

## Chapter 89 : Princess Sibylle of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha (I) (1908-1972).

Prince Gustaf Adolf (1906-1947; "Edmund" was rumoured to have a mistress but no concrete person has been found. Possibly it may refer to the concert pianist Dagmar Nordenfelt (1908-1991). There is an exchange of letters between the two in the Bernadotte Archives, but not made public. Edmund's military acquaintances dragged him out into society and he participated in the official parties at the court. And that's it. He seems to have been afraid of being associated with someone special, for example this episode in 1928 when he avoided Greta Garbo during an American trip:

The fact that she sat at the captain's table was obvious, and that Edmund and I sat at the same table was perhaps also obvious. There was almost a fight over who would sit next to her. Of course, the captain as host had made sure to have her to the table, but on the opposite side I [Sigvard] managed to place myself. In fact Edmund would have been there with the right of age, but he was not amused by film and as a rule a little embarrassed with women.<sup>1</sup>

Edmund's sister Ingrid was more industrious than regard. During her stay in London, she became acquainted with the German-English princess Sibylle of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, daughter of the dethroned Duke Carl Eduard of S-C-G, whom she considered a suitable party for her brother. Ingrid and Sibylle were both to be bridesmaids at the wedding October 24, 1931, of Sibylle's cousin Lady May of Teck (during World War I anglicized to Lady May Cambridge) and Captain Henry Abel Smith. Edmund was not keen to attend, he did not know the couple, but was actually ordered there by his grandfather Gustaf V.

Sibylle has a longer biography (Lundgren 2007). Like all princesses, she appears in the chronicles (Knagg 1932: ss. 266-282; Elgklou 1978: ss. 191-195; Ohlmarks 1979: ss. 128-129; Skott 1996: ss. 185-190; Alm 2003; Alm 2010; Lindqvist 2010: ss. 132-137; Norlin 2015: ss. 239-242), but especially in the weekly newspapers.

The most important dates in Sibylle's life were 1918 (the abolition of the German Empire), 1933 (her father's entry into the Nazi Party), 1947 (Edmund's death in a plane crash) & 1965 (the death of Queen Louise). It is impossible to portray her life without at the same time depicting the family's life.

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Princess Sibylle Calma Marie Alice Bathildis Feodora of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha was born January 18, 1908, at Schloss Friedenstein in Gotha (now Thuringia) and died in Stockholm November 28, 1972, as Duchess of Västerbotten. Her father was Duke Carl Eduard of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha (1884-1954), a relative of the English Royal Family. Her mother was Princess Victoria Adelheid of Schleswig-Holstein (1885-1970), a relative of the Prussian royal house. She had four siblings: Johann Leopold (1906-1972), Hubertus (1909-1943), Caroline Mathilde (1912-1983) and Fredrik Josias (1918-1997).

Despite her father's 1918 dethronement, the family continued their old court life. From the age of four to 15, Sibylle was educated at home by a governess, Baroness von Senden, and graduated annually at the Higher Girls' School in Coburg Alexandrinenschule to show that she followed the curriculum. She mastered German (of course) and English with German

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<sup>1</sup> Bernadotte 1975: s. 101.

accent. Her French was not so good.<sup>2</sup> The teaching of history of religion was handled by her Confirmation priest court preacher Schanzer. She received music lessons and learned to play the piano. She liked to draw and paint and after confirmation studied arts and crafts for six months at Kunstgewerbeschule in Weimar and trained pattern drawing of wallpaper and textiles. She also studied literature and art history. She was not very literary. However, she later read many biographies, especially Victorian. She completed a one-year course in household science in Coburg and Bayrisch Gmain. When the kitchen staff at the castle had time off, Sibylle had to step in and show what she had learned. Long afterwards, she claimed that forced into a bourgeois profession, she would have chosen to become an artist or interior designer.<sup>3</sup>

Sibylle would rather play with her brothers than with her dolls. When they did not want to, she chose children from the surrounding farms and work places. She had a vivid imagination. Once upon hearing H.C. Andersen's story, she trashed a rosebud to find the fairy. She had her own pony and was interested in hunting. During the holidays she was often in Italy looking at art. She also spent a winter in 1928/29 in Cape Town with her aunt Princess Alice of Athlone, whose husband was vice king there from 1924 to 1931, her "finishing school". She is said to have been involved in lion hunting and other exciting activities. Upon her return, she engaged in her mother's extensive charity work and served as the castle's vice-hostess. She visited her relatives in France, England and Copenhagen. With her younger sister Caroline (1912-1983) she had a contentious relationship. Sibylle was calm, beautiful and compliant, her parents' favourite. Caroline, on the other hand, seemed prepared for anything. Her way of spitting on her privileges while exploiting them eventually led to a total split between the two.

At the wedding October 24, 1931, Ingrid presented Edmund and Sibylle to each other. It proved a good choice. In February the following year, Sibylle was invited to visit Ingrid in Stockholm and to stay at the castle. Edmund was her cavalier. There is no information about how Edmund courted her, but since they were two royal children in the same situation, they probably understood each other without too much talk. Edmund even claimed afterwards that it had been enough for him to declare his love in Esperanto.

Gustav Vs birthday June 16 the engagement was announced. It was known in advance in Coburg, but in Sweden it came as a surprise. The bride-to-be was very difficult to interview. "Ask Mom!" was her answer whatever the question. A month before the wedding, worrying information emerged that the local Stalhelm & Nazi organizations would form the guard of honour. During the September negotiations it emerged that Hitler was scheduled to visit Coburg on October 15 & 16 to celebrate the tenth anniversary of his victory in the street battles of 1922. The Swedish negotiators - envoy Einar af Wirsén & Marshal of the court Nils Rudebeck - wanted Sibylle's parents to change the program so that the wedding did not become a political manifestation. When this did not happen, Gustav V refused to come.<sup>4</sup>

October 19, the civil ceremony took place. Sibylle's father gave a small speech: "My beloved daughter, who has been my family's bright sun. You shall now dedicate yourself to your new fatherland and follow the man of your choice to his Nordic home."<sup>5</sup> The next day there was a church wedding in Morizkirche. Sibylle wore her dead mother-in-law's Carrick-macross Lace to her bridal suit: Lilies, clover, Chikweed wintergreen and orange blossoms.

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<sup>2</sup> Tyra Öhrvall. Prinsessan på Haga, del 1. Året Runt, 1951:22.

<sup>3</sup> Lundgren 2007.

<sup>4</sup> Alm 2010.

<sup>5</sup> Torsten Brandt. Intervju av filmreportern Gustaf Boge. Hemmets veckotidning, 1958:2.

Prince Josias zu Waldeck und Pyrmont wore SS uniform, but most of them had obeyed to rather wear civilian dress. After the wedding, the bride and groom rode the motorcade through the city, so that the spectators, about 40 thousand people, were able to say goodbye to their princess. They honeymooned for a month incognito in Switzerland and the South of France as the "Count couple of Haga" with a detour to Egypt. Upon returning to Coburg, Sibylle packed her belongings, about a railway wagon full, and entered her new homeland. The official Swedish reception was magnificent, a packed hall of state where she was welcomed by King Gustaf V sitting on his throne and a gathering of 1,300 participants: family, officials & wives. The people's sympathies were more divided. Protests against the marriage occurred from day one.

