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God save our Misis Kwin

**Tribal chief's
portrait gives
her headdress**

by JAMES HUGHES-ONSLow

ROYAL portrait painters can't win. Toil for hours and some critic moans how you've failed to capture the regal likeness.

Mathias Kauage can brush that one aside. He had never seen the Queen when he put this very original treatment on canvas.

And who's to say her face paint and tribal headdress with bird of paradise feathers doesn't show impeccable taste?

Whether or not Her Majesty was amused is not on record, but the tribal chief from Papua New Guinea was so surprised by her appearance when they came face to face that he forgot his prepared speech.

"I was big happy to meet her," Mathias explained in pidgin English. "I ask her to come and see me in my place."

Now he has set matters



ROYAL SUBJECT: Mathias meets the Queen and right, with his view of the scene

straight with a painting of the scene at last month's opening of the Museum of Modern Art in Glasgow.

And this time the Monarch he calls Misis Kwin is accurately portrayed in neat red coat and hat, complete with flowery handbag.

Mathias — standing a little taller — is in his full regalia, as is right and proper.

He has employed a little

artistic licence by portraying himself wearing a more imposing headdress.

Sculptor George Wyllie explained: "I was at the meeting in Glasgow and I can testify that it is an accurate picture of the Scottish artistic scene."

One of the characters grouped around Mathias in the picture is the gallery's director, Julian Spalding.

Another is Rebecca Hossack,

Australian cultural affairs attache, whose gallery in London's West End is currently showing some of Mathias's work.

One of his paintings was unveiled as part of the Glasgow museum's opening collection.

Meanwhile, Mathias has sent his imaginary portrait of the Queen to Buckingham Palace as a present — and has been thanked for his efforts.



CROWNING GLORY: Misis Kwin in tribal splendour