

The Coronation, 2nd June 1953

by Henry Farrar



At the time of the Coronation I was working as a projectionist at the Rialto cinema in Coventry Street in the West End of London.

The cinema was owned by Sir Alexander Korder, a film producer who also owned London Films with offices at 144/146 Piccadilly.

An agreement was made between London Films and Theatre Tickets & Messengers Ltd. to build a stand in front of the Piccadilly offices which would be used to see the Coronation.

London Films held a lottery amongst the staff, and the winners received free seats in the stand on Coronation day. I was fortunate to be one of the winners.

NEW ERA STAND, 144/146, Piccadilly, W.1

THEATRE TICKETS & MESSENGERS, LTD.
in association with
ASHTON & MITCHELL, Ltd.

**Coronation
Procession**

of Her Majesty

Queen Elizabeth II

and His Royal Highness

The Duke of Edinburgh

TUESDAY, JUNE 2nd, 1953

ADMIT ONE TO

Row D

SEAT No. 21

This Ticket is issued Subject to the Terms and Conditions printed on the back
TO BE RETAINED

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Top: *Rialto cinema*

Left: *Winning ticket*

Below: *The stand in Piccadilly
(opposite Wellington Monument)*





Above: decorations in the Mall.



Above Right: Statue of the Queen riding a horse at the centre front of Selfridges store in Oxford Street.

Right: Selfridges store decorated for the Coronation.





It was a long wait. But finally the advanced guards marched or rode passed.





Next came the carriages of the nobility, then foreign heads of state and royalty. Finally the Queen arrived in a golden carriage, and was greeted by deafening cheers.



It all happened seventy years ago, and certainly was a day to remember. My overall impression was of the large number people who lined the streets in pouring rain to watch, cheer and clap as the parade took place. Many had spent one or more nights sleeping on the pavement in order to have a prime position