

BRUNEI TODAY

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His Majesty in traditional procession around the capital.



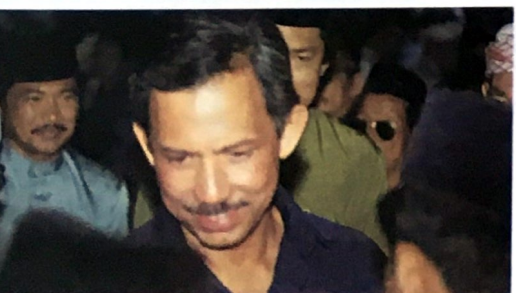
'With the People' session in Brunei/Muara District.



In Temburong District.



In Belait District.



In Tutong District.

Front Cover

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanah Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, riding in a specially-built gilded carriage drawn by members of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces for the traditional procession around the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan.

Inside of front cover

The Tutong Recreational Park, which was officially opened by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanah Bolkiah on October 26th.

Inside of back cover

Firework displays were part of the Silver Jubilee celebrations.

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Bruneians celebrate their monarch's Silver Jubilee with pomp and ceremony



His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, being drawn in a gilded carriage for the traditional procession around the capital, which was flooded by people from throughout the country, to commemorate the Silver Jubilee on 5th October 1992 of His Majesty's succession to the throne.



Earlier His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah inspected a guard of honour mounted by members of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces on the compound of Istana (Palace) Nurul Iman.

His Majesty addressing a congregation of VIPs including foreign Heads of State and Government during an audience ceremony in the Throne Room of Istana Nurul Iman on the morning of 5th October, just before the procession.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam (fifth from left), Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Hajjah Anak Saleha (third from left) and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam (seventh from left) with some of the world leaders and their wives during the State banquet held on the evening of the 5th October at Istana Nurul Iman.

AFTER months of elaborate preparations the long-awaited big day finally came with pomp and ceremony, befitting the centuries-old concept of Malay Islamic Monarchy (MIM). The date, 5th October 1992, will be remembered by all until their last days because it was the Silver Jubilee of the succession to the throne of His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanah Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam. It was a truly historical and once-in-a-lifetime experience for the people (citizens and non-citizens alike)

of Brunei Darussalam, who were out in full force to take part in the celebrations.

His Majesty, who turned 46 last July, is the 29th of his line dating back to the 14th century. As the eldest son of His Majesty Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien and Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Damit, he was installed Crown Prince in 1961 and was still a student at the Sandhurst Royal Military Academy when called upon to ascend the throne on 5th October 1967 following the voluntary abdication the previous evening of his father.



The Silver Jubilee Celebrations, which officially lasted for 15 days at national level, began on 29th September 1992 with the holding of the Gendang Jaga-Jaga Ceremony, which comprised the beating of special instruments by court musicians. The ceremony traditionally heralds the start and end of a major royal occasion.

Procession

The intention to commemorate His Majesty's 25 years on the throne materialised in 1990 with the formation of a 54-member executive committee, which later set up 18 working committees to draw up a programme of events within the context of the MIM concept. Altogether the programme had no fewer than 40 different items, some of which actually commenced in early September with a series of talks on MIM and stretched to the end of November with the opening of the multi-million dollar Bukit Barun Silver Jubilee Water Treatment Works and Benutan Silver Jubilee Dam.



Mass prayers in the main mosques throughout the country were held in the eve of the Silver Jubilee. His Majesty is seen here with local and foreign dignitaries, including his sons His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Duli Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah and His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Duli Pengiran Muda Haji Abdul 'Azim (second and third from left respectively); His Royal Highness Sultan Iskandar of Johore and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamad of Malaysia (second and third from right respectively).

Some of the distinguished foreign dignitaries, including the nine hereditary rulers of the Malaysian component states, photographed at Istana Nurul Iman. From right they are: Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Al-Musta'in Billah of Pahang; Sultan Iskandar of Johore; President Wee Kim Wee of Singapore; Sultan Mahmud Al-Muktafi Billah Shah of Terengganu; Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Alhaj of Selangor; President Fidel Ramos of the Philippines; Sultan Al-Mu'tasimu Billah Muhibuddin Tuanku Alhaj Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah of Kedah; Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah, Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia; Tuanku Syed Putra, Raja of Perlis; Prince Edward, who represented his mother, Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; Crown Prince Vajiralongkorn, who represented his father, King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand; Tuanku Ja'afar, Yang Di-Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan; Tuanku Ismail Petra, Sultan of Kelantan; and Raja Nazrin Shah, Acting Raja of Perak.





