

QUEEN IN SWEDEN.

Britannia brings the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh to Stockholm Harbour, where the Swedish royal barge takes them ashore at the beginning of their state visit to the beautiful capital, which is justly called the Venice of the North. As Guns fire a royal salute, King Gustav Adolf and Queen Louise are waiting at the landing pontoon to welcome their British guests. Their son Prince Bertil is on the barge with the visitors. The ruling houses of Britain and Sweden have close family ties and the welcome has more the atmosphere of a family reunion than of a formal occasion.

Past the royal guard of honour, the Queen and the Duke are escorted from the quay to meet other members of King Gustav's family, before starting on the state drive for which the people of Stockholm have been waiting.

And as the two monarchs drive in an open carriage through the crowded streets of the capital, no one is left in any doubt that Stockholm is glad to see Queen Elizabeth - and that Queen Elizabeth is glad to see Stockholm. She responds gaily to the crowd's welcome, making them feel that the people of Sweden, too, are part of the family reunion. And indeed, although nothing has been spared to make this visit a glittering event, its keynote is friendliness.

At the Palace, King Gustav and Queen Louise bring their guests on to the balcony to wave to the crowds below.

Later, in the Carl XI Gallery, the formal brilliance of a State banquet. Queen Elizabeth enters on the arm of King Gustav, while the Duke of Edinburgh escorts the Swedish Queen.

Next morning includes a visit to the Stockholm Historical Museum. Here King Gustav presents the Queen with an 18th-century-ceremonial sword.

The Queen accepts the gift - remembering to pay the traditional penny, which seems to take the King by surprise. Perhaps it isn't a Swedish custom!

Next it is the turn of the Stockholm City Council to offer hospitality to the Queen and the Duke, at a luncheon in the City Hall. King Gustav also attends, with Queen Louise and members of their family.

At the luncheon, Queen Elizabeth chats with Prince Bertil.

Big event of the evening is a gala performance of Verdi's Don Carlos at the Royal Opera House. Queen Elizabeth wears a gold brocade dress with a diamond tiara, and the blue ribbon of the Order of Seraphim, which King Gustav gave her when he visited London two years ago.

Perhaps the most spontaneous welcome of all comes from a young gentleman called Rasul, in a children's home!

This day sees the end of the official state visit - but their stay is extended informally so that they may attend the Olympic Equestrian Games. They are King Gustav's guests of honour at the opening ceremony, and they watch from the royal box as the various national contingents parade by.

The British contingent, which is led by Mr. W.H. White, includes the Queen's horse Countryman, ridden by Mr. Bertie Hill.

The Olympic Fire has been brought from Athens by plane and relays of horsemen - and Mr. Hans Wikne, of Sweden, has the honour of bringing it to the end of its journey.

With the kindling of the flame, the Olympic Equestrian Games are opened - the contest for which hundreds of the world's best horsemen have been waiting; and for the Queen, a happy culmination to a very successful visit.