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QUEEN MOTHER UNVEILS BYRON STATUE

Queen Mother Elizabeth yesterday unveiled a statue of the English poet Lord Byron, chatted to its two Italian sculptors, and shook hands with Americans who helped bring a year-long plan to success. Flags of Italy, Great Britain and the United States fluttered above the gleaming white marble statue... symbolizing the multi-nation community drive which put it there.

The statue stands just inside the Villa Borghese, near Porta Pinciana on a right-side square: it is a reproduction of the work made in Rome by the great Danish sculptor Thorvaldsen, soon after the poet's death.

British Ambassador Sir Ashley Clarke, he heads the organizing Byron Memorial Appel, and Rome's Mayor Urbano Ciocchetti escorted the Queen Mother to the red-velvet-draped dais. Hundreds of clapping Romans jampacked the enclosure rails.

"The link of culture that binds all peoples..." Queen Mother Elizabeth spoke of it before the unveiling. So did first Sir Ashley, and to the last Mayor Ciocchetti. And the statue itself symbolizes that link. A Rome city footman in Renaissance costume (vallette of Campidoglio) adjusted a microphone for the Queen Mother. She spoke of the cultural links between Italy and Britain and the influence that the Italian architecture had in England and Scotland. But more important today was the common love of liberty.

Said Sir Ashley of the three-girt statue: "When this likeness reached here last week, it was well nigh a century and a half since his features had been seen in the streets of Rome. He came just about this time of year - April 27, 1817 - to be exact, and he only stayed here for a few weeks. When his monument is unveiled you will see that he is holding in his hand a copy of the "Childe Harold". The passages in this work which describe Rome testify to the profound impression which the city produced upon him, as indeed it must upon anyone of sensibility. "Oh Rome! My country! City of the Soul!"

Mayor Ciocchetti accepted the statue on behalf of his city. U.S. Ambassador James D. Zellerbach, Greek Ambassador Cleon Syndica, Italian Ministers and other dignitaries watched as the Queen Mother went to view the statue. Sir Ashley Clarke presented her to the appeal secretary, Landon K. Therne and treasurer Paolo Rogers. She shook hands and talked with them about the project. She spoke too to the two sculptors, Maj. Cripps who supervised the work, and two men who are in charge of Rome's gardens and monuments.

Countless thousands watched the ceremony on their television screens as RAI cameras recorded the moment when the Queen Mother pressed a button, and the mauve and orange flags of Rome fell from the statue of the seated Byron.