

THE ADDRESS

The following is the text of the Address presented to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh by the Company of Master Mariners of India.

Your Majesty; Your Royal Highness:

We are greatly honoured by your having graciously consented to receive us, the few representatives of our Company who are in Bombay, the majority of our Members being afloat or in other ports of the world.

The Company of Master Mariners of India has been formed on lines similar to those of the Honourable Company of Master Mariners in the United Kingdom of which Your Majesty is graciously pleased to be Patron and Your Royal Highness the Admiral of the Company.

We are as yet only small in number but have an ever increasing responsibility in a Country with such an extensive seaboard and a Merchant Navy rapidly expanding towards one million tons of shipping. Our aims and objects are identical with those of the Honourable Company. As a body of experienced Master Mariners holding senior appointments in the Indian Merchant Navy and Ancillary Services it is our duty to do all within our power to promote, and maintain, a high standard of efficiency and professional conduct in the Service and to be available as a consultative body in all matters relating to the Merchant Navy.

All of us here present have served under the British Red ensign, many of us during the war years and this has formed a powerful bond between us. Your graciousness in meeting us, we feel, is a signal honour to our cloth and which the Merchant Navy of the entire Commonwealth will greatly appreciate.

As a momento of this meeting which will ever be a red letter day in the annals of the Company, may I on behalf of our Members, with the deepest respect, present to Your Majesty this address in a model of a telescope carved out of the original timber of the Training Ship "Dufferin" from where most of the Members of the Company received their initial training.

The Company of Master Mariners of India

On the 26th February 1955 a group of senior officers of the Merchant Navy under the chairmanship of Captain J. R. Davies, O.B.E., R.D., R.N.R., met to consider the forming in India of a Company of Master Mariners similar to the Honourable Company in the United Kingdom of which Her Majesty the Queen is Patron, while His Royal Highness the Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh is the Admiral of the Company. The Company was formally registered under the Company's Act on the 22nd August 1957 with 54 Founder Members. Membership is restricted to those who have held the qualification of a Master Mariner for a minimum period of five years and who have an unblemished professional reputation.

The aims & objects of the Members of the Company are to do all within their power, both individually and collectively, to promote and maintain a high standard of efficiency and professional conduct in the Service and to be available as a consultative body for all matters relating to the Merchant Navy. As a body of experienced Master Mariners they are well qualified to act as members or to give evidence before Commissions, Courts of Inquiry, Committees or Boards, official or otherwise, on all questions concerning or affecting the Indian Merchant Navy in commercial, scientific, educational or technical matters. There is an increasing scope for the Company's activities in India where the Merchant Navy is rapidly expanding towards one million tons of shipping, for a seafarer, who is in frequent contact with the peoples of many nations can by his standard of proficiency and professional conduct do much to make or mar a country's reputation.

The Company from its inception has been recognised by Government and its representatives have sat on various Boards. The Company was able to assist the National Welfare Board of Seafarers; the Commission for drawing up the Merchant Shipping Bill of 1958 and in the introduction of the Metric System as affecting shipping. It is represented on the Lighthouse Advisory Committee and in the Selection Board of the Training Ship "Dufferin". The Company has associated with kindred learned Societies in the reading of technical papers of interest to the profession. Towards furthering the objects of the Company a memorial fund for Seafarers charities has been inaugurated in the name of a deceased Founder Member and a prize is presented annually to the Dufferin Cadet showing the highest officer-like qualities.

The Company was honoured by being received by H.R.H. The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh on the occasion of his visit to India in 1959.

The Company is governed by a Court comprising a Master, Deputy Master, 8 Wardens and 11 Assistants.

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V I S I T
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BACKGROUND MATERIAL FOR THE PRESS.

BANARAS

The origin of Banaras which stands within a noble curve of the Ganges is lost in the mists of mythology. It is known in Sanskrit literature both as Kashi and Varanasi.

It had acquired a reputation for peculiar sanctity in the Puranic ages and was a flourishing city over 2500 years ago when Gautama, the Buddha, preached his First Sermon. Yasa who was one of the earliest disciples of Buddha was the son of a noble-man of Banaras and had been a leader of the gay youths devoted to music and cultural pursuits.

Despite the vicissitudes of times Banaras - "the eternal city" - continues to fascinate people as a microcosm of Indian culture, customs and religious beliefs.

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Covered

SARNATH

Sarnath represents the site of the Deer Park, Mrigadava or Sarangnatha where the Blessed One preached his First Sermon and laid the foundation of his Sangha or the Order of Monks. In Buddhist literature the place was known as Isipatana.

King Asoka distressed by the sufferings and misery caused by the Kalinga War abandoned the traditional course and turned to the Way of the Great Peace. He devoted all his resources in propagating the doctrines of Dharma. At Sarnath he raised several monuments including the Dharmarajika Stupa where the bodily relics of Buddha were enshrined. This Stupa was pulled down by Jagat Singh in 1794.

The Dhamekh Stupa which is believed to mark the spot where the Master preached his First Sermon more than 2500 years ago is also believed to have been built in Asoka's time.

During the Gupta period the Dhamekh Stupa was encased with beautifully carved stones. Many of the relics of that age can still be seen in the Archaeological Museum.

After the oblivion of many centuries the place has once again become a centre of pilgrimage and attracts thousands of visitors every year from far and wide.

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This is an old Stupa - Pan
shot from top - below L.S.
of Queen going away.

MULGANDHAKUTI VIHARA

The temple was erected to enshrine the Relics of Lord Buddha. It was completed in 1931. At the time of the opening ceremony of the Vihara Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru presented a sandal wood box containing Indian National Congress Flag with a flag post inscribed in Hindi as "Hind Rashtra Dhvaj, Sambat 1988".

The relics of Lord Buddha which are enshrined in the Vihara were found by Sir John Marshall in 1913-14 at the site of the ancient city of Taksha'sila (Taxila) in the Punjab. These relics were presented by Lord Willingdon, Viceroy and Governor General of India, to the Mahabodhi Society of India in 1931.

The fresco paintings on the walls of the Vihara hall were made by the Japanese Buddhist artist Kosetsu Nosu.

Visitors' Book.

The Visitors' Book was opened in 1934 and has been signed by many distinguished visitors including Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, Lord Willingdon, Lord Mountbatten, Marshal Tito and Mrs. Sirimovo Bhandarnaika, Ceylonese Prime Minister.

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This is main Buddhist temple. opening slit of this framed with Red flowers. was opening slit. Buddha golden statue in side this temple

FORT RAMNAGAR

Fort Ramnagar was built in 1752 by Maharaja Balwant Singh of Banaras in pursuance of his policy to keep out of sight of the Nawab Wazir of Oudh.

The Fort with its palaces appears to be rising from the bank of river Ganges and during floods looks like a huge vessel floating on water.

The terrace and the balcony of the Fort give a majestic view of the famed Ghats along the noble curve of the Ganges.

His Majesty King Edward VII visited the Fort as Prince of Wales in 1876. His Majesty King George V also visited the Fort in February 1906 as Prince of Wales.

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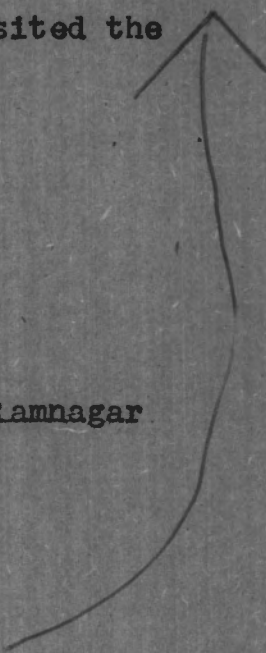
BALUAGHAT

Balua Ghat ~~is a landing place adjacent to the Ramnagar Fort.~~

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Elephant ceremony

*Comp. out of
Baige*



ST. MARY'S CHURCH, BANARAS.

St. Mary's, Banaras, where the Queen will attend the morning service on February 26th, 1961, is probably the oldest church in North India outside Calcutta, having been built about 150 years ago. The Rev. Daniel Corrie, one of the first five Chaplains of the East India Company, was appointed a Chaplain to Chunar in 1807. On his first visit to Banaras, he met a Christian merchant named George Wheatley, who devoted much of his time to the relief of poor and sick people, and had been holding services for the soldiers in the barracks. The General objected to this, nor would he give any facilities to the Chaplain to hold services. So finally private subscriptions were given for the building of St. Mary's and the foundation stone was laid on April 29, 1810. The church was completed in 1812 and used regularly, but it was not consecrated until September 5, 1824 when Bishop Heber of Calcutta paid his first visit. It was the garrison church until 1947, and has served the small English speaking congregation since.

The Church set in the midst of a mango grove is built in the typical Georgian style of the early 19th. Century. It is rectangular in form, surmounted by a square clock tower and belfry with two balls, and on top a spire and cross. ~~It is an important landmark in a city redolent of~~ history.

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