

## Chapter 98 : Carl XVI Gustaf (1953-1959) (III) – Mother's Darling.

In 1953, Prince Bertil took over the duties as Carl Gustaf's guardian. Formally, this meant that he took responsibility for Carl Gustaf's education. In practice, this did not happen - times had changed - but that he together with Sibylla appointed an "Education Council" (The Big Council) consisting of the Director General of the National Board of Education Nils Gustav Rosén (1907-1993), Edmund's colleague from the Swedish Sports Confederation Vice-Chairman of the Confederation Civil Engineer Bo Ekelund (1894-1983) and Edmund's adjutant Major General Malcolm Murray (1904-1995). The council or rather the discussion club existed until Carl Gustaf's graduation in 1966 when it was replaced by the corresponding "Central Council". There also appears to have existed a "School Council" (the Small Council) of varying composition. Throughout Carl Gustaf's school years there was a struggle between King Gustaf VI and Sibylla over the influence on Carl Gustaf's upbringing while Prince Bertil stayed away.

Rosén compiled a memo on suitable school selection for Carl Gustaf. The choice was between home education and a private school. After lengthy discussions, it was decided to close the Castle school. It was difficult to recruit students, the school had become almost individual teaching by an informant, and now was not the time for isolating the royals off from the people. It is alleged that there was a discussion as to why so many of the Bernadotte line were late in their personality development: "One possible explanation, which is occasionally encountered, is that the royal children grow up in such a distinctive and protected, not to say isolated environment. The idea is that shielding them from external impulses inhibits and delays the personality development; to this may be added the heavy responsibilities of an elect. Better they be shared."<sup>1</sup>

In the autumn of 1953, Carl Gustaf began at Anna Broms private school, founded in 1940 and until the academic year 1955/56 located on Sturegatan 22, then Tysta gatan 7 a little further away. Anna Dam (married Broms) was a graduate of the Margaretha school and had taught since she was 18. She emphasized style-sense-of-duty and that the children should love their schooling.<sup>2</sup> The schooling was commented on afterwards as: "Mrs. Broms kept the school in a firm and personal grip, with - even then - old-fashioned discipline. Mrs. Broms herself taught writing, by the method of daily dictation."<sup>3</sup> - One parent: "It was a different animal than the modern school, with its freedom, its benefits of different kinds. It was an old-fashioned school, where one would learn order and diligence and ambition as well as decent language. But the tone was extremely friendly in an old-fashioned way. The teachers were all trained in the ways of the Higher teacher seminar, that excellent educational institution that suffered a premature death and that many now would like to have back. The teachers aspired to each pupil mastering the curriculum according to their abilities. At Broms, one learned to read, write and count - under primitive conditions, but in small classes. The kids became polite, obedient and knew their stuff."<sup>4</sup> - Expressed in modern language, it seems to have been a school of rote learning where for example history teaching consisted of learning the list of Swedish kings by heart.

Carl Gustaf looked forward to meeting new comrades. A troupe from the kindergarten at the castle accompanied him: The Quartet Erland Broman, Carl Gustaf Ekman, Carl Johan Smith

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<sup>1</sup> Ortmark, 1969.

<sup>2</sup> Sören Larsson. Oss karlar emellan. Året Runt, 1956:12.

<sup>3</sup> Broms skola. Wikipedia, 2011-10-07.

<sup>4</sup> "Colomba". Apropå en gammal skola. Dagens Nyheter, 1957-04-24.

and Rutger Uggla. The duo Christoffer Murray and Henrik Kugelberg disappeared to other schools.

On Tuesday morning [September 8] Carl Gustaf holding Sibylla's hand enters Broms school at Sturegatan and settles down in a small green-lacquered desk among 19 other seven-year-olds, most of them boys. [He's dressed in light suit and white shirt without tie.] On a table, their working material lies in neat piles, the crown prince's at the top and the others in alphabetical order. ... Four police officers, a chief constable and a plain cloths police commissioner oversee the event. In the past, unknown ladies have wanted to rush forward and kiss him. Not on this occasion. The newspaper Expressen says that he may not be addressed by name but called "the Prince". Mrs. Broms conducts the teaching of writing, reading and Christianity herself, while Mrs. Karin Swedenborg is responsible for the arithmetic. The gymnastics lessons are located at GCI and the breaks are spent at the park Humlegården nearby.<sup>5</sup>

The room was full of parents, journalists and photographers. Carl Gustaf sat unmoved among the flashbulbs while the rest of the class looked uncomfortable. He was unusually grave, didn't smile one single time. The reason was a missing front tooth. The schedule for the first year was lessons 9-11. Two days each week there was gymnastics at nearby GCI until 12.

On sunny days Carl Gustaf was accompanied to school by nurse Ingrid Björnberg. The reason for the walks seems to have been that Sibylla believed that Carl Gustaf needed continued fresh air and exercise. On rainy days, he was driven to school in his own Volvo PV 444 (No. A14 in the Royal Stables). Carl Gustaf sat in the front seat asking questions about everything. The schedule was as follows:

It starts in the morning. Just as the sentrys in the eastern vault get their first morning replacement, the crown prince is awakened. Then his mother, Princess Sibylla, and nurse Miss Björnberg determine the schedule. His leisure time, with which comrades he will socialize, how long he may stay out and so on.

So the day's chores. At a quarter past eight, the crown prince should be at school at Sturegatan 22. But no royal car picks him up - instead, Miss Björnberg takes him in his hand and they walk to school. And it's really quite a long way - but neither the Crown Prince nor Miss Björnberg has anything against it. On the contrary.

Schooling in Mrs. Broms classic school next to Humlegården lasts until quarter past eleven. And it is very possible that Crown Prince Carl Gustaf has difficulties concentrating during the last hour - because then comes perhaps the most fun time of the whole day - the games. Directly from school, Miss Björnberg and the Crown Prince go out to Haga or Drottningholm, where they [Carl Gustaf and his companions] play and run around, build huts and have a good time for a couple of hours. The Crown Prince, like all other children of the same age, has a lot of ideas, which he translates according to his best understanding into games and other things.

And then back to the castle and time for homework. He is diligent because after that he is permitted to read his comics. At school, the Crown Prince must know as much about them as everybody else.

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<sup>5</sup> "Colomba". Apropå en gammal skola. Dagens Nyheter, 1957-04-24.

Miss Björnberg checks his homework and lets him play with some comrades in the playroom until half past eight. Then it is time for the crown prince to go to bed and a few hours later the lights go out in the room where the Swedish heir prince, the Duke of Jämtland, spends the night.<sup>6</sup>

Starting with 3<sup>rd</sup> grade he spent the entire day at school. Short breaks inside. Lunch and longer breaks at the castle or with comrades, or on the side walk, at Humlegården or later at Karlaplan. It caused problems because there were plenty of curious people waiting outside to catch a glimpse of him, take photographs and, as mentioned, hug him. It was such a common occurrence that nowadays it would be regarded as harassment. It was the same during the summer at Solliden, where taking photographs was forbidden. Carl Gustaf found it very unpleasant. In the beginning, there were two plain-clothes police officers who kept people at bay. He was later protected by his school uniform. It was difficult to spot him in the general ruckus.

Anna Broms school had only four classes. The reason was that the school system in Stockholm was so organized that from the fourth grade in “preparatory schools” one would apply to higher schools. This resulted in a hefty grade inflation in all of Stockholm's private schools, including Anna Broms school. The spring semester 1956, the last year of the system, Broms school had 20 A – the highest grade. The following year there was no A at all.<sup>7</sup> Anna Broms was also implied to have used her connections to enter students into schools to which they were not entitled.<sup>8</sup>

In the autumn of 1957 Carl Gustaf's education managers discussed placing him in 1<sup>5</sup> at the boarding school Sigtuna Humanistiska Läroverk and then continue with a private education together with some comrades until the high school diploma. “The issue has not been easy to resolve. Because of the Stockholm school reform, there is no suitable educational institution for him to transfer to in the autumn.” Even if the old system had remained his grades weren't good enough. Sigtuna Hum, on the other hand, because of the varying previous schooling of the students', had no grading requirements. “To skip the usual entry rules [for the Stockholm schools] would hardly be possible, as shows the reaction of the National Board for Public Schools this winter to the two irregular admissions to the Beskow school of a couple of boys from Anna Broms school.”<sup>9</sup>

At the time Carl Gustaf's poor grades were blamed on Anna Brom's pedagogy which was not considered sufficiently advanced for a person in Carl Gustaf's position. Much later, everything was blamed on his dyslexia. The following took place in January 1956:

Carl Gustaf's class manager Grethe [Greta] Asker, who was a partner in Broms School, was about to sell her shares and quit. In that errand, she visited school inspector Karin Lundström at the National Board of Education to arrange some papers. During the visit, she told Lundström of her concerns, including that Carl Gustaf “showed clear signs of word blindness” which Mrs. Broms did not want to acknowledge but dismissed with the words “word blindness cannot even be mentioned in connection with this child.” Since Mrs. Broms was in charge of all contacts with the

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<sup>6</sup> Arne Larnéus. En dag med kronprinsen. Barnsköterskan Ingrid Björnberg berättar. Svensk Damtidning, 1954:18.

<sup>7</sup> Expressen, 1958-01-06.

<sup>8</sup> Expressen, 1958-08-30.

<sup>9</sup> Expressen, 1957-03-14.

court, the information never went further. At a later date, Mrs. Asker threatened to bypass Mrs. Broms and raise the matter with the Marshal of the Realm [Birger Ekeberg]. That, too, led to nothing. Now she asked Karin Lundström to check her conclusions by examining Carl Gustaf's writings. "I examined seven of his writing, arithmetic and geography books. As far as I could judge, there were errors of the word blind type in his writing, and in particular in the geography test, which was written without any requirement for correct spelling." Yet another check was made. "[I mentioned] to Mrs. Broms that the Director-General was interested to know something about a child's performance in particular, and I asked to see all the children's writing and arithmetic books. I thought both the home- and the school assignments were well done, as I told Mrs. Broms. There were no errors of the striking word blind type (there were not many errors at all!)" Finally, Sibylla, Gustaf VI and also Director General Nils Gustav Rosén in the Education Council were informed that Carl Gustaf possibly had mild problems. It should in any case be investigated.<sup>10</sup>

There was a meeting. The atmosphere was irritated. Rosén recommended remedial education. Sibylla refused to accept Lundström's diagnosis. Rosén wanted to resign but Prince Bertil persuaded him to stay.<sup>11</sup>

Sibylla seems to have interpreted the situation as Carl Gustaf being lazy and gave him a slap in the face for all the trouble he had caused. He was then given extra tuition by a governess, the details are unclear, but no special dyslexia training - none existed. The rest of the Broms-period his dyslexia seems to have been ignored. His teacher: "The Prince is very gifted, has quick perception and good general talent. He is very ambitious, writes delightful compositions and expresses himself with ease."<sup>12</sup> Two of Carl Gustaf's compositions were considered particularly good: "One day at the Ethiopian Exhibition" and "Christmas at home". He had a neat, easy-to-read style. And finally, Mrs. Broms herself: "Carl Gustaf was very talented. It was especially fun that he was not the least spoiled. And he treated everybody the same. I have rarely had such a pleasant time. Carl Gustaf was studious - almost pedantic. All the teachers liked him."<sup>13</sup> Carl Gustaf also showed perseverance. If he started something, he finished it.<sup>14</sup>

The school reform assumed that one should transfer after finishing the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. In order that Carl Gustaf and his classmates could remain at Broms until then, "unknown private persons", probably the students' parents, invested money in an expansion of the school. It moved to larger premises on Tysta gatan 7 and a director of studies was employed.<sup>15</sup> The number of girls was too small to have them in each class. Carl Gustaf was in a pure boy class, the girls in a mixed parallel class. They played with each other during the breaks. Anne-Regine Forsberg: "What I remember of the king as a child was that he was so kind to us girls when we played. We never had to be afraid when he caught us playing thief and police. The other guys always took the opportunity to pinch us and pull us by the hair."<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Skrivelse från folkskoleinspektör Karin Lundmark till generaldirektör Nils Gustav Rosén. Januari 1956. Arkivmaterial efter Broms skola. Stockholms stadsarkiv.

<sup>11</sup> Rainer, 1996.

<sup>12</sup> Hemmets veckotidning, 1956:11.

<sup>13</sup> Bo Axelsson. Carl Gustafs lärare om Carl Gustaf. Kvällsposten, 1968-04-03.

<sup>14</sup> Svensk Damtidning, 1974:9.

<sup>15</sup> Expressen, 1957-03-14.

<sup>16</sup> Christina Ollén. Bilaga: Kungen 50 år. Expressen, 1996-04-24.

Addressing the prince eventually became an (arcane) art. There were wrestling bouts, but no serious fights. Carl Gustaf generally won except against Hans Jörgen Zetterström (son of columnist Kar de Mumma) which prompted one of the ladies-in-waiting to rename him Anckarström – the assassin.<sup>17</sup>

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While the Education Council was to prepare Carl Gustaf for his duties as “King” there was also a “Youth Council” to prepare him for his “Manhood”. This council consisted of Sibylla's chamberlain Gösta Lewenhaupt (1912-1996), Gustaf VI's adjutant court stable master lieutenant colonel Hans Skiöldebrand (1920-2003), teacher at the Military Academy captain Harald Smith (1920-2000), Carl Gustaf's future Scout leader the banker Hans Beck-Friis (1921-2004) and finally Lennart Ekelund, son of Bo Ekelund in the Education Council.

During the Broms-period, the youth council introduced Carl Gustaf into the cub and scout life, hired his gymnastics teacher Helmer Winnberg (1915-1996) as “recreational organizer” and placed their sons in Carl Gustaf's circle of friends: Carl Adam “Noppe” Lewenhaupt, Fredrik Skiöldebrand and Carl Johan Smith. Sibylla had a cottage on Ingarö which was very popular in the company: “The prince likes most of all when he is allowed to bring his best friends out to the cottage on Ingarö. Winnberg is present, sometimes Sibylla, they have food that they are helped to prepare, mostly sandwiches, hard bread and cheese. They play ball, train sports, build huts and play cowboys and Indians.” Playmates were Carl Johan Smith, Carl Gustaf Ekman, Magnus Wickman, Rutger Uggla, Erland Broman, Erik Edelstam and others. They rotated 4-6 boys at a time. Sibylla made sure no one was favoured. Same on Solliden. A couple of comrades at a time, three weeks at a time.

Winnberg was also at Solliden where he instructed Carl Gustaf and friends in water sports and organized complicated role-playing games such as tying adults to totempoles and performing war dances or boarding a sailboat and letting the crew walk the plank and on Storlien where there were skis and igloos. When Winnberg was not there, others were forced to join Carl Gustaf's games. “Lars Meurling, policeman and former athlete, has for four summers been Carl Gustaf's bodyguard at Solliden. He is there six weeks at a time. The job is to keep curious people at a distance and if necessary play with Carl Gustaf: play football, make bows and arrows, play Indian and sneak up on the servants.”<sup>18</sup> At Solliden Carl Gustaf had his riding teacher Arnold Eriksson: “- The little prince was tired and wanted to sleep in the mornings. But his mother Sibylla had decided that he should be in the saddle every morning at eight o'clock. - That didn't work too well but after I talked to her he could ride when he wanted to and then he became interested. Once, the little prince fell off when galloping, but Carl Gustaf wanted to keep it a secret and didn't tell his mother until the fall. According to Sibylla, he was afraid that I would be criticised. He was, and is, a fine guy.”<sup>19</sup>

After Carl Gustaf's accession to the throne, Winnberg gave a long interview: The first two years, he only met Carl Gustaf during gymnastics hours. In the autumn of 1955, Sibylla asked him to organize Carl Gustaf's leisure time. Carl Gustaf needed someone he trusted, someone who could lead and inspire his imagination and toughening him up physically. Although he had his beloved and adored Miss Ingrid Björnberg, Carl Gustaf was now of that age when he needed a man, someone friendly but firm. From 1955 to 1959, Winnberg devoted much of his

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<sup>17</sup> Christer Nyblom. Möten med kungen. Hemmets Veckotidning, 1976:22.

