

## ROYAL OPERA NIGHT

The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, provides the sumptuous setting for one of the most brilliant of the Coronation festivities. Queen Salote of Tonga is among the many distinguished guests who attend the first night of a new British opera. Also present is Mr. Attlee. Many who journeyed far to attend the Coronation add further colour and sparkle to this royal evening.

Here's Lord Woolton. Among the Commonwealth visitors are Mr. St. Laurent, the Prime Minister of Canada - and Mr. Holland, the New Zealand Premier. From Australia, comes Mr. Menzies.

Mr. Nehru, the Prime Minister of India.

Field Marshal Earl Alexander is another guest.

Sir David Maxwell Fyfe is present; so is Mr. David Eccles, who has been honoured with a knighthood. Now Crown Prince Olaf of Norway and the Crown Princess arrive.

The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester are greeted by Lord Waverley, chairman of the Opera House.

The Duchess of Kent and the Princess Royal.

Twenty-three members of the Royal family are guests at the opera; among them the Earl and Countess of Athlone. Now Princess Marie Louise enters the Royal Opera House.

The Countess of Harewood, who wears a floral evening gown, is accompanied by her husband the Earl.

Lady Mountbatten attends with her daughter Pamela.

Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, and Princess Margaret are escorted into the foyer by Lord Waverley. The Queen Mother wears a gown of white tulle and the ribbon and star of the Garter. Princess Margaret has chosen a pale blue gown with an ermine cape.

Her Majesty the Queen arrives, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh who wears Court evening dress including the jewelled Garter. The Queen is dressed in a white silk full skirted evening gown. Like the Queen Mother she wears the ribbon of the

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Garter. The Queen's presence is a great honour for the Opera House, for it is more than two hundred years since a reigning monarch attended a first performance at Covent Garden.

Decorating the front of the royal box are three thousand roses. A fabric of pure gold thread lines the inside of the box. As the Queen and the Royal party enter, trumpeters of the Household Cavalry sound a fanfare: