

22 July 2021

## *Prince Philip: A Celebration* display opens at the Palace of Holyroodhouse

From tomorrow (Friday, 23 July), a visit to Edinburgh's royal palace will include a special display commemorating the remarkable life and legacy of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, Britain's longest-serving consort.

Through more than 60 objects, *Prince Philip: A Celebration* charts significant events and achievements in The Duke of Edinburgh's life, including his role as consort, his support for Her Majesty The Queen at home and abroad, and his wide-ranging patronages and associations. Many items have been chosen to highlight His Royal Highness's close links with Scotland and Edinburgh.

Prince Philip's association with Scotland began at the age of 13, when he became a pupil at Gordonstoun school. The school placed a strong emphasis on physical activity, supporting the local community and helping students to achieve their full potential, and it was the school's headmaster, Kurt Hahn, who would later suggest that Prince Philip establish a programme for young people based on these principles. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme is now the world's leading youth achievement award and more than six million young people in the UK have participated since it was founded in 1956. Examples of Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme badges, as presented by His Royal Highness, will be on display.

Upon leaving school Prince Philip entered the Royal Navy, and he saw action in the Mediterranean during the Second World War. In his Midshipman's log book from 1940–1, he describes his role operating HMS *Valiant*'s searchlight during the Battle of Cape Matapan off the coast of Greece: 'My orders were that if any ship illuminated a target I was to switch on and illuminate for the rest of the fleet'.

The display will also bring together items from Prince Philip's wedding to HRH The Princess Elizabeth in 1947, including the wedding invitation, order of service and wedding breakfast menu. On the occasion of their wedding, Prince Philip was granted the royal dukedom of Edinburgh, and the royal couple were known as TRH The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh until The Queen's accession in 1952. On display for the first time will be the silver-gilt casket presented to Prince Philip with the Freedom of the City of Edinburgh in 1949, as well as the casket presented with the Freedom of the City of Glasgow in 1955, made of oak from the roof of Glasgow Cathedral.

His Royal Highness went on to make frequent visits to Scotland throughout his life. A bronze bust of Prince Philip by the late Edinburgh-based sculptor Vincent Butler shows him wearing the academic robes of the Chancellor of the University of Edinburgh, a position he held from 1953 until 2010. The bust was presented to His Royal Highness during a visit to the University in 2002 to mark his 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as Chancellor.

As well as carrying out official engagements, Prince Philip spent time in Scotland relaxing with his family. The display will include a Highland ensemble worn regularly by His Royal Highness at Balmoral Castle, the Royal Family's private residence in Aberdeenshire. Made in 1952, the kilt is of Balmoral tartan, which was designed by Prince Albert in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and inspired by the

local Deeside granite. Prince Philip was a keen amateur artist, and his landscape of Loch Muick, which lies within the boundary of the Balmoral estate, will also be on display.

His Royal Highness was an enthusiastic collector of contemporary Scottish art and acquired a large number of works from the annual exhibitions of the Royal Scottish Academy. Paintings from this collection, including works by Robin Philipson, James Orr, Barbara Balmer and Victoria Crowe, will be on display at the Palace, with many reflecting His Royal Highness's interests in Scottish landscapes and wildlife.

HMY *Britannia*, also known as The Royal Yacht *Britannia*, was built at Clydebank and launched by The Queen in 1953. The Duke of Edinburgh took an active role in designing both the technical aspects of *Britannia*, drawing on his own practical naval experience, and the interiors of the Royal Apartments. The display will include two of the architect Sir Hugh Casson's original design sketches for the yacht's sun lounge and dining room, as well as a silver model of *Britannia* presented to The Queen and Prince Philip by Lloyd's Register of Shipping in 1972.

His Royal Highness travelled on HMY *Britannia* to undertake his first solo overseas tour in 1956–7, opening the Olympic Games in Melbourne before visiting the Antarctic. Prince Philip's copy of the programme from the Olympic Games will be on display, alongside two paintings by the artist Edward Seago, who accompanied The Prince on the tour and is believed to have been the first professional artist to paint views of the Antarctic.

Gifts presented to Prince Philip during State Visits, overseas tours and official engagements demonstrate the extent of his travel in support of The Queen. Examples on display include a Moai sculpture presented on a visit to Easter Island in 1971 and a silver model of a windmill presented on the occasion of Prince Philip's visit to Caledonian Flour Mills, Leith in 1955.

## Ends

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***Prince Philip: A Celebration* is part of a visit to the Palace of Holyroodhouse from 23 July until 31 October 2021.**

**Visitor information and tickets: [www.rct.uk](http://www.rct.uk), +44 (0)303 123 7306. Pre-booking is essential. The Palace of Holyroodhouse is open five days a week, Thursday to Monday, remaining closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.**

**The souvenir publication *Prince Philip 1921–2021: A Celebration* is available at £14.95 from Royal Collection Trust shops and [www.rct.uk/shop](http://www.rct.uk/shop), and at £16.95 from all good bookshops.**

**An official commemorative retail range celebrating Prince Philip's life and paying tribute to his wide-ranging interests is available from Royal Collection Trust shops and online at [www.rct.uk/shop](http://www.rct.uk/shop).**

**A selection of images is available to download from [mediaselect.pa.media](http://mediaselect.pa.media). For further information and images, please contact the Royal Collection Trust Press Office, +44 (0)20 7839 1377, [press@rct.uk](mailto:press@rct.uk).**

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## **Notes to Editors**

**Royal Collection Trust**, a department of the Royal Household, is responsible for the care of the Royal Collection and manages the public opening of the official residences of The Queen. Income generated from admissions and from associated commercial activities contributes directly to The Royal Collection Trust, a registered charity. The aims of The Trust are the care and conservation of the Royal Collection, and the promotion of access and enjoyment through exhibitions, publications, loans and educational programmes. Royal Collection Trust's work is undertaken without public funding of any kind.

**The Royal Collection** is among the largest and most important art collections in the world, and one of the last great European royal collections to remain intact. It comprises almost all aspects of the fine and decorative arts, and is spread among some 15 royal residences and former residences across the UK, most of which are regularly open to the public. The Royal Collection is held in trust by the Sovereign for her successors and the nation, and is not owned by The Queen as a private individual.

**'We're Good to Go'** is the official UK mark to signal that a tourism and hospitality business has worked hard to follow Government and industry COVID-19 guidelines and has a process in place to maintain cleanliness and aid social distancing. The mark is recognised by the national tourist boards of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.



Admission to the Palace of Holyroodhouse is managed by The Royal Collection Trust, a registered charity in England and Wales (1016972) and in Scotland (SCO39772).