When Sibylle November 25 arrived in Stockholm, the Social Democratic city councillors refused to participate in the welcoming ceremonies. The reason, however, was not Sibylle, but Edmund's criticized decision to attend a Stalhelm parade together with his father-in-law.<sup>6</sup> Member Carl Lindhagen, renown Republican, has been blamed for the social democratic initiative. There is unconfirmed evidence that Edmund took great offence, and that this was the start of a lifelong conflict with the Social Democrats.<sup>7</sup>

Edmund's relationship with the weekly press was also strained. There is a story that during a dance with Sibylle in Saltsjöbaden he was photographed by a press photographer, who he chased into the toilet & demanded the roll of film back.<sup>8</sup>

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To orient her in Swedish society and also to teach her a little of the Swedish language, Edmund sent her a girl companion, Brita Sjögreen, to Callenberg, Saxony. The teaching didn't go too well because Sjögreen had read languages but had no prior pedagogical experience. The course literature was Sörgården and Nils Holgersson (two children's books about an idealised Sweden), then daily and weekly newspapers. The bride's interests were confined to theatre, film, pets and floral care. She also took driving lessons to learn to handle the engagement present, a Bugatti that Edmund and Ingrid drove down to Coburg themselves.<sup>9</sup> Edmund and Ingrid were able drivers and so became Sibylle.

The lessons continued after arriving in Sweden in the form of a study circle in Swedish history, the Monday Club, together with some friends that Edmund had chosen for her. During the war, the students switched to knitting, first for Finland, then for the national service. They took turns to host it and offer tea and sandwich. The club had a history. It had been started by Ingrid's mother Crown Princess Margaretha, then it was led by Ingrid herself and now by Princess Sibylle. The club also had subdivisions.

The companions, especially Folke Bernadotte's wife Estelle Bernadotte, seem to have felt that Sibylle, with her sensitive and impulsive orientation, was not particularly suitable as queen. But she rose to the challenge. It was her fate and nobility requires sacrifices. A journalist later summed it up as: "There is a rational and unsentimental feature of Princess Sibylle that disarms. She alternates between business and duty."<sup>10</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Dagens Nyheter, 1932-10-16, s. 3.

<sup>7</sup> Hewins 1950: ss. 68-69.

<sup>8</sup> Aftonbladet, 1933-07-28; Hamilton 2007.

<sup>9</sup> Brita Lundquist. Jag lärde prinsessan tala svenska. Vecko Journalen, 1964:3.

<sup>10</sup> Bertil Torekull. Äntligen hemma, sa Sibylla. Vecko Journalen, 1966:31.

The Coburg Court was said to have “been a good preparatory princess school with old-fashioned education in loving rigour.”<sup>11</sup> This seems nonsense. Although at the time of her marriage she was 24 years old, she had never performed in public. She was ill-prepared and unsure of herself and her abilities. Sometimes she started laughing uncontrollably at public events that she found ridiculous and couldn't stop. At her performances, she looked so hard-set that her lady-in-waiting had orders to remind her “Smile a little, her Royal Highness, smile”. The flattering treatment she received on arrival did not improve matters. “I missed my old girlfriends who were sincere and who liked me for my own sake and with whom I had so much in common. Here I was met with a conventional courtesy that was sometimes so exaggerated that I didn't know how to act. I couldn't relax.”<sup>12</sup> - “When the newly married Princess Sibylle started speaking Swedish, no one in her surroundings considered themselves fit to correct her - who criticises royal people? On the contrary, one thought, or at least pretended to think, that it sounded piquant and funny with errors in pronunciation and grammar, one even copied it out of some kind of courtesy.”<sup>13</sup> This could maybe work in private life but not when she gave a public speech! Her Swedish was for a long time so bad that she and Edmund preferred English. Over time, her grammar improved through reading, she was, for example, fond of Vilhelm Moberg, and she hired a speech teacher. However, she never got rid of her German “r” and she refused radio and television interviews. The children later had a guilty conscience for teasing her about it.

