewel.

The necklace, worn by the Lady Provost on evening occasions similarly consists of a very large sapphire surrounded by diamonds from which is suspended a pearl drop.



The pendant was gifted to the City on in 1956, by the Earl of Rosebery, Lord Lieutenant of the County of Midlothian. It was reported in the Edinburgh Evening News on 23 November 1956 that it gave Lord Rosebery 'particular pleasure' to hand over the jewel to his friend, Sir John Banks who was then the Rt Hon Lord Provost. Lord Rosebery explained his father had bought the jewel in Ceylon and gave it to his wife who passed it on to Lord Rosebery's elder sister Lady Sybil Grant, who in turn

bequeathed it to him in her will.

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ROSEBERY TREASURE IS GIFTED TO THE CITY

A lustrous symbol of Edinburgh's long and cherished associations with the famous House of Rosebery was added to the treasured possessions of Edinburgh Corporation to-day when a beautiful sapphire and diamond pendant was presented to the safe-keeping of Lord Provost Sir John G. Banks at a ceremony in the City Chambers.

The pendant belonged to the mother of the present Earl of Rosebery, who is Lord Lieutenant of the County of Midlothian and has become a civic possession through a generous and warm-hearted bequest by Lord Rosebery's elder sister, the late Lady Sybil Grant.

It is a piece of jewellery of very high intrinsic value, but as indicated by Lord Provost Sir John Banks at the presentation, it will be treasured even more for its significance as a token of Edinburgh's deep feeling of friendship and affection for Lord Rosebery's family.

The Lord Provost was accompanied by the Lady Provost and Sir John Storrar, the Town Clerk, at the presentation.

Lord Rosebery, in making the presentation, said that this was for him a very pleasing, but very solemn occasion, because the jewel came from his sister, Lady Sybil Grant, who died comparatively recently.

FOR LADY PROVOSTS

Lord Rosebery then recounted how the pendant with its large sapphire surrounded by diamonds, was bought many years ago when his father and mother were travelling in India and Ceylon.

"My father bought the jewel in Ceylon and gave it to my mother," he explained, "and some time after my mother's death my father gave it to my elder sister, Lady Sybil Grant."

"My elder sister, in her will, bequeathed the jewel to my remain-

ing sister the Marchioness of Crewe for her lifetime and instructed that it should then go to the Corporation of Edinburgh to be worn by the Lady Provosts of the day.

"Lady Crewe, however, said she would like to give up her interest in this jewel, and she has asked me to give it to you, my Lord Provost, on behalf really of herself and Lady Sybil Grant."

The Earl of Rosebery then recalled that Lady Sybil Grant was married to General Sir Charles Grant, a former G.O.C. in Scotland.

"She and all our family," he went on, "have always been honoured and proud of our associations with the City of Edinburgh."

LASTING FRIENDSHIP

Lord Rosebery also spoke of the particular pleasure it gave him to hand over the jewel in Lord Provost Sir John Banks' term of office—a term, he said, "in which we have worked so well together in so many things." He hoped that Lady Banks would herself enjoy wearing the jewel.

Lord Provost Sir John Banks expressed on behalf of the city very deep appreciation of the generous gesture by the Marchioness of Crewe.

"This beautiful jewel," he said, "will always be a reminder of the close and lasting friendship between the Corporation and your family—if tangible token is needed, at all necessary."

The Edinburgh Evening News from 1956