

Chapter 56: Prince Carl Jr (1911-2003).

Prince Carl Gustaf Oscar Fredrik Christian of Sweden, Duke of Östergötland, from September 15, 1938, Prince Carl Bernadotte of Belgium, in everyday life Prince Carl jr, was born January 10, 1911, in Stockholm & died June 27, 2003, in Málaga. He was married three times: 1937-1951 to Countess Elsa von Rosen (1904-1991; 1923-1935 b. Von Rosen), 1954-1962 to Anna (Ann) Margaretha Larsson (1921-1975; 1943-1952 b. Lindner) and 1978-2003 with Kristine Rivalsrud (1932-2014). In his first marriage, he had a daughter.

Carl does not have a long biography, but there are four short ones (Elgklou 1978: s. 189; Ohlmarks 1980: ss. 138-139; Skott 1996: ss. 393-401; Norlin 2015: ss. 217-220). These are mainly about his three marriages, that he was excluded from the succession and his role in the “Huseby affair”. The remainder of his life is in the newspapers. From his own hand there is a travelogue with autobiographical elements (Prince Carl jr 1934). He sat on the editorial committee for the book *The Hundred Kings of Sweden* (Ohlmarks et al. 1956) but it is unclear what he contributed apart from his name.

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Prince Carl Jr. was born as 8th in line to the throne. As an afterthought with three beautiful sister, “the Fridhem princesses”, he long time lived in a media shadow and it is difficult to reconstruct his education or anything else. He was placed in the Beskow school but graduated in the spring of 1930 one year early. What is known about his time at Beskow is that he was rowdy and interested in Esperanto & cars. His behaviour caused the music teacher to slap him (though without knowing who he was). Carl seems to have lacked a musical ear but he learned the accordion. In the winter of 1925/26, the school gave lessons in Esperanto and in the spring Carl received a diploma & the right to wear the five-pointed Esperanto star. He was good enough to hold lecture in the language. In 1928/29, he & his friend Gösta Wennberg built a racing car in Djursholm's motor club - a bicycle car with an oversized engine, capable of 180 km/h. It seems to have been a drag racer for the speed races on ice that took place at Edsviken. Other Carls interests at this time were horses, hunting, dogs, swimming, sailing & outboard engines. The year he would have graduated, he practised four months incognito at the Mercedes factories in Stuttgart & attended Pählman's trade institute.

After finishing school, Carl 1931-1938 alternated between further trade education, military service & his royal duties. I describe them separately:

- The trade education consisted in the usual princely way of internships, study visits and establishing a network of contacts. From 1931 to 1938, he practised at the insurance company Fylgia - first as an office volunteer, later as a travelling inspector. It seems to have taken place under the supervision of the industry association & the export association. He made study trips in Sweden, in the rest of Europe & in other parts of the world. This meant that he visited headquarters, interesting facilities & met a lot of people in leading positions. The industrialist & hofjaegermester Helge Axelsson Johnson wanted to help and May-November 1933 financed a round-the-world trip America-Japan-China. Carl wrote a book about it¹, parts of which were published in *Vecko Journalen*. However, the reviews were (quite fairly) very unfriendly: “A tamer and more modest travelogue has probably never before seen the light of day in the Swedish language. It contains strictly nothing but the names of the boats that the

¹ prins Carl jr 1934.

prince travels with and the names of the hosts who in different parts of the world invited him to lunch. ... To illustrate the book, the young author has had a large number of photographs taken of himself in various costumes. As a result, the number of pages in the book has reached 184."² Afterwards, he became an honorary member of the Travellers Club & vice chairman of the International Club.

