

Speech to the National Portrait Gallery

Monday 21st May 2012

Your Excellencies, Chief Minister, my Lords, ladies and gentlemen

1. It gives me great pleasure to present this hologram to the National Portrait Gallery on behalf of the people of Jersey. There is, I think, a certain resonance about the gift, in that it is made in honour of The Queen's lengthy and dedicated service of 60 years to the British people by an Island which, together with the other Channel Islands, constitutes the oldest dependency of the Crown.
2. Our relationship goes back to 1066. Prior to that we were part of Normandy and Jerseymen were no doubt in the army of William the Conqueror at the Battle of Hastings. We like to point out therefore that we were on the winning side in 1066; indeed we also occasionally like to argue that, given that we were on the winning side and that the Channel Islands are the only part of what was Normandy which is still linked to the British Crown, logic suggests that England is really a dependency of ours rather than the other way round! However, I have not found that this argument receives great acceptance in the corridors of Whitehall and I shall let it pass on this occasion!

3. 1204 was a highly significant date for us because it was in that year that King John lost continental Normandy to the King of France but Jersey, despite being only 15 miles from the Normandy coast and over 100 miles from England, chose to stay loyal to the English Crown rather than remain part of Normandy. In return, King John conferred upon us the right to be governed by our own laws and administration; and that has remained the position ever since.
4. It is this history which explains our relationship to this day. We have never been part of England - or later the United Kingdom - and we have no representatives in the Parliament at Westminster. Our relationship is with the Crown. We have our own legislature, and our own system of law, with its Norman origins, applied by our own independent courts.
5. But we have always remained fiercely loyal to the Sovereign and have had to fight off various invasions by France over the centuries as a result. The last was in 1781 when a French invasion force landed on the Island and was only vanquished following a battle in the main square in St Helier, vividly portrayed in Copley's famous painting "*The Death of Major Peirson*" which hangs in the Tate Gallery.
6. That is why we are so pleased to join in the national celebrations of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee and to contribute this portrait to join the many

other distinguished portraits of the Queen which are on show as part of the exhibition being held by the National Portrait Gallery. The hologram, by artist Chris Levine and holographer Rob Munday was first commissioned by Jersey Heritage to commemorate 800 years of allegiance to the Crown in 2004. It is the first ever holographic portrait of The Queen and was given the name "*Equanimity*", which I think captures the essence of Her Majesty's image in the portrait. It involved taking some ten thousand photographs over 2 sittings. The portrait which is being presented today is an advanced form of lenticular imaging mastered from the original sequence of images.

7. So, without more ado, on behalf of the people of Jersey I now have great pleasure in formally presenting this portrait to the National Portrait Gallery.