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RICHARD EDGCUMBE

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Kitching & Abud of Conduit Street, London: Jewellers to Queen Victoria and Prince Albert

KEYWORDS:

Joseph Kitching, Queen Victoria, Prince Albert, London, 1840s, Garrard, bracelet, coronet, royal gifts

https://www.societyofjewelleryhistorians.ac.uk/JSO_2026_1.pdf

After Peterborough Museum and the National Museum of Wales, Richard Edgcumbe was a curator at the Victoria and Albert Museum from 1985-2021. He was the author of *The Art of the Gold Chaser in Eighteenth-Century London* (Oxford University Press, 2000), was inducted early into debates on museum structure, and became part of a jewellery team empowered by the vision of contemporary makers and, among many benefactors, William and Judith Bollinger, Genevieve Davies and Elizabeth Gage.

This article has its origins in a lecture to the Society of Jewellery Historians in 2023 on Queen Victoria's sapphire coronet, designed by Prince Albert, supplied by Kitching & Abud in 1842, and worn in a celebrated portrait of Victoria by Franz Xaver Winterhalter. The coronet was presented to the V&A by William and Judith Bollinger and their sons, Douglas and James, in 2017.

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Front cover:

Front cover: Queen Victoria's sapphire coronet. Kitching & Abud (1840-2), sapphires and diamonds mounted in gold and silver, 3.8 x 18.5 x 12.0 cm (open), 11.5 cm diameter (when closed as coronet). Victoria and Albert Museum, inv. no. M.20:1-2017, purchased through the generosity of William & Judith, Douglas and James Bollinger as a gift to the Nation and the Commonwealth, © Victoria and Albert Museum, London

Kitching & Abud of Conduit Street, London: Jewellers to Queen Victoria and Prince Albert

RICHARD EDGCUMBE

Joseph Kitching and Richard Abud of 46 Conduit Street, London, were amongst the jewellers and goldsmiths granted a royal warrant by Queen Victoria in 1837. Drawing on financial records in the Royal Archives, the article explores the firm's role during the 1840s in the queen's purchase of jewels for herself and as gifts to others.

1. *A sketch of Joseph Kitching's life, 1782-1861*
2. *The rise of Abud & Kitching, 1817-37*
3. *Payments made to Kitching & Abud in Queen Victoria's Privy Purse Papers and Prince Albert's Main Ledger*
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In 1797 Joseph Kitching was apprenticed to his father, an innkeeper in Streatham, a village south of London on the road to Brighton. Forty years later, he was granted a warrant as a Jeweller in Ordinary to Queen Victoria in the first year of her reign. Following her marriage in 1840, commissioning jewellery was a pleasure Victoria shared with Prince Albert. On 22 February 1843 she described how 'we were very busy looking over various pieces of old jewelry of mine, settling to have some reset, in order to add to my fine "parures"'.¹ Kitching & Abud, retail jewellers, furnished many of the items in her parures of sapphire, turquoise, ruby and emerald. Much was subsequently re-set, but among the surviving jewels are two of the finest of her reign, the sapphire coronet (figs 1-3) of 1842 and the emerald diadem (figs 8 & 9) of 1845, which were designed by Albert and are prominent in major portraits by Winterhalter.

This article aims to set out payments made by Queen Victoria to Kitching & Abud, look at the firm's place in the hierarchy of royal jewellers, and offer an overview of jewellery bought by Victoria from Kitching & Abud. It explores the evidence that the small firm of Kitching was the most favoured of the jewellers supplying Victoria's personal jewellery from 1842-5. It tracks how this place was yielded to Garrard, already established as her pre-eminent supplier of silver. The article draws on an extensive

Fig. 1.
Kitching & Abud, coronet,
1840-2, sapphires and diamonds
mounted in gold and silver,
3.8 x 18.5 x 12.0 cm (open),
11.5 cm diameter (when closed
as coronet). Victoria and Albert
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1 Bury 1991, vol. 1, p. 311; RA VIC/MAIN/QVJ(W) (Princess Beatrice's copies), 22 February 1843.

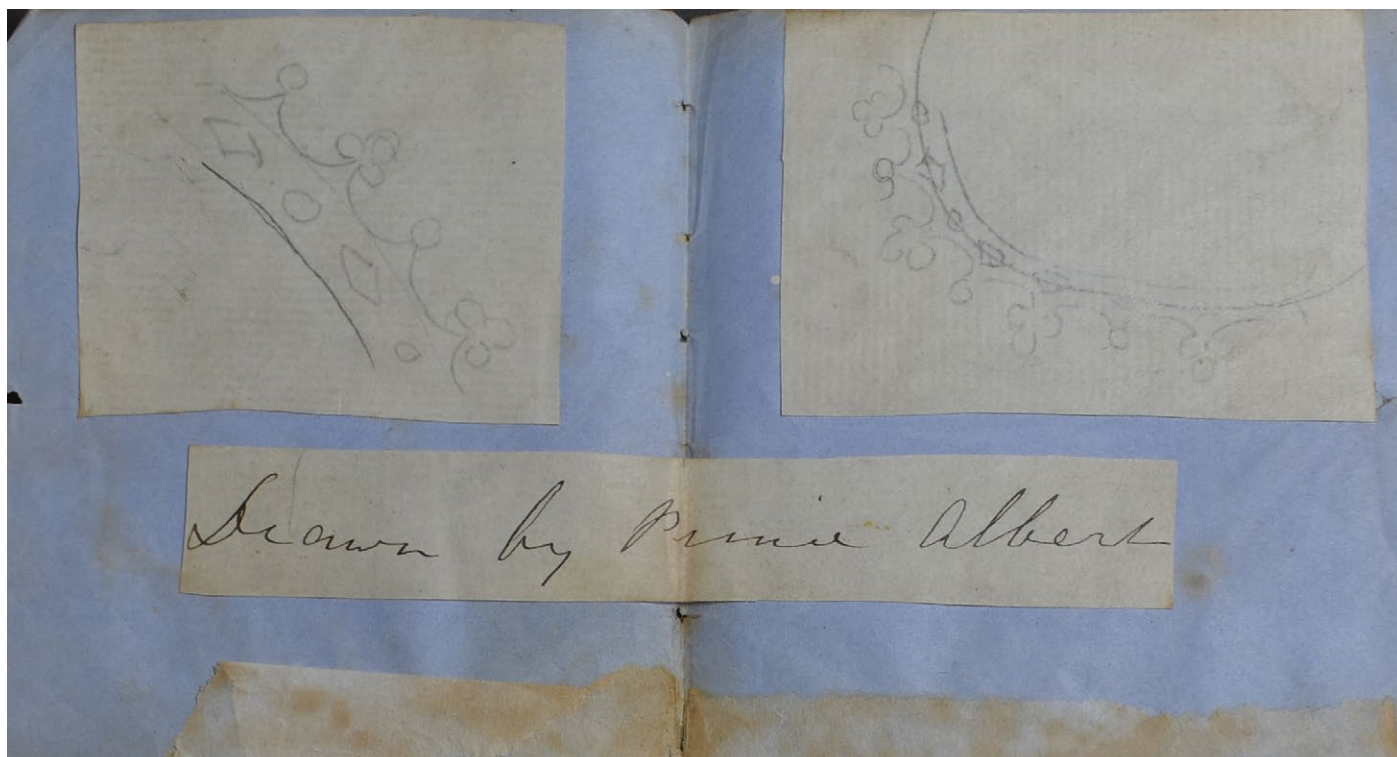


Fig. 2.

Prince Albert, two drawings, 1840-42, pencil on paper laid on blue paper, 5.0 x 6.0 cm, 5.0 x 7.0 cm. Reeman Dansie, Colchester, 9 November 2021, lot 51. © private collection. Author image



range of financial documentation concerning the accounts of Victoria and Albert which was placed online by the Royal Archives to celebrate the bicentenary in 2019 of Albert's birth.² These online documents can be matched in the Royal Archives against a small book, partly in Victoria's own hand, which bears the title 'Private Accounts, Pictures, Jewellery etc., 1841-50' (shortened here to Account Book).³ Much remains to be discovered. There are many complexities of Victoria's finances which, at least to me, remain challenging. My debt to the archivists and curators of the Royal Archives and the Royal Collection, and to the scholars of Victorian jewellery, is warmly acknowledged.

In her Account Book Victoria usually referred to Kitching & Abud as 'Kitching', an abbreviation I will frequently follow.

Fig. 3.

Franz Xaver Winterhalter, *Queen Victoria*, 1842, oil on canvas, 133.4 x 97.8 cm. Royal Collection, RCIN 401413. © Royal Collection Enterprises Limited 2024 / Royal Collection Trust

2 <https://albert.rct.uk/prince-alberts-financial-papers>, retrieved 2022-4. Royal Collection Trust / © His Majesty King Charles III 2023.

3 Royal Archives, Windsor Castle (hereafter RA), RA VIC/ADD/T/231. Some entries are in another hand, identified by Vanessa Remington as that of Marianne Skerrett: Remington 2010, vol. 2, p. 641.

1. Joseph Kitching (1782-1861)

The story of the business founded by Joseph Kitching in 1817 has been outlined elsewhere.⁴ In brief, Joseph Kitching, born 23 December 1782, was the son of William Kitching, an innkeeper who held the lease of the Horse & Groom in Streatham.⁵ He was apprenticed to his father through the Vintners' Company on 1 November 1797.⁶ William died in 1799.⁷ In 1803 Joseph was living with his uncle, the substantial London jeweller, William Constable of Sackville Street, when the latter wrote his will on 12 December, two days before his death.⁸ Constable bequeathed Joseph an extensive wardrobe of clothes, and his guns and pistols. Although not an executor, he was instructed to administer financial bequests in conjunction with Alexander Strachan, already established as a gold box maker. Among the beneficiaries was Constable's niece, Catherine Diana Bessy, whom Joseph married in 1809.⁹ Joseph, or his younger brother, George, an apprentice of Constable, were buyers at the auction of Constable's stock in 1804 which extended over 31 days.¹⁰

Joseph worked for Thomas Gray of Sackville Street, a celebrated jeweller and former partner of William Constable, until Gray's retirement in 1817.¹¹ Joseph sold his first jewel to the Prince Regent on 12 May 1817, only ten days after the opening entry in the ledger of his shop in Dover Street, London. From the start, Kitching celebrated his royal patronage. Under the arms of Prince Leopold and Princess Charlotte, his bill head, engraved by William Johnstone White of 14 Brownlow Street, Holborn, proclaims him as 'Goldsmith and Jeweller, To Her Royal Highness the Princess Charlotte, His Serene Highness the Prince of Saxe Coburg, & their Royal Highnesses the Duke & Duchess of York & Duke of Gloucester' (fig. 4).¹²



Fig. 4. Bill to the Prince Regent from J. Kitching 12 May 1817. Georgian Papers Online (<https://gpp.rct.uk>, January 2022). RA GEO/MAIN/25925-25926. © His Majesty King Charles III 2024



Fig. 5. Order of the Bath, Military Division, Grand Cross breast star, 1817-30, inscribed on reverse 'J. KITCHING / Goldsmith / & Jeweller / 14 Dover St. / PICCADILLY', silver, gold, enamel, 10.5 x 9.8 cm. Morton & Eden, London, 10 June 2011, lot 1248. Courtesy of Morton & Eden, London

- 4 Masson c. 1976. Culme 1987, vol. 1, pp. 89-90. Edgcumbe 2022, pp. 172-189. This life draws on the biographies of Kitching and Abud in the 2022 article. For the convenience of the reader the footnotes include some of the sources previously given. I have added fresh biographical material from a lecture to the Society of Jewellery Historians on 28 February 2023.
- 5 St Leonard Streatham, the London Archives (hereafter TLA), retrieved Ancestry.co.uk, 14 March 2022. John Brown, historian of Streatham and archivist of St Leonard's Church, generously identified the inn and showed me the grave of William Constable in which Joseph Kitching was laid to rest in 1861. The inscriptions, no longer legible on the gravestone, are known from earlier records.
- 6 Cliff Webb, London Apprenticeship Abstracts, 1442-1850, retrieved Findmypast, 15 July 2022.
- 7 St Leonard Streatham: burial of William, 12 April 1799, as 'Innkeeper', TLA, retrieved Ancestry.co.uk, 14 March 2022.
- 8 Will of William Constable, National Archives (hereafter TNA), PROB 11/1409/280. I am indebted to David Beasley.
- 9 7 January 1809: St James Piccadilly, City of Westminster Archives Centre, Ancestry.co.uk, retrieved 16 March 2022.
- 10 Phillips, New Bond Street, London, 9 April, 1804. Edgcumbe 2022, p. 183.
- 11 For Gray, see Southwick 2022.
- 12 Georgian Papers Online (<https://gpp.rct.uk>, January 2022): RA GEO/MAIN/25925-25926: Bill and receipt, J. Kitching, 12 May-25 October 1817. White was a versatile engraver and print seller, and a freeman of the Goldsmiths' Company. Myrone 2022, p. 550.



