Sample Annotated Bibliography
(Please note that not every entry here has annotation. On your bibliography, every entry must be annotated.)


Bogdanor’s work is the first really since Maitland to truly analyze the political role of the monarch in Britain and what powers still remain with the monarch. Bogdanor highlights the current Queen’s role in asking a particular MP to form a government prior to the reforms in the party system. Bogdanor also argues that much of the current apolitical climate was not so much evolution but was rather born out of the abdication crisis of Edward VIII. George V, unschooled to be kind, was handed Maitland’s work as primer and took Maitland’s assertions to heart, though they were an argument more for what Maitland wanted of the monarchy rather than what actually was.


Consideration of monarchy in OT & NT, as well as the idea of sacred kingship in Middle Ages. Discussion of the reality of Prince Charles’ comments on the coronation oath.


Cannadine’s argument is that traditions or cultural symbolism became important as a way to neutralize the political role of the monarchy in the face of the rising importance of the people.

p.116: He comments only national funerals connected with the public were not royal B but he misses the reactions to Wellington’s funeral. His argument that ceremony was not part of the monarchy’s role prior to the 19th century and that these were invented occasions (like the Queen dowagers funerals) shows a limited understanding of Tudor ceremony at the very least.

This invention business only works if you take a very broad view. In the details, the argument breaks down. With cultural history, one must begin with the details – not the theory. We must remember our Geertz. Instead of the invention of tradition, it is more about changing the meanings of ceremony. Ceremony has always had a constructed element to it – religious symbolism, pageantry of the Tudors, etc. Now the meaning changes as the political climate changes. The question rather is what new role of cultural symbol does in fact emerge. Does political power eliminate symbolism? No.


Historiographical review of Roy Strong’s *Cult of Elizabeth: Elizabethan Portraiture and Pageantry* (1977,99); Andrienne Munch’s *Queen Victoria’s Secrets* (1996); Thomas N.Corns, ed. *The Royal Image*.

Reminds of the necessity to include both a consideration of the media and psychoanalytical considerations & deliberate political constructions.


Homans, Margaret. “‘To the Queen’s Private Apartments’: Royal Family Portraiture and the Construction of Victoria’s Sovereign Obedience,” Victorian Studies 37, no. 1 (1993): 1-41.


Lant examines the various ceremonies of Victoria’s early reign but does not include her funeral. Her coronation ceremony was fraught with miscommunications and errors – particularly concerning what to do with the orb. He also discusses the problems of a lack of continuity in the protocol office.


Speech given the Mendicott Lecture at the Historical Association April 2002. Pimlott, author of a biography of the Queen, argues effectively that “royalty” as an idea has been neglected by the historical community because it makes them uncomfortable. Comparison of furor over Diana’s death to that over the Princess Charlotte’s in childbirth. References to royal touch and the significance of the anointing at the coronation, but not in depth study. Only barely mentions the body politic connection.


This book is a consideration of the charitable works of the monarchs and the royal family since the era of George III. The Prince of Wales’ trust is examined thoroughly, as is the wartime work of George V & Queen Mary. He combats the idea that Diana was the first to reach out to the lower classes. He does criticize some younger (at the time of the writing—Charles is now over 60) members of the royal family, but particularly praises the Princess Royal.