- Carl did his military service as an officer volunteer in the cavalry. In 1931/32 he was at K3 in Skövde for basic riding training. He then attended the three-month reserve officer training - graduation on May 4, 1933 - and on April 20 the following year, he received his officers' power of attorney and was appointed ensign at the Royal guard (new K1) & Grenadiers (I4). He served six months. The training was not a success. He came second to last out of 43 students. He was best at regulations & drill. In 1937 he was appointed lieutenant, in 1949 captain. Some information indicates that he was called up during the war - possibly for the Norrland dragons - but that has not been possible to verify. In 1936 he became an honorary member of the Reserve Officers' Association.
- At the opening of the Parliament January 12, 1932 - he had just turned 21 - he swore an oath of allegiance to Gustaf V. He now had a diplomatic function so that he, for example, during his visit to Japan in 1933 in his capacity as Gustaf V's personal envoy had dinner with Emperor Hirohito . He also had a certain (modest) representation such as welcoming football players to international matches, attending the Children's Day celebrations and participating in the Innocence Order's balls. He later became chairman of the 1911 Men's Association.

At the age of 18, Carl took his driver's license and was happy to make long trips. He had a reputation for speeding. On April 9, 1933, he collided with a motorcycle. Both the mc driver and the passenger in the sidecar were badly hurt. Carl claimed to have been dazzled by the sun. He was sentenced to a fine and damages: 30 daily fines of SEK 10, SEK 5,000 in damages.

As far as can be determined, the time at the Mercedes factory was the internship that Carl appreciated the most. It was his first experience of how ordinary Swedes felt about him, without him having to suspect that they were pandering to his title:

During the four months I worked [at the Mercedes factory], I managed to remain unknown to my co-workers. This was less because my service required me to look like an oil can, but rather because, yes, I really managed to preserve my incognito, which was important and useful to me. I could tell a thousand and one funny anecdotes from these four months as a workshop worker, but they fall outside the scope of this story. During that time, or perhaps more precisely because of that time, I gradually began to understand the worker's view of life and his perception of what things should look like to satisfy him. The summer in Stuttgart became a valuable apprenticeship for me, gave me a look into one of the most pressing problems of our time, the workers' issue, for which I am now very grateful.³

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² R. [Recension av "I världens vimmel".] Aftonbladet 1934-12-18.

³ prins Carl jr 1934: s. 11.

When Carl in 1937 married outside his estate in 1937, he lost his privileges but regained his civil right to earn a living in a profession. In 1938, he became chairman of the board of the import company Belgo-Baltic AB. The CEO was the businessman Kåre Behm (1908-1992). It has not been possible to give a comprehensive description of the Belgo-Baltic operations. The company seems to have dealt with most things. The office was located at Norrmalmstorg 1 and very grand. Carl's role was initially to give prestige to the company through his title while Behm handled the business. Later he made extensive business trips for the company & on his own behalf. What remains in the sources is the import of gas masks for the Civil Defence & Carl's business trip to America in 1941 for the purchase of toluene, a raw material for TNT.

During the war, the company engaged in a long series of dubious deals, often in collaboration with the Swedish-American Erik Erickson (1898-1983), CEO of Bensin AB Pennco. The US OSS (the predecessor to the CIA) was interested in the business and there are a couple of secret reports that Behm, as a Nazi sympathizer, was involved in the start-up of the German news agency/spy organization Mundial and that Carl & Erickson collaborated on selling repaired tankers & South American oil to Portuguese intermediaries for German interests. Through Erickson, Carl became involved in what has subsequently been considered one of the most important spy operations of World War II: Locating the German facilities for the production of synthetic lubricating oil & fuel. Carl's role in the operation has been difficult to sort out. It has been described in Readers Digest in connection with Erickson being awarded for his contribution (Mueller 1946), in a spy novel (Klein 1958), in a feature film based on the novel (Seaton 1962) and in two non-fiction books (Klein 1955; Talty 2014). I start from the non-fiction books:

Erickson was appointed sales manager for the oil company Texaco's Stockholm office in 1924 and remained until the end of the war. As a manager, he should have been 35 according to American law and therefore claimed to have been born in 1890. The corresponding gap in his CV were filled with inventions about his role as an intelligence officer in World War I. His later career is also full of inventions. 1926-1941, Erickson started several companies of his own in the oil industry, which he resold at a good profit. But when Germany declared war on the United States on December 11, 1941, he was blacklisted as a blockade breaker and his American assets frozen. Erickson - a person with a very roomy conscience - then came up with the idea that in exchange for the blacklisting being cancelled turn American spy. This would be accomplished through him making himself known as a Hitler admirer and this way obtaining business contacts, move freely in Germany and visit secret facilities. However, it was difficult to get the Germans to believe in his honest (=Nazi) intent. They assumed that, as usual, he was out for his own gain. It was also difficult from Stockholm to get in touch with the right people in the German oil bureaucracy. It was here that Carl with his prestige and his German business contacts entered into the equation.

