

Royal Visit to Barotseland and Copperbelt, Northern Rhodesia 19 – 21 May 1960

The Queen Mother's most important duty in May 1960 was to officially open Kariba Dam and Hydro-electric scheme; our exhibit follows her passage from Mongu, Barotseland and thence to the Copperbelt.



The Barotseland Resident Commissioner's wife recorded in her diary on 19 - 20 May:



'Up early to supervise the trays for early morning tea for three, and Her Majesty's breakfast in her room (just tea and fresh fruit). The ladies-in-waiting had breakfast with us, so a small party. At 9:15 H.M appeared, looking fresh and lovely in a full dress of white with a blue broad sash of the Order of the Garter, her stars and miniatures of the late King.'

Thence to meet the Paramount Chief: *'he gave presents of carved ivory and wooden animals, and she gave him a photograph of herself.'* We embarked on the Royal barge *'followed by the whole fleet, very fine, and she seemed to enjoy it all, and the pretty sunset.'*

Photo left: the Queen Mother and Paramount Chief of Barotseland, 19 May 1960



Her Majesty travelled in the Governor's Rolls Royce through the Copperbelt, stopping at Chingola, Mufulira and Kitwe returning to Lusaka before the next leg of her journey to Nyasaland.