Fig. 6.
Giovanni Insom, *Joseph Kitching*, Florence, c. 1840-50, alabaster,
27 x 15.5 x 9.5 cm. © private collection. Author image



Fig. 7.
Giovanni Insom, *Susan Kitching*, Florence, c. 1840-50, alabaster,
27 x 17 x 9.5 cm. © private collection. Author image

In 1819 fire drove Kitching briefly from his premises at 14 Dover Street. He gave his 'most grateful thanks to the Officers of the Guards, Gentlemen, and other Persons to him unknown, to whose prompt and intrepid exertions he is indebted for the preservation of a great portion of his Stock in Trade'.¹³ He announced he would be trading temporarily from premises four doors away at no. 18. By 1824 he was in partnership with Richard Abud, a refiner.¹⁴ In 1830 Kitching, twice widowed and three times married, moved to 46 Conduit Street where he and his family lived on the premises. Of his children, Joseph Francis, although apprenticed to Abud, became Librarian of the Home Office, William Vistirin and Walton studied at Cambridge and were ordained priests, and Kate married a

clergyman. Her son, John Harmer, became bishop of Adelaide and then of Rochester.

A portrait bust of Kitching (fig. 6) carved by Giovanni Insom (1775 – 1855) in Florence dates from about 1840-50.¹⁵ Kitching withdrew from the partnership with Abud on 31 January 1853.¹⁶ He was aged 70. The timing of his departure coincided with, and could have been influenced by, a bequest to his third wife, Susan (fig. 7). She had been named as an executor and a major beneficiary of the will of John Reginald Pindar, 3rd Earl Beauchamp, who died on 22 January.¹⁷ Susan's association with the family began as companion to Beauchamp's mother-in-law, the Dowager Countess of Clonmell (died 1829). The Beauchamps are noted in her journal by the young Victoria in the 1830s and were significant friends for Kitching at court. Countess Beauchamp, who died in 1846, owned a 'gold bracelet

13 *Morning Post*, 18 May 1819, p. 1, British Newspaper Archive, retrieved 15 July 2022.

14 For Abud, see Edgcumbe 2022, p. 185. Joseph's son, Joseph Francis Kitching, was apprenticed to Richard Abud in 1824. Goldsmiths' Company Library & Archive, London, Apprentice Book 10, p. 418.

15 For Insom, see Radice 2012.

16 *London Gazette*, 15 February 1853, issue 21411, p. 421.

17 TNA, PROB 11/2166/331.

containing the Queen Victoria's hair'.¹⁸

Richard Abud took as his new partner, Henry Collingwood, who gave his name to the business which remained in Conduit Street until 1986. They received a new royal warrant on 18 February 1853.¹⁹ Collingwood had been working for Joseph Kitching since 1817.²⁰ A case of theft brought to trial in 1873, by which time Collingwood was in partnership with his son, paints a picture of the business of a retail jeweller.²¹ Collingwood and his clerk, William Walters, served the customers. Items taken into Collingwood's stock from the manufacturer were numbered by Walters and recorded in a ledger. Numbers on some of the items recovered following the theft, which had taken place in 1872, could be matched to the ledger. On one ring, alleged to have been stolen, the stock number had been scratched out, but it could be shown to have been supplied by the firm of Jean Frederic Antoine Pelissier at 63 Berwick Street.²² Pelissier's representative was Charles Fiddaman, who described himself in his Census return in 1871 as 'Traveller to a Jeweller'.²³ In court, Fiddaman was able to identify a mark stamped on the ring as belonging to a workman 'still in our employ'. The mark, the letters 'E.W.', was probably that of Ernest Wolff, who gave his name to the celebrated firm, still in existence, which later made crowns for Carrington and Garrard.²⁴

Neither the workshop of Pelissier, born about 1830, nor of Ernest Wolff, born about 1841, could have made Kitching's jewels for Queen Victoria in the 1840s, but, among the candidates, it may be noted that William Charman preceded Pelissier as a diamond merchant and working jeweller at 63 Berwick Street between the 1830s and the 1850s.²⁵

18 TNA, PROB 11/2037/41, folio 54.

19 TNA, LC5/244, p. 166.

20 Henry Collingwood's testimony in court on 27 October 1873. *Old Bailey Proceedings Online* (www.oldbaileyonline.org, version 9.0). Trial of Charlotte Annie Fitzgerald (33). <https://www.oldbaileyonline.org/record/t18731027-675?text=Fitzgerald>. Retrieved 6 January 2022. Collingwood signed a receipt for payment received by 'Kitching & Co' in 1829: Georgian Papers Online (<https://gpp.rct.uk>, January 2022). RA GEO/MAIN/26165.

21 Edgcumbe 2022, pp. 186-7.

22 Pelissier was born in Germany in about 1830 (TNA, Census 1861, Ancestry.co.uk, retrieved 4 April 2022). He was a partner until 1857 of Johann Jacob Wolff (c. 1821-1869) who arrived in London from Frankfurt in 1850 (Culme 1987, vol. 1, p. 495. TNA, England, Alien Arrivals, 1826-69; TNA, Census 1861; Ancestry.co.uk).

23 63 Berwick Street, TNA, Census 1871, Ancestry.co.uk, retrieved 4 April 2022. Charles Fiddaman: born Cambridge, 1840 – died London, 1895.

24 Ernest Wolff, born in Frankfurt in about 1841, was the nephew of Johann Jacob Wolff, Culme 1987, vol. 1, p. 495; TLA, marriage, St Stephen's Hammersmith, 19 August 1880; TNA, Census 1881, Ancestry.co.uk, retrieved 19 June 2024. He did not register a mark at Goldsmiths' Hall until 1875 (Culme 1987, vol. 2, p. 81, no. 3661) but, in view of the earlier partnership between his uncle and Pelissier, it seems probable that the initials on the ring were his.

25 Grimwade 1976, p.383; London directories.

2. The rise of Kitching & Abud

The value of Kitching's insurance cover for stock, utensils, and goods and jewels in trust, rose from £1200 in 1817 to £4700 in 1831.²⁶ An early ledger covering the period from 1817–1821/25, of which the present location is unknown, named royal and aristocratic clients.²⁷ Five invoices to George IV as Prince Regent and King are dated between 1817 and 1825. The last remained unpaid until resubmitted in 1829.²⁸ Shirley Bury notes a payment in 1834 by William IV for a gold chain.²⁹

Joseph Kitching and Richard Abud were not among the first goldsmiths and jewellers to receive a royal warrant from Queen Victoria. On 7 August 1837, six weeks after her accession, she granted warrants to named individuals in four firms: Thomas Bigge, John Gawler Bridge, and Charles Richard Bigge, 'Goldsmiths and Jewellers', of Rundell, Bridge & Company; Morris, Michael and Henry Emanuel, 'Silversmiths and Jewellers'; Paul Storr and John Mortimer, 'Goldsmiths and Jewellers'; and John Wells of Kensington, 'Silversmiths and Jewellers'.³⁰

Six weeks later, on 19 September 1837, Joseph Kitching and Richard Abud received their warrant as 'Jewellers in ordinary to Her Majesty'.³¹ Unlike the other warrant holders, they were not described as goldsmiths or silversmiths.

Two years later, warrants for the firms of Garrard and Turner, which had held warrants under William IV, were renewed: Robert Garrard on 4 March 1839 as 'Goldsmith', and John and Thomas Turner on 13 July 1839 as 'Goldsmiths and Jewellers'.³²

In the face of formidable competition, it is remarkable that Kitching & Abud emerged from the pack of royal warrant holders to become prominent in the supply of Victoria's jewels. A note, 'From Sir HJ. Wheatley', pencilled at the top of the royal warrant for Kitching & Abud in 1837, is perhaps evidence only of document management, but it is a reminder of Sir Henry Wheatley's central position as Keeper of the Privy Purse, a role which he had held also under William IV.

A trial in 1847 concerning an alleged theft from the manufacturing jeweller and goldsmith John Linnit, shows Sir Henry as an intermediary in Victoria's relations with aspiring jewellers. The theft took place early in 1845. The trial brought to the witness stand two key figures in the royal household, Marianne

Skerrett and George Anson.³³ The case concerned whether Francis Olifieres, who had earlier made a portrait in hair of one of the queen's dogs, was telling the truth when he told Linnit that he was taking on approval two diamond brooches for the queen's inspection. These were later recovered from a pawnbroker. Miss Skerrett was a senior dresser to the queen and a figure of great influence, whose many services extended to liaising with artists and tradesmen. She was careful to say that she would not have seen every jewel presented for the inspection of Victoria but 'it is Her Majesty's custom to give her orders through the person in attendance on her – if she desires to see articles of jewellery it is generally communicated through me...if he [the defendant] had been in personal communication with Her Majesty I must have known it'. She stressed her 'close attendance' on the queen at Windsor, and that 'Sir Henry Wheatley attends at the Palace – I do not always see him ... he would give directions respecting matters entrusted to him – if brooches were handed to him he might have shown them to Prince Albert'.

Miss Skerrett was followed in the witness box by George Anson, treasurer to Prince Albert, his secretary from 1844–7, and Sir Henry Wheatley's successor as Keeper of the Privy Purse from 1 January 1847. He had paid the defendant for his hairwork portrait of a dog in 1843 and knew that no payment had since been made. His records showed that Prince Albert had not bought, as the defendant claimed, a stick as a gift for the Emperor of Russia. He had no recollection of contact with the defendant over the stick, but he made a distinction between transactions and offers of objects: 'there are so many applications from tradesmen, and I never refuse a respectable tradesman to show articles – I have heard the prisoner has been in communication with Sir Henry Wheatley, endeavouring to show goods to Her Majesty'.

26 TLA, CLC/B/192/F/001/MS11936/476/931637. Kitching's address on 25 June 1817 is stated as 24, Dover Street, but this may have been an error. The address engraved on the bill head of the Prince Regent's invoice on 12 May 1817 (fig. 4) was 14, Dover Street, which, except after the fire in 1819, remained Kitching's address until 1830. The insurance records on 21 January 1831 after the move to 46 Conduit Street are TLA, CLC/B/192/F/001/MS11936/528/1115959 and 1115960.

27 Masson c. 1976, Bury 1991, vol. 1, pp. 79–80, 441.

28 Georgian Papers Online (<https://gpp.rct.uk>, January 2022). RA GEO/MAIN/25925-25926; 25942-25943; 26009-26010; 26024-26025; 26163-26165.

29 Bury 1991, vol. 1, p. 196.

30 TNA, LC5/243, pp. 29, 28, 148, 63.

31 TNA, LC 5/243, p. 89.

32 TNA, LC 5/243, pp. 214, 228a.

33 *Old Bailey Proceedings Online* (www.oldbaileyonline.org, version 9.0) February 1847. Trial of Francis Olifieres (t18470201-501). <https://www.oldbaileyonline.org/record/t18470201-501?text=olifieres>. Retrieved 1 July 2023. For Marianne Skerrett, see Hubbard 2012, paperback edn., 2013, pp. 62–6.

3. The Privy Purse of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert's Main Ledgers

Tables of Expenditure 1 to 7

The Privy Purse accounts provide, where they are available, a quarterly record of payments to suppliers.

Tables 1 to 3 in the Appendix show that Kitching received payment from Victoria of £2184 in 1842, at least £1031 in 1843 (records incomplete), and £1333 in 1844. This was over 40% by value of the annual sums paid from a Privy Purse account which was headed 'Jewelry' or 'Jewellers'. Kitching's share in the jewellery supplied was even higher than these figures suggest because, despite its name, the account covered purchases of silver and watches as well as jewellery. Whereas Garrard received £1588 from 1842-4 (Tables 1-3) under the head of 'Jewelry' or 'Jewellers', this was predominantly for silver. In the Garrard Royal Ledger there are no orders for jewellery in 1842 and 1843, and only £85.17s was charged for jewels and jewellery repairs in 1844.³⁴

The Privy Purse records online are incomplete from 1845, but in 1853-1861, when they are available again (Table 4), payments to Kitching were modest. For information on jewels supplied by Kitching in the later 1840s, we will turn to the Account Book in Section 4.

Tables 5 and 6, which are compiled from Prince Albert's Main Ledger, record substantial payments to Kitching in most years from 1842 to 1846. These were greatly reduced in the later 1840s and the 1850s when Garrard became dominant.

