

# LETTERS

## A Report from the Representative at the University of London

*Los Angeles, California*

SIR:

You kindly asked me to give you a short account of my representation of the California Institute of Technology at the University of London on the Installation of Her Majesty the Queen Mother as Chancellor of the University.

When Dr. DuBridges suggested that I undertake this function I think he was surprised to find that I was not only willing but eager to have an excuse for a trip to London. In anticipation of participating in the celebration I arrived in London on November 10th, allowing myself a couple of weeks to become acclimated and to visit some of my old haunts, and call on old friends in the banking fraternity.

The first event was a very handsome dinner at the London School of Economics. There were about one hundred in attendance at this dinner and we adjourned promptly at 8:30 to the Senate House for a reception. There were about eleven hundred delegates present at this reception and they were divided into groups; I found myself in a reception room with about one hundred other "distinguished persons."

Promptly at nine o'clock the Queen Mother arrived with a couple of attendants and was preceded around the room by the Vice-Chancellor and the Principal of the University. A few persons in each room were presented to the Queen Mother and I was very happy to be one of these. She was very gracious and commented on the fact that I had come a very long way to participate in her installation. We passed a few pleasantries and I retired, and she proceeded on her way into another room. No one was

allowed to leave the reception until the Queen Mother had left, which was about eleven o'clock.

On Thursday, November 24th, the Installation ceremony took place at the Royal Festival Hall at 10:30 in the morning and it was a very impressive sight, with all the pageantry which the English know how to use better than anyone else—trumpeters, mace-bearers, soldiers, sailors, and a few hundred educational people in the most fantastic academic robes. There were about eleven hundred universities represented; about thirty of which were from the United States, the remainder being from foreign countries, and the Dominions.

The Queen Mother was inducted promptly at eleven o'clock, read a speech, conferred five honorary degrees, and the ceremony ended exactly at twelve o'clock. She made a very fine appearance in her black silk academic gown, elaborately embroidered in gold lace, with a mortar board cap and gold tassel. She went through her part of the ceremony with great ease and dignity and without the least appearance of nervousness or hesitation.

From the Festival Hall we retired to the Guild Hall in the City of London, where the dignitaries were tendered a luncheon. The Queen Mother presided at the luncheon, offered a toast to the Lord Mayor, who in turn offered a toast to the Queen Mother and the University. There were speeches by Lord Salisbury and other notables.

The night of the 24th some of the delegates attended a dinner at the Imperial College of Science, at which the Rector referred in complimentary terms to the California Institute of Technology and the eminent place which it occupies in the world of science.

Promptly at nine o'clock the diners retired to St. James's Palace, where they were tendered a reception by the Queen Mother and where there were many notables—people from the political, educational and social world—present, and again we were presented, and were required to remain until the Queen Mother had left, which was about eleven o'clock.

Aside from the dignity and pageantry of the whole ceremony, the thing that impressed me most was the meticulous care with which all the details had been arranged. Nothing was left at loose ends. Everything went off exactly on time; wherever a delegate went, the host had taken the trouble to find out who he was and where he came from, and what his particular interests were.

I was greatly flattered to find that the California Institute was held in very high regard and that we were as well known as any institution represented at the Installation.

I returned to the United States on November 30th, with the distinct feeling that I had been a very welcomed guest. In addition to my participation in the official functions I was privately entertained on one or two occasions, which added to the feeling of being wanted, and showed that the hosts appreciated the trouble taken to have our Institution represented.

Altogether it was a most happy occasion for me as it gave me some good excuse to take a trip, and at the same time feel there was something serious to be accomplished.

*James R. Page*

*Chairman, Finance Committee  
Board of Trustees  
California Institute of Technology*