

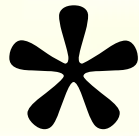
shrewsbury school

SparkPoint 2017

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Cabbages and Kings



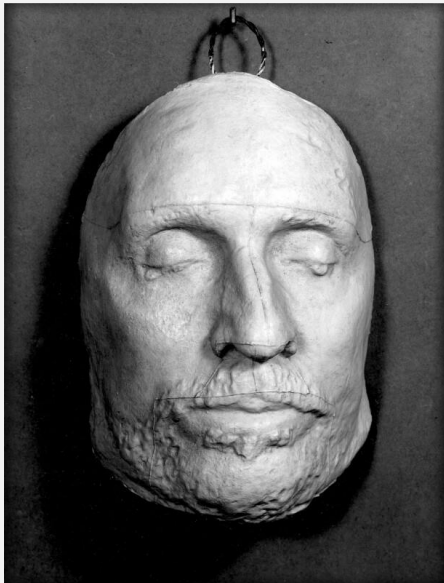


The bells are ringing out...for a wedding.

SparkPoint, it seems, is not immune to the media frenzy surrounding the announcement of Prince Harry's engagement – but far from wondering whether Victoria Beckham will be designing the wedding dress or probing into the controversy surrounding the baptism and confirmation of Meghan Markle prior to the ceremony, this week's edition takes the theme of royalty and explores it across a range of different contexts.

The desire of human to rule over human goes back well into the realms of pre-history and the archaeological record is littered with examples of communities who have revered one individual over and above the rest in terms of their leadership.

The modern conception of monarchy is, however, a slightly different thing. Very few monarchs in the world today wield genuine political power – but this doesn't seem to have done anything to efface their status and influence. As you cogitate on this week's cultural artefacts, take a moment to ponder why and how monarchy has survived so vibrantly into this millennium



This rather gruesome death mask may seem familiar to you for a number of reasons. Firstly, of course, it is the impression of the deceased face of Oliver Cromwell. This man, one of the signatories of the death-warrant of Charles I in 1649, became the first Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England, Scotland and Ireland.

His position was a controversial figure for many reasons – some considered him to have simply replaced the king he killed as a dictator, while others revered and were impressed by his no-nonsense approach.

The second reason that this mask may seem familiar is that one of the originals is currently on display in the Moser Library – do take a look next time you are passing through!

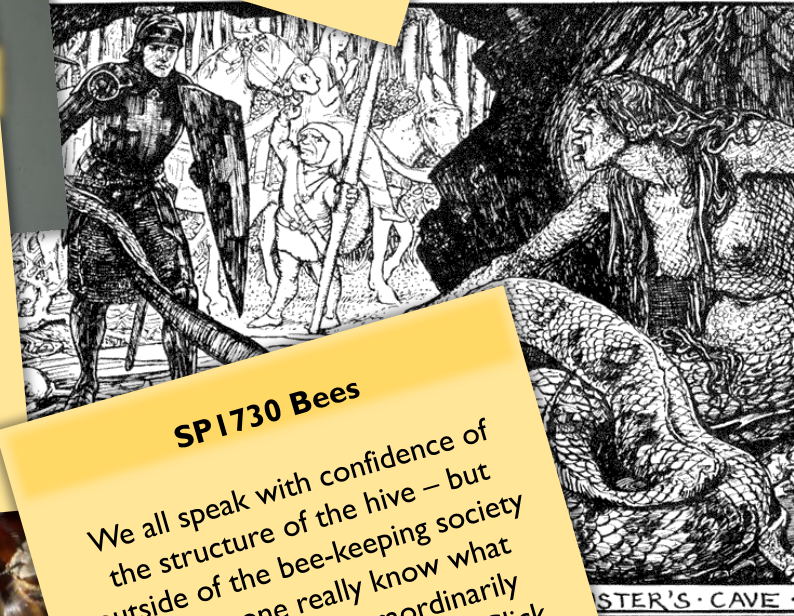


SP1728 Hatshepsut

A thoroughly controversial figure, Egypt's 'female pharaoh' divided opinion enormously in the ancient world – so much so that she was ultimately erased from history completely! Click [here](#) to find out more.

SP1729 Fairie Queene

Edmund Spenser's grand epic was first published in 1590 as an allegorical examination of the virtues of knights. His approach to poetry was entirely unique and not universally appreciated on publication. Click [here](#) to find out more.



SP1730 Bees

We all speak with confidence of the structure of the hive – but outside of the bee-keeping society does anyone really know what goes on in this extraordinarily well-organised community? Click [here](#) for more.



STER'S CAVE