Table 7 records Abud & Collingwood's small share, and Garrard's supremacy, in the work given to jewellers and silversmiths who supplied presents given by Prince Albert from 1854 until his death in 1861. Of Albert's total expenditure on presents of all kinds, £18,386, Garrard received 24% (£4410), Turner 10.5% (£1932), the figure boosted by the order for the Princess Royal's wedding present in 1858, and Abud & Collingwood, 1.2% (£217).³⁵

Less clear is Kitching's role before 1842. The diary of George Hayter, responsible for major portraits of the young queen, suggests that Kitching, already a royal warrant holder, was a prospective supplier in early 1838. On 26 January Hayter noted that he had 'Made some designs for bracelets for the Queen for Kitching, the Jeweller'.³⁶ Hayter showed the queen 'my copy of her head for the Enamel painters to copy' on 26 February and the next day William Essex took it away 'to be copied in enamel'. Hayter's full-length portrait, which became the queen's gift to the City of London, had been finished on 4 February. On 1 May Victoria gave the Duchess of Sutherland, Mistress of the Robes, 'my picture (an enamel after Hayter) in a bracelet, which pleased her very much'.³⁷ Essex on 14 May showed two further heads to

Hayter 'much better than the first he did'.³⁸ A head by Essex after the Hayter City of London portrait is mounted in the diamond-set gold bracelet with lobed foliate decoration which Victoria gave to the Marchioness of Tavistock, Lady of the Bedchamber, 1837-41 (Woburn Abbey Collection).

If Kitching were supplying bracelets at this early date, he could have had a role in two fine bracelets in the Royal Collection from 1839 which have heads painted in enamel by Henry Pierce Bone after Hayter's Coronation Portrait of 1838, but a connection with Kitching has not been established.³⁹

A list of Christmas presents given by Queen Victoria which starts in 1841 includes no order to Kitching in that year.⁴⁰ Of the suppliers named, Mortimer & Hunt furnished six items, Emanuel five, Bridge (Rundell's) three, and Howell & James two. In 1842, the year of Kitching's sapphire coronet, he furnished at least five Christmas presents, but Turner provided at least eight, including earrings and a brooch in grey enamel and diamonds given to the Duchess of Kent with the unusually high price for Christmas jewellery of £71 4s. The Privy Purse payments show that Kitching was pre-eminent in 1842 (Table 1), but he was never the exclusive supplier to the queen.

An uncertain factor is the extent to which Rundell's continued to supply royal jewels after the early orders in Victoria's reign, when it undertook major re-setting of diamonds for her jewellery and created a new crown for her Coronation in 1838.⁴¹ Rundell's, as mentioned above, supplied three of Victoria's Christmas presents in 1841, but none in 1842. In the Privy Purse papers online (Table 1), Rundell's was the recipient of £932 in 1842. A payment made on 24 December, stated unusually to be 'to this day', suggests a final settlement.⁴² By January 1843 plans were in hand to replace Rundell's as 'Goldsmiths and Crown Jewellers in ordinary' and the firm received no payment during 1843.

34 GA, Royal Ledger 1, pp. 1-6.

35 For Turner's wedding present, see Table 7, note (b).

36 Remington 2010, vol. 1, p. 285. National Portrait Gallery (NPG), typescript by Angelo Hayter of the diary of Sir George Hayter, 1 January 1838 – 21 June 1858, NPG 106287, p. 2.

37 RA VIC/MAIN/QVJ (W) 1 May 1838 (Lord Esher's typescripts).

38 NPG 106287, typescript by Angelo Hayter of the diary of Sir George Hayter (see note 36), p. 5.

39 RCIN 421975 and 10915. Remington 2010, vol. 1, nos 169, 170.

40 Christmas Presents given by Queen Victoria, 1841-61, RA VIC/ADD/T/312.

41 Rundell, Bridge & Co. 1830-41, 'An Account of Sundry Jewels received from His Majesty by Rundell Bridge & Co., and showing in the four following Statements how the same were employed'. Royal Library, Windsor Castle, RCIN 1114749. Roberts 2012, pp. 32, 44. Bury 1991, vol. 1, pp. 301-303. Bury 1998, vol. 2, pp. 47-50.

42 RA VIC/ADD/O/59, p. 65.

4. Victoria's Account Book

Table 8; 'Jewelry for myself'

Under the heading of 'Jewelry for myself', the Account Book has a section each year devoted to charges made for specified items and repairs (Table 8). From 1843 jewellers are often identified. Table 8 shows that Kitching's charges from 1843-5, as recorded in the Account Book, totalled £2527.

However, in 1846, charges made by all suppliers under this head totalled only £39, and the figure never rose above £180 in the following four years. Kitching continued to receive most of the money paid under this head, but the annual sums ranged from £28 to £118. Without a ledger for Kitching, it cannot be proven that this represents all Kitching's work on Victoria's own jewellery, but the implication is that the last major jewel supplied by Kitching was the emerald diadem of 1845 (figs 8 & 9).

The annual sections in the Account Book devoted to 'Jewelry for myself' are invaluable as a record of the jewels supplied by Kitching. However, they are not a record of the jewels supplied by Garrard for Victoria's own use. Beginning in 1844, Garrard passed from being a minor furnisher of Victoria's jewels to being



Fig. 8.
Kitching & Abud, diadem, 1845, emeralds and diamonds mounted in gold and silver, inner length approximately 45.5 cm. Image courtesy of Sotheby's, by kind permission of the Duke of Fife



Fig. 9.
Franz Xaver Winterhalter, *The Royal Family in 1846*, oil on canvas, 250.5 x 317.3 cm. Royal Collection, RCIN 405413. © Royal Collection Enterprises Limited 2024 / Royal Collection Trust

pre-eminent in 1848. The first jewellery purchase in the Garrard Royal Ledger, made on 8 February 1844 was of '2 Emerald and Diamond Twin Pins' (£50).⁴³ The total for jewellery for the year, including a case, cleaning and polishing, was £85.17s.⁴⁴

On 25 April 1845 Victoria wore Kitching's emerald diadem for the first time, but on 10 July Garrard charged 16s for stringing a pearl necklace, 8s for furnishing a brilliant for a brooch and 2s 6d for repairing a necklace.⁴⁵ Clearly Garrard had become involved in the day-to-day jewellery needs of Victoria. On 29 September 1845 Victoria was charged £3.3.6 for 'Cash paid for Carriage with jewels to Windsor [space] own jewels'.⁴⁶ In 1845 the Garrard Royal Ledger itemised charges for jewels, mainly presents, and jewellery services totalling £235.11s.⁴⁷

Orders for jewellery and repairs in the Garrard Royal Ledger, largely gifts, totalled only £66.13s in 1846 and £98.15.6 in 1847.⁴⁸ There was a pause in Queen Victoria's purchase of major jewels for herself which resulted in only small payments to Kitching (Table 8) and Garrard in 1846-7. Both firms were paid for repairs. On 15 June 1847 Garrard made no charge for 'Cleaning Jewels at Buckingham Palace'.⁴⁹

When the desire for new jewels was rekindled in 1848, the royal favour went to Garrard. Orders for jewellery in the Garrard Royal Ledger totalled £1608.9s in 1848 and £2031.1.6 in 1849.⁵⁰ These figures include jewellery ordered as gifts, but the majority of the value was in jewels for the queen. On 19 July 1848 Garrard charged for a ruby necklace (£285) and on 16 August 1848 a large emerald and diamond necklace (£1200), the first of the major Garrard commissions of ruby and emerald jewels which continued in 1849 and 1850.⁵¹ These were in part financed by the trading in of ruby and emerald jewellery, which may well have included Kitching's earlier orders. There is no mention of these substantial Garrard commissions in the Account Book under 'Jewelry for myself'.

Garrard, as goldsmith and jeweller, operated on another scale from Kitching. The surprise is not that Garrard took over as principal supplier of personal jewellery to the Queen, but that Kitching & Abud had filled this role from 1842 to 1844/5. Robert, James and Sebastian Garrard were awarded royal warrants under George IV in 1820 and William IV in 1830, and Robert was named when the warrant as goldsmith was renewed by Victoria on 4 March 1839.⁵² Among Garrard's royal silver commissions were the massive set of candelabra (£1719.15s)



Fig. 10.

Grave of William Constable, died 14 December 1803, in which his nephew, Joseph Kitching, died 8 August 1861, was also buried. St Leonard's, Streatham

given to Lord Melbourne by Victoria and Albert in 1840 and the large centrepiece designed by Albert mounted with models of four royal dogs in 1842.⁵³ Mortimer & Hunt and Garrard were the leading contenders to become Crown Jewellers as Rundell's faded. The partners of Mortimer & Hunt were awarded the title on 5 January 1843, but the warrant was cancelled, and, on 6 February, Robert Garrard was one of the three partners of Garrard named 'as Goldsmiths & Crown Jewellers in ordinary'.⁵⁴ Garrard provided almost all the gifts of gold boxes and jewellery made to the foreign courtiers during the royal visits in 1843 and 1845 to France, Belgium and the German states. These are not recorded in the Account Book (Table 9) or under the 'Jewellers' head in 1843 in the Privy Purse papers (Table 2). The 1843 gifts, were worth £2167 to Garrard and £113 to Mortimer & Hunt (see Table 2, note c). Payment was made from the Separate Reserve Fund Account initiated in 1842. The 1845 gifts, worth over £2400, are listed in the Garrard Royal Ledger for Queen Victoria.⁵⁵

By a striking coincidence, the tomb of Robert Garrard (1793-1881) stands in the graveyard of St Leonard's, Streatham, only a few yards from the grave of William Constable in which Joseph Kitching was buried in 1861 (fig. 10).

43 Bury 1991, vol. 1, p. 316. London, Garrard Archive (GA), Royal Ledger 1 (for Queen Victoria), p. 3.

44 GA, Royal Ledger 1, pp. 3-6.

45 GA, Royal Ledger 1, p. 7.

46 GA, Royal Ledger 1, p. 8.

47 GA, Royal Ledger 1, pp. 6-8. Jewellery totals calculated from the Royal Ledger include occasional seals and gold boxes. RA VIC/ADD/T/231, pp. 96, 98. RA VIC/ADD/T/312, p. 26.

48 GA, Royal Ledger 1, pp. 9-12.

49 GA, Royal Ledger 1, p. 11.

50 GA, Royal Ledger 1, pp. 13-18.

51 Bury 1991, vol. 1, p. 317. GA, Royal Ledger 1, pp. 13-14.

52 TNA, LC3/69, pp. 10 (5 April 1820), 156 (16 August 1830); LC5/243, p. 214 (4 March 1839).

53 Gere & Culme 1993, pp. 13, 14. Kathryn Jones in Marsden 2010, pp. 270-1. GA, Royal Ledger 1, p. 1.

54 TNA, LC3/71, p. 228; LC5/244, pp. 30, 31.

55 GA, Royal Ledger 1, pp. 7-8.

Table 9: Presents given by Queen Victoria

Table 9, which is compiled from charges made by selected firms listed in the Account Book, begins in 1844 when it became usual for the supplier to be named, although some descriptions are imprecise and many charges are for groups of objects rather than individual items.

Kitching & Abud and John & Thomas Turner of New Bond Street, another royal warrant holder, were the major suppliers of jewellery gifts.⁵⁶ Although Garrard was paid more for gifts in every year, it is clear from the lists in the Account Book and the Garrard Royal Ledger that much the greater part of the value of the Garrard gifts lay in silver articles.

In contrast there was no silver among Victoria's gifts furnished by Kitching and only a teapot and cream jug in Turner's gifts. In 1844 and 1845, when Kitching supplied jewellery gifts to the value of £1192, he led the field. However, he lost that position in 1846 to Turner, and, in the years to 1850, recovered it only once, in 1849. In 1844 when Kitching's gifts were charged at £639.9s, the items listed included eight bracelets, four items of mourning jewellery, three pins, three brooches, three seals, a ring, a set of studs, two paperweights, a cane and a pin cushion, as well as 'various bracelets lockets etc'.⁵⁷

⁵⁶ Turner royal warrants: George IV, 1825, TNA, LC3/69, p. 162; Victoria, 1839, LC5/243, p. 228a.

⁵⁷ RA VIC/ADD/T/231, pp. 73-82.

5. An overview of jewels supplied by Kitching & Abud to Queen Victoria

5.1 Jewels for her own use

In the sections devoted to 'Jewelry for myself' in Queen Victoria's Account Book, the charges made by Kitching for the four years from 1842 to 1845 are recorded as totalling £3535.16s.6d.⁵⁸ This understates the value of the finished jewels on two counts. The first is that Kitching reduced the bills by £910.5s, allowed for old jewellery traded in. Without this, the cost would have been £4446.1s.6d. The second count is that some stones were bought separately, such as the turquoises Victoria purchased through Lady Stuart de Rothesay in 1843 (Table 2, note e), and others were recycled from existing jewels. Items ranged in price from a bracelet made from Albert's hair, one of a group of pieces which cost £3.13s in 1843, to the emerald diadem, charged at £1150 in 1845 before a deduction for gold rings traded in.⁵⁹

Shirley Bury has traced meticulously how individual jewels were acquired to form Victoria's early parures.⁶⁰ This summary highlights the central role of Kitching.

