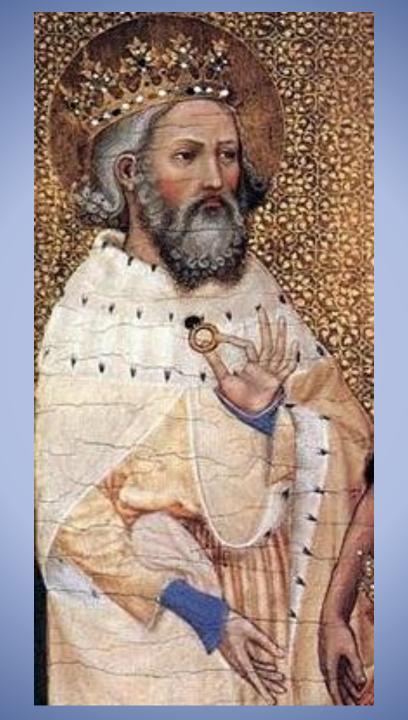
Westminster Abbey

By Pankratova Marina

 Westminster Abbey - is almost the most important shrine of England, which is located in Westminster, London. The church was built in the Gothic style and is the place of coronation and burial places of monarchs of Britain. Together with the church of St. Margaret, Westminster Abbey is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site.**



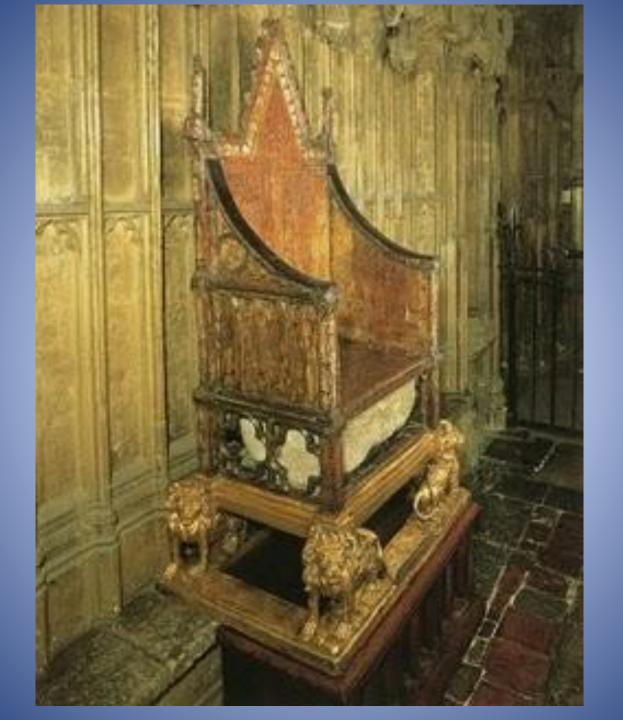
 Westminster Abbey was founded in 1065 by Edward the Confessor (1042-1066). The building, which now stands on the site, was built from 1245 to 1269 during the government of Henry III, but modern look Westminster Abbey get in the middle of the 15 century.



 The interior of the church contains the tombs of kings, generals, writers and other famous people. General number of tombs in the abbey is more than three thousand. Almost all English kings were crowned at Westminster Abbey. Here took place and lots of special events in the life of the royal family and the state.



 Still in Westminster Abbey there are coronation throne, which made of wood, specifically for Edward I in 1300, with the legendary stone of Scone, which is called the "Stone of Destiny".



 Stone of Scone - a Scottish sacred relic, which has the form of a large block of sandstone and weight more than 152 kilograms. First of all, the stone kept in the Abbey of Scone in Scotland. For centuries on this stone was crowned a lot of English and Scottish monarchs. In 1296 Stone of Scone was captured by the English King Edward Longshanks and transported in Westminster Abbey. Relic was placed under the seat of a wooden throne, on which was the coronation monarchs of England later.



 Architecture of Westminster Abbey has form of a Latin cross. In the eastern end the cross is longed by chapel, which was built from 1503 to 1519. The length of the temple with the chapel is 156 meters, the width of the side and main nave - 22 meters. The height of the temple - 31 meters, and the height of the towers - 69 meters.



 All British coronation items, the state treasury and the British crown jewels until 1365 kept in the Abbey. Treasure House was in the dungeon. Today the library is available here. Sometime the dungeon was completely inaccessible place. But in 1303, 48 monks and the abbot of Westminster Uenloh entered the treacherous complot with the London merchant. After that they began a gradual pillage treasuries. But King Edward I learned about the ugliness that took place in Westminster Abbey. Royal Commission conducted investigation and the crime was solved. All culprits were hard punished. All treasures of the British crown have been founded for a long time around the corners



There are Icons of Russian icon painter Sergei Fyodorov in the center of the gallery of the temple there are lcons of Russian iconographer Sergei Fyodorov.



There is another wonderful place, that can't be ignored - it's Poets' Corner. There are tombs in which lie such famous poets and writers as Chaucer, Dickens, Tennyson, Samuel Johnson, Browning.



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