

Appendix : Prince Carl Jr's marriages

Carl had a messy private life. He is said to have had several mistresses and even a child in his 20s. but that has not been possible to confirm. He was intended for a royal marriage - as a prince consort to Crown Princess Juliana of the Netherlands (1909-2004) - and there is an extensive description of how Carl and other princes 1929-1936 were weighed on a gold balance and found wanting:

In April 1929, Juliana's parents instructed their Minister of Foreign Affairs, Frans Beelaerts van Blokland, to draw up an unprejudiced inventory of the marriage market based on Almanack de Gotha. The criteria were: a modern Royal House, suitable age, Protestant religion, irreproachable character & preferably not German. The inventory started with the Swedish princes Bertil, Lennart, Sigvard & Carl jr. Bertil was rejected due to a fatal traffic accident in which he had driven a car without a driving license. Lennart fell away due to ill health - he had sensitive lungs and had barely passed his military training. Sigvard was perceived as more interested in an artistic career than in a royal one, and was also considered generally unpleasant. Carl was considered more interested in cars than in his princely duties.¹

In 1934, the inventory was revised. Lennart & Sigvard had already married. Bertil's technical interest was considered disqualifying “he is mostly interested in airplanes and cars”. However, Carl was once again up for discussion:

Due to this lack of success, Beelaerts wondered if the Swedish princes might have changed for the better by now. Sigvard was married, and Envoy Sweerts wasn't too positive about Bertil: “he is mostly interested in airplanes and cars.” Prince Carl, however, had improved: “he has nice manners, is elegant, easy going and his intellect isn't below the average.” The envoy did warn, however, that Carl “isn't made of wood and he is said to have success with a lot of girls in the highest circles.” The King of Sweden announced to his own envoy in The Hague that he would like to cooperate in a meeting between his nephew and Juliana.

The first opportunity for Carl and Juliana to meet would be at the wedding of the Duke of Kent to Princess Marina of Greece in London in November 1934. Juliana was asked to be a bridesmaid by Marina, and Cousin Alice of Athlone asked her sister-in-law, Queen Mary, to send an invitation to Carl. Carl duly travelled to London, where he was teased by the younger princesses as rumours about an engagement started to appear in The Netherlands. Some shops even placed pictures of the Prince in their windows, and books about him were for sale. Wilhelmina was furious, of course; however, Juliana found the rumours amusing.

The meeting was an absolute disaster. The Dutch envoy in London, Jhr. Reneke de Marees van Swinderen, blamed Juliana. She seemed uninterested; as a young intellectual woman she might be admired by older men like King George V, but “young people require a bit more than just intellect”; they were interested in a woman's appearance rather than her intellect. Juliana didn't do anything about her appearance, and she was habitually unpunctual. Carl made an excellent impression on de Marees: “no wonder that all the girls were calling him all day for dates to parties and other festivities.” de Marees also thought there may be a Danish-Norwegian-

¹ Fasseur 2001.

Greek plot at the British court to prevent a Swede from getting so close to the Dutch throne; Queen Maud of Norway, sister of George V, was the prime suspect. Juliana showed her preference for the Greek Prince Paul, whose dynasty was Danish. Maybe this caused a revival of Danish-Swedish rivalry? After Juliana left, the envoy fell ill from all the stress and had to stay in bed for a week.

The Swedish envoy in London and Princess Alice wanted to mediate between Juliana and Carl, and even Wilhelmina did not give up all hope. She refused, however, to get Queen Astrid of Belgium (sister of Carl) involved because she suspected that King Leopold III wanted his brother Charles to marry Juliana and had discouraged his brother-in-law Carl. The suspicions were totally unjust, but it shows the frustration that was felt. Juliana, in the meantime, did not regret it too much because she thought Carl was immature.²

Meanwhile, Juliana completed her university studies and stopped being difficult. She and her mother (her father was now dead) agreed on the completely unexpected Prince Bernhard of Lippe-Biesterfeld, a university-educated lawyer and employee at I G Farben in Paris. The wedding took place on January 7, 1937. Carl was now 26 years old and tired of the situation. The choice was between some princess of Almanack de Gotha or someone closer at hand. He married Elsa von Rosen

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Elsa von Rosen (1904-1991)

Countess Elsa von Rosen was born February 7, 1904, in Stockholm & died there April 15, 1991. Her father was Gustaf V's Grand Master of Ceremonies, Count Eugen von Rosen (1870-1950). Her mother was his father's wife in the 1st marriage Eleonore (Ella) Wijk (1880-1970). Elsa was married twice: The 1st time 1923-1935 with legation councillor Count Adolf von Rosen (1898-1954). The 2nd time 1937-1951 with Carl. In her first marriage she had three children. In her second marriage to Carl, she had a girl in 1938.