As a married woman, Sibylle concentrated on domestic life at Haga Castle, on her children, and on following Edmund in his rounds of representation and competition. She was incredibly shy at first but overcame it. Her first round of representation with Edmund took place in Västerbotten on 20-28 February 1933. The visit was a meticulous display of Swedish misery and poor housing conditions. Lubbe Nordström's “lortsverige” (swedish squalor). They visited schools, school homes, work cottages and other facilities for children, and Sibylle handed out candy to the children. When there were roads, they went by car. In the mountains when they visited Lapland, there was a sledge. The children thanked her for the candy with choral singing of “bä, bä white lamb” and the like, very appropriate due to Sibylle's white lamb fur. After Edmund's death, Sibylle returned every two years and was finally quite warmly received. Her first assignment was as patron of the Swedish Girl Scouts. She went in for the task, took all the necessary tests and participated in Scout camps both within and abroad. Her nickname as a Girl Scout was Hååkåå (her royal highness). She was also involved in the foundation “De dövas väl” (welfare for the deaf) and stood in the stalls and sold.

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During the war, Crown Princess Louise and Sibylle shared the representation. Louise visited the Allies. Sibylle visited the Germans. It was an unfortunate decision that had consequences for her reputation throughout her life. For example, in 1941 she attended the inauguration of the German School, a German book exhibition at the National Museum & during a visit to Haparanda she handed out gifts (cigarettes & chocolate) to German wounded soldiers. Her reputation did not get better by her during the war visiting Germany. On November 26, 1943, her brother Hubertus died on the Eastern Front. As he was a member of the Nazi Party, Sibylle's presence at the funeral could be constructed as a political statement, and so was

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<sup>11</sup> Margit Vinberg. Prinsessan Sibylla: Så är det att vara tittojekt, symbol och fembarnsmamma. Vecko Journalen, 1965:30.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

done. Her father followed her back for a week as a diplomatic (=Nazi) envoy and after the collapse her brothers Johann Leopold and Friedrich fled to Sweden and were given (on extremely unclear grounds) a refuge with her.

Sibylle received anonymous hate letters naming her "betrayers", "bloody German", "don't return" (to Gothenburg it seems) and unpleasant books about the German concentration camps. She responded with the lid on. Nothing was her fault. She was just a poor little mother of five children, a widow & princess in exile.<sup>14</sup> In fact, by her entire life pitying herself, she managed to escape criticism. Two biographies & a long interview with her daughter Christina has not in any way dispelled the fog about what she knew & felt.<sup>15</sup> However, it is clear that at the end of the war Sibylle still had feelings for Germany. The two oldest children took part in the victory celebrations inside Stockholm. She herself shut herself up in her room. As soon as possible, she visited Coburg incognito and stayed there for a few weeks, helping her parents who were barred from the castle. It became a habit. Her father died in 1954, her mother in 1970. It took until 1965 for her to publicly distance herself from her father's actions. "We all believed then that he [Adolf Hitler] would be able to help Germany get on its feet ... one let oneself be deceived by the dynamism of his appearance and was impressed that he created a kind of order out of chaos. You were bewitched, hypnotized, you didn't understand what was going on under the surface. Only from a distance could you see and think clearly, then you understood, then you came to your senses".<sup>16</sup> It seems to have been under pressure. Queen Louise died in 1965 and Sibylle became first lady of the kingdom. As such, she could not defend a Nazi, even if he was her father.

However, he did do some work during the war. May 1. 1942, she became honorary chairman of the Swedish Women's Car Corps (SKBR). Federal President Irma Ulrich later said that: "If Princess Sibylle had not had the courage to be at the forefront, we would simply not have existed today. The princess made an historic contribution for which we all admire her. The idea - that women should go out and drive a truck and participate in the voluntary defence behind the car wheel - first seemed ridiculous. But the princess put down all opposition and the organization has been vindicated."<sup>17</sup> At Sibylle's funeral in 1972, 150 women from the organizations she had protected formed a hedge on Slottsbacken outside the church: Lottakåren, Röda korset, Blå stjärnan, Bilkåristerna, Sophiasystrarna, Scoutförbundet m.fl.<sup>18</sup>

