

FIFTY YEARS AGO ...

The May 1949 issue of the *International Hydrographic Review* announced a sad news: the death of H.S.H. Prince Louis II of Monaco. The following biographical note was included:

"H.S.H. PRINCE LOUIS II OF MONACO

The Directing Committee of the International Hydrographic Bureau are deeply grieved to have to announce the death of His Serene Highness Prince Louis II of Monaco which occurred at His Palace at Monaco on 9th May 1949. The Prince was 79 years of age and died after a long and painful illness.

On this sorrowful occasion the Directing Committee of the International Hydrographic Bureau had the honour to pay homage to Prince Rainier III of Monaco and to express to Him and to the Princely Family their most sincere and respectful condolences in the name of the States Members.

The funeral of H.S.H. Prince Louis II of Monaco took place on 17th May 1949, and was attended by the Directing Committee and the Secretary-General.

A wreath was sent in the name of the International Hydrographic Bureau.

Prince Louis II who was the son of Prince Albert 1st of Monaco and Princess Marie-Victoire de Douglas-Hamilton, was born on 12th July 1870, at Baden Baden, and was educated at the "Collège Stanislas", Paris. He attended the "Ecole Militaire de Saint-Cyr" and the "Ecole d'Application" of Saumur and served until the year 1899 in the Cavalry Corps of the French Army in Africa.

For a long time before succeeding His father - which He did on 26th June 1922 - Prince Louis II had been preparing to fulfil His duties as a Sovereign, and He contributed to the drawing-up of the Monegasque Constitution of 5th January, 1911.

During the war of 1914, He offered His services to France and served at the Headquarters of the Vth Army; and after the Armistice was signed, filled an important post with the Inter-Allied Commission in Upper Silesia. In 1922, the Prince was promoted to the rank of Brigadier-General, and in 1939 to that of *Général de Division*: He was awarded the Grand Croix of the Legion of Honour as well as the French Military Medal.

The French, Italian and Belgian War Crosses were also bestowed upon Him, as also the "Croix du Combattant Volontaire" of the French Foreign Legion.

During the whole of His reign Prince Louis II unceasingly performed useful work for the development of His country both as regards urban improvements and social reform. Monaco is indebted to Him for the building of its fine Palace of Justice and the Olympic Stadium, the latter of which bears His name. He gave His constant support to Arts and Literature through the establishment of organisations such as the "Société des Conférences", the National Museum of Fine Arts, and the "Cité Universitaire de Monaco" in Paris and by taking a deep personal interest in historical and scientific publications which do honour to the Principality.

Prince Louis II continuing the tradition of His illustrious Father took a considerable interest in the work of the International Hydrographic Bureau, and provided our institution with the very fine building in which its offices are located. He laid the foundation stone of the present building on 20th April 1929, and after its completion inaugurated the new edifice on 14th January 1931. He also graciously consented to give His high patronage to the International Hydrographic Conferences, and presided over the opening sessions of the meetings that were held in 1929, 1932, 1937 and 1947, thus giving further evidence of the interest which He, together with the Princely Family, took in the hydrographic work of the world.

The body of H.S.H. Prince Louis II rests in the crypt of Monaco Cathedral where it was laid in the presence of the Princely Family."