The 10th of December 1950 marked the fiftieth anniversary of the inauguration of the Nobel Prizes in Stockholm, Sweden.

In addition to the award winners for 1950, the celebrations were attended by some of the world's most distinguished scientists, physicists, doctors and writers—-all Nobel Prize-winners of previous years.

In this Feature Programme, which has been supplied by the Radio Division of Unesco in Paris, you are to hear actual recordings of the Ceremonial Presentation of the Nobel Prizes in the Concert Hall at Stockholm in the presence of the King of Sweden and the Swedish Academy. The commentary on the proceedings is by Unesco Radio Reporter Keith Wood.

You have been listening to a special programme on the Ceremonial Presentation of Nobel Prizes for 1950.

The recording originated from the Concert Hall at Stockholm, with music by the Nobel Festen Orchestra.

This feature was produced in the studios of Unesco House in Paris. The commentary was by Keith Wood.
THE CEREMONIAL PRESENTATION OF THE NOBEL PRIZES
at STOCKHOLM, 1950.

(Unesco Recordings start here)

In the Concert Hall at Stockholm, on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Nobel Prize on December the tenth 1950, the trumpets announce the entrance of the new King - Gustaf VI Adolf - and members of the Royal family.

Music ... Swedish National Anthem ..... take down behind narrator ...

They have taken their places before blue-covered chairs in the front row of the Hall. From left to right we see Prince Bertil, son of the King and uncle of the young Crown Prince, the Queen of Sweden, His Majesty the Princess Sybilla and the King's brother, Prince Wilhelm.

Conclusion of National Anthem .... Cross to trumpets.

This time the trumpets herald the entrance of the latest prize-winners on to the stage which is already crowded with past prize-winners who have been invited to the festivities.

Music ..... "Maid of Orleans Festival Overture", by August Soederman.

Here they come now.... First, Professor C. F. Powell of England, 1950 award for Physics--- Professors Otto Diels and Kurt Alder of Germany, for Chemistry..., Professor Edward Kendall of the United States, Professor Reichstein of Switzerland and Dr. Hench of the United States (These three share the 1950 prize for Medicine)— author William Faulkner of the United States who has been awarded
the 1949 prize for Literature... and finally, the 1950 award-winner for Literature, Bertrand Russell of Great Britain.

As the Peace Prize, awarded to American Dr. Ralph Bunche, is presented in Oslo, he is not present on this occasion.

Narrator: And now the President of the Nobel Foundation, His Excellency the Lord High Steward B. Ekeberg, begins his opening address ....

Narrator: His Excellency refers to the long period during which the late King Gustaf V had been present on these occasions and speaks at some length about the life and work of Alfred Nobel. Finally he traces the history of the Nobel Prizes and their close association with the extraordinary advances made by science since the beginning of the century: "during the last fifty years", he says, "the research work in physics, chemistry, physiology and medicine has made such progress that, both in scope and kind, it exceeds the most extravagant aspirations of all previous ages... new weapons have been placed in the hands of mankind in its battle for greater prosperity, health and happiness..... If a scientific civilization is to be a good civilization, it is necessary that increase in knowledge should be accompanied by an increase in wisdom. This is something which science in itself does not provide. Increase of science by itself, therefore, is not enough to guarantee any genuine progress, though it provides one of the ingredients which progress requires. Because of this, Nobel thought that those who serve humanity by creating with their pens works of an idealistic nature.....or by promoting better
international relations should also be recognized. With these two
prizes—for peace and literature—he wished to proclaim his faith
in the ability of writers and peace-workers to provide wings for our
earth-bound spirits... and by appealing to men's highest instincts,
to show them the way out of the shadows and lead them toward light
and salvation."

CONTROL

Bring up Music by Nobel Festen Orchestra... Intermezzo from
"l'Arlésienne", Bizet.

Narrator: Professor A.E. Lindh of Upsala University reads a detailed
citation of the work and discovery of Professor C.F. Powell of the
University of Bristol who is to be presented with the Nobel Prize
for Physics, 1950. The citation is very long and very technical,
but is in keeping with the importance of the occasion....

