

FIFTY YEARS AGO ...



This year sees the fiftieth anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone of the building occupied by the IHB. The ceremony, held during a supplementary International Hydrographic Conference convened for a full discussion of the many matters left outstanding from the previous Conference, was described as follows in the *Report of Proceedings*.

LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC BUREAU

At 15.00 on Saturday, 20th April 1929, H.S.H. Louis II, Sovereign Prince of Monaco, laid the Foundation Stone of the building which the Government of Monaco is providing for the International Hydrographic Bureau.

The ceremony was attended by Their Serene Highnesses the Hereditary Princess, Prince Pierre and their children, Princess Antoinette and Prince Rainier, as well as by the Princely household, the chief Members of the Government, the Representatives of the League of Nations, the Directing Committee of the International Hydrographic Bureau, the President and Members of the Supplementary International Hydrographic Conference and their families, the Consular Corps and many other notabilities.

The following speeches were delivered:

SPEECH DELIVERED BY H. E. THE MINISTER OF STATE. (*Translation*)

Your Serene Highnesses,

It is just a year, Your Highness, since You unveiled the Monument to those who died in the Great War, thus turning our thoughts towards the memory of mourning.

To-day, continuing the Oceanic work of Your August Father, You are about to lay the Foundation Stone of an Institute devoted to Peace erected under the aegis of the League of Nations whose Representative I salute in the name of the Princely Government — as under that of a protecting star shining through the far-spread clouds.

Then the Right Reverend, the Lord Bishop of Monaco will draw down onto the foundations of the International Hydrographic Bureau the blessing to which the seamen of all nations and religions lift their eyes in the dark hours of extreme danger.

And we, at the time when the memorial parchment invested with noble signatures is enclosed in a metal case, will enclose therein our human wishes and hopes which beat unceasingly, like the surging of the waves, on the shores of life.

May the work of the Hydrographic Bureau, rendered easier by better and definite offices, make safer the wide ways of the ocean which are the means of communication between and of drawing together the peoples of the earth.

When, thanks to you Gentlemen of the International Conference and Bureau, the seamen and passengers, having escaped the fury or the hidden danger of the deep, send their thoughts in gratitude towards your Seat as though borne on the wings of some powerful and distant seabird, it would seem to us that, in passing, they will touch and caress the whole Principality of Monaco.

SPEECH DELIVERED

BY THE MARCHESE PAULUCCI DI CALBOLI BARONE

Under-Secretary General of the League of Nations.

(*Translation*)

Your Serene Highnesses,

The generous offer made by the Principality of Monaco to endow the International Hydrographic Bureau with a new Seat, amid the wonderful surroundings of this privileged country, was learnt with deep satisfaction by the League of Nations.

It is well to recall, on this occasion, that in the very first months of the existence of the League of Nations, in July 1919, the First International Hydrographic Conference of London decided to create the International Hydrographic Bureau.