The building was officially declared opened on September 30th by His Majesty, who is seen in the picture (above) flanked by His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Bendahara Seri Maharaja Permaisua Pengiran Muda Haji Sufri Bolkiah and the Finance Minister, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkiah, (second and first from left respectively) and other Cabinet Ministers.

The Royal Regalia and Momentos (RRM) Building, located at the centre of Bandar Seri Begawan, was completed in time for the Silver Jubilee celebrations.



a series of talks on MIM and stretched to the end of November with the opening of the multi-million dollar Bukit Barun Silver Jubilee Water Treatment Works and Benutan Silver Jubilee Dam.

The focal point of the celebrations, the Silver Jubilee itself on October 5th, began with His Majesty receiving local and foreign dignitaries, who included Heads of State and Government and the rulers of the Malaysian component states, in an audience ceremony at the Istana (Palace) Nurul Iman.

This was followed shortly after by a procession during which His Majesty mounted a gilded carriage and was led around Bandar Seri Begawan to the cheers of thou-

sands of people who lined both sides of the 4½-km route. The day concluded with a grand State banquet at the palace for about three thousand and five hundred people.

Mushaf

There were two significant events preceding the Silver Jubilee, namely the launching of the publication of the specially hand-written Holy Koran and the mass prayers at the main mosques throughout the State on the eve of the big day.

The hand-written Koran, known as Mushaf Brunei Darussalam, is a project personally commanded by His Majesty to ensure that ev-



Another major event held a couple of days before the actual Silver Jubilee was the launching of the publication of Mushaf Brunei Darussalam (MBD) Ceremony, which was officiated by His Majesty (seated on the throne). Among those present were His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal Waqar Pengiran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah, the Foreign Affairs Minister, and His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Bendahara Seri Maharaja Permaisura Pengiran Muda Haji Sufri Bolkiah (seated on His Majesty's right and left respectively).

His Majesty browsing through a couple of photo albums, which form part of the numerous exhibits in the RRM Building.





His Majesty signing his name on the marble replica of a book during the foundation stone laying ceremony of the new campus of the University of Brunei Darussalam (UBD) at Tungku, Gadong on October 8th. Looking on are the Education Minister, the honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Aziz (right) and the UBD Chancellor, Dato Seri Laila Jasa Haji Awang Abu Bakar. Also in the picture is the Deputy Education Minister, Dato Seri Laila Jasa Dr Haji Awang Ahmad.



His Majesty being shown and briefed on a section of the model by one of the three consortiums of local architects responsible for designing the multi-million dollar campus, Dato Paduka Awang Ibrahim of Akitek Ibrahim. The Education Minister and the UBD Chancellor look on.

ery Muslim family in the country has at least a copy of the Holy Book so that they may read, study and understand its messages. The Koran and the Prophet's hadis (proven actions or sayings of the Prophet) are the prime sources of Islamic teachings.

Central

The task of writing the Koran's 30 chapters, which comprise 114 sections and contain a total 6,236 verses (excluding Basmalah, which is a short verse at the beginning of each section and chapter), was started about three years ago when the Brunei Government, with the cooperation of the Egyptian Ministry of Waqaf, engaged an expert writer. The correctness of the written verses was further verified by Egypt's famed Al-Azhar University. The Mushaf Brunei Darussalam (MBD) has some truly Bruneian features such as the full stops, which are symbolised by parts of the Brunei

Darussalam national crest consisting of the crescent topped by the wing, royal umbrella and the flag; and the designs of the opening pages in which are inscribed the words "Mushaf Brunei Darussalam" and "His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah" to remind posterity that the unique project has been commanded by and undertaken during the reign of His Majesty.

The MBD, whose copies are scheduled to be distributed in January 1993, is one more project in a long list of religious achievements in the last 25 years. Its production is another testimony that Islam plays a central role in Brunei Darussalam life.

Illustrious

There were also several important events after October 5th, and these included the laying of the foundation stone for a new campus of the University of Brunei



His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Bendahara Seri Maharaja Permaisua Pengiran Muda Haji Sufri Bolkiah (facing camera) shares a light moment with the third architect, Pengiran Haji Ismail Akitek.

Darussalam; a tattoo presentation by the bands of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces and the armed forces of the other ASEAN member countries; culinary festival; land and riverine float processions; the launching of the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation (SHHBE), laying of its building's foundation stone and the announcement of the site for the Silver Jubilee Hall. The SHHBE will be devoted to financing research-related works, especially in the field of knowledge.

The Silver Jubilee festivities manifested the people's collective

desire to thank God for heaping blessings and favours upon Brunei Darussalam and at the same time to express their appreciation to His Majesty for his 25- year illustrious helmsmanship during which the country has experienced stability, prosperity, peace, harmony as well as manifold enhancement in all facets of development.