CONTROL

Bring up Lindh for several seconds.... fade right out...

Narrator: In conclusion he turns to Professor Powell and addresses him
personally. Powell stands up facing the rostrum while Professor
Lindh speaks his final words, in English....

LINDH: "..... I need not stress the extraordinary importance of your
discoveries for research in nuclear physics, more particularly for
our concept of nuclear energy and our knowledge of cosmic radiation.
I only wish to give expression to the sincere admiration and respect
we physicists feel for your eminent work through which, in pursuance
of great British traditions, you have enriched our field of knowledge
with results of the greatest scientific value. On behalf of the Royal
Swedish Academy of Science I wish to congratulate you on your
significant work and discoveries and to request that you receive your
well-earned reward, the Nobel Prize in Physics for the year 1950, from the hands of his Majesty the King."

Narrator: Professor Powell now descends the steps leading from the stage and approaches King Gustaf. Perhaps as an additional gesture of appreciation... who knows ?... the King does not wait for him but steps forward to meet him and shakes hands with him, not once, but several times. Many camera lights flash and the audience, which packs the great Concert Hall, breaks into enthusiastic applause as Professor Powell returns to the stage and takes his seat .....

CONTROL Bring in applause a little before end of last narration ... follow with music...."The Gordian Knot Overture" by H. Purcell... Down gradually during narration....

Narrator: Next comes the presentation to German Scientists, Professor Otto Diels and Professor Kurt Alder of the 1950 Prize for Chemistry...

CONTROL Bring up speech by Professor Arne Fredga for several seconds... hold behind narrator....

Narrator: Professor Fredga of Upsala University reads the citation: Professors Diels and Alder have been awarded the Prize for the development of a new synthetic material known as the Dien synthesis. This discovery in turn is described at length by Professor Arne Fredga of Upsala University. The audience, apart from the scientists present, are not quite sure what it is all about, but there is a general feeling that once again the quiet unobtrusive men of the laboratory have made a contribution to the material benefit of mankind. It is strange how we have come to take such men's work
for granted! Thanks to Nobel, they have their chance of public recognition and applause. At the conclusion of his citation, speaking in German, Professor Fredga addresses them in the warmest terms....

CONTROL

Bring up Fredga and hold down behind narrator....

Narrator:

".....My highly esteemed colleagues", he says, "in recognition of your merits on behalf of the science of chemistry through the discovery and development of the Dien Synthesis, the Royal Academy of Sciences has decided to award you the Nobel Prize for 1950. In conveying to you the congratulations of the Academy I call upon you to receive the prize from the hands of His Majesty.

CONTROL

Follow immediately with applause. Bring up Music..."Fidelio".... Beethoven.... Hold behind .......

Narrator:

I don’t think one is mistaken in noticing a special thrill of expectancy as Professor Liljestrand of Stockholm addresses the next three men who jointly share the prize for Medicine. The reason is that their researches closely concern, either in fact or in probability, every man and woman in the hall. They have been looking for a cure for rheumatism and arthritis, the dreaded affliction which can reduce the strongest human being to impotence. They are Edward C. Kendall and Philip S. Hench of the United States of America, and Tadeus Reichstein of Switzerland. The magic word which is associated with their research work is..... CORTISONE. Here is an evaluation of their work from the official Nobel citation, as spoken by Professor Liljestrand.

LILJESTRAND:

Dr. Hench ! Your clinical investigations into jaundice and on
Rheumatoid arthritis have provided a starting point which has led to the famous discovery of the effect of Cortisone and ACTH on these and some other diseases. Your discovery therefore has led the way to a new therapeutical approach and has given us a better insight into the nature of the diseases you have handled and also to the role of the adrenal cortex. On behalf of the Caroline Institute, I proffer you the hearty congratulations of your colleagues and express the hope that you will be able successfully to continue your work which has already led to such great discoveries. And now I have the honour of asking you to accept the Nobel Prize for Physiology and Medicine for 1950 from the hands of His Majesty the King.