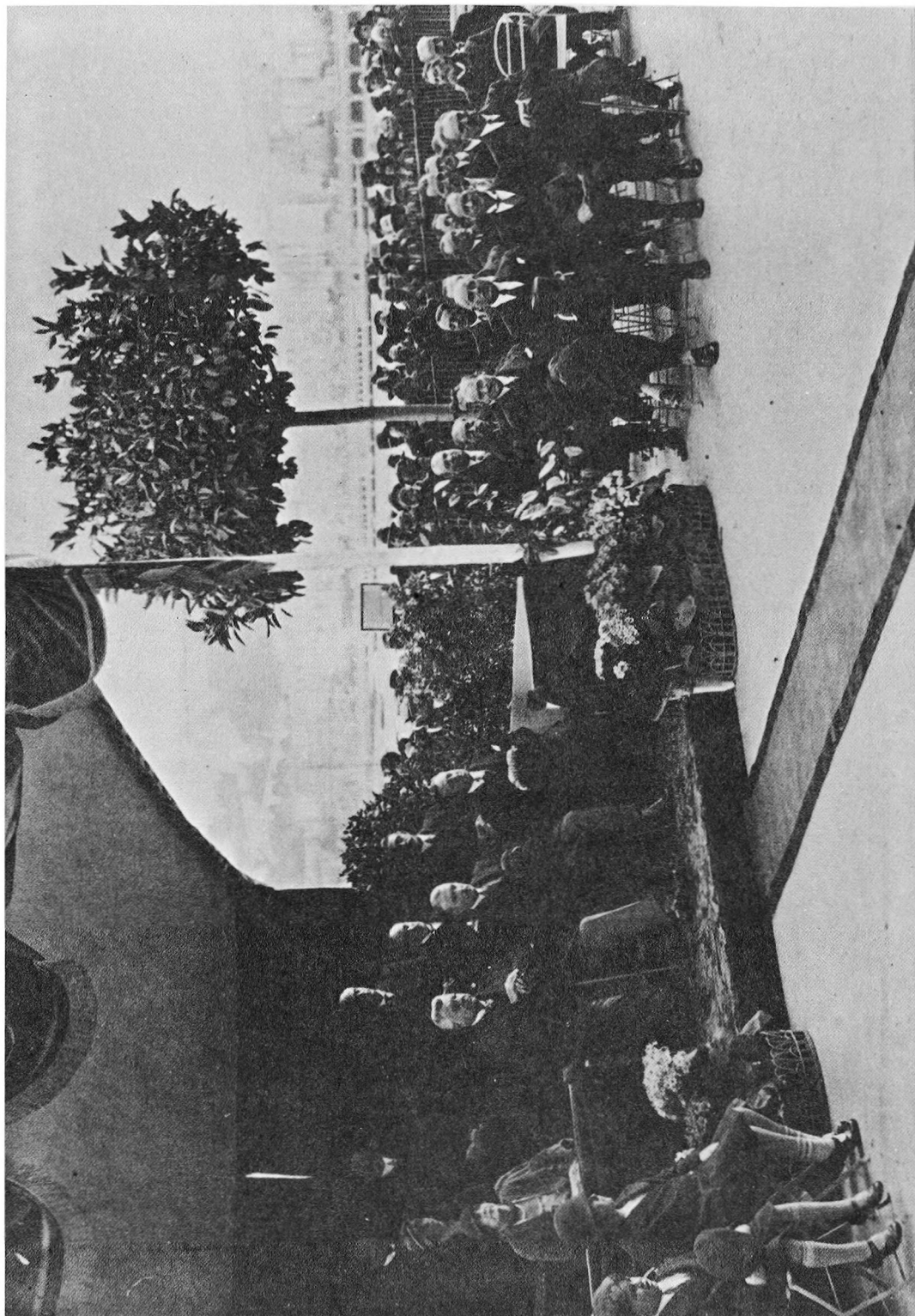
The London Conference, in choosing Monaco for the Seat of the International Hydrographic Bureau, doubtless wished to express its gratitude to that mourned Sovereign, Prince Albert I, founder of the Oceanographic Museum and Institute which are admired by the whole world.

Since then the Hydrographic Bureau, under the able direction which it has always enjoyed, has shown itself worthy of the task confided to it. Much is expected from the scientific activity of this Institution which, in the peace and exquisite surroundings of this corner of the Mediterranean, works efficiently for the solution of important and delicate questions. This Organisation has been placed under the direction of the League of Nations, this being one of the earliest examples of the application of Article 24 of the Covenant and it is officially sanctioned in the first Article of the Bureau's Statutes.

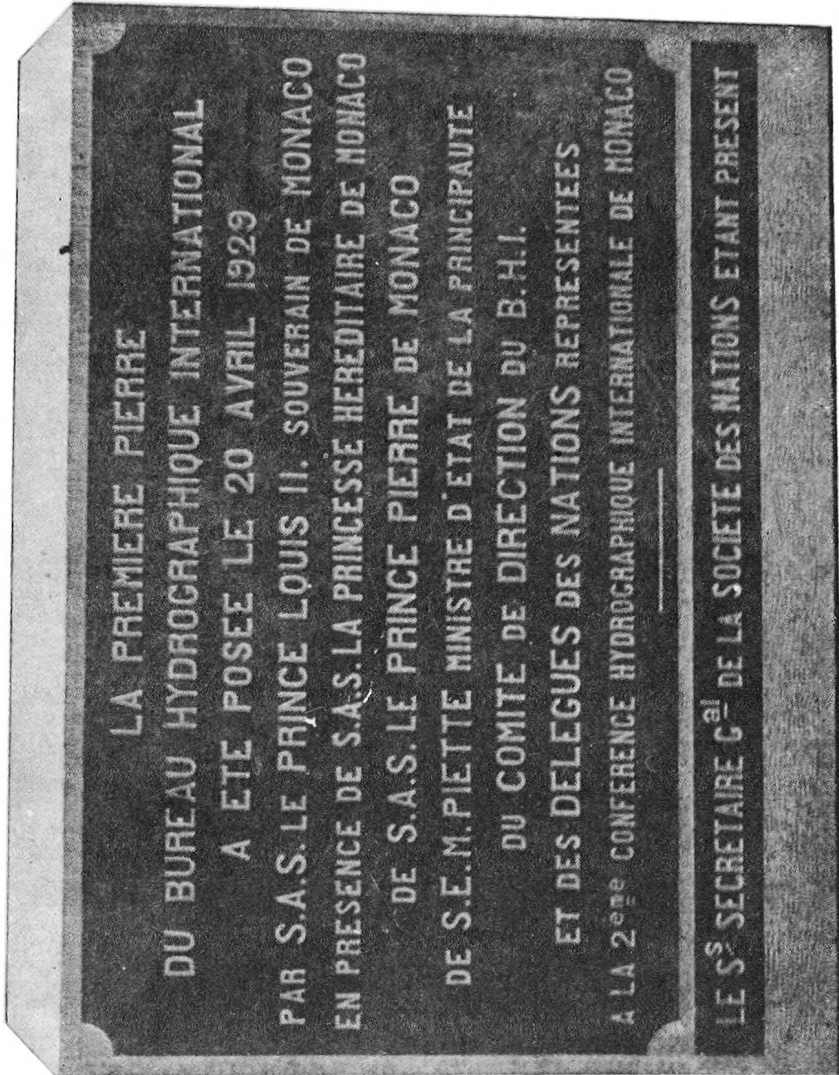
In the name of the Secretary-General of the League of Nations, Sir Eric Drummond, I have the honour to pay most respectful homage to Your Highness who, in thus so generously helping this Institution, has shown a deep sense of the solidarity of peoples. My highest respects are due also to Her Serene Highness Princess Charlotte, whose gracious presence heightens the brilliance of this ceremony, and to His Serene Highness Prince Pierre, Honorary President of the present Conference, in which He has shown continued and high interest.