In 1842 Kitching charged £415 for the sapphire and diamond coronet (fig. 1), for which 'most of the stones belonged to a former present from King William IV & Queen Adelaide'.⁶¹ In all probability, he supplied the sapphire earrings (£280, 'half the amount', implying Albert to pay the other half), and a sapphire brooch and bracelet (£360 together), whose purchase is recorded on the same page of the Account Book as the coronet.⁶² The coronet was described in Queen Victoria's will, and a note on the will, as supplied by Kitching, designed by Prince Albert and inspired by the *Rautenkranz*, the green circle of rue which runs diagonally across the shield in the arms of Saxony borne by Prince Albert (fig. 2).⁶³ Queen Victoria wore the coronet in portraits by, among others, Winterhalter (fig. 3), Robert Thorburn and Henry Richard Graves. In 1866 she wore it in when she opened Parliament for the first time since Albert's death in 1861. Adapted to be wearable as either coronet or bandeau by Garrard in 1922, the coronet became part of King George V's wedding present to Princess Mary (figs 11 & 12). The bracelet of 1842 (fig. 13) is just visible in a portrait by Winterhalter in 1846 (figs 14a & b), and was worn by Princess Mary on her right wrist.⁶⁴

Kitching played the leading role in Victoria's second turquoise



Fig. 11.
'H. R. H. Princess Mary, Viscountess Lascelles', by Speaight Ltd, London, published by J. Beagles & Co, bromide postcard print, c. 1922.

58 This figure includes 19 payments to Kitching in 1843-45, plus the charge for the sapphire coronet, identified from other sources as supplied by him, and two further orders for sapphires in 1842.

59 RA VIC/ADD/T/231, pp. 45-6, 99.

60 Bury 1991, vol. 1, pp. 311-20.

61 RA VIC/ADD/T/316, fol. 18 recto. R&S Garrard, 'INVENTORY OF JEWELS THE PROPERTY OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN 1896'. For the coronet, brought to exhibition by Geoffrey Munn at Watski in 1997, see Munn 2001, pp. 76, 86-8. Edgcumbe 2022, pp. 172-189.

62 RA VIC/ADD/T/231, p. 19.

63 RA VIC/ADD/T/263 folio numbered 73776 (redacted will).

64 The sapphire brooch in fig. 11, the gift of Queen Mary, is of uncertain origin. It is not the sapphire brooch given to Victoria by Albert on her birthday in 1845: see Hugh Roberts in Marsden 2010, p. 309.

Fig. 12.
Wedding present of sapphire jewels given by King George V to his daughter, Princess Mary. *Illustrated London News*, 11 March 1922. © Illustrated London News Ltd / Mary Evans

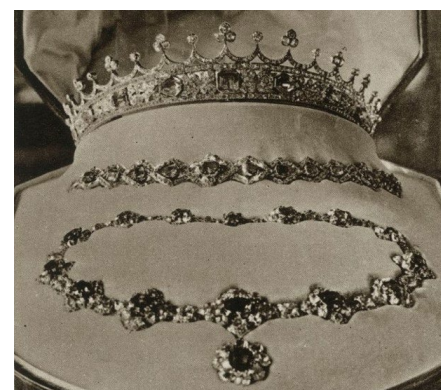




Fig. 13. (Above)
Kitching and Abud (attributed), bracelet, 1842, sapphires and diamonds mounted in gold and silver, 6.5 (diameter closed) x 2.0 cm (height). Lent through the generosity of William & Judith, Douglas and James Bollinger to the Victoria and Albert Museum, inv. no. LOAN:MET ANON.1:1,2-2020, © Victoria and Albert Museum, London



Fig. 14a. (Left)
Franz Xaver Winterhalter, *Queen Victoria with the Prince of Wales*, 1846, oil on canvas, 236.1 x 145.9 cm. Royal Collection, RCIN 406945. © Royal Collection Enterprises Limited 2024 / Royal Collection Trust

Fig. 14b. (Below)
Detail of Franz Xaver Winterhalter, *Queen Victoria with the Prince of Wales*: sapphire and diamond bracelet worn below her left elbow. © Royal Collection Enterprises Limited 2024 / Royal Collection Trust



parure in 1843, supplying a bracelet and brooches, and setting a 'rose Diamond & turquoise head ornament' for which he furnished 796 rose diamonds.⁶⁵ The turquoise parure was worn for the first time on 16 November 1843, 'all designed & arranged according to my precious Albert's directives'.⁶⁶ It incorporated turquoises bought by Lady Stuart de Rothesay in St Petersburg (Table 2, note e) and 'some I had before'. Kitching was paid 'for altering a Turquoise & diamond head ornament into a bracelet' (part of a bill for £34).⁶⁷ The same year a turquoise and diamond necklette was bought from Turner (£98).⁶⁸

A 'brilliant and ruby bandeau' (£590) was supplied in 1844 by Kitching who also made alterations to two ruby brooches, adding diamonds and three 'fine Rubies' (£52).⁶⁹ Garrard furnished a ruby necklace, earrings and a brooch in 1848 and 1849, but apparently not another head ornament.⁷⁰ Kitching's bandeau may therefore be the one worn by Victoria when she sat to Winterhalter in June 1855 (fig. 15), before it was greatly enlarged by Garrard in 1860, at a cost of £1115, worn by Victoria at Princess Louise's wedding in 1871, and given to Princess Beatrice in 1885.⁷¹

In 1843 Victoria took a major step towards an emerald parure with 'a Diamond Chain Necklace containing 168 diamonds & 14 Emeralds', implying that each emerald was in a setting of 12 diamonds.⁷² It was priced at £600, reduced by sundries, gold and pearls traded in, 'so that I only pay Kitching £271.15s'. In 1844 Kitching furnished 'a pair of fine solid drop emerald earrings'. The charge was reduced from £245.1.6, which included altering another pair of emerald earrings, to £130.1.6 by the trading in of jewels.⁷³ The parure culminated at the state ball on 25 April 1845 in the 'lovely Diadem of diamonds & emeralds, designed by my beloved Albert, who has such wonderful taste', recorded in the Account Book as charged at £1150 (fig. 8).⁷⁴ It became one of Victoria's most dramatic jewels until she largely forsook coloured stones after Albert's death.

Victoria wore the emerald diadem for the family portrait of 1846 by Winterhalter (fig. 9) and the portrait he painted for presentation to Baron Stockmar in 1852 (copy, fig. 16). In Winterhalter's portrait of 1859 Victoria wore George IV's diamond diadem, but in a variant Koberwein substituted an exceptionally accurate



Fig. 15.
Franz Xaver Winterhalter, *Queen Victoria*, 1855, pencil, watercolour and bodycolour, 38.3 x 26.7 cm. Royal Collection, RCIN 913344.
© Royal Collection Enterprises Limited 2024 / Royal Collection Trust



Fig. 16.
George Koberwein, *Queen Victoria*, oil on canvas, copy of Franz Xaver Winterhalter's portrait of Queen Victoria painted in 1852 as a present for Baron Stockmar. Koberwein's copy dates from before August 1865. 67.6 x 51.1 cm. Royal Collection, no. RCIN 406884.
© Royal Collection Enterprises Limited 2024 / Royal Collection Trust

65 RA VIC/ADD/T/231, p. 46.

66 Bury 1991, vol. 1, pp. 311-12; RA VIC/MAIN/QVJ (W) (Princess Beatrice's copies), 16 November 1843.

67 RA VIC/ADD/T/231, p. 46

68 RA VIC/ADD/T/231, p. 46.

69 RA VIC/ADD/T/231, p. 70. Four ruby brooches were traded in by Victoria in 1849: GA, Royal Ledger 1, p. 16 (*per contra*).

70 Bury 1991, vol. 1, pp. 317-18.

71 GA, Royal Ledger 1, p. 77. For the tiara's history, see Bury 1991, vol. 1, pp. 317-9; Munn 2001, pp. 96-100. The rubies were removed by Cartier in 1933.

72 RA VIC/ADD/T/231, p. 45. A complex rearrangement of emerald jewels, including two brooches, was also undertaken.

73 RA VIC/ADD/T/231, pp. 69-70.

74 Bury 1991, vol. 1, p. 316. RA VIC/MAIN/QVJ (W) 25 April 1845 (Princess Beatrice's copies). Repairs and the setting and cutting of pebbles for lockets took the bill to £1200.7s, reduced by allowance for gold rings to £1138.7s. RA VIC/ADD/T/231, p. 99.



Fig. 17.

George Koberwein, *Queen Victoria*, oil on canvas, copy based on Franz Xaver Winterhalter's portrait of Queen Victoria painted in 1859, but with differences in dress and jewellery which include Kitching's emerald diadem. The emerald necklace, earrings and brooch, are probably by Garrard. Koberwein's copy dates from 1859-76. 72.4 x 59.6 cm. Royal Collection, RCIN 407371. © Royal Collection Enterprises Limited 2024 / Royal Collection Trust

rendering of the emerald diadem (fig. 17).⁷⁵ Victoria wore her 'emeralds & diamonds' for dinner in the hall of Trinity College on 6 July 1847 for a visit to Cambridge by Albert as Chancellor.⁷⁶ Afterwards at 10 o'clock, 'The evening being so beautiful, we proposed to walk out', Albert dressed in a mackintosh over his dress coat and wearing his Chancellor's cap, Victoria 'in evening dress & diadem, with a veil over my head'.

On 3 June 1850 Garrard charged for work on the diadem, apparently supplying three large and two small emerald drops (£265) and mounting them (£10.5s).⁷⁷ For Prince Arthur's baptism on 22 June, Victoria wore 'my wedding lace, over white brocade & my emerald & diamond diadem & parure'.⁷⁸ Garrard charged £28 on 5 November 1853 for 'Altering Emerald & Diamond Tiara, enlarging d[itt]o fixing 2 large Emerald drops on d[itt]o, furnishing small Brilliants & 6 Emeralds'.⁷⁹

The diadem's importance to Victoria may be judged from the fact that she selected it for the state visit to France in 1855. On the evening of 21 August Victoria and the Empress Eugenie and, 'curious to say', the Princesse Matilde, all wore white dresses with emerald and diamond diadems and jewels.⁸⁰ A lithograph depicts Victoria and Louis Philippe at the Théâtre de l'Opéra as 'Les Défenseurs du droit et de la liberté en Europe', united against Russia.⁸¹ On 16 January 1858, during the festivities preceding the marriage of the Princess Royal, Queen Victoria wore 'a rose pink dress, trimmed with Honiton lace & my emerald & diamond "parure" & diadem'.⁸²

However, while Kitching's emerald diadem figured on all these occasions, it appears that the other handsome emerald jewels worn by Victoria in the Winterhalter portrait of 1852 (fig. 16) and the variant of Winterhalter's portrait of 1859 (fig. 17) were probably a necklace bought from Garrard in 1848 and a brooch and one of the sets of earrings supplied by Garrard in 1850.

There is little detail in Garrard's royal ledger in the entry on 16 August 1848: 'A large Emerald & Diamond Necklace', £1200.⁸³ But the charge indicates grandeur and the necklace depicted in the portraits fits the 1896 Garrard inventory description of '10 square Emeralds & diamond borders with 10 diamond ornaments between', part of the parure already given to Victoria's daughter, Louise, Marchioness of Lorne.⁸⁴ The fate of the Kitching necklace

75 Koberwein was paid on 28 July 1865 for two portraits of the queen, of which one depicted her head and shoulders, 'the accessories painted from nature'. He received travel expenses to Windsor. For the payment see Millar 1992, vol. 1, p. 323 (within OMV 943).

76 RA VIC/MAIN/QVJ (W) 6 July 1847 (Princess Beatrice's copies).

77 GA, Royal Ledger 1, p. 20.

78 RA VIC/MAIN/QVJ (W) 22 June 1850 (Princess Beatrice's copies).

79 GA, Royal Ledger 1, p. 33.

80 RA VIC/MAIN/QVJ (W) 21 August 1855 (Princess Beatrice's copies).

81 <https://musee-goupil.opacweb.fr/r/f3900cc3-1b86-4ce2-81f8-aab38c1acefa>. Accessed 17 November 2025.

82 RA VIC/MAIN/QVJ (W) 16 January 1858 (Princess Beatrice's copies).

83 GA, Royal Ledger 1, p. 13.

84 RA VIC/ADD/T/316, fol. 525 verso; fol. 526 recto. The emerald diadem, necklace, earrings and brooch are on long-term loan from the Duke of Fife to the magnificent display in the Jewellery Room at Kensington Palace (Historic Royal Palaces).

supplied in 1843, 'a Diamond Chain Necklace containing 168 diamonds & 14 emeralds' (£600), needs further investigation, but it may be the 'Diamond & Emerald Necklace' for which Victoria was allowed £182 by Garrard on 1 April 1850.⁸⁵

On the same date she was charged £450 for 'A large Emerald & Diamond Brooch' and £330 for 'A pair of ditto Earrings to match Brooch'.⁸⁶ In addition, she paid £130 for '2 Emerald Drops' (£80) and '2 large diamonds' (£50), and £3 for 'mounting Do as Earrings'. These purchases can reasonably be identified as the 'large brooch with Emerald and diamond border', a 'pair of ditto earrings to match' and a 'pair of ditto with long Emerald drops' which are listed with the diadem and necklace as already given to the Marchioness of Lorne in the Garrard inventory of 1896.⁸⁷ The emerald earrings depicted by Winterhalter in 1852 (fig. 16) and in the adaptation of Winterhalter's portrait painted in 1859 (fig. 17) show no similarity to the solid emerald drops, not framed by diamonds, in Winterhalter's portrait of 1846 (fig. 9), which may be the 'fine solid drop emerald earrings' furnished by Kitching in 1844.