<sup>18</sup> Thea Oljelund. Jag var livvakt åt lillprinsen. Året Runt, 1958:1.

<sup>19</sup> Thorsten Alm. Om Arnold Eriksson, kungens ridlärare på Solliden. Året Runt, 1988:33.

time to Carl Gustaf. In fact, so much time that Princess Birgitta for a while deputized for him. Winnberg was occasionally invited to the castle. He was interviewed about how he perceived his former student. Winnberg replied that Carl Gustaf was a dream: "Never grumpy or squeaky. Not spoiled, not a moment aware of his position and therefore never considered using it as a weapon, against me or others. He was always keen on adventure, games and fun. In snowball wars or fights with his peers he took and gave with the same cheer."<sup>20</sup>

After retiring, Winnberg compiled his photographs and amateur films as "Alone with the prince and on equal footing" (1982) and "From hut to castle" (1982). Both showed Carl Gustaf when 10-12 years of age during various leisure activities such as gymnastics exercises, tractor driving and sailing. The first of the films aired on TV2 on Christmas Day 1983. Winnberg thought that as one of many "educators" he had done his part, conveying to Carl Gustaf an idea of justice, fair play, sportsman- and companionship, filled his leisure time with a moderate mix of play and seriousness, reality and adventure.

Then he started swaying: "Carl Gustaf was not like any other boy I have met. Perhaps most of all because he never, at any time, showed fear. In all these years I never saw him cry. Nor did he be in defiance of me or that he expected any special privileges because he was the Crown Prince. Of course he knew his future, but he never spoke about it. Another thing was that he had no desire whatsoever to be first. On the contrary, he remained consistently in the background. He wanted fellowship, but did not want to stand out. He was such a contrast to his father who only devoted himself to sports in order to win."<sup>21</sup> - "Carl Gustaf used his charm. Sibylla worshipped her son and was unable to resist whatever he requested. She was constantly worried that something would happen to him and wanted to know what he was up to every moment of the day. She never got angry with him but well at the rest of us who she didn't think careful enough. Carl Gustaf won our eternal gratitude by never revealing to his mother when he has hurt or had been exposed to danger."<sup>22</sup>

It was subsequently claimed that Carl Gustaf took unnecessary risks on purpose as a protest against all the concern at home, but I have not been able to confirm it. Perhaps the information is from the weekly *Året Runt*: "As a young boy Carl Gustaf is said to have been incredibly fierce when playing so that he finally had to be stopped in order not to hurt himself and others."<sup>23</sup> An alternative version is that Carl Gustaf in his teenage years (?) drove motocross and was involved in an incident where his friend Noppe Lewenhaupt fell and broke his leg.

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The idea was that Carl Gustaf should be treated like any other student even at Broms school. Beautiful thought! A teacher's comment: "I remember a little event. It was a bit rowdy in the schoolyard. A teacher took the prince hard in her arm. When he turned around and she saw who he was, she apologized. Afterwards the prince came up to me and asked: 'Why did she act like that?'"<sup>24</sup> Some time later he happened to antagonize a street worker who rebuffed him with a "Fuck you brat". Carl Gustaf then turned to the accompanying nurse Ingrid Björnberg

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<sup>20</sup> Bo Hanson. När kungen var kille. Allers, 1974:16.

<sup>21</sup> Elisabeth Reich. Kungens lyckliga barndom. Helmer Winnberg berättar. *Året Runt*, 1983:4. [Sammanfattning av en längre intervju.]

<sup>22</sup> Elisabeth Reich. Kungens lyckliga barndom. Helmer Winnberg berättar. *Året Runt*, 1983:4. [Sammanfattning av en längre intervju.]