The operation took place so that Erickson put together a business project to build a Swedish plant for synthetic lubricating oil & fuel which, protected by the country's neutrality, would be exported to Germany in the same way as with ball bearings & iron ore. He also put together a list of credible financiers who themselves unknowingly invested large sums in the project. With Carl as a door opener, he then worked his way through one business lunch after another, first in Sweden and then in Germany. The Germans were curious to meet a royal and the rumours about the duo spread. It was not risk free. Carl was on one occasion arrested for the hosts listening to the BBC in his presence and Erickson's German mistress & assistant Anne-Maria Freudenreich (1930? -1945) was executed - according to Erickson in the Moabit prison in his presence, but that seems doubtful. They focused on charming the wives of German oil

directors. Anna-Maria helped introduce them. Carl brought silk stockings and other things as gifts via the diplomatic passport. Through the wives they learned of the men's attitude towards Hitler. The oil directors who were hostile to Hitler were bribed to speak on their behalf through "letters of intent" (which would be to their advantage in a possible post-war trial). In 1944, Erickson had a meeting with Himmler, which opened up for him visiting all 25 German facilities. At the end of the war, they were all bombed.

Erickson was subsequently awarded the American Medal of Freedom, America's highest civilian award for wartime service. His motives, however, remained murky. The official version was that after a letter from home from his brother, he had an attack of conscience for not participating in the American war effort and for patriotic reasons offered his services to the US for the rest of the war for a sum of one dollar. When he was interviewed, he rather appeared like an unscrupulous opportunist. There is no information in Swedish sources about Carl's efforts. Possibly an effect of the secrecy surrounding it. Talty claims that Carl's German business trips gave him a reputation in the circle of acquaintances as a Nazi sympathizer, but this has not been confirmed.

A difficult-to-understand episode is that Japan's Swedish military attaché General Makoto Onodera at the end of the war tried to use Carl as an intermediary in a mediation attempt, to avoid an unconditional capitulation. Maybe Carl still had a reputation for being positive about Hitler & the Axis powers, but the visit to Japan in 1933 is more likely.

After the war, Carl work on commission as a door opener in various affaires. In 1946 for the companies A Wiklund and Salén & Wicander. Somewhat later on an agreement on a new type of door hinge. The last sign of life from belgo-baltic was a combined trade and holiday trip to the Congo. Carl & Behm January to April 1949 travelled South Africa, Belgian Congo & East Africa to explore the interest in import-export. The last sign of life from Behm himself is from the following year.

Carl also did other things. In 1941, he fronted a fundraiser for Belgian war children, the so-called Astrid children. In 1947, he led a 7-man delegation from the Confederation of Swedish Industry to improve Swedish-American trade relations. Some information indicates that his finances in 1948-1951 were anything but good, probably because he had a house built, and he must have received significant sums from the family - even from his foreign relatives. The house was a two-storey villa with a glazed facade and conservatory, located on Apelvägen 18 in Stocksund.

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1937-1951 Carl was married to Countess Elsa von Rosen, 1954-1962 to Anna (Ann) Margaretha Larsson & 1978-2003 to the Norwegian Kristine Rivelrud. Very little is known about these Carls marriages. von Rosen was a diplomat's wife and used to representation. Before they got married, Larsson & Rivelrud were employees hired as Carl's companions, nannies, secretaries & all-in-all. All three were unusually beautiful. The divorces coincided with Carl's financial difficulties. The following seems to have happened:

