

SOURCE Queen Margaret Old Girls' Association, 'Te Karere ' Vol xx, 1937, 83-84.

'Stewart Hamilton has recently had a marvellous trip abroad. She has kindly consented to write us a brief account of her travels, and we shall allow Stewart to take up the pen from here.

"I had long looked forward to a trip overseas, with all its wonderful possibilities, and when the opportunity presented itself in the Coronation year I could hardly realise that my dream was to come true" [continued below]

"Briefly our itinerary comprised Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth and thence to Ceylon, Aden and Cairo. Then followed Naples, with a visit to Pompeii, a most interesting experience. We arrived at Villefranche and motored to Nice, Cannes and Monte Carlo on the French Riviera. Heavy seas unfortunately prevented our landing at Gibraltar, but the notorious Bay of Biscay was on its best behaviour. And so to London, quite the most fascinating and beloved city of all our travels.

"At the Empire Club on the 24th May, Empire Day, we dined with famous people, a company of 1,400 guests, including Earl Baldwin, Neville Chamberlain, the Dominion Premiers and Indian Princes. Two of the latter were the Aga Khan and the Gaekwar of Baroda. The Earl of Athlone and Princess Alice received the guests and presided. Lord and Lady Bledisloe were among those present.

"In England, Scotland and Wales we toured by car for two months, then passed on to the Continent on a conducted tour through Holland, Belgium, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Italy, Switzerland and France, completing at the Paris Exhibition.

"My special interest while abroad was nursery schools, and through observations made and discussions with eminent specialists in this field of education I decided to stay another year in England and take a course in child development at London University, under Dr. Susan Isaacs, the child specialist who recently paid a visit to New Zealand. This course of study included observations of practical work being done in various types of schools within London. During vacation periods I visited the modern Co-educational School of Dartington Hall, in Devon, and also the Bristol Child Guidance Clinic; the latter phase was a special feature of our London course of study also.

"Passing thence to America I spent two months in Canada, and the United States, visiting and studying at New York, Toronto, Chicago, Iowa City University Research Centre, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. It will be of interest as showing the variety of students to mention that where I stayed at International House, New York, there were no fewer than seventy languages spoken. In a course of study such as I have outlined it is of course necessary to recognise that not all the methods followed are applicable to our conditions, and wise discretion must be observed in putting into practice the ideas gained.

"In conclusion, I would emphasise that nursery schools are recognised by educational authorities abroad as forming an essential part of the general educational system, and the ideal aimed at is to provide nursery school experience for every child."