

THE JOURNAL OF THE
ROYAL AERONAUTICAL SOCIETY

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED THE INSTITUTION OF AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERS

*A Monthly Illustrated Journal devoted to
all subjects connected with the Profession
of Aeronautics*

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by

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KING GEORGE VI—OUR PATRON

The following message was sent to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II by the President on behalf of all members of the Society, expressing their deep regret at the sad loss of their well-loved Patron, his late Majesty King George VI:—

“We, the President and Council of the Royal Aeronautical Society, on behalf of the Council and Members of the Royal Aeronautical Society, wish humbly to offer our condolences to Your Majesty on the great sorrow you and your family have sustained in the death of our beloved Sovereign and Patron the late King, and to present our congratulations to Your Majesty on your Accession to the Throne and respectfully to assure you of our unswerving loyalty and devotion to Your Majesty’s person.”

A floral tribute was sent on behalf of members at home and overseas.

His Majesty’s association with the Society began in February 1920 when he was asked if he would take the Chair at one of the Society’s lectures; his Secretary replied that His Royal Highness would be delighted to do so if the date could be arranged out of term time so that his studies at Cambridge University would not be interrupted.

In May 1920, as Duke of York, he first honoured the Society by becoming its Patron, with H.R.H. the Prince of Wales. In that year also he presided at the Eighth Wilbur Wright Memorial Lecture, held at the Central Hall, Westminster, and attended the Council Dinner which preceded it. The lecture that year was given by Commander J. C. Hunsaker of the U.S. Navy and in thanking the lecturer the Duke of York expressed his pleasure that the relationship between the United States and Great Britain was such that Commander Hunsaker had been permitted to supply the Society with much valuable—and hitherto unpublished—data. He also stressed the importance of friendly relations between the two countries.

In 1923 the Society was privileged to have the Duke of York as President of the International Air Congress, which was organised by the



A photograph taken during the International Air Congress, organised by the Society, in 1923. *Left to right*: Lt.-Colonel Mervyn O'Gorman, C.B., D.Sc., F.R.Ae.S.; His Grace The Duke of Sutherland (Under-Secretary of State for Air); Major-General Sir F. H. Sykes, G.B.E., K.C.B., C.M.G., F.R.Ae.S., M.P.; Group Captain H.R.H. The Duke of York, K.G., K.T., R.A.F., Patron of the Royal Aeronautical Society and President of the International Air Congress; and Lt.-Colonel W. Lockwood Marsh, O.B.E., A.F.R.Ae.S., Secretary of the Congress and at that time Secretary of the Society. *In front (right)*: Her Grace the Duchess of York and *(left)* Her Grace the Duchess of Sutherland.

Society. One of the outstanding events of that successful Congress was the Reception to the delegates who were received by the Duke and Duchess of York.

The Duke of York was present at the dance which followed the banquet given to Mr. A. V. Roe, on the 8th June 1928, by the Society, the Royal Aero Club, the S.B.A.C. and the Air League.

After his accession to the throne King George VI once more honoured the Society in 1937 by continuing as its Patron.

More recently His Majesty sent a message to the Society on its 80th Anniversary, in 1946, and in September last he sent a message to the Third Anglo-American Aeronautical Conference. In December 1948 His Majesty honoured the Society by granting it a Charter of Incorporation.

Members will remember always with pride their great privilege in having His Majesty King George VI as their Patron.