<sup>23</sup> 15 saker du inte vet om kronprinsessan. *Året Runt*, 1997:5.

<sup>24</sup> Susanne Habohm. Ny artikelserie om kungen. *Året Runt*, 1974:8.

and noted: "I don't think he knew who I was." There are many similar stories. Carl Gustaf could afterwards not recall any particular moment when he became aware of his future: "Sometimes someone joked about the fact that I would be king, but otherwise it grew on me with time! It came by itself, it was not something you needed to talk about!"<sup>25</sup>

Carl Gustaf's social position was emphasized to the extreme. In the school hall there was an album with the students' names and photography. Carl Gustaf had the first page to himself. In the hall there were clothes hangers. Carl Gustaf had hanger No. 1 marked "Crown Prince". If any teacher or classmate for some reason did not understand who he was, they understood at the end of the school year when Gustaf VI, Sibylla and all the princesses arrived. Carl Gustaf received his grades in a correct double breasted brown jacket, long pants in flannel and a crown of golden gloss paper.<sup>26</sup> In 2010 Thomas Sjöberg interviewed two of Carl Gustaf's classmates. Cecilia Ruben best remembered that Carl Gustaf was lively, good at gymnastics and somewhat better dressed than the others. Carl Hamilton best remembered the excessive attention he received.<sup>27</sup> There is an anecdote – of old origin, however, from the days of Gustaf V attending Beskow school.

A newly admitted student at Broms comes home breathless after school and announces:

- Mom, Mom - today the Crown Prince spoke to me!
- What did he say?
- Out of the way, damn first grader!<sup>28,29</sup>

Carl Gustaf's birthday parties were memorable:

It always started with a "men's dinner" [at the castle], and then a movie. Then we usually went out to Haga. There we burned off a birthday firework, and Princess Sibylla and the girls grilled sausages over open fire and invited us lucky guys to eat.<sup>30</sup>

Every year, peers of the Crown Prince have been invited to dreamlike birthday parties in Haga Park with Indian games, camp pyres, fireworks and anything that boys of their age can wish for. Less fun for the energetic journalists who on such a night about five years ago [1956] invaded Haga Park to inspect the party, but who were assaulted by a horde of howling Indians. The birthday child and his redskin...<sup>31</sup>

Carl Gustaf's drilling in public life continued throughout the Broms-period. He was taught things like emptying his bladder before attending.<sup>32</sup> Carl Gustaf's liveliest memory was Haile Selassie's and Queen Elizabeth's state visit in 1956 (200 thousand spectators!) and how he and sister Christina trained at kissing Queen Elisabeth's hand.<sup>33</sup> From 1956 Carl Gustaf himself was cast in the lead role. Two examples:

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<sup>25</sup> F S Alonzo, Intervju med kungen. (c) Capital, Milano. Året Runt, 1982:6.

<sup>26</sup> Svenska Dagbladet, 1953-12-22.

<sup>27</sup> Sjöberg m fl. 2010.

<sup>28</sup> Vårt kungapar 1 : Året som gått med den kungliga familjen. 1976.

<sup>29</sup> Kung Gustaf på skolbänken. Vecko Journalen, 1924:52, s 1454-1455.

<sup>30</sup> Bo Hanson. När kungen var kille. Allers, 1974:16.

<sup>31</sup> Kronprins Carl Gustaf 15 år. Svensk Damtidning, 1961:18.

<sup>32</sup> Prinsessan Birgitta. Sommarvärd. SR 2009-07-12.

<sup>33</sup> Lena Björk. Lillprinsen har blivit stor. ICA-kuriren, 1996:18.