Applause.

Next comes the Literary Prize for 1949, although it was awarded in the same year as the 1950 Prize. The recipient is William Faulkner of the United States of America. There is a warm feeling in the Concert Hall this time... a comfortable feeling... for all the world loves a good book and is grateful to its author. Dr. Gustaf Hellstrom must have known this well, for he addressed Mr. Faulkner with the air of an old acquaintance as he spoke the final words of the citation.

Mr. Faulkner. The name of the Southern State, in which you were born and reared has long been well known to us Swedes thanks to two of the closest and dearest friends of our boyhood. Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn. Mark Twain put the Mississippi River on the literary map. Fifty years later you began a series of novels with which you created out of the State of Mississippi one of the landmarks of 20th century world literature; novels which with their ever monumental
characters---both good and evil---occupy a unique place in modern American and British fiction.

Mr. Faulkner: It is now my privilege to ask you to receive from the hands of His Majesty the King the 1949 Nobel Prize for Literature, which the Swedish Academy has awarded you.

CONTROL

Applause.

Narrator: During the whole of these proceedings one's eye kept straying to a majestic figure with a mane of near-white hair, sitting at the end of the line. He seemed to have the air of a man who knows what he knows and is quite happy to wait. And now it's his turn.... the winner of the 1950 Nobel Prize for Literature.... Bertrand Russell....

CONTROL

....Bring in applause....

Narrator: Seventy eight is a goodly age to come flying to Stockholm to receive a prize ... but Bertrand Russell looks vigorous and certainly as keen as ever. The citation for his presentation is read by Dr. Anders Caterling of Stockholm. The reasons for the award were many and varied, but were finally summed up very clearly and directly in the concluding sentences of Professor Osterling's address.

CONTROL

....Bring up Osterling for several seconds....hold behind narrator....

Narrator: "Russell's philosophy", he said, "may be considered in the best sense to fulfill just those desires and intentions that Alfred Nobel had in mind when he instituted the prizes. There exist quite striking similarities between their outlooks on life. Both of them are at the same time sceptics and utopians, both take a gloomy view of the
contemporary world, yet both hold fast to the belief in the possibility of achieving logical standards of human behaviour.

The Swedish Academy believe that they act in the spirit of Nobel's intentions when, on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Foundation, they have desired to honour Bertrand Russell as one of our time's brilliant spokesmen of rationality and humanity, as a fearless champion of free speech and free thought in the West.

Addressing Bertrand Russell in English, he said:

"My lord, exactly 200 years ago, Jean Jacques Rousseau was awarded the prize offered by the Academy of Dijon for his famous answer to the question of "whether the arts and sciences have contributed to improve morals?" Rousseau answered: "No", and this answer, which may not have been a very serious one, in any case had most serious consequences. The Academy of Dijon had no revolutionary aims. This is true also of the Swedish Academy, who have now decided to reward you for your philosophic works, just because they are undoubtedly of service to moral civilization and, in addition, most eminently answer to the spirit of Nobel's intentions. We honour you as the brilliant champion of humanity and free thought, and it is a pleasure for us to see you here on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Nobel Foundation. With these words I beg to request you to receive from the hands of His Majesty the King the Nobel Prize for Literature for 1950.

CONTROl APPLAUSE..."CROSS TO SWEDISH NATIONAL ANTHEM..."DU GAMLA, DU FRIA"..... TAKE DOWN BEHIND NARRATOR.....

Narrator : The grand and stately ceremony is over... King Gustaf, the Royal family, Members of the Swedish Academy, Nobel Prize winners past and
present and the large audience have risen to their feet for the Swedish National Anthem "Du Gamla, Du Fria".... and from its niche garlanded with flowers, high up at the back of the great stage, the statue of Alfred Nobel looks down... and appears to be well pleased.

**CONTROL**

**CONCLUDE NATIONAL ANTHEM.**

(End of Unesco Recordings).