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A medieval mural depicting Henry VIII uncovered by a couple renovating their home





Angie Powell, 57, and her husband Rhodri, 56, uncovered the 20ft wide, six ft high, wall painting as they peeled back wallpaper and mortar from their grade II listed home in Tauton, Somerset, which was originally owned by Thomas Cranmer who became the Archbishop of Canterbury and helped Henry break from the Catholic Church and set up the Church of England.

The painting, dating from the early 16th century, shows the enthroned monarch wearing a crown and holding a scepter. The only other known wall painting of Henry VIII was destroyed when the Palace of Whitehall in the 16th century. Michael Liversidge, former head of history of art department at Bristol University, said "It would have been an expression of loyalty. Cranmer could have done it as a tribute to Henry and that would make it an object of great importance and significance. It is a unique image."

Re-written from <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/art/8289131/A-medieval-mural-depicting-Henry-VIII-has-been-uncovered-by-a-couple-renovating-their-home.html>

See also <http://www.spab.org.uk/cornerstone-magazine/articles-from-cornerstone/every-inch-a-king/>