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Prince Philip—

Is He the World's Unhappiest Husband?

by Jack Harrison Pollack

NEXT FRIDAY England's Queen Elizabeth will have been married 12 years to Prince Philip, her handsome, glamorous 38-year-old husband.

To the world, they are presented as a romantic and happy couple. In this observer's judgment, the Queen's lot is not a blissful one despite her forthcoming childbirth. The reason is one that grows more and more obvious. Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, Knight of the Garter, Earl of Merioneth, and Baron Greenwich by the Grace of his wife, Queen Elizabeth II, is one of the world's unhappiest husbands.

During the past three years, the Queen's husband has been absent from the royal family for a total of one whole year—often for several months at a time.

Early this year he was gone from England for over three months—exactly 100 days—on his third solo trip around the world in five years. In 1957 he was away from his family for more than four months; in 1956, 150 days. He missed Christmases, Easters, wedding anniversaries, and family birthdays. Last April, the lonely Queen remained secluded in Windsor Castle on her 33rd birthday.

In May, 1958, the *London Mirror* ran this sarcastic front-page headline: "The Duke Visits Britain." Last April the *Laborite London Herald* boldly headlined, "Is Philip Away Too Much?"

As a result, a growing number of Britons have begun to whisper: "Why does Prince Philip spend so much time away from home?" Though many

conservative, throne-loving Britishers resent such innuendoes as an attempt to tarnish their Crown, more and more ordinary men and women are beginning to wonder if, "Where there's smoke, there's fire."

According to official statements from Buckingham Palace, the Duke was away on important "royal tours." Other defenders attribute it to his "love of the sea."

Whatever the reason, last summer's elaborately staged royal tour of Canada and Chicago was Philip's first real trip with Elizabeth in two years.

But the belief persists that, in addition to his domestic difficulties, Prince Philip dislikes being in England nowadays because of his growing unpopularity there. Constantly criticized by numerous groups, he seems increasingly irritable, peevish, and weary of his figurehead job. More and more during the past few years he has behaved like a "Peck's Bad Boy."

But beneath his gay-blade demeanor, Philip shows the inner torment which stems from his being a King Without A Throne, a husband who must always play second fiddle to his Boss Lady—an unnatural role for a talented, strong-willed man like Philip Mountbatten.

In the world of red carpets, including the half-mile-long one unrolled in Chicago last summer, he lives in his wife's shadow and must subordinate himself to her.

An apologetic, often pathetic figure in the back-



On all ceremonial occasions the Duke of Edinburgh stands or walks several paces behind his wife, the Queen. Here she pays homage to Britain's war dead.