It seems probable that Kitching's diadem and Garrard's necklace, earrings and brooch constituted Victoria's emerald parure after 1 April 1850.

On 4 March 1879 Garrard charged £5 for a 'Velvet Case for Emerald & Diamond Tiara & cleaning', and on 17 May 6 shillings for a repair.⁸⁸ A profile photograph by Bassano taken in May 1882 shows it worn as a coronet by Queen Victoria's granddaughter, the young Princess Victoria of Hesse (born 1863), in imitation of a portrait of Princess Charlotte by George Sanders.⁸⁹ In the 1896 Garrard inventory, the emerald diadem, 'designed by HRH Prince Albert and set by Kitching 1845', '£1000', is described as a 'Rich diamond and emerald diadem containing 1248 brilliants 166 rose diamonds 102 emeralds & 23 solid emeralds'.⁹⁰ It has at present 19 inverted pear-shaped emerald drops.

5.2 Presents

Presents supplied by Kitching reflected Victoria's roles as queen, daughter, wife, and mother, as well as her relationship to a complex family network in the German states, Belgium and France. The gift of a jewel could be a diplomatic gesture as well as an expression of affection or gratitude. While most recipients of Kitching's presents were from British and European court circles, including the royal household, Jenny Lind, 'the Swedish Nightingale', admired by the queen for her artistry and her character, received a carbuncle and diamond brooch in 1849 (£55).⁹¹

The following eight presents have been selected from about 120, noted as furnished by Kitching & Abud between 1842 and 1853. Not included in the number are 'trifles' and other small items on which detail is lacking. Forty bracelets form the biggest category among larger gifts. Nearly half the bracelets were mounted with Victoria's portrait or with other miniatures, including portraits of eyes. Some included hair. Among the hosts to be given a bracelet were Lady Glenlyon at Blair Castle in 1844, the Duchess of Dorset at Stowe in 1845, and Lady Clarendon, wife of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, who received the queen in 1849 during the cataclysm of the Great Famine.⁹²

85 GA, Royal Ledger 1, p. 19 (*per contra*). Caution is needed because Princess Victoria in the 1830s received gifts of emerald jewellery, including a set from King William IV and a headpiece from Queen Adelaide to mark her Confirmation: RA VIC/MAIN/QVJ (W) 30 July 1835 (Queen Victoria's handwriting).

86 GA, Royal Ledger 1, p. 19.

87 RA VIC/ADD/T/316, fol. 525 verso.

88 GA, Royal Ledger 1, pp. 154-5.

89 Munn 2001, p. 74. Remington 2010, vol. 1, no. 13, vol. 2, nos. 788-9. Although now rigid, the diadem may have had the potential for articulation.

90 RA VIC/ADD/T/316, fol. 525 verso.

91 RA VIC/ADD/T/231, p. 156.

92 RA VIC/ADD/T/231, pp. 81, 93, 157.

Princess Alexandrine von Baden's wedding present, 1842

The most expensive of the three wedding presents Kitching supplied to Victoria was a joint gift with Albert to Princess Alexandrine von Baden, who married Albert's brother Ernst on 13 May 1842:

'from we two together - a set of Emeralds & Diamonds, consisting of:
a brooch & earrings, a *feronnière* [*sic*], a bracelet, & a cross & heart'.⁹³

Victoria records the value as £1000 in the Account Book. This was presumably an estimate since her Privy Purse accounts show that she paid £451.14.0 on 9 August, which was matched by a payment by Albert on 19 October (see Tables 1 and 5, note c). Kitching is not named in the Account Book, but is identified as the supplier in Albert's Main Ledger.

On 22 April 1842 Victoria noted in her Journal that Lord George Lennox was to deliver to Alexandrine at Karlsruhe 'a very handsome "parure" of emeralds & diamonds'.⁹⁴ An emerald necklace, described as adapted from a tiara, has been through the salerooms with this provenance.⁹⁵

In 1843 Kitching supplied Victoria's wedding presents to her cousin, Princess Augusta of Cambridge, a brooch, earrings and *feronnière* of rubies and diamonds (£300), and to Countess Thérèse Dietrichstein, a pearl necklace with emerald and diamond heart and cross (£85.10s).⁹⁶ Augusta received her jewels at Buckingham Palace on the afternoon of Sunday 11 June. She was 'very much pleased, & thanked us over & over again'.⁹⁷

Lady Canning's Bracelet, 1842

At Christmas 1842, Charlotte Canning, on duty as Lady of the Bedchamber, wrote to her mother that 'I have had my bracelet with the Queen's picture, really a nice thing to have' (figs 18, 19).⁹⁸ Kitching was paid £22 for the bracelet.⁹⁹ William Essex received 25 guineas for the miniature after Winterhalter's portrait of Queen Victoria wearing Kitching's sapphire tiara.¹⁰⁰ Georgiana Liddell, a Maid of Honour, described how at Windsor Castle the Queen sent for Lady Canning and the two Maids, 'at five o'clock on Saturday [Christmas Eve], and gave us each a Christmas-box'. The Maids received bow brooches, and Lady Canning 'the bracelet always given to the Ladies of the Bedchamber with a portrait of the Queen from Winterhalter's picture...before dinner all the household received presents – pins, studs, rings, &c &c'.¹⁰¹

At Christmas 1843 Kitching furnished a Lady of the Bedchamber's bracelet (£23) for the Marchioness of Douro, differing only in the miniature, which was after Sir George Hayter's marriage portrait of 1840-2 with George IV's diamond circlet substituted for the wreath.¹⁰² Eleanor Stanley, Maid of Honour, described it as the 'usual Lady in Waiting's bracelet, with her picture', adding that 'it was so nice' of the Queen to give the presents herself 'instead of sending them by a dresser'.¹⁰³ Another example of the design, with the marriage portrait with diamond circlet, was given to the Duchess of Norfolk, who relinquished her role as a Lady of the Bedchamber on 19 August 1843 (fig. 20).¹⁰⁴ The Norfolk bracelet is not documented as by Kitching, but Kitching was the named source of bracelets with the queen's miniature for Lady Desart at Christmas 1845 and for Lady Ely ('gold joint bracelet') in 1851.¹⁰⁵ The bracelet given to Lady Macdonald, appointed a Lady of the Bedchamber in 1855, has retained its Abud & Collingwood case (fig. 21).¹⁰⁶ The use of repeated gold cylinders in the flexible strap of the bracelets of this design may have simplified the task of adjusting the bracelet for wrists of different size.¹⁰⁷

98 Surtees 1975, p. 73.

99 RA VIC/ADD/T/312, p. 10.

100 RA VIC/ADD/T/231, p. 18.

101 Bloomfield 1883, vol. 1, p. 52.

102 RA VIC/ADD/T/312, p. 17. Sotheby's, Belgravia, 12 October 1978, lot 23. Bury 1991, vol. 1, pp. 302, 306 (illustrated).

103 Stanley 1916, pp. 76-7.

104 RA VIC/ADD/T/231, p. 18.

105 RA VIC/ADD/T/312, pp. 25, 51.

106 The surviving central section of Lady Churchill's bracelet, 1854, is identical: Bonhams, London, 18 November 2003, lot 151.

107 Kitching seems a probable but undocumented source for three further bracelets mounted with Queen Victoria's portrait: those given in 1842 to the Duchess of Buccleuch, Mistress of the Robes, and Lady Dunmore, Lady of the Bedchamber (RA VIC/ADD/T/231, pp. 17-18) and in 1843 to Lady Dalhousie, who had been a Lady of the Bedchamber in 1842 (RA VIC/ADD/T/231, pp. 55-6).

93 RA VIC/ADD/T/231, pp. 26-7.

94 RA VIC/MAIN/QVJ (W) (Princess Beatrice's copies), 22 April 1842.

95 Christie's, New York, 15 October 2002, lot 470; Sotheby's, London, 29 June 1967, lot 140.

96 RA VIC/ADD/T/231, p. 57. An earlier entry on p. 29 for Countess Dietrichstein's present gives a figure of £90, one of a number of indications that the book sometimes records an estimate rather than being compiled from bills submitted.

97 RA VIC/MAIN/QVJ (W) 11 June 1843 (Princess Beatrice's copies).



Fig. 18.

Kitching & Abud, bracelet, dated 1842, gold, red basse-taille enamel, mounted with a miniature painted in enamel by William Essex, dated 1842, after a portrait by Franz Xaver Winterhalter of Queen Victoria, given to Charlotte, Viscountess Canning, at Christmas. 17.5 x 4.0 x 1.0 cm. Inv. no. HHTMin2014.55. Photographer: Jonathan Turner. Reproduced by courtesy of the Earl and Countess of Harewood and the Harewood House Trust



Fig. 19.

Reverse of bracelet given to Charlotte Canning, 1842. Photographer: Jonathan Turner. Reproduced by courtesy of the Earl and Countess of Harewood and the Harewood House Trust



Fig. 20.

Kitching & Abud (attributed), bracelet, dated 1843, gold, green basse-taille enamel, mounted with a miniature painted in enamel of Queen Victoria by Henry Pierce Bone, after Hayter's marriage portrait with diamond diadem replacing floral wreath, given to the Duchess of Norfolk. Reproduced by courtesy of the Duke of Norfolk and the Arundel Castle Trustees

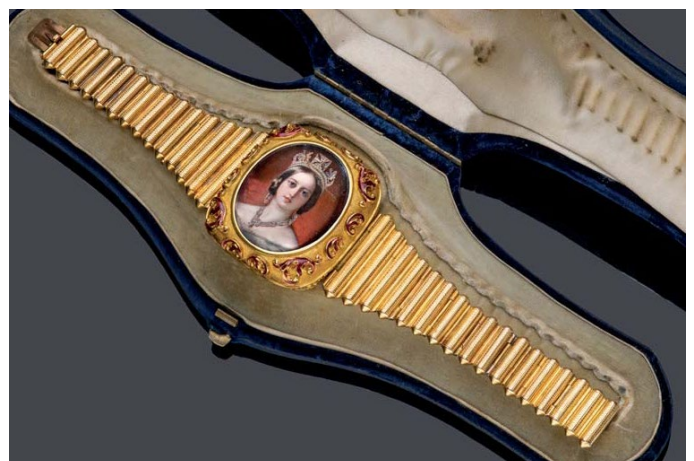


Fig. 21.

Abud & Collingwood, bracelet, dated 1855, gold, red basse-taille enamel, 18 cm (length), mounted with a miniature painted in enamel by William Charles Bell after a portrait by Franz Xaver Winterhalter of Queen Victoria painted in 1843. Given to Maria Anne, Baroness Macdonald. Length 18 cm. Reproduced by courtesy of Cornette de Saint Cyr, Paris

Prince Albert's Star of St Patrick, 1843

Victoria gave Albert a 'full jewelled star of St Patrick...for his birthday', on 26 August 1843 (£305).¹⁰⁸ She laid out her presents for him, including her famously informal portrait with hair running loose by Winterhalter, at Adelaide Cottage, Windsor Great Park.¹⁰⁹ The star was one of a number of Orders which Kitching enhanced, or supplied new, to Victoria and Albert, including an Order of St Isabel (fig. 22).¹¹⁰ Many presents to Albert were more modest. Amongst those furnished by Kitching were studs mounted with Osborne pebbles in 1845 and a locket with a miniature of Alice's eye in 1846.¹¹¹

Mourning Jewellery in memory of Ernst I, Duke of Saxe-Coburg & Gotha, 1844

When Prince Albert's father died on 29 January 1844, Victoria wrote to her uncle, King Leopold, that they felt 'crushed, overwhelmed, bowed down...I have never known real *grief* till now'.¹¹² Kitching incorporated hair sent by Ernst II, Albert's older brother, in black enamel and diamond jewels for relatives in Germany and England.

Ernst II received 'a brilliant knot pin, & enamelled bl[ac]k heart, with crown & E: in diamonds containing the hair of the late Duke of Saxe Coburg & Gotha' (£12).¹¹³ The Duchess of Kent and the Duchess of Saxe-Coburg & Gotha received 'Two bl[ac]k enamelled hearts with crown & E: in diamonds, containing the hair of the late Duke of Saxe Coburg & Gotha' (£6 each: £12).¹¹⁴ The Princess Royal received 'D[itt]o' (£ 5), presumably a smaller version for the three-year-old Victoria.¹¹⁵

Prince Albert, as was customary for brothers, received the same jewel as Ernst II: 'a brilliant knot pin & bl[ac]k enamelled heart with E & the crown in diamonds, containing the hair of the late Duke of Saxe Coburg & Gotha' (£11.10s).¹¹⁶ Essential to the making of the jewels was a lock of the duke's hair, sent to Albert by his brother, which arrived at Windsor on 24 February.¹¹⁷

Turner was commissioned by Victoria to make three further mourning jewels in memory of Duke Ernst.¹¹⁸ The cost was £39.8s, comparable to the £40.10s charged by Kitching. It seems likely that speed required the division of the order.