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Eventually were born Princesses Margaretha (1934-), Birgitta (1937-), Désirée (1938-) and Christina (1943-), known as Hagasessorna (the Haga princesses) and at last Carl Gustaf (1946-). The children did not know anything about Sibylle's family. The silence was so compact that it took for example Christina until her teens before she began to wonder about her mother's origin. It came as a surprise to both her and Carl Gustaf when they realized how large their German family was. Sibylle was the second oldest of five siblings. They had three uncles, an aunt and 13 cousins on her side. Because she behaved in the same way with

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<sup>14</sup> Ebba Samuelsson. Prinsessan Sibylle. Svensk Damtidning, 1972:39.

<sup>15</sup> Lena Rainer. "Sibylle – prinsessan på undantag". Sydsvenska Dagbladet, 1997-11-02; Svensson 2006; Lundgren 2007.

<sup>16</sup> Margit Vinberg. Prinsessan Sibylla: Så är det att vara tittobjekt, symbol och fembarnsmamma. Vecko Journalen, 1965:30.

<sup>17</sup> Gunnel Hessel. Den personliga lyckan har fått komma i andra hand. Artikel 2. Svensk Damtidning, 1965:15. [Intervju med förbundsordför Sveriges kvinnliga bilkårers riksförbund Irma Ulrich.]

<sup>18</sup> Svenska Dagbladet, 1972-12-08.

Edmund's family, she probably had difficulty with this too. The Swedish family was two uncles, an aunt and six cousins.

With all this criticism, Sibylle seems to have lost faith in the future. She withdrew within her shell, chose her interactions with the utmost care and occupied herself with her representation and her children. The aggressiveness she sometimes showed gave her an undeserved reputation for being thick skinned.<sup>19</sup> In private it could sound like: "Not only have the Nazis destroyed my life in Germany - now they have done the same in Sweden."<sup>20</sup> Her friend Estelle Bernadotte described her mood as "a soft strength and a hard prickliness that hurt herself more than others". Be that as it may, Sibylle had a short fuse and expected to be obeyed by both children and servants. "She has a way of saying it without words that is very effective. The eyes shrink, the lips tighten and the voice becomes tense."<sup>21</sup> When someone opposed her it could sound like: "Bengt-Herman shall be silent." I fell silent. Her eyes flashed in a dark colour, then brightened and with a smile and she continued, "and in addition I hope that Bengt-Herman has a nice day".<sup>22</sup> Or when she would excuse herself to the nanny Ingrid Björnberg: "But I guess Nenne knows I didn't mean anything." - Well, I always used to answer - I was scared anyway!<sup>23</sup>

Sibylle never became popular but possibly respected: "What Princess Sibylle is for those closest to her, only the closest know. For the Swedish people, she is primarily handsome, with all that this word means. Style also requires a certain hardening. ... She knows her profession. Dog exhibitions and homelessness exhibitions and car exhibitions and blue wings (junior girl scouts; brownies), city museums, Västerbotten's household schools, lotteries and Nobel dinners, she manages perfectly. Perhaps the enthusiasm is not always total, but she is always courteously attentive."<sup>24</sup>

Her 40th anniversary in 1948 was a quiet family affair in Haga Castle. The servants paid their respects. She was courted by her organizations. First 300 Girl Scouts cheered and sang in her honour, and she received 10 candleholders in brass symbolizing the Scout Law's 10 points. It was cold and Sibylle was bareheaded. Her breath stood like smoke among the outdoor torches. The candleholders were handed over one by one in mutual salute.<sup>25</sup> The 50th anniversary in 1958 she chose to spend abroad in an unknown location. The day before departure, the family had a private party and Carl Gustaf gave her his first speech ever. It didn't go well but everyone was finally so moved by the effort that they cried together. From 1948, Sibylle used to visit the Riviera every year. Perhaps at the invitation of Prince Bertil who had bought a villa there to spend time with his mistress Lilian Craig. More about her later.

