

Margaret's Visits Ease Load

By M. McINTYRE HOOD
(Special London Correspondent)

LONDON—Second only to the Queen herself in fulfilling her duties of visiting other countries, both within and without the Commonwealth and Empire is her sister, Princess Margaret. Since 1947, when she made her first visit to an overseas dominion—South Africa—with her father and mother, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, and her sister, now the Queen, Princess Margaret has been a zealous traveller in the discharge of the duties placed upon her by her role in affairs of state.

Up to the end of her visit to Canada last year, she had visited seven European countries, and 16 dominions and colonies of the Commonwealth and Empire. While she plays her minor role of sister to the Queen, she has nevertheless made a tremendous impression on the people of all the countries she has visited, and has won for herself a large measure of personal popularity.

She has not the robust constitution of the Queen, and has sometimes been completely exhausted at the end of a trying tour, but she continues to carry her burden of public responsibilities with unflagging zeal.

SOUTH AFRICA FIRST

It was in 1947, when in South Africa with the King and Queen, that she was first exposed to the thrills and mysteries of a Royal Tour. It lasted for over three months. It was there that, in a Viking of the King's Flight, along with her father, that she had her first experience of flying, of which she is now an ardent devotee.

On that occasion, she flew with the King from Bloemfontein to the Free State Game Reserve. Since then, she has flown great distances. She was, with her mother, the first member of the Royal Family to fly in a Comet, in a non-stop circuit over France and Italy. They were aboard the first Comet ever to land at Salisbury in Southern Rhodesia. She has flown in Argonauts, Dakotas,

Herons, Viscounts and Britannias. It was not until 1953, after the accession of Queen Elizabeth, that Princess Margaret began her Commonwealth tours. In that year, along with the Queen Mother, she visited Southern Rhodesia. In 1955, she had her first tour on her own when she visited the British West Indies and Tobago.

CANADA LAST YEAR

In September and October of 1958, Princess Margaret undertook a complex tour of East Africa. It was a five week junket, including visits to Mauritius, Zanzibar, Tanganyika and Kenya, which was just recovering from the Mau-Mau rising and atrocities. It was a strenuous tour for the Princess, who was exhausted at its completion.

In 1958, Princess Margaret undertook two major tours. In the spring, she visited the newly-made Caribbean Federation, and officiated at the inauguration of the first federal legislature of the federation. While there, she also visited British Guiana and British Honduras, which she had missed in her 1955 tour, Bermuda and the Bahamas.

In the summer of 1958, Princess Margaret paid her first official visit to Canada. She had been in Montreal for about an hour while on the way to the British West Indies in 1955, and while on her Caribbean visit earlier in 1958, her plane had stopped at Gander, Newfoundland on both the outward and the homeward journey.

CENTENARY MARKED

She came to Canada last year to take part in the centenary celebrations of British Columbia, and in addition to travelling over a large part of that province, she spent 15 days on visits to other provinces, including a brief stay in Ottawa.

In addition to her travels throughout the Commonwealth, the Princess has visited France, Italy, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Norway, West Germany, and Sweden.

Her first official duty as a daughter of the King was given to her in 1948, when she went to the Netherlands for the inauguration of Queen Juliana as Queen of that country. In 1953, she went to Norway to represent her sister, the Queen, at the wedding of Princess Ragnild, and also to attend the great Norwegian festival, the Seventeenth of May, the anniversary of the founding of the Norwegian Parliament in 1814.

AUSTRALIA NEXT

On her three visits to Western Germany, Princess Margaret has

been visiting British regiments of which she is the Colonel-in-Chief, the first such visit being in 1954. Although she has already seen much of Commonwealth, there are still more distant lands for Princess Margaret to visit. Australia and New Zealand are beckoning to her and have extended an invitation to her to visit their next summer. The invitation is almost certain to be accepted and it will give the travelling princess an opportunity of broadening still further her knowledge of the countries of the Commonwealth and Empire.



WARMLY LOVED in her own right, Princess Margaret ranks second only to the Queen in performing the royal duty of visiting other countries both within and without the Commonwealth. Last year she made her first visit to Canada but did not come to the Island.

Long live the Queen

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