My thoughts turn in respectful memory towards Prince Albert I, the learned Prince who dedicated His life to Science and who, from the very first, was a faithful supporter of the League of Nations. His spirit will certainly rejoice in this solemn ceremony to-day by which His Successors and His people assert their desire to continue to follow the trail He blazed in order further to increase the prestige of the Principality.

I am proud that the honour has been mine to be the interpreter of the sentiments of the League of Nations at this official ceremony. The League has followed and will always follow the work of this Bureau with the highest interest. Communication by sea, made easier and safer by the results of its studies, contributes to closer understanding between nations, to the development of science and to the advancement of civilization.



Laying of the Foundation Stone of the IHB
Editor's Note: On the dais, centre, His Serene Highness, Prince Louis II. Beside him, T.S.H. Princess Charlotte and Prince Pierre. H.S.H. Prince Rainier and H.S.H. Princess Antoinette are seated in the left foreground.



The Foundation Stone of the IHB

SUMMARY OF THE SPEECH DELIVERED BY
REAR-ADMIRAL W.S. CROSLY.

Admiral Crosley, having saluted the Sovereign Prince and the Princely Family and thanked the Government of Monaco for the wonderful gift which it is making to the International Hydrographic Bureau, stated that he was proud that he had been selected to be the Representative of the States Members of the Bureau on this memorable occasion.

He dwelt on the valuable services which the Bureau has rendered and will render and showed that, though primarily these are of interest to seamen, they are of importance to all.

Then he thanked the Sovereign Prince for the renewed proof of His interest in the International Hydrographic Bureau made so evident by the act of laying the Foundation Stone of the new building which is to be occupied by the Bureau and concluded by wishing Their Serene Highnesses and the Bureau long life and prosperity.

Their Serene Highnesses then signed the following parchment in duplicate as did the others mentioned therein:

PARCHMENT PLACED UNDER THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE OFFICES
OF THE INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC BUREAU.

(Translation)

On this day, the twentieth of April, nineteen hundred and twenty nine, the Foundation Stone of the International Hydrographic Bureau, which is being erected on the Quai de Plaisance of the Harbour of Monaco, was laid with the usual ceremonies, by His Serene Highness LOUIS II, Sovereign Prince of Monaco, after it had been blessed by the Right Reverend CLEMENT, Lord Bishop of Monaco, in the presence of:

Her Serene Highness the HEREDITARY PRINCESS of Monaco;
His Serene Highness Prince PIERRE of Monaco;
His Excellency M. MAURICE PIETTE, Minister of State;
M. FRANÇOIS ROUSSEL, Secretary of State, Director of Foreign Relations;
M. ALEXANDRE NOGHES, President of the Special Communal Delegation;
ADMIRAL W.S. CROSLY, President of the First Supplementary International Hydrographic Conference;
MARCHESE GIACOMO PAULUCCI DI CALBOLI BARONE, Under Secretary-General, Representing the League of Nations;
Ingénieur-Hydrographe Général PIERRE DE VANSSAY DE BLAVOUS and Captain LUIGI TONTA, Members of the Directing Committee of the International Hydrographic Bureau;
Commander G.B. SPICER-SIMSON, Secretary-General of the International Hydrographic Bureau;
M. FERRÉOL BUTAVAND, Government Councillor for Public Works,

who, each and all, have signed this document.

One copy of this document was placed in a recess in the foundation support with two medallions bearing the effigy of the Sovereign Prince. The other copy is kept in the Archives of Monaco.

Prince Louis II then spread cement on the foundation support, and the Stone was swung into place and unveiled. The accompanying photograph shows the inscription on the Stone.

Finally the Lord Bishop of Monaco blessed the Stone.