

Extract from Iris Spearman's letter to her nephew Alan:

Memories of Coronation Day, 2nd June 1953

My first memory of television is our present Queen's Coronation. Dad bought the first television to be found in Allnutts Road. Alan and I were recently married and came over to watch. As you say, the curtains had to be pulled and the picture was very poor. But marvellous to see all the same! After about two hours something went wrong with the set. There was the most awful smell – indescribable! I can still smell it, sort of chemical, and the room was filled with smoke (curtains still firmly drawn, of course). We all stuck it out, feeling very ill, to see our lovely young Queen crowned. How my eyes stung with the fumes. We have all progressed a lot haven't we?



Coronation on a typical TV screen of the time...

Link to an interesting article about how the Queen's coronation 'launched' television in 1953:

<https://www.reutersagency.com/en/reuters-community/how-the-coronation-launched-television-in-1953/>