Elsa is mentioned in the chronicles (Elgklou 1978: s. 189; Ohlmarks 1979: ss. 124-125; Skott 1996: ss. 393-394,400; Sundberg 2004: ss. 238-239; Lindqvist 2010: s. 80; Norlin 2015: Page 217).

As she was not royal, Carl at the time of her marriage was removed from the line of succession and lost his prince title. King Gustav V of Sweden did not prohibit the marriage - probably he did not want to offend Carl's father - but marked his discontent by not attending the wedding. This was a small affaire on July 6, 1937, in Kvillinge church near Fridhem. The couple were married by Carl's Confirmation priest, Dr. Fredrik Sjöberg. Through his brother-in-law Leopold III, Carl received a hereditary Belgian Prince title, at the same time a noble position. His new name was Prince Carl Bernadotte. Elsa became Princess Elsa Bernadotte.

The issue of the title was discussed at length.³ Prince Oscar had a (Swedish) personal prince title & a hereditary (Luxembourgian) noble title count of Wisborg. Carl had a (Belgian) prince title, at the same time a (Belgian) noble position, that was inherited

² Marengo 2008.

³ K. L-m. [Om titelfrågan.] Svenska Dagbladet 1953-10-09; Karl Lofström. [Om titelfrågan.] Svenska Dagbladet 1964-06-28.

through primogenitur (birthright). Oscar's position as prince did not extend to the rest of the family. The fact that Ebba was named princess was only out of courtesy. Carl's position as prince, however, extended to the rest of the family in his capacity of pater familias.

After her divorce in 1951, Elsa lost her princess title but got her countess title back. Her daughter Madeleine, as long as she was unmarried, was addressed as countess, but the law is unclear. According to some accounts, she was an unmarried princess after her father. According to other information, Countess after mother. In 1962, she married the Belgian nobleman junker Charles-Albert. When married, he was promoted to count & Madeleine, thus become countess "through marriage". When she married a Greek businessman in 1981, she lost this title too, but possibly regained her "family titles" upon her husband's death in 2006.

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Anna (Ann) Margaretha Larsson (1921-1975)

Ann Larsson was born on 22 March 1921 in Danderyd & died on 3 September 1975 in Churriana, Malaga. Her father Karl Larsson (1883-1958) was a chauffeur or builder. Her mother was Elin Beckman (1887-1945). Ann was married three times: The 1st time 1943-1952 with Lars Lindner (1914-1992). The 2nd time 1954-1961 with Carl. The 3rd time 1966-1975 with millionaire & writer Jean Lowenthal (1913-1977). Before and during her marriage to Carl, she was his secretary.

Ann mentioned in the chronicles (Elgklou 1978: s. 189; Ohlmarks 1979: ss. 134-125; Skott 1996: s. 400; Sundberg 2004: s. 239; Lindqvist 2010: s. 82; Norlin 2015: ss. 217-218).

Ann insisted that the marriage gave her a personal princess title that she could use even after her divorce & remarriage. The Belgian royal family disagreed. The Swedish press was acerbic and renamed her Princess Larsson. Details are unclear.⁴

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Kristine Rivelsrud (1932-2014)

Kristine Rivelsrud was born April 22, 1932, in Elsdorss, Norway, & died November 4, 2014, in Benalmadena, Spain. Her father Johan Rivelsrud (1907-1986) was a foreman, possibly in a mine. Her mother Elna Rivelsrud (1908-1992) was a housewife. Kristine cohabited with Carl 1961-1978 and was married to him 1978-2003. She was hired as a secretary, all-in-all or nanny.

Kristine is mentioned in the chronicles (Ohlmarks 1979: ss. 140-141; Skott 1996: s. 400; Sundberg 2004: s. 239; Lindqvist 2010: s. 82; Norlin 2015: s. 218).

⁴ Prinsessan och författaren. Hänt i veckan, 1966:14, s. 31.

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