Fig. 22.

One of a group of miniature orders worn by Queen Victoria (detail): the badge of the Order of St Isabel, supplied by Joseph Kitching, 1847, gold, diamonds, emeralds, rubies, 4.4 x 2.2 cm. Motto 'PAUPERUM SOLATIUM' should read 'PAUPERUM SOLATIO'. Royal Collection, RCIN 441451.d. © Royal Collection Enterprises Limited 2024 / Royal Collection Trust

108 RA VIC/ADD/T/231, p. 57. Patterson 1996, p. 112.

109 RA VIC/MAIN/QVJ (W) 26 August 1843 (Princess Beatrice's copies). Portrait: Royal Collection Trust, RCIN 406010.

110 RA VIC/ADD/T/231, p. 133. Payment of £74.14s included setting of miniature of Albert in pearls. Patterson 1996, p. 204.

111 For family gifts, see especially Gere 2012. For the gifts of Victoria and Albert to each other, see the comprehensive lists by Kathryn Jones and David Oakey in Marsden 2010, pp. 456-462.

112 Victoria 1908, vol. 2, pp. 6-7

113 RA VIC/ADD/T/231, p. 74.

114 RA VIC/ADD/T/231, p. 74.

115 RA VIC/ADD/T/231, p. 74.

116 RA VIC/ADD/T/231, p. 78.

117 RA VIC/MAIN/QVJ (W) 24 February 1844 (Princess Beatrice's copies).

118 RA VIC/ADD/T/231, p. 74.

The Queen of Saxony's bracelet, 1844

At breakfast at Buckingham Palace on 19 June 1844 Victoria presented to the King of Saxony for his consort a ribbon bracelet enamelled in light blue with a diamond and ruby wreath containing her hair. Kitching charged £33.15s.¹¹⁹

On 7 May Queen Victoria, pregnant with her fourth child, confided to her Journal that 'we are still threatened with a visit' from the Emperor of Russia, 'which alarms me somewhat. We shall certainly have one from the good King of Saxony'.¹²⁰ By 30 May the Emperor's visit was confirmed. 'I so dread the fatigue, &

119 RA VIC/ADD/T/231, pp. 79, 80. RA VIC/MAIN/QVJ (W) 19 June 1844 (Princess Beatrice's copies).

120 RA VIC/MAIN/QVJ (W) 7, 30 May, 2, 9 June 1844 (Princess Beatrice's copies).

hate appearing in my present condition. But it cannot be helped, disagreeable as it is. He will only remain a week.' On 2 June she sat between the King and the Emperor at dinner. On 9 June at Buckingham Palace before lunch, after a successful but highly charged visit, she 'gave for the Empress a bracelet of enamel & diamonds, containing my hair, begging the Emperor to place it at her feet'. The enamel was light blue, like Kitching's bracelet for the Queen of Saxony, but the Empress's bracelet was by Turner and slightly cheaper, £25.¹²¹ The ritual of present-giving required a response. Victoria was staying at Blair Castle when on 29 September she received from the Emperor and the Empress kind letters, 'the latter sending me a very pretty bracelet'.¹²²

Lady Glenlyon's bracelet, 1844

A diamond & enamel bracelet (£120), 'a handsome bracelet with my hair', was presented to Lady Glenlyon at dinner on 30 September 1844 at the end of a visit by Victoria and Albert to Blair Castle, following Prince Alfred's birth in August.¹²³ The Glenlyons laid on an enthusiastic round of shooting, expeditions and entertainments. Victoria's present was presumably ordered from Kitching in advance, but Alfred's gift of a brooch set with teeth from a stag he had shot in the park, was a rapid commission, probably from Mr McGregor of Perth who was paid £12.10s for 'Broaches etc.' on 1 October.¹²⁴ Kitching & Abud's Atholl Inkstand, a Christmas present to Victoria from Albert in 1845 (fig. 23), incorporated stones collected on the visit.



Fig. 23.

The Atholl Inkstand, 1844-5, Prince Albert, designer; Kitching & Abud, retailer; John Wornell, modeller; George Ivory and Joachim Friedrich Kerstein, chasers; Charles Rawlings and William Summers, silversmiths, 48 x 48 x 35.3. © Royal Collection RCIN 15955. Royal Collection Enterprises Limited / All Rights Reserved

121 RA VIC/ADD/T/231, p. 79.

122 RA VIC/MAIN/QVJ (W) 29 September 1844 (Princess Beatrice's copies).

123 RA VIC/ADD/T/231, p. 80. RA VIC/MAIN/QVJ (W) 30 September 1844 (Princess Beatrice's copies).

124 RA PPTO/PP/PAPC/PAPCACC/LED/1, p. 40.

Studs for Antoine, Duke of Montpensier, 1844

Antoine, Duke of Montpensier, aged 20, youngest son of Louis Philippe, King of the French, was given a set of studs in 1844.¹²⁵ Studs, buttons and pins were frequent presents to men, including those who held office in the royal household.

The duke accompanied King Louis Philippe on his visit to London in October. Victoria reported to Uncle Leopold that 'Bertie [aged nearly 3] has immediately taken a passion for Montpensier'.¹²⁶ Victoria wrote to Louis Philippe on 17 October of her 'vif regret' felt on his and Montpensier's departure. She and Albert wished to reaffirm 'de plus en plus cette *entente cordiale* entre nos deux pays qui existe si heureusement entre nous personnellement'.¹²⁷ Victoria's hospitality supported the Government policy of *rapprochement* with France, which the royal visit in the previous year to the Château d'Eu had also fostered.

The Duchess of Kent's bracelets, 1846

On 17 August, her mother's birthday, Victoria and Albert gave the Duchess of Kent in the Breakfast Room at Osborne '2 bracelets with miniatures of her 13 grand children, & I cannot express her delight over it' (fig. 24).¹²⁸ Kitching was named in the Account Book as the source of the bracelet which has portraits by Guglielmo Faija of the children of her daughter, Feodora, Princess of Hohenlohe-Langenburg and her son, Charles, Prince of Leiningen.¹²⁹ The other bracelet, with portraits of the young Feodora Hohenlohe and Victoria and Albert's children, does not appear to be listed, but was presumably also commissioned from Kitching.¹³⁰ The present was joint so it may have been charged to Albert.

The two bracelets were sold together in 2000. Each bracelet is flexible, composed of seven undecorated rectangular gold plaques mounted with an oval watercolour miniature with the sitter identified on the back of the bracelet. One has the portraits of Adelaide, Victor, Hermann, Eliza and Charles Hohenlohe, and of Edward and Ernest Leiningen. The other has the portraits of Feodora Hohenlohe and six of Queen Victoria's children. Five were alive when the bracelet was presented in August 1846: Victoria, Albert Edward, Alice, Alfred and Helena. The portrait of Louise, who was born in 1848, was added later, as an inscription records.

¹²⁵ RA VIC/ADD/T/231, p. 81.

¹²⁶ Victoria 1908, vol. 2, p. 24.

¹²⁷ *Ibid.*, vol. 2, p. 26.

¹²⁸ RA VIC/MAIN/QVJ (W) 17 August 1846 (Princess Beatrice's copies). Christie's, London, 29 November 2000, lot 36. Remington, V., 2010, vol. 1, p. 219.

¹²⁹ RA VIC/ADD/T/231, p. 117: the Account Book refers to only seven miniatures, but the entry for Faija (p. 116) confirms that he was paid £56. 14s for eight, and for one further miniature for an unspecified bracelet (six guineas each).

¹³⁰ For a similar bracelet by Kitching given by Victoria to her half-sister, Feodora of Leiningen, Princess of Hohenlohe-Langenburg, in 1846 with six portraits of Feodora's children by Faija, see RA VIC/ADD/T/231, p. 115, and Christie's, London, 24 November, 1981, lot 47; Remington V., 2010, vol. 1, p. 219. For a bracelet of similar design but with pearls and enamelling, which has portraits of Victoria's children given to her by Albert on 24 May 1845, see Janice Sacher in Marsden 2010, p. 340.



Fig. 24.

Two bracelets, given on 17 August 1846 by Queen Victoria to the Duchess of Kent, mounted with portraits of her grandchildren. The upper bracelet is documented as supplied by Kitching & Abud with miniatures by Guglielmo Faija. In the lower bracelet, the portrait of Louise, born in 1848, is a later addition. Gold, the portraits in watercolour. Each bracelet 20 cm (length). Christie's, London, 29 Nov. 2000, lot 36. ©2024 Christie's Images Limited

6. Conclusion

From 1842 to early 1845, between the decline of Rundell's and the rise of Garrard, Kitching & Abud played a leading role among the royal jewellers of Queen Victoria. In her joint project with Prince Albert to add to her fine parures, it supplied her principal jewels in sapphire (fig. 1), turquoise, ruby (fig. 15) and emerald (fig. 8). Among the many presents furnished in these years by Kitching were Princess Alexandrine's emerald parure, jewels mourning the death of Duke Ernst I of Saxe-Coburg & Gotha, a diamond bracelet for Lady Glenlyon, and bracelets mounted with Victoria's portrait for her Ladies of the Bedchamber (fig. 18).

Kitching's share of the Queen's spending on jewellery has been assessed from two sources. In 1842-4 Kitching received in total not less than £4548 from a Privy Purse account headed 'Jewelry' or 'Jewellers' (Tables 1-3). Kitching's share was 43% of expenditure under that head. This understates Kitching's proportion of the jewellery spend because the account included payments for silver and watches which were supplied by other firms.

The Privy Purse record only occasionally specifies the objects bought, but from 1843 Victoria's Account Book, under the head of 'Jewelry for myself' (Table 8), usually names jewellers and the jewels they supplied. Kitching charged £2480 for jewels for Victoria's personal use during the three years from 1843-5. Within this sum, the turquoise, ruby and emerald parures can be identified. Payment for the sapphire coronet was made in 1842.

In 1845, with the purchase of the emerald diadem, Victoria's payments to Kitching for her own jewellery reached a peak of £1192 (Table 8). In 1846 the figure declined sharply to £28. It never rose above £118 in the next four years.

Privy Purse records show that from 1853-61 Abud & Collingwood had little role in Victoria's own jewels (Table 4). Annual payments to the firm under the head of 'Jewellers' ranged from nothing to £57.

From 1844 the Account Book is a key source for Queen Victoria's gifts because it frequently specifies objects she gave as well as the firms which supplied them, including Kitching, Garrard and Turner (Table 9). Gifts of jewellery can be differentiated from gifts of silverware. Kitching charged £1192 for jewellery presents in 1844 and 1845, when it was the leading jeweller, but thereafter the value of its gifts declined. Except in 1849, a larger share of the jewellery gifts was taken by Turner in the later 1840s. Although Garrard made a higher charge each year for presents than either Kitching or Turner, silver articles constituted by far the majority of the value of the gifts it supplied from 1844-8.

From 1853-61 (Table 4, column 4), Abud & Collingwood continued to supply presents on a limited scale. Annual payments averaged £115, the equivalent of about five bracelets for Ladies of the Bedchamber.

Prince Albert's expenditure on Kitching followed a similar pattern: high in the mid-1840s followed by a decline. Payments to Kitching totalled £3089 for the five years from 1842-6 (Table 5). This included one significant item of silver, the Atholl Inkstand (fig. 23). No payment was made in 1847. In the 1850s annual payments under the head of 'Jewellers' ranged from nothing to £70 (Table 6). Payments for presents from 1854 to

1862 totalled £217, an annual average of £24 (Table 7).