Intact

In his first speech on ascending the throne. His Majesty pledged to carry out his father's policies; to maintain peace, harmony,





Later His Majesty toured the exhibition on various aspects of the campus. Here His Majesty takes a close look at the materials which the architects have recommended for the campus.

Some of the guests, who included foreign diplomats, at the ceremony.



His Majesty looking at the marble plaque commemorating the foundation stone laying ceremony for the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation Building on a reclaimed site at Kampong Sultan Lama in the capital. Standing next to His Majesty is the Minister of Development, the honourable Pengiran Dato Seri Paduka Dr Haji Ismail, and standing behind them is the Minister of Religious Affairs, the honourable Pehin Jawatan Luar Pekerma Raja Dato Seri Utama Dr Ustaz Haji Awang Mohammad Zain.





A model of the multi-million dollar Silver Jubilee Hall is being explained to His Majesty by the architect, Dato Paduka Awang Ibrahim.

His Majesty is being shown a model of the Foundation complex, which will be devoted to financing research-related works for the intellectual advancement of Bruneians, especially in the field of knowledge. On the left is the Director of Public Works, Awang Haji Othman (below).

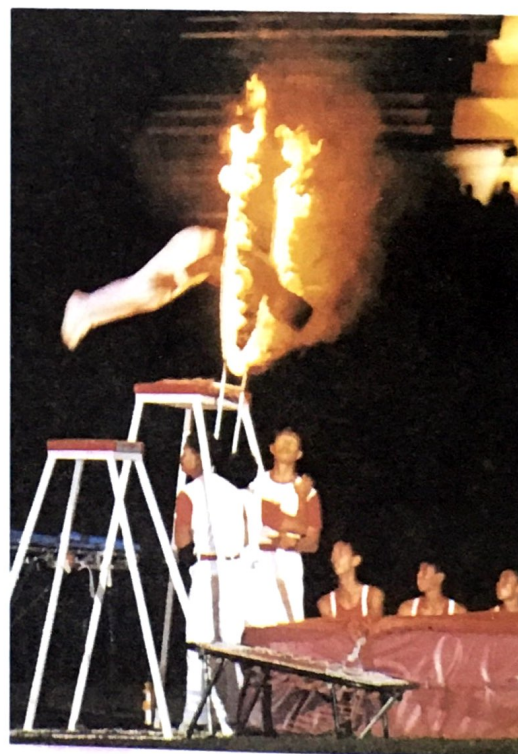
Some of the guests at the ceremony, during which His Majesty also named Lambak, just outside the capital, as the site for the Silver Jubilee Hall. Looking on is the Development Minister.



The colourful military tattoo began with His Majesty, in his ceremonial military uniform, inspecting a guard of honour accorded by members of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium.

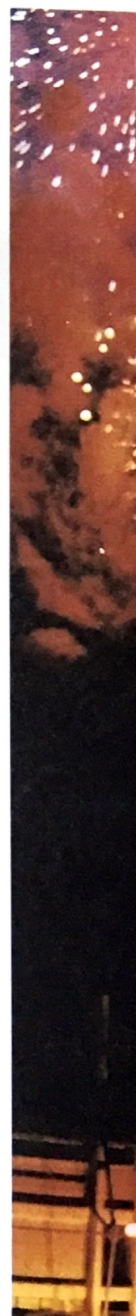


One of the events in the tattoo, which was held for two consecutive nights and comprised not only band performances but also displays of fireworks, naval skills and gymnastics, exciting motorcycle-riding stunts and mass aerobic dancing by members of the RBAF Women Company.



A gymnast of the RBAF going through his paces in one of the gymnastic events staged during the tattoo.

A spectacular display of fireworks lights up the sky, starting off the tattoo with a bang.





Huge crowds turned up at the stadium to enjoy a few hours of thrilling performances by the multi-national participants made up of the RBAF band and navy, and bands of the armed forces of Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines and the Sultanate of Oman.



prosperity as well as the good name of Brunei Darussalam; to raise the standard of living of the people; and to uphold the purity of Islam as well as the State's traditions and customs.

During the span of a quarter of a century His Majesty has done all that and more. Brunei Darussalam has become a modern country in every sense of the word and has since 1984 taken full charge of its destiny after nearly one hundred years of British protection. Unlike most countries whose modernity is often at the expense of their traditional values, Brunei Darussalam has been spared from the same fate by its strong adherence to the MIM concept. Consequently its traditions and customs have remained intact and are growing firmer by the day. Moreover, Brunei Darussalam is among a handful of countries in the Islamic world whose actions are tailored to the requirements of Islam.