Divorce 1

Carl did not pay maintenance to Elsa von Rosen after the divorce in 1951, but a lump sum. This was done so that he left the wife's lawyer blank bank drafts to be redeemed by unknown

persons. However, these lacked coverage because Carl's assets - he was the universal heir to Florence Stephens at Huseby estate - were locked. When the drafts ended up with the bailiff, Gustaf VI considered that it had gone too far and instructed Marshal Birger Ekeberg to have Carl declared incompetent and placed under financial management. To avoid publicity, however, Carl himself would apply to be declared a minor. There was a meeting at the Grand Hotel with Ekeberg & Prince Axel where Carl was presented with a paper to be signed which he refused. He says that he left the meeting deeply depressed and felt it strange that as a 40-year-old he would suddenly from the financial point of view be equated to a child. That was when he turned to [business friend] Berl Gutenberg and the answer came immediately: - We pretend a debt relationship between us. I say that I will waive my claim on you only if the relatives do not declare you incompetent.”⁴

The following then seems to have happened (my interpretation): Gutenberg arranged (details omitted) a fictitious debt on Carl of the size of 200 thousand that Stephens guaranteed so that it would appear to exist in real life. She also wrote a draft to Gutenberg of 435 thousand with security in horses from Gutenberg's stud so that he himself (due to unexpected debt collection claims) would not go bankrupt and drag Carl into the case. (The horses were included to make the draft appear as payment for a fictitious purchase. They never left the stud. The bankruptcy threat against Gutenberg was fictitious but Stephens did not know that.) Stephens' draft was accepted at the bank by the financier Gerhard De Geer who had guaranteed his cousin Gustaf Printzsköld's business with Gutenberg and in this way wanted to sort out the cousin's affairs and come out even - the payment for him accepting the draft was that he got his cousin's IOUs back.⁵ During the trial, Gutenberg obscured the details of the deal, presenting it to the court as he by threatening Stephens with the scandal it would cause if Carl's debts became known, had made her agree to everything without her understanding the situation. The downside of the story was that Carl had admitted to taking part and therefore appeared as a fraudster.

None of the four (five if you count De Geer's lawyer Eric Wennerholm) wanted to comment on the deal. Carl mixed memory loss, lies & naive sincerity to such an extent that he was referred to a psychiatrist for a statement if there was anything wrong with him. Prosecutor Robèrt claimed that it was like interrogating a child. De Geer was prosecuted for usury, Wennerholm for aiding and abetting, Gutenberg for document forgery & Carl for false certification - which could give him up to 4 years. Defence lawyer Bengt Lemke tried to free him through character witnesses. These testified that Carl, through his naivety, lack of intelligence, non-existent business skills and inability to even day by day remember what he had experienced, did not recollect what took place. This seems to have contributed to an acquittal - Carl was considered to lack insight into Gutenberg's business - but also destroyed what was left of Carl's reputation. The others were convicted. Robèrt afterwards was acerbic remarking that this was the first time he had experienced someone being acquitted in spite of having both confessed and been convicted.⁶

Carl had known Gutenberg since 1940/41. Both were interested in cars, horses & hunting. Gutenberg seems to have been extremely flattered by the acquaintance and even later, as manager of Huseby 1955/56, made great efforts to help Carl. Carl did not really know how to thank him but wrote to the President of Ecuador about making him Consul General. However, this did not lead to anything. More concrete was an agreement that Gutenberg would be allowed to use his name in business (=Carl would be the guarantor that everything was

⁴ [Om Husebyprocessen.] Dagens Nyheter 1957-10-04.

⁵ Wennerholm 1971: ss. 187-191.

⁶ Moberg 1973: s. 88.

correct) and for this he would receive SEK 60,000 + 10 percent of the profit. Such a deal was part of the Huseby process (though had nothing to do with Huseby) where Gutenberg, with Carl's assistance, fleeced one of his acquaintances. I will not go into that part of the process.