The successors of Kitching & Abud continued to hold a royal warrant and to furnish presents such as the bracelet given to Lady Macdonald in 1855 (fig. 21). Queen Victoria gave Mrs MacGovan of Callender a gold brooch by Abud, Collingwood & Son in 1869.¹³¹ Henry Collingwood died a prosperous man with personal estate valued at £46,073.16s.7d in 1886.¹³² In 1893 Queen Victoria bought from Collingwood & Co the necklace/tiara that Princess Mary of Teck wore at her wedding to the future King George V.¹³³ A Collingwood ledger, 1892-6, detailed many royal commissions, including black-enamelled ivy lockets mourning Prince Henry of Battenburg in 1896.¹³⁴

Joseph Kitching was living with his wife Susan and the family of their son, the Revd. Walton Kitching, at the fashionable address of 14 Devonshire Place, Marylebone, when he died without making a will on 8 August 1861 at the age of 78. His personal effects were valued first at under £50 and then under £200.¹³⁵ This modest valuation suggests that the bequest to Susan Kitching from Earl Beauchamp, previously mentioned, which coincided with Joseph's retirement from business in 1853, may have become the major element in the fortunes of his wife and Walton, whose first son Walton Beauchamp Kitching was baptised on 5 June 1855.¹³⁶ Census returns show that in 1871 Walton maintained a considerable establishment at Runnymede House, Old Windsor, and, in 1881, at Tan-yr-Allt, Tremadog, Gwynedd.¹³⁷ Further documentation is needed, but, if the *Illustrated London News* of 28 July 1877 is making a statement of fact rather than aspiration, Susan appears to have had considerable success in the Chancery cases with which she pursued her inheritance. At the time of her death, 'the value of the freehold property' was 'estimated at £150,000', which 'the legatrix came into as a joint residuary legatee under the will of John Reginald Pindar, third Earl of Beauchamp, in whose family Mrs Susan Kitching acted for many years as a confidential humble friend, up to the time of the Earl's second marriage in 1850'.¹³⁸

131 Lyon & Turnbull, Edinburgh, 16 August 2011, lot 7.

132 Edgcumbe 2022, p. 187. England and Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1995. Ancestry.co.uk, retrieved 19 February 2022.

133 Roberts 2012, pp. 188-191. Broken up in 1919 for E. Wolff & Co to make Queen Mary's fringe tiara for Garrard.

134 Bury 1991, vol. 2, pp. 599, 603. Present location of ledger unknown. An ivy locket is on loan to the Victoria and Albert Museum from Geoffrey and Caroline Munn, museum no. Loan:Met 13-2025.

135 St Leonard Streatham, TLA, Ancestry.co.uk, retrieved 19 February 2022. England and Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1995, Ancestry.co.uk, retrieved 15 February 2022.

136 St Leonard Streatham, TLA, Ancestry.co.uk, retrieved 1 December 2022. Joseph's daughter Kate was also a beneficiary of Beauchamp's will in 1853 (note 17), receiving the proceeds of an insurance policy or £6000.

137 TNA, Census 1871, 1881, Ancestry.co.uk, retrieved 4 April 2022.

138 British Newspaper Archive, retrieved 1 October 2022.

Appendix

Table 1

Queen Victoria's Privy Purse Accounts: 1842

A summary of payments recorded under the heading of 'Jewelry' in 1842, extracted from the quarterly listing of payments in financial papers and abstracts of the Privy Purse, 1838-1861.

RA VIC/ADD/O/59, pp. 64-5, 71

1842	£
'Jewelry' ^a total	5854
Kitching & Abud ^b	2184
Rundell's	932
Mortimer & Hunt ^c	868
Garrard	594
Turner	548
Howell & James	163
Lauriere	83
Emanuel	69
Lister & Sons, Newcastle	50
Other suppliers ^d	362

Figures rounded to nearest pound

(a) In 1840 there was an expenditure category in the Privy Purse entitled 'Jewellery and Plate' (£9684.10.9).¹³⁹ In 1841 'Works of Art and Jewellery' (£6887.11.5) were combined for one year only.¹⁴⁰ In 1842 the heading is 'Jewelry', but it designated payment to suppliers of a range of articles, including silver and watches as well as jewels.

(b) Five payments were made to Kitching & Abud in 1842:

23 March	488.6.0
4 June	394.5.0
9 August	451.14.0
24 September	256.9.0
24 December	593.10.0 (the total of two bills of undisclosed size)

The payment of £451.14.0 in August can be identified as Victoria's half share in the wedding gift of emerald jewels to Princess Alexandrine of Baden, who married Albert's older brother, Ernst (see Section 5.2, Presents, and Table 5, note c).

The size of Kitching's other bills in 1842 suggests that payment for the making of the sapphire coronet (fig. 1), which cost £415 (Account Book), may have been made within the sum of £488.6s on 23 March.¹⁴¹ As noted in Section 5.1, 'most of the stones' were supplied by Victoria. Winterhalter arrived in London in May and Victoria had sittings for her portrait, in which the coronet is worn, in June and on 21 July.¹⁴²

Although payment for Christmas presents was sometimes made in the following year, it is probable that the payment on 24 December included five gifts supplied by Kitching: Lady Canning's bracelet (£22; fig. 18); an enamelled gold pearl bracelet for the Duchess of Gloucester (£13); an enamelled scroll pin set with coloured stones for the Lord in Waiting (£8.8s); a carbuncle heart set with diamonds for Princess Mary of Cambridge (£10); lapis lazuli Royal Hunt buttons with crown and VR in gold for Colonel Grey, Equerry in Waiting (£6.6s).¹⁴³

(c) There was a separate expenditure category within the Privy Purse for racing trophies, which cost £1207.10.0 in 1842, but at least two payments for trophies are included under the 'Jewelry' heading in the figure for Mortimer & Hunt, who supplied the 'Ascot Plate' (£200) and a 'Cup' (£115.10.0). Judging by the value of the other individual payments (£118.15.0, £220.12.0, £98, £115.12.6), it is possible that trophies made up more of the Mortimer and Hunt total.¹⁴⁴

(d) Other suppliers included Mr (Edward John) Dent, the clock and watchmaker, Mr (George Frederick) Scherer for watches, and Thomas, Silversmiths, Bond Street.

¹³⁹ RA VIC/ADD/O/59, p. 6.

¹⁴⁰ RA VIC/ADD/O/59, p. 39.

¹⁴¹ RA VIC/ADD/T/231, p. 19.

¹⁴² Millar 1992, vol. 1, no. 809, pp. 286-7.

¹⁴³ RA VIC/ADD/T/312, pp. 9, 10, 11.

¹⁴⁴ For the cost of racing plates paid by the Privy Purse, see RA VIC/ADD/O/59, p. 18.

Table 2

Queen Victoria's Privy Purse Accounts: 1843

A summary of payments recorded under the heading of 'Jewellers' in 1843, extracted from payments made in the 1st, 2nd, and 4th quarters listed in financial papers and abstracts of the Privy Purse, 1838-1861.

RA VIC/ADD/O/59, pp. 25, 31, 91, 106

1843	£
'Jewellers': sum of 1 st , 2 nd and 4 th quarters	2490 ^a
Kitching & Abud ^b	1031
Garrard ^c	456
Turner	343
Emanuel	186
Mortimer & Hunt	201
Lauriere	61
Lister & Sons ^d	38
Lady Stuart de Rothesay ^e	175

Figures rounded to nearest pound

(a) The total for all four quarters of 1843 was £3471.12.9, but this table records payments made only in the 1st, 2nd and 4th quarters, £2490.2.9. The 3rd quarter is not included because there is no record in the papers online of the payments made to individual firms.

(b) Six payments were made to Kitching & Abud in 1843 in the 1st, 2nd and 4th quarters:

28 March	£362.18.0
17 April	£89.18.6 (two bills: 'Presents' £76.8.0; 'The Queen' £13.10.6)
21 April	£258.3.0
3 November	£70.8.0
24 November	£40.2.0
29 December	£209.3.0

The Account Book shows that the modest payment of £40.2.0 on 24 November was achieved by Victoria trading in old jewellery to reduce the bill for turquoise jewellery and work on Orders for Albert from £445.2.0.

The only payment in the year sufficiently large to pay for the Star of St Patrick (£305), which Victoria gave to Albert, was made on 28 March, well in advance of his birthday on 26 August.

Payment on 29 December presumably included the bracelet given to the Marchioness of Douro as Lady in Waiting (£23), a Christmas present supplied by Kitching.¹⁴⁵

(c) During 1843 Garrard received major payments, not recorded under the head of 'Jewellers', from another funding pocket: the Separate Reserve Fund Account, established in 1842. The payments included £2167.14s for gifts of snuff boxes and jewellery for French and Belgian dignitaries on Queen Victoria's visits to France and Belgium in September 1843.¹⁴⁶ Snuff boxes set with diamonds cost from £150 to £400 (a box for General Athalin). Rings cost from £20 for a ring 'mixed with Diamonds' to £350 for the most expensive single diamond ring. Studs cost £37, and a pin £10 14s. Mortimer & Hunt received £113 15s 6d from the Separate Reserve Fund Account for a snuff box and jewels.¹⁴⁷

(d) The payment to Lister & Sons was for a cradle.¹⁴⁸

(e) Virginia Surtees has detailed Queen Victoria's instructions about the turquoises acquired for her in St Petersburg by Lady Stuart de Rothesay which are set out in anxious letters between Lady Canning and her mother, married to the British ambassador in St Petersburg. Victoria wrote to Lady Canning to beg her mother 'to send drawings of the *sizes* of the *turquoises* with their prices: I wish them to be of the light kind & not *dark* as they often have them'.¹⁴⁹

145 RA VIC/ADD/T/312, p. 17. Sotheby's, Belgravia, 12 October 1978, lot 23. Bury 1991, vol. 1, pp. 302, 306.

146 RA VIC/ADD/O/59, p. 147. The objects and recipients are listed in RA VIC/ADD/O/59, pp. 8-15.

147 RA VIC/ADD/O/59, p. 147.

148 RA VIC/ADD/O/59, p. 106.

149 Surtees 1975, pp. 76-7, 80-81, 110, 121.

Table 3

Queen Victoria's Privy Purse Accounts: 1844

A summary of payments recorded under the heading of 'Jewellers' in 1844, extracted from the quarterly listing of payments in financial papers and abstracts of the Privy Purse, 1838-61.

RA VIC/ADD/O/59, pp. 117, 130, 142, 158, 165

1844	£
'Jewellers' ^a total	2339
Kitching & Abud ^b	1333
Garrard ^c	538
Moritz Elimeyer, Dresden	166
Turner	161
Hunt & Roskell	60
Howell & James	30
Shepherd	38
Emanuel	14

Figures rounded to nearest pound

(a) 'Jewellers' includes firms supplying jewellery and silver.

(b) Three payments were made to Kitching & Abud in 1844:

12 April	£215.17.6 (two bills)
25 June	£810.0.0 (two bills: £741.16.0 and £68.4.0)
29 October	£306.15.0

Christmas presents were supplied by Kitching for Isidore, Victoria's hairdresser (pin with three amethysts set as heartsease, wild pansy, in white enamel), Sir Robert Otway, Groom in Waiting (white carnelian table seal in worked gold with lapis handle; £8.10s), and the Queen of the Belgians, ('worked gold chain bracelet' with Victoria's portrait). They were presumably included in the payment of £236.17s.6d made to Kitching on 4 January 1845.¹⁵⁰

(c) Jewellery made its first appearance in the Garrard Royal Ledger in 1844 (see Section 4). Payments for jewellery and repairs totalled £85.17s in 1844.

¹⁵⁰ RA VIC/ADD/T/312, pp. 20, 21, 23.

Table 4

Queen Victoria's Privy Purse Accounts: 1853-61

A summary of payments recorded between 1853 and 1861 in 'Abstracts of quarter and annual statements', 1850-1861, a file of loose manuscript papers in the Royal Archives concerning the Privy Purse accounts of Queen Victoria.

RA VIC/ADD/O/60, pp. 14-116.

Queen Victoria Personal Expenditure	'Jewellers' ^a £	'Jewellers' Kitching / Abud Collingwood ^b £	'Presents' etc. Kitching / Abud Collingwood ^c £
1853: <i>Total</i>	861	57	108
1854: 1 st , 3 rd , 4 th Q	2541 ^d	12	155
1855: 2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th Q	612	2	72
1856: 1 st , 2 nd Q	385	17	139
1857: 2 nd , 4 th Q	196		80
1858: 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd Q	726		121
1859: <i>Total</i>	1214 ^e	15	118
1860: 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd Q	578	21	124
1861: 3 rd Q	58		115

Figures rounded to nearest pound

Q = Quarter. *Total* = all four quarterly statements exist.

The first column sets out whether the record for the year is complete, with the total expenditure for all four quarters known. If the record is incomplete, the quarters for which there is information are listed.

The second column records expenditure on 'Jewellers', a category within Victoria's personal expenditure.

The third column records the payments made within the category of 'Jewellers' to Kitching & Abud and its successor, Abud & Collingwood.

The fourth column records payments to Kitching & Abud and Abud & Collingwood in 'Presents', another category within Victoria's personal expenditure.

- (a) The table is not able to present data from all four quarters of every year. It is not a basis for comparing Victoria's expenditure under the head of 'Jewellers' each year.

The table represents only a portion of the considerable expenditure on Victoria's jewellery in the 1850s. There are major jewels, such as the 1853 opal circlet by Garrard of 'Oriental' design, for which payment was not made under this head. In addition, the cost of remaking the circlet and other jewels in 1858 by Garrard following the settlement of the claim of the Crown of Hanover, £8851.1s (£8777 net), was met by the Postmaster General.¹⁵¹

- (b) Column 3: Abud & Collingwood succeeded Kitching & Abud on 31 January 1853. It had little share in Victoria's expenditure under 'Jewellers', which was dominated by Garrard.