Achievements

Celebrating the Silver Jubilee was also the people's way of showing their undivided loyalty, love and respect for His Majesty, whose wise leadership has made Brunei Darussalam more mature politically, stronger economically and balanced socially.

Although it would be impossible to list all the achievements during the past 25 years, some of the vital ones that quickly come to mind include the resumption of full independence; bigger shares in oil and related companies; the Lumut Liquefied Natural Gas, one of world's largest; two earth satellite stations and an enhanced telecoms system; a colour TV network; the Brunei International Airport; the Royal Brunei Airlines; the Muara Deepwater Port; State-wide housing projects; the University of Brunei Darussalam; scores of mosques, schools and colleges; well-trained and equipped security forces; the Lumut Co-Generation Plant, the Gadong



The people love and revere His Majesty and always crowd around him wherever he goes. This picture shows His Majesty being greeted by the residents of Brunei/Muara District during a "Bersama Rakyat" (With the People) session held in Bandar Seri Begawan. On His Majesty's left is the Brunei/Muara District Officer, Dato Paduka Awang Othman.



Taking a break from shaking the numerous outstretched hands, His Majesty shares a light moment with members of the organising committee.

His Majesty later saw an exhibition of traditional handicrafts, one of which is a hand-made deerskin drum as shown in the picture below.



Power Station and other smaller stations, enabling electricity to be supplied to almost every part of the country; highways; new hospitals in the main towns and clinics throughout the State; the Brunei Islamic Trust Fund; the Institute of Islamic Studies; the Brunei Institute of Technology; the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Institute Of Tahfiz Al-Quran, which has been set up for the study and memorising of the Holy Book's 30 chapters; and the Sungai Layong Water Supply Scheme, the Benutan SJ Dam, the Badas Barrage, the Sungai Barun SJ



Part of the huge crowds that converged on Kuala Belait to welcome His Majesty (middle, in front of video camera).



An old man in a wheel-chair, who was among the thousands of people to welcome His Majesty to Belait District, gives His Majesty the customary greeting. Behind His Majesty is the Belait District Officer, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohammad Kassim (second from left).

The Jubli Park at Anduki, which has been dedicated to the Silver Jubilee, was officially declared opened on October 24th by His Majesty, who is seen in this picture with the Managing Director of Brunei Shell, Mr Ron Van den Berg, during a walk-about around the park.

Water Treatment Works, among others.

Brunei Darussalam boasts a lot of fine edifices, including those with Malay architectural style such as the Istana Nurul Iman, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Brunei Museum, the Brunei Arts and Handicrafts Training Centre, the Malay Technology Museum, the International Convention Centre, the Ministry of Religious Affairs, the RBA Plaza, the Law Building, the Suri Seri Begawan Hospital, the Belait District Office complex but to mention a few.





As in the other districts, large crowds also gathered in Bangar, Temburong District to welcome His Majesty. Here His Majesty is seen being greeted by one of the district's senior residents. Behind His Majesty is the Temburong District Officer, Awang Haji Aliakhbar (in green national dress).

Free

The country has no external debt, and its economy remains steady despite the fall in world oil prices. Its annual per capita income is in the region of US \$16,000. A sound socio-economic environment as well as a free and comprehensive health care have given Bruneians a high standard of well-being as shown by various indicators including an average life expectancy of more than 72 years and the reduction in maternal mortality to 0.0 per 1000 live births.



Traditional handicrafts were also put on display as part of the programme to celebrate the Silver Jubilee. His Majesty is seen here looking at a big topless basket known as lasuk, which is borne piggy-back fashion for carrying farm produce such as fruit and paddy.

Government departments in the district organised an exhibition of sundry aspects of their functions and progress. In the picture at left His Majesty is being shown one of the modern equipment employed by the Medical and Health Department.