There is a typical episode from later that year. During a drive up to Hälsingland, Carl & Gutenberg seemed to have seen a flying saucer, more specifically a bright shining object moving across the night sky, and wanted the police to investigate the matter. The police referred the case to homeland security, who forwarded it to the General Staff's UFO group, which filed it.⁷

Divorce 2

After the trial, Carl & his new wife Anna Larsson moved to Spain. Also this his 2nd marriage was on its last legs, but the divorce was delayed until 1962. Carl did not pay maintenance now either, but a lump sum. 300 thousand has been mentioned. However, this was long in coming and the wife threatened to publish a book about the marriage if she did not get her money now. This time, too, Carl's assets were locked. The paternal inheritance was the returns on a fund. He also had a corresponding income from his uncle Eugene. However, he inherited his mother so it worked out.

Gustaf VI wanted to clean up the Orders. The other Bernadottes who married outside their estate had lost their Seraphim Orders, which Carl, being prince, had kept. On February 16, 1961, however, he resigned it. Then he moved in with his former secretary and all-in-all Norwegian Kristine Rivelsrud. He was 50 years old and his business career was over.

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We now come to the part of the Huseby affair that actually took place at Huseby. This was from the beginning a completely normal business relationship that in 1957 ended up in court. The plaintiff was Miss Florence Stephens (1881-1979) who in 1934 inherited the Huseby estate from her father.

The suspects were all those who 1955-1957 had had to do with the estate's business, among them Carl & the brothers Berl and Dan Gutenberg. During the trial, six people were charged, but not Carl. More than 40 witnesses were heard. Since the police investigation was 15 thousand pages & the trial through the newspapers was covered in detail, the source situation should be good. But no. All attempts to summarize what happened have sunk into a morass of conflicting data. There is a summary based on the Huseby Archive, etc.⁸, Stephens published a memoir during the trial (Stephens 1961) & Vilhelm Moberg wrote a play (Moberg 1962). I summarize the course of events without quaint details:

Carl was Stephen's financial adviser from 1944 to 1957. As such, he was part of the consortium that in 1944/45 expanded the estate's business and divided its operations into three separate companies: Huseby bruk AB (agriculture & forestry), AB Häryds bruks (foundry) & AB HB-Produkter (carpentry). Huseby bruk AB doubled as a management company. Stephens had the majority of shares. Carl was chairman of the board. The managers varied: 1944-1947 it was Carl-Gunnar Grennström (1914-1963), 1947-1955 there was no manager but inspectors for the various activities, 1955/56

⁷ Swords & Powell red. 2012: s. 366.

⁸ Wängmar 2010.

Berl Gutenberg (1912-1979) was manager & 1956/57 Berl's brother Dan Gutenberg (1910-1976). Carl had 50 thousand a year. The Gutenberg brothers also wanted that, which led to prosecution. They were not considered worth that much.

Stephens was more interested in the "estate environment" & her own position than in the profits and for sentimental reasons opposed the necessary modernizations. For the first 10 years, this worked well - due to the war, there was still a market for her horse breeding - but with the cavalry's reduction after the war, the estate's economy worsened. The other three activities were agriculture, foundry & carpentry. Since the estate refined its own raw materials - bog ore & charcoal via the foundry, wood via the carpentry - these two made a profit. But when the foundry burned down in 1954, that income disappeared & agriculture without mechanization ran at a loss. The logging alone had to carry the business. Carl was primarily interested in carpentry, where he was half-owner and for a time CEO, but above all a salesman. What is mentioned is that during a visit to the Philippines in 1947, he managed to place an order for prefabricated wooden houses. Otherwise, AB HB-Produkter was best known for the so-called String shelf. The estate's financial position was such that in October 1952 he refused to inherit it. He would never have been able to get it back on its economical feet.

Berl Gutenberg's first contact with Huseby was when in the autumn of 1954 he was to replace the agricultural inspector in order to bring in the harvest. This happened so that Gutenberg used staff from the rest of the businesses to do so. The following year, Gutenberg was hired as a trustee. He started by firing everyone and re-employed only those he felt were needed. He also hired an accountant who reviewed the accounts for the past 10 years. Gutenberg wanted to renew the mechanical equipment, refurbish & build new but there was no money and Stephens was opposed and replaced him with (of all people!) his own brother. After two years with the Gutenberg brothers, the estate had a lot of unpaid debts and risked bankruptcy. The municipality's chief guardian initiated a lawsuit against Stephens to have her declared a minor and the estate placed under financial management. Stephens avoided the process - it would have been extremely embarrassing for herself - by declaring herself a minor voluntarily.