Previously Edmund had always stepped in when there were problems. It was believed that she matured and deepened during the first years of the 1950s when she was forced to face the difficulties herself. This was an experience that she tried to pass on to the children: "That everybody must overcome his or hers own problems, however difficult they may be, and not burden somebody else."<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> "Året Runts medarbetare." Om Sibylla. Året Runt, 1964:19.

<sup>20</sup> Roger Lundgren. Prinsessan Sibylla – ett kungligt livsöde. Kungliga magasinet, 2013:1.

<sup>21</sup> Bertil Lagerström. Hurdan är hon egentligen Sibylla? Året Runt, 1957:15.

<sup>22</sup> Nilsson 2007: s. 174.

<sup>23</sup> Elisabeth Reich. Intervju med Ingrid Björnberg om prinsessan Sibylla. Husmodern, 1979:2-3.

<sup>24</sup> Knut Hagberg. Sanningen om Sibylla. Vecko Journalen, 1954:46.

<sup>25</sup> Svensk Damtidning, 1948:5.

<sup>26</sup> Året Runt, 1958:3.

The Republican debate caused Sibylle some unexpected concerns. Her daughter Desirée was to be confirmed on July 20, 1954. It would be on the mainland and Sibylle was in a hurry to the ferry that was to depart from Färjestaden on Öland. When you go in a car from Solliden you pass a barrier about 75 meters from the railway station that is controlled from the station house about 50 meters away. The red warning lights flash when the booms are dropped. Sibylle honked and continued straight ahead under the bars. This angered the Republican-minded station inspector George Thurfors at Färjestaden railway station, to the point that he reported the incident to the police. The sentence was 1500 kronor for negligence in traffic. The reason for the urgency was alleged to be that Sibylle had been misinformed about the departure time. She was used to board as the first car and didn't want the other cars to be forced to wait for her arrival.

Since this was the first time ever that a royal was tried before a public court, the case caused great controversy. The royal courts excuses were met with mockery. All of Sibylle's previous misdemeanours were brought to light. November 13, 1949, her Cadillac had collided with an Opel, unclear whether it was Sibylle or the chauffeur at the wheel, and both cars had been pretty hard scratched. On December 10, 1951, her chauffeur had refused to stop for a police officer despite being hailed three times because they were late for the Nobel Party. The incident ended so unfortunately that they hit him. The royal court wrote several letters of apology and the charges were apparently dropped. Journalist Staffan Skott has later produced further episodes - a number of metal injuries - as evidence of Sibylle's shortcomings as a driver.<sup>27</sup>

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There were rumours about the enormous fortune that Sibylle would inherit from her mother. According to rumour her father had been one of the richest men in Germany. However, there was no clear division between state and private property in the duchy. When he abdicated in 1918, he lost almost everything and “lived in misery”. Probably an exaggeration but he was forced into things like making the recipients pay themselves for their orders of distinction. In 1928 after extensive litigation he regained those properties that were considered private.

In his case, however, the resignation of the throne was in accordance with the consensus, and the state of Coburg proved very generous to him at the time of the “divorce”. He was granted free access to Veste Coburg and the family established themselves there in a housing wing, “Fürstenbau”. In addition, he received the castle of Callenberg with domains and the Swiss Rosenau along with one million gold marks in cash. Gotha, which after the revolution joined Thuringia, bailed out the duke by allocating him Schmalhalden's vast forests, valued at around fifteen million marks. He also owned the Cariburg castle in Austria and the Hinterriss castle in Tyrol. The Duke was thus a very wealthy man, and the family - except in formal terms - came to occupy almost the same position for many years to come as before the revolution. They lived court life with court marshals, master of ceremonies, chamberlains and ladies-in-waiting, and this was still the position at Princess Sibylle's engagement in 1932.<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>27</sup> Skott 1996.