- (c) Column 4: Abud & Collingwood received payment for jewels under the heading of 'Presents', but on a considerably smaller scale than in 1844 and 1845 (Table 9). Garrard was the largest supplier amongst the jewellery and goldsmithing firms. Other firms included Turner, Emanuel, Hunt & Roskell, Morel, Rudolphi, Waterhouse, Wells, Elkington, Hancock, Rettie & Son, and 'Signor Saulini' for cameo portraits.

- (d) Large item within 'Jewellers', 1854: Garrard, diamond and opal necklace, £2242.¹⁵²

- (e) Large item within 'Jewellers', 1859: Hunt & Roskell, 'Pearl mounted with brilliants', £568.2.0.¹⁵³

¹⁵¹ Bury 1991, vol. 1, p. 321, vol. 2, p. 797.

¹⁵² RA VIC/ADD/O/60, p. 32

¹⁵³ RA VIC/ADD/O/60, p. 91

Table 5

Prince Albert's accounts: 1840-52

A summary of payments made to selected suppliers recorded in Prince Albert's Financial Papers: Main Ledger, 1840-1853.

RA PPTO/PP/PAPC/PAPCACC/LED/1, pp. 1-175

Year	'Jewellery' ^a Total £	Kitching & Abud £	Garrard £	Turner £	Emanuel £	Mortimer & Hunt Hunt & Roskell £	Rundell & Bridge £
1840	285	108		7	8		
1841	673			281		388	
1842	1309 ^b	452 ^c	96	221	102		167 ^d
1843	1734	563 ^e	166	299	89	507	
1844	537	73	211	139	101		
1845	2775	978 ^f	1072	152	1	420	
1846	1629	1023	261	155		171	
1847	1008		762	51	12	85	
1848	820 ^g	239	283 ^h		50	101	
1849	814	8	653	104	[59] ⁱ		
1850	889		679	121 [85] ^j			
1851	435	54	234 [103] ^k	26	68		
1852	608 ^l	18	293 [76] ^m		31	21	

Figures rounded to nearest pound

(a) 'Jewellery', 'Jewellers Accounts', or 'Jeweller' is the usual heading in the accounts. The expenditure occasionally specifies items bought. These include jewellery, silver, medals, cups, candlesticks and a figure of Theseus by Elkington. In 1850 three of the quarters are headed 'Silversmiths'.

Other firms listed included Bury & Leonhard (Hanau; turquoise ornament); Peter Hay (Edinburgh; Scotch pin), Howell & James, Leslie & Sons, Lister & Son (Newcastle; 'Scotch Broaches'), McGregor (Perth; 'Broaches etc.'), Shepherd, Lauriere, Morel, West (Dublin), Waterhouse (Dublin; Tara brooches) and Froment-Meurice (Paris).

(b) In 1842, the heading is 'Jewellery / Embroidery'.

(c) Prince Albert's only payment to Kitching in 1842 was made on 19 October, £451.14s, 'P[ri]ncess Alexandrine'.¹⁵⁴ Albert and Victoria made equal contributions to Princess Alexandrine of Baden's wedding present of emerald jewellery (see section 5 and Table 1).

(d) Rundell's was paid £166.14.6, of which £132.4.6 (21 October) was for 'Stars & orders'.¹⁵⁵

(e) A payment of £388.3s on 27 January 1843 to Kitching could have included Albert's half-share of £280 for the sapphire earrings noted in Victoria's Account Book as purchased in 1842 on the same page as the sapphire coronet, but there is no detail on what the payment covered.¹⁵⁶

(f) A payment of £978.1s was made to Kitching on 2 June 1845. Kathryn Jones suggests that the bill could have included the Atholl Inkstand, supplied by Kitching & Abud, which bears a hallmark for 1844-5 (29 May 1844-28 May 1845) and was a Christmas present to Victoria in 1845.¹⁵⁷

(g) The total of £820 agrees with the total given for

¹⁵⁵ RA PPTO/PP/PAPCACC/LED/1, p. 22.

¹⁵⁶ RA PPTO/PP/PAPCACC/LED/1, p. 26.

¹⁵⁷ RA PPTO/PP/PAPCACC/LED/1, p. 48. Kathryn Jones in Marsden J. ed., 2010, p. 206.

¹⁵⁴ RA PPTO/PP/PAPCACC/LED/1, p. 22.

expenditure for the jewellery head for the year. It does not include £11.5.6 paid to Sheppard, the jeweller, which is listed under sundries. Nor does it include a payment of £52.4s on 3 February which is credited in the daily record of payments to Turner, the jeweller. In fact, the accounts of Mr Turner, responsible for the royal dogs, need that sum to be correct.¹⁵⁸

(h) The Garrard figure of £283 includes £115 paid for yacht cups.

(i) The figure of £814.0.6 is stated as the total for 1849 (p. 93), which tallies with the payments in the daily record, including those to Morel and West & Son, with one exception. It does not include £58.10s paid to

Emanuel on 18 January, given here in square brackets, which was probably included under the head of Christmas presents.

(j) Turner was in addition paid £84.11s on 17 January 1850, included under 'Presents' (p.99).

(k) Garrard was in addition paid £103.8s on 6 October 1851, included under 'Presents' (p. 181).

(l) The total includes £242.2s paid to Elkington on 5 January.

(m) Garrard was in addition paid £75.14s on 6 October, included under 'Presents' (p. 182).

Table 6

Prince Albert's accounts: 1853-62

A summary of payments to selected firms under the head of 'Jewellers' recorded in Prince Albert's Financial Papers: Main Ledger 1840-1853 & 1854-62.

RA PPTO/PP/PAPC/PAPCACC/LED/1, p. 176, & LED/2, pp. 19-21

Year	'Jewellers' ^a total £	Kitching /Abud Collingwood £	Garrard £	Turner £	Emanuel £	Hunt & Roskell £
1853	604	29	463	25	32	12
1854	574	32	231	52	50	146
1855	136		81	16		54
1856	935	70	519	153	127	
1857	529		379	43		
1858	29		29			
1859	150		149			
1860	246		219			1
1861	42					27
1862	187	25	115	35		7

Figures rounded to nearest pound

(a) The heading in the accounts is 'Jewellers', which covered many objects, not limited to jewellery and silver, supplied by the firms selected. Other suppliers included Elkington, Watherston & Brogden, C. F. Hancock, West (Dublin), Marshall & Sons (Edinburgh), Rettie & Sons (Aberdeen).

¹⁵⁸ RA PPTO/PP/PAPCACC/LED/1, p. 76.

Table 7

Prince Albert's accounts: 1854-62

A summary of payments to selected firms for presents recorded in Prince Albert's Financial Papers: Main Ledger 1854-62.

RA PPTO/PP/PAPC/PAPCACC/LED/2, pp. 37-45, 275-281

Year	'Presents' ^a total £	Abud & Collingwood £	Garrard £	Turner £	Emanuel £	Hunt & Roskell £
1854	2150	6	291	26		
1855	1995	6	788	65	69	41
1856	1521	6	218	21		
1857	1426	34	417	14	68	
1858	3493		657	1320 ^b	74	296
1859	1753	34	513	62	157	
1860	2059	9	319	143	59	267
1861	2187	92	775	134	58	36
1862	1802	30	432	147	34	25

Figures rounded to nearest pound

(a) The heading in the accounts is 'Presents', which covered paintings, guns and objects of many kinds, and some monetary gifts to members of the family. Other suppliers included Elkington, C. F. Hancock, and West (Dublin). Many payments were for Albert's share in a joint present.

(b) In 1858 Albert paid £1180 to Turner for his wedding present to the Princess Royal: 'an Emerald & Brilliant Locket Neck Ornament with Emerald Pendant', £500, and 'an Emerald & Brilliant Bracelet with Emerald and Brilliant Band', £680.¹⁵⁹

¹⁵⁹ RA VIC/ADD/O/60, p. 113.

Table 8

Queen Victoria's Account Book, 'Jewelry for myself': 1843-50

Compiled from costs as listed in 'Private Accounts, Pictures, Jewellery etc. 1842-51'.

RA VIC/ADD/T/231, pp. 45-7, 69-70, 99-100, 111, 133, 139, 153, 167

Year	Total £	Kitching & Abud £	Garrard £	Turner £	Further purchases £
1843	807 ^a	374		98	£160: Darnley Jewel ^b £175: Lady Stuart de Rothesay, turquoises ^c
1844	914	914			
1845	1239	1192			£47: Mr Murray, coral From Naples ^d
1846	39	28	8	3	
1847	121	110		11	
1848	180	118		17	£13: Hunt & Roskell £32: Lady Gardiner ^e Cost unknown: jewels bought from Madame De Castellane ^f
1849	51	46	5		
1850	133	77	42		£14: Morel

Figures rounded to nearest pound

The category of 'Jewelry for myself' shows the significance of payments to Kitching until the delivery of Victoria's emerald diadem, first worn in April 1845. The column for Garrard shows that from 1844 onwards Victoria was rarely using the Account Book to record purchases of her own jewellery from Garrard (see Section 4).

(a) Victoria made the sum of payments £707.15s rather than £807.5s.

(b) For the Darnley or Lennox Jewel, see Aschengreen Piacenti & Boardman 2008, pp. 183-5.¹⁶⁰

(c) See Table 2, note (e).¹⁶¹

(d) Sir Charles Augustus Murray, diplomat, author and traveller was a youthful Master of the Household from 1838-1844.¹⁶² His first diplomatic posting was secretary of legation at Naples.

(e) A small emerald and diamond brooch which belonged to Marie Amélie, Queen of the French.¹⁶³ Lady Gardiner was the wife of Sir Robert Gardiner, formerly equerry to Prince Leopold until he became King of the Belgians.

(f) Turquoise and diamond jewels. Jeanne Anaïs Castellan, an international opera singer, was admired by Queen Victoria.¹⁶⁴

¹⁶⁰ RA VIC/ADD/T/231, p. 45.

¹⁶¹ RA VIC/ADD/T/231, p. 46.

¹⁶² RA VIC/ADD/T/231, p. 99. Sir Charles Augustus Murray (1806-1895), *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, H.E. Maxwell, revised H.C.G. Matthew, 2008, retrieved 1 November 2023.

¹⁶³ RA VIC/ADD/T/231, p. 139.

¹⁶⁴ RA VIC/ADD/T/231, pp. 139-40. RA VIC/MAIN/QVJ (W), Princess Beatrice's copies, 28 July 1846.

Table 9

Queen Victoria's Account Book, presents given by the Queen, 1844-50

Compiled from payments to selected suppliers listed in 'Private Accounts, Pictures, Jewellery etc. 1842-51'.

RA VIC/ADD/T/231, pp. 73-176.

Year	Kitching & Abud £	Garrard £	Turner £	Emanuel £	Mortimer & Hunt £	Morel £	Other suppliers
1844	639	823	108	90 ^a			£38: Hancock £18: Meller, Paris £16: Elimeyer, Dresden
1845	553	676	156	22	22		£8: Wells £15: Howell & James
1846	168	507	245	112			£73: Howell & James £16: Wells
1847	149	642	340 ^b	71	118		
1848	220	843	267	21	12	22	£18: Meller, Paris £19: Crouzet, Paris £34: Froment-Meurice, Paris
1849	326	533	102	14		292	
1850	71	469	229		72	49	

Figures rounded to nearest pound

For the large part played by silver articles in the orders to Garrard from 1844-8, see section 4. The Account Book does not include the substantial gifts of boxes and jewellery purchased from Garrard for Victoria's visits to France and Belgium in 1843 (see Table 2, note c) and to Belgium and Germany in 1845. Nor, for example, the jewellery prizes supplied by Garrard for the archery competition at St Leonards-on-Sea in 1847 and 1848.¹⁶⁵

(a) A payment to Emanuel of £90 for a pin for Duke Ernst of Württemberg and a brooch for Baroness Wangenheim appears in the Account Book in both 1844 and 1845.¹⁶⁶ The Privy Purse payments show that the bill was paid on 4 January 1845.¹⁶⁷

(b) The figure of £340 for Turner is approximate because there is uncertainty over the cost of a bracelet for Jenny Lind, the eminent soprano.¹⁶⁸

¹⁶⁵ GA, Royal Ledger 1, pp. 11, 13.

¹⁶⁶ RA VIC/ADD/T/231, pp. 81, 91.

¹⁶⁷ RA VIC/ADD/O/59, p. 174.

¹⁶⁸ RA VIC/ADD/T/231, p. 130.

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Bibliography

Abbreviations

GA

Garard Archive, Garrard, 24 Albermarle Street, London W1S 4HT

NPG

National Portrait Gallery, London

RA

Royal Archives, Windsor Castle

TLA

The London Archives, 40 Northampton Road, London EC1R 0HB

TNA

The National Archives, Kew

Online sources

The following RA records are accessible at <https://albert.rct.uk/prince-alberts-financial-papers>

RA VIC/ADD/O/59 & 60

RA PPTO/PP/PAPC/PAPCACC/LED/1 & 2

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