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Model of Royal Yacht Britannia is examined by Guy Mathias, collections manager at the Maritime Museum of B.C.

## Mini-Britannia to rule at Maritime Museum

By Patrick Murphy

Times Colonist staff

The Royal Yacht Britannia hove into Victoria this week for its third and permanent visit.

However, this Britannia is not the opulent play toy of the dysfunctional royals, rather a finely detailed model created by B.C. model builder Charles Butterworth.

The model was bought by Roy Trythall, who donated it to the Maritime Museum of B.C., where it will be on display in the entrance next week, said collections manager Guy Mathias.

Butterworth, from the B.C. Interior, finished the 1.25-metre model in 1976 after four years work. It was originally a working model of HMY Britannia, but the engine has now been stripped out of the vessel to go on display.

"It's beautifully detailed," said Mathias. "It has the same, thin, gold line which runs the length of the hull.

"It is a gorgeous model."

Butterworth had to go to some trouble to get the plans of the origi-

nal to build the model since it was classified as a British naval ship and the plans were confidential.

A few friends in the right place freed up the plans.

The real Britannia came to Victoria in 1971 and 1983.

Mathias said the actual Britannia is 125 metres long and 17 metres wide. That is half the length of the ocean liner Queen Elizabeth II — not your run-of-the-mill yacht.

It does carry a 13-metre royal barge which is more the size of yachts around here. There are 10 boats in all on the Britannia.

The idea of this floating palace came after a 1947 cruise to South Africa by King George VI. Royalty travelled on navy battleships then and he was on HMS Vanguard when he took ill.

It was decided the monarch should have his own yacht with all facilities to look after every whim.

It does not get much use now and is soon to be scrapped.

Of note, the yacht has no name on its side, just the royal cipher on the stern.