The lawsuit was about where the estate's income went. Carl was suspected of allowing the brothers, for a fee, to enrich themselves through commissions & high salaries, but was never prosecuted. Because Stephens was financially responsible, she was found guilty, but being incompetent is not a crime. To take advantage of someone who is incompetent, on the other hand, is a crime. The brothers were convicted. It was not possible to trace where the money went, but they had seized more than a million, or wasted it on expensive loans & headless investments. The main reason for the estate's debts was, however, the lack of modernization.

Stephens defended herself by just being a poor exploited woman surrounded by foxes. Wångmar refers to lingering patriarchal power structures, but it is not clear what he means - probably Stephen's poor knowledge, fascination with royalty and indulgence in the face of Berl Gutenberg's incessant talking.

Carl's time in exile is patchily documented.⁹ Carl & Rivelsrud lived in Churriana, Malaga, on the Sun Coast while their new villa Capricornio was built. They spent Christmas in Norway. Carl was seen at family reunions “[where he] wandered about taking notes, which he sometimes published afterwards”. I have not been able to locate these texts. In 1968 he was one of the founders of the Asociación Hispano Nordica (Spanish-Nordic Society). He socialized in the Swedish colony, gave splendour to parties & spent a lot of time in his garden. He took his adversities with composure and he kept his good mood for the rest of his life. He did not want to be addressed as prince. The locals knew him as Don Carlos. He did not want to meet journalists. In later years, his eyesight deteriorated. On June 27, 2003, he died at a hospital in Málaga in the after-effects of a broken leg.

What I as a psychologist reacted most to is all this information that Carl did not care. From the autobiographical elements in the travelogue¹⁰ it appears that he was dissatisfied with the life of a prince - it was like trampling around in an airless room - and experienced business life as a liberation. Now that this life had collapsed, he seems to have suffered from severe depression. In the police interrogations, he appears to be barely reachable. Like other royalty, he was surrounded by “fortune seekers” - he had an unfortunate habit of making them pay for the pleasure of rubbing shoulders with him - and he hung out in private with his business acquaintances, which led to unhealthy relationships - read friendship corruption. Carl also seems to have taken the royal “credit economy” into the business world. He never seems to have balanced a budget but considered money as a free utility. It appeared when needed. He had no wallet with him but it was always on credit or that the surroundings paid. At low tide, there were loans to pay off the loans until the income appeared.

The three character witnesses who jointly destroyed Carl's reputation were associate judge of appeal Stig Källén¹¹, the Danish district court attorney Erik Qigaard¹² & head of the wholesale association's investigative institute Arne Elander¹³. During the interrogation, Robert asked why they even hung out with a person they so despised. They then also delivered some positive views: Carl was an honest person who happened to move in bad company. Good at language, nice companion, good storyteller, fond of children, punctual and loyal to his friends.

⁹ Allan Beer. Prins Carls nya liv. Allers, 1971:11; Prins Carls hemliga bröllop. Hänt i veckan. 1978:12, s. 16. Peller Tagesson. ”Han är kungens okände släkting.” Aftonbladet 2000-04-27; Mats Björkman & Robert Österlind. ”Svenskkolonien har förlorat sin prins.” Sydkusten 2003-07-04 & 2016-03-06; Michael Rhodes. ”Prince Carl Bernadotte.” The Daily Telegraph 2003-07-17; Stefan Westrin. ”Kristine Bernadotte.” Fokus 2014:51.

¹⁰ prins Carl jr 1934.

¹¹ [Om prins Carls karaktär.] Svenska Dagbladet 1957-10-05; Wångmar 2010: ss. 296-297.

¹² [Om prins Carls karaktär.] Aftonbladet 1957-10-02; [Om prins Carls karaktär.] Expressen 1957-10-02..

¹³ Ibid.