On 19 June 1956, Carl Gustaf opened a playhouse at Skansen by starting a model train set donated by Fleischman. Carl Gustaf arrived with school friend Carl Johan Smith and nurse Nenne Björnberg in a Volvo. It is said that this was the first time that Carl Gustaf had performed a public ceremony entirely on his own. At the inauguration he was instructed to press a button on the switchgear and the first train set on the 10 meter long track started moving. Carl Gustaf owned many nice model trains but nothing like this. Everything was handmade and had cost about 40 thousand in production. It depicted a miniature of SJ's rolling stock, signalling system, etc. A nice Swedish landscape with goods areas, rain shelters and idyllic communities. His official duties settled, Carl Gustaf entered the game. He received a miniature train as a memento.<sup>34</sup>

On September 16, 1956, the Nävereds and Stugun power plant was to be inaugurated in Indalsälven in Carl Gustaf's home county of Jämtland. Sibylla thought it a good idea for Carl Gustaf to attend. Director-General Rausch for Vattenfall had some informational material sent up to the castle and also informed Carl Gustaf on the train trip what he was to inaugurate and how it had come to be. At the inauguration Carl Gustaf pressed the button that started Nävereds remote controlled generators which gave off a comforting rumble. Carl Gustaf was appointed an honorary engineer and received Vattenfall's pin in gold, blue and white. He also got to decide on the menu for the 550 guests. It would be meatballs and ice cream.<sup>35</sup>

On January 13, 1957, he for the first time participated in the formal opening of the Parliament next to his sisters in the Queen's Gallery. In the photograph, he is barely visible above the railing. The ceremonial opening had the character of "ceremonial preserve". Tail coat, uniform and Orders were mandatory. In itself it was quite short, barely an hour, but was extended by a leading service and trailing lunches and receptions. Queen Louise and Sibylla swept in with tiaras, shrouds and two pages each to keep track of the elegance. "When Karl XI's soldiers enter the Hall of State to a heroic military march, when the Queen makes her three curtsies [for the diplomatic corps and for the first and second chambers who bend their heads], when the King's Anthem starts the seconds before the king enters and bows to the people, then even the Republican club should be impressed."<sup>36</sup>

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Carl Gustaf's personality during the Broms-period is difficult to determine since the clippings are mainly about his leisure activities and school holidays. The texts are uncompromisingly upbeat. All the school reports are from Carl Gustaf's first school year. What happened in the next five years can only be guessed at. On his 10th birthday, he declined being addressed as "little prince". Carl Gustaf has never commented on his experiences at Broms. The court later claimed that through his schoolmates he "had learned to get along with younger and older comrades and through some of them had come into contact with bourgeois homes and habits which which further widened his experience."<sup>37</sup> What is known is that he visited some of his old kinder-garten comrades such as Carl Johan Smith and also met new acquaintances like Hans-Eric von der Groeben, Hans-Erik "Jeje" Brodin and "Nisse" Bonnier. The Broms-period was still considered a failure: "If the crown prince alternates between his bourgeois

<sup>34</sup> Svenska Dagbladet, 1956-06-19.

<sup>35</sup> Svenska Dagbladet, 1956-12-17.

<sup>36</sup> "Höken". Riksdagens högtidliga öppnande. Svenska Dagbladet, 1964-01-12.

<sup>37</sup> Arne Larnéus. Lillprinsen i närbild. Hemmets veckotidning, 1956:8-12. [Baserad på intervjuer med Carl Gustafs guvernant, hans nuvarande och tidigare lärarinnor i Broms och hans rid- och slöjdlärare.]

comrades and his home at Stockholm Castle, he will never feel like a boy among other boys.”<sup>38</sup> Carl Gustaf's over-organized life had also created problems. He had become accustomed to not taking any initiatives. He was by far the most maternally over-protected, socially privileged and all around curled schoolboy in Sweden. Affirmative action on his behalf was only half of it. On the other hand, the pressure to perform was relentless.

Afterwards, Carl Gustaf was critical of the mix of social isolation and forced representation. He summarized his childhood as “Growing up in a castle is like living in tin can and only being released into the daylight when the public wants to taste the content.”<sup>39</sup> He has preferred to remember his summer holidays.

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<sup>38</sup> Anders Lundebeck. Nu skall prinsen gå i Hum. *Husmodern*, 1959:26.

<sup>39</sup> Maud Wester. Newest and Youngest Monarch. *Scandinavian Review*, 1976:1.