<sup>28</sup> Så blev hon prinsessa av Sverige. Hemmets veckotidning, 1956:4.

The many castles with estates and art collections were organized as foundations. Representatives of the family were part of the boards and if there were any profit from the business it would go to the family. After the end of the war, the East German properties were confiscated. Residual properties in West Germany and Austria gave Sibylle 10-15 thousand kronor per year. The inheritance in 1970 from her mother was estimated at 100 thousand kronor. The financial situation was difficult enough for her sister Caroline to 1966 open a lawsuit. The sister had been married three times, was now penniless and cohabited with her former driver at 700 kronor a month from the foundations, not subsistence level but meagre. In the newspapers, Sibylle appeared heartless as well as stingy. The process paid off so that Caroline raised her dividend 10-fold. In 1979, she also made money of her princesses title by adopting an American businessman as her son. The pleasure of becoming a prince cost one million. Half to Caroline, half to her agent. Carl Gustaf's cousin Prince Andrew tried to reclaim some of the properties in former East Germany on behalf of the foundations, but this seems to have failed. In any event, Carl Gustaf and the siblings have renounced all claims. Queen Louise too claimed to have confiscated properties in Eastern Europe.

According to unofficial data, Sibylle's Swedish wealth amounted to SEK 4-5 million, most of it through inheritance. This was an exaggeration, as most of it was possessed by Sibylle for a limited time and would be transferred to Carl Gustaf on his 21st birthday. Her own money was her widow's pension, an inheritance of 400 thousand from Gustaf V, a sports cottage on Ingarö that she had received as a gift from Edmund and various inventory.<sup>29</sup> The proceeds, including her mother's inheritance, were according to the estate inventory about one million.<sup>30</sup> There were also four millions that Edmund had locked in secret funds. While Edmund was alive, Sibylle had no personal appanage. She received 100,000 per year. Her total income was about 180 thousand per year, which should suffice for 15-20 people. There is a report that at one point she sold off some of her jewellery to cope with the situation. The children inherited clothes after their mother and each other and there was no question of any excesses.

As the children grew up, Sibylle was forced into the daylight as a person. There was much speculation as to why she did not remarry. There were many who were willing. She reportedly maintained a relationship with a friend of the family, banker Kjell Hägglöf, whose wife baroness Gunvor Rålamb was disabled after a car accident. In which case, they possibly met in hotels during Sibylle's many car trips to the continent. Edmund's adjutant Malcolm Murray is also mentioned. Maybe because he remained a bachelor all his life. Both were her escorts in social life which was nice if exhausting. Sibylle was witty, beautiful and happy to dance into the early hours.

The following is claimed as to why she remained unmarried: (1) By marrying a commoner, she would have been forced to renounce her princesses' title and thus the right to raise Carl Gustaf.<sup>31</sup> (2) As a princess and royal mother, she would become the first lady of the kingdom and have a not insignificant influence.<sup>32</sup> (3) As a remarried woman, she would have been forced to renounce the money after Edmund. The will was formulated so that she received the return on his fortune, in today's monetary value about 50 million, but only as long as she was unmarried. (4) She had begun to get used to running her own life.

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<sup>29</sup> Michael Jägerblom. Sanningen om Sibyllas rikedomar. Vecko Journalen, 1970:43.

<sup>30</sup> Svensk Damtidning, 1973:24.

<sup>31</sup> Prinsessan Sibylla sa nej till friare. Året Runt, 1967:5.

<sup>32</sup> Lundgren 2007.



Sibylle had a choice in about 1950 and she chose freedom, social position and economic independence. A not so wild guess is that it was this rather than her German nature that was behind much of the latter hostility. It ain't easy being a princess in the Kingdom of Sweden.

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When Queen Louise died in 1965, Sibylle became the first lady of the kingdom. As such, she lived much the same life as before. On November 28, 1972, she died of gastric cancer.