



SUPPLEMENT
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INVESTITURE OF HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF SAXONY WITH
THE ENSIGNS AND HABIT OF THE MOST NOBLE ORDER OF THE GARTER.

Dresden, February 10, 1882.

THE QUEEN, Sovereign of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, having been pleased by a Commission under Her Majesty's Sign Manual and the Great Seal of the Order, to constitute and appoint The Right Honourable Alexander William George, Earl of Fife, Viscount Macduff, Baron Braco and Skene, Knight of the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle, one of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, Lord Lieutenant of the County of Elgin, and Sir Albert William Woods, Knight, Garter Principal King of Arms, to be Her Majesty's Plenipotentiaries for investing His Majesty Albert, King of Saxony, with the Ensigns and Habit of that Most Noble Order, they proceeded to this City, and arrived with their respective Suites on the 4th instant at midnight.

On Monday, the 6th instant, the Earl of Fife was honoured with an audience of His Majesty at the Royal Palace, at which Garter and the members of the respective Suites were severally presented. Subsequently the Earl of Fife was honoured with an audience of Her Majesty the Queen. The King afterwards gave a dinner, at which the Plenipotentiaries and their respective Suites were present.

The requisite arrangements for the Investiture having been made, His Majesty was pleased to appoint Tuesday, the 7th instant, for the ceremony.

At one o'clock in the afternoon of that day the several persons appointed to take part in the Investiture assembled at the residence of the Earl of Fife, and, on the arrival of Herr von Miltitz, Master of the Ceremonies to the King of Saxony, they proceeded to the Royal Palace in the following order:—

A Royal Carriage conveying two of the Gentlemen appointed to carry the Insignia.

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Two Grooms of the Royal Household, in State Liveries, on horse-back.

A Royal State Carriage conveying Her Majesty's Plenipotentiaries accompanied by Herr-von Miltitz.

On entering the Great Court of the Palace, the Mission was received by a Guard of Honour of Grenadiers, presenting arms, and, upon alighting from the carriages, a Procession was formed in the following order, viz. :—

Captain Seymour Wynne-Finch, Royal Horse Guards, carrying the Hat and Feathers and Star.

Lieutenant-Colonel Lord Algernon Gordon-Lennox, Grenadier Guards, carrying the Collar of the Order.

General Sir Alfred Hastings Horsford, G.C.B., wearing the Collar of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, carrying the Sword.

George Edward Cokayne, Esq., Lancaster Herald, in his Tabard and Collar of S.S., bearing the Garter, with the Riband and George.

Edward Bellasis, Esq., Bluemantle Pursuivant of Arms, Secretary to the Garter Mission, in his Tabard, carrying the Sovereign's Commission, and the Book of the Statutes.

The Honourable Francis Bertie, Secretary to the Special Mission, carrying the Mantle of the Order.

Sir Albert William Woods, Knt., Garter Principal King of Arms, in his Mantle, Chain, and Badge, carrying his Sceptre, and bearing the Sovereign's Letters of Credence.

The Right Honourable the Earl of Fife, K.T., Her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, wearing the Collar of the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle.

The Procession ascended the Grand Staircase, and was conducted by twelve of the King's Chamberlains, two Aides-de-Camp of His Majesty, and two Grooms, to the head of the Staircase, where it was received by the Grand Chamberlain, Herr von Gersdorf, and conducted to the Great Corridor, which was lined by a Guard of Honour of the Garde-Reiter Regiment.

The Mission then passed through the Ante-Chamber to the First Parade Room, and thence to the Tower Room, which was lined by another detachment of the Garde-Reiter Regiment, together with its Band and Trumpeters. Here the detachment presented arms with three flourishes of trumpets, the band playing, and on arrival at the Banqueting Room it was received by Freiherr von Könneritz, the Grand Marshal of the Court. The Procession now halted while the Grand Marshal announced its arrival to the King. On his Excellency's return the Mission entered the Throne Room and advancing into the Royal presence with due reverences, was received by His Majesty standing. The King had on his right hand His Royal Highness Prince George, and on his left His Royal Highness Prince Frederick Augustus, and was surrounded by the Ministers of State and Great Officers of His Majesty's Court.