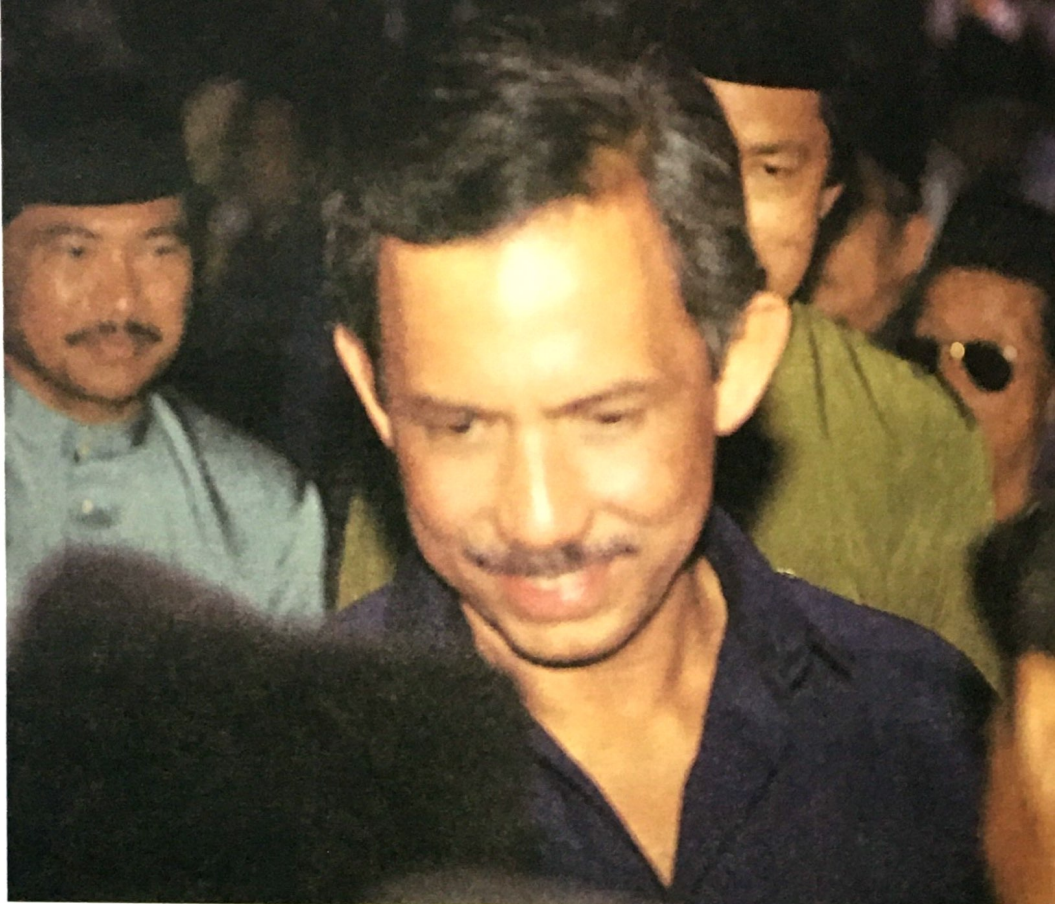
As always His Majesty happily mingles with the people - this time in Tutong District whose residents came together in Tutong town to welcome their monarch. On the left is the Acting Tutong District Officer, Awang Haji Maidin.

Like health care, education continues to be provided free at all levels of erudition, and scholarship is given to those who pursue their studies overseas for courses not available at home.

Since time immemorial Bruneians have never been required to pay personal income tax. In addition, the Government subsidizes commodities such as rice, sugar and fuels in yet another effort to help the lower income group.

These are just some of the benefits enjoyed by the people, who have every reason to feel grateful at being able to take part in celebrating the Silver Jubilee of their monarch's accession to the throne.

Some of the district's foreign residents who were in the big crowds to welcome His Majesty.



A demonstration of Pencak Silat, the Malay martial art, was one of the events organised to honour His Majesty's visit to the district. The picture shows three exponents of the art are about to display their skills.

On November 23rd, His Majesty again travelled to Tutong District to declare open the Benutan Silver Jubilee Dam and the Bukit Barun Silver Jubilee Water Treatment Works; to present house keys to 58 successful applicants of Phase One Stage Two of the National Housing Development Programme, Bukit Beruang; for a session of "With The People" of Mukim Lamunin and a visit to the Bukit Beruang Housing Estate. After officially declaring opened the Benutan SJ Dam, His Majesty was shown around an exhibition of various aspects of the reservoir such as its location and functions (right).



This was followed by a key presentation ceremony at the dam premises for 58 owners of new houses under the National Housing Development Programme, Bukit Beruang. The picture above shows His Majesty handing over a key to one of the recipients. With His Majesty on the dais are the Development Minister, Pengiran Dato Seri Laila Jasa Dr Haji Ismail and the Director of Housing Development, Dato Paduka Awang Zakaria.



From Benutan His Majesty moved on to Bukit Barun to declare open the Silver Jubilee Water Treatment Works. His Majesty is seen here looking at a jar of potable water after stages of filtration (above).



His Majesty received a tumultuous welcome from more than 2,000 residents of Mukim Lamunin, which comprises a few minor villages. His Majesty meeting his subjects on arrival at Lamunin (left).

