



H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh signing the University of Edinburgh register in the McEwan Hall after receiving the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws

Television Goes to Scotland

BY OUR ROVING CORRESPONDENT

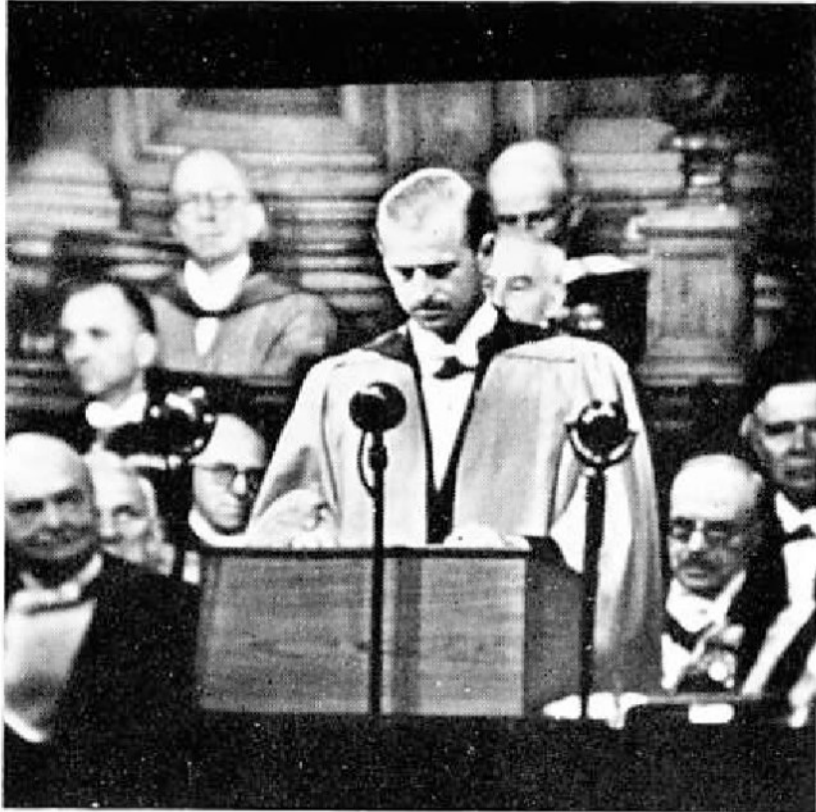
AT 8.30 P.M. on 8 August the McEwan Hall, Edinburgh, was filled to capacity in readiness for the arrival of His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, K.G., F.R.S., at the British Association's meeting. Apart from a small number of technicians and guests the 3500 members assembled were all in academic gowns, costumes and uniforms.

Both B.B.C. Newsreel and our own staff sighed for colour television at that moment, for as the crowd rose to its feet for the entrance of the Duke, and the heavy camera lighting was switched on, the kaleidoscope of colour took our breath away. Brilliant ermine contrasted with black silk and gold filigree; gown, cope and stole vied with sparkling decorations; the maces of Academy Officers formed a solid fence of silver.

This, then, was the beginning of the 113th Annual Meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science and it was our proud privilege to televise the proceedings, passing our signals across the city to the Usher Hall where another vast body of members was gathered.

The previous week a Television Demonstration Unit had left Chelmsford to cover this historic event. Arthur Carrington, Chief of the T.D.U., took with him George Cooper and Ron Cumner.

Their first job was the erection of the microwave links on the roofs of the two halls; a particularly hazardous venture in the case of McEwan Hall which has a domed roof. The control room was on the first floor with access to the first gallery where a camera was sited. A



H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh on the television screen in the Usher Hall during his address to the British Association

second camera was positioned at the rear of the ground floor, facing the stage.

His Royal Highness first entered the hall to receive the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws conferred upon him by the Chancellor of the University of Edinburgh, The Most Honourable the Marquess of Linlithgow, K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., and after this laureation ceremony the Duke came in again as President of the British Association, for the Inaugural General Meeting.

Throughout his speech the Duke was brilliantly reproduced on the television

console at the Usher Hall and drew wide appreciation from the large viewing audience. The Presidential Address has been heard and read by millions of people all over the world, and has met with universal acclaim.

Proof of the unstinted admiration for our equipment and the impeccable skill of the T.D.U. is shown by the action of His Royal Highness next morning: Arthur Carrington and Mr. Forge (Cintel) were summoned to an audience and presented by Sir Edward Appleton, G.B.E., K.C.B., F.R.S., and John MacPherson, D.F.C. The Duke told them how much he appreciated their efforts.

He spent some time in animated discussion with them and Arthur was impressed by his keen technical interest. He admitted to the Duke that he was very nervous before an event of such great importance.

"You couldn't have been more nervous than I was", countered the Duke. "I am always very nervous in front of television cameras."

Despite the fact that the Marconi Television Demonstration Unit has given shows under all sorts of conditions, in many countries, this was no ordinary demonstration. Working without scripts they presented a brilliant production which should bring them further laurels, for it adds greatly to the prestige of the Company.

WHO'S FOR BOGOTA?

The latest export order for Television has meant that already one of our engineers, K. E. Owens, of Broadcasting Division, is now South American way.

Bogota, capital of Colombia in the mountainous west of South America, is to have a complete Television broadcasting system, and once again all the equipment will be manufactured by Marconi's.

It will consist of a 5 kW. vision transmitter, a 3 kW. sound transmitter, a fully-equipped studio including teleciné apparatus, and a specially constructed vehicle containing everything necessary for televising items such as public functions, theatre plays and sporting events.

It is now nearly thirty years ago since this Company installed the first wireless telegraphy transmitter in Bogota.