Those of the Mission who bore the Insignia formed a semi-circle behind the Plenipotentiaries.

The Earl of Fife then made an Address to His Majesty declaratory of the object of the Mission, to which the King graciously replied, expressing his gratification at his admission into the Order.

Garter then delivered to the Earl the Sovereign's Letters of Credence, which his Lordship presented to the King, who handed them to General von Fabrice, Minister of War and Foreign Affairs.

The Statutes of the Order were then in like manner presented, and afterwards the Commission, both of which were delivered to Herr von Nostitz-Wallwitz, Minister of the Interior and of the Royal Household, who read the latter, and subsequently returned it to Garter.

In like manner the Garter was presented, The Earl of Fife buckling the same around His Majesty's left leg, while Garter King of Arms read the Admonition.

The King was next invested with the Riband and George appendant, Garter reading the Admonition.

His Majesty then delivered his Sword, which Garter received and retained as an ancient fee appertaining to his office; after which the King was invested with the Sword of the Order.

His Majesty being divested of the Riband and George (which was handed to Herr von Lüttichau, Grand Master of the Wardrobe), Garter presented to The Earl of Fife the Mantle, with which His Majesty was invested by the Plenipotentiaries, who subsequently invested him with the Collar.

Garter then delivered to the Earl the Hat and Plume, and afterwards the Star of the Order, which were severally presented by His Lordship to the King, who handed them to Herr von Lüttichau.

The Ceremony of the Investiture being completed, the Plenipotentiaries, with their respective Suites, making the accustomed reverences, withdrew from the Royal Presence, and were re-conducted in His Majesty's Carriages to the residence of The Earl of Fife.

The strictest observance was paid to the forms prescribed as suitable to the splendour and dignity of the Most Noble Order.

The ceremony was witnessed by Her Majesty the Queen, accompanied by Their Royal Highnesses the Princess George, Princess Mathilde, Princess Marie, Prince John-George, and Prince Maximilian,

There were also present His Highness Prince Alexander of Saxe Weimar, Prince Henry IV. of Reuss-Köstritz, the Princess Eleanore of Reuss-Köstritz, the Ministers of State, the Great Officers of the Royal Household, also the Ladies of Her Majesty's Court, and other distinguished persons, Military and Civil, together with George Strachey, Esq., Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at this Court, and Mrs. Strachey.

A splendid Banquet was given at the Royal Palace on the same day, at which were present His Majesty the King, wearing the Ensigns of the Order of the Garter, their Royal Highnesses Prince George and Prince Frederick-Augustus, His Highness the Prince Alexander of Saxe Weimar, Prince Henry IV. of Reuss-Köstritz, the Prince of Schönburg-Waldenburg, Prince Hugo of Schönburg-Waldenburg, the Plenipotentiaries and their Suites, the Ministers of State, the Presidents of both Chambers, the Lieutenant-Generals in active service, and the Great Officers of the Royal Household, as also the British Chargé d'Affaires.

During the Banquet the King arose and drank to the health of Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India, Sovereign of the Most Noble Order of the Garter. The Earl of Fife then drank to the health of His Majesty the King of Saxony, Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter. His Majesty subsequently proposed the health of the Knights Companions of the Order, after which the Earl of Fife drank to the health of Her Majesty the Queen of Saxony and to the Members of the Royal Family.

On Thursday, the 9th, a State Ball was given at the Royal Palace, at the close of which the Earl of Fife had an audience of the King, and, together with Garter and the respective Suites of the Plenipotentiaries, took leave of His Majesty.

The Mission, during its residence at Dresden, received most marked attention and condescension from His Majesty the King, and from the Royal Family of Saxony.

ALBERT W. WOODS,
Garter,

