

The Queen's House, built by Inigo Jones, to the order of King James I became the residence of Queen Henrietta Maria. For the past 130 years, however, it has provided a residence for the five senior officers of the Royal Hospital School, and during that period it underwent sad changes. It has now been restored to its former condition. It stands midway between, on the one hand, the river with its constant stream of shipping, and on the other the Royal Observatory of Greenwich which, thanks to the skill of British seamen and cartographers now marks the Prime Meridian of the world.

The thirty rooms of the Queen's House, however, are not adequate to house the collection, and additional galleries and a library have been formed out of the premises which used to provide the classrooms and dormitories of the Royal Hospital School, now established at Holbrook. The buildings have required considerable adaptation to make them suitable for a Museum and this, together with all the equipment of the museum, and the transformation of an asphalted sloping playground into the flat green sward and paths adjoining the Museum, has been achieved solely owing to the munificence of Sir James Caird.

The Museum is no less fortunate in its contents. There have been entrusted to it the fine collection of naval portraits, which used to hang in the Painted Hall of what is now the Royal Naval College, a collection which owes much to Your Majesty's predecessor, King William IV. A fine collection of ship models has also been entrusted to the Museum from the same source. To this nucleus have been added gifts from various donors, and in particular the unique collection which Sir James Caird has presented to the nation, a collection consisting of Portraits, Battle-pieces, engravings, drawings, ship models and navigational instruments.

Although many treasures have been dispersed to other countries owing to no Maritime Museum having been in existence, the exhibits now to be displayed to the public will be found to be not unworthy of the place which the Sea holds in our history, and it is hoped that many other benefactors from time to time, as the years pass, will present to this Museum such objects as shall worthily recall to memory the pages of the past.

The Badge of the Museum is the old badge of the Navy Office and consists of three anchors, representing not only the Royal Navy, but also the Merchant Navy and Fishing Fleets, and representatives of those Services, and from the Ports in Great Britain which serve them, are present here to-day. The visit of Your Majesty, the Head of those three Services, accompanied by Her Majesty the Queen, will make known to the public the existence of this Museum, and I now venture to ask Your Majesty graciously to be pleased to declare the Museum open.

*To which Address His Majesty was pleased to return the following Gracious Answer:*

I thank you for your loyal and dutiful Address. It is a great pleasure to The Queen and myself to come here to-day to open the National Maritime Museum, and to see representatives of our Seaports and of the maritime interests of our country. My early life was spent in the Royal Navy and I am glad that

the opening of this Museum should be one of the first ceremonies of my Reign.

But for the enterprise, the courage and the character of our seamen, the British Commonwealth of Nations would never have come into existence. The qualities of Drake, Nelson and Franklin are as necessary to-day as ever in the past, and it is well that we should recall the exploits of men such as these, so that the part which our seamen have played in our history may never be forgotten.

The Museum has indeed a worthy home, built more than three hundred years ago; and I congratulate you and the Officers of your Department upon its restoration, and upon the conversion of the Royal Hospital premises into these fine galleries.

It is ten years since Sir James Caird bought the Macpherson Collection of Naval Prints, and from that date he has continued to purchase treasures for this Museum. We owe much to his generosity, and I do not doubt that others will be inspired to emulate his public spirit, and add still more to the interest and value of this, the youngest of our Museums.

In the belief that it will help to further the knowledge of our glorious maritime history, I have much pleasure in declaring open the National Maritime Museum.

#### METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF GREENWICH.

To the King's Most Excellent Majesty.

May it please Your Majesty:—

We, The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Metropolitan Borough of Greenwich, humbly beg to offer Your Majesty an expression of our devotion to Your Royal House and our whole-hearted and respectful welcome on the auspicious occasion of Your Majesty's presence here to-day with that of Your Royal Consort.

As loyal and devoted subjects, we are well aware of the deep interest Your Majesty displays in all matters appertaining to the Royal Navy and Maritime subjects, and we profoundly appreciate the favour which Your Majesty has shown to our Borough by Your visit to open the National Maritime Museum.

Greenwich contains a Royal Palace, the birthplace of Henry VIII, Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth and now the Royal Naval College. Within our Borough also stands the Queen's House, built by Inigo Jones for Anne of Denmark, the Queen of James I, the favourite residence of Queen Henrietta Maria and now the National Maritime Museum.

After the Battle of La Hogue 1692, Queen Mary II conceived the idea of establishing a Royal Hospital as a refuge for aged and wounded seamen of the Royal Navy and their widows and children. The first seamen were admitted to the Hospital in 1705 and in the year 1814 there were as many as 2,710 in residence. Out-pensions, first given in 1865, proved popular, and in 1869, the residential Hospital was abolished. The Royal Naval College was established in the Hospital Buildings in 1873.

St. Nicholas, Deptford (which is included in the Borough of Greenwich) also has had a long and distinguished connection with the