

## Appendix : Sigvard Bernadotte's marriages.

There are common features in Sigvard's choice of women. All three were spontaneous, outgoing people. One guess is that it had to do with the quote from his diary - that he was surrounded by people who sought him out, not because they liked him, but because they were curious and/or wanted to gain some advantage. The women he chose were at least honest, even though they were exhausting to live with. However, they were embarrassing for the image of the royal house: Patzek was German and of simple descent. Robert was anthroposophist. Lindberg was an actress, troublemaker & she too of simple descent.

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### Erica Patzek (1911-2007)

Erica Maria Regina Rosalie Patzek was born July 12, 1911, in Wilmersdorf, Berlin, the daughter of the merchant Anton Patzek (1878-1939) and his wife Maria Anna Lala (1880-1949). She had an older brother George. Possibly also a younger brother. The family came from simple circumstances, but she herself was raised at a Catholic convent school and subsequently passed the abitur corresponding to the Swedish baccalaureate. In addition to her German, she spoke fluent French, English, Italian and Spanish, sang well and played the piano. Sigvard was married March 8, 1934. The divorce took place on October 14, 1943. She died July 30, 2007, in Berlin.

Erica is mentioned in the chronicles (Elgklou 1978: ss. 188-189; Skott 1996: s. 372; Sundberg 2004: ss. 260-261; Lindqvist 2010: ss. 119-121; Norlin 2015: ss. 245-248) and at the time of the wedding also in the weeklies.

The couple met in 1933 during Sigvard's UFA work. This time Sigvard was completely intransigent. Despite attempts of persuasion by his father, grandfather, father's cousin Folke Bernadotte and various friends of the family, he & Erica married March 8, 1934. Sigvard described her as follows:

Her name was Erica Patzek. I was drawn to her because she was completely different from the girls I had met before. She was demanding, dominant, quarrelsome, and had that special German quality of always being "contemptuous", that is, wounded or insulted to the smallest small thing. How many times did we quarrel and she got angry, did not answer the phone, slammed the doors, and how many times did we not become friends again with reconciliation scenes and embraces. She made me crazy, I didn't know how to handle her, but I got addicted to her, I couldn't spare her. The months passed and eventually we thought - or was it she? - that we should get married.<sup>1</sup>

Erica was very appealing: "Her big sapphire blue eyes radiate intelligence and she has a dignified vibrancy that you really only find in the women of the North. She could well be mistaken for Swedish. Her skin is exceptionally beautiful, her traits clean and regular. She is small in stature, but with a perfect figure and even in London, where you basically don't show what you think, she was followed by admiring glances."<sup>2</sup> The parents were interviewed about her social position & upbringing:

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<sup>1</sup> Bernadotte 1975: s. 137.

<sup>2</sup> Vecko Journalen 1934:11, s. 25.

We have entered a regular old-German home of prosperous burghers. No upstart extravagances. In addition, the Patzek family has been working their way up so slowly - while keeping their old habits – that the house they live in could well be patrician 18<sup>th</sup> century, was it not for the simple blue-painted facade seeming a little too tarnished.

”Surely we could have moved to a nicer neighbourhood,” says Mr. Patzek, ”but you see, we have lived here for so long now, we like it here and it is difficult to get out of habits. I could also have started with a major reconstruction, but instead I have built steadily for 27 years - a little bit each time. This is the best way not to put yourself in debt, as many people have done in recent years. That is why I have also decided to make a temporary stop. Only in Globzow is an extension necessary. The villa will have another tower before it can be called finished. I myself, with the help of the unemployed, have built it according my own head, but I did not dare to make it too large. Buying an already existing spacious villa is probably acceptable but to build a villa yourself one floor higher than the villas around you invites criticism. That is not advisable in these times. But now it is another matter when the prince will live there.”

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Patzek senior was in his twenties when he abandoned his fathers' village for the big city, with which he had become familiar during the time he was doing military service there. First he worked as a journeyman at a butcher's master in Berlin, then as a surveyor and the insurance business. It was not many years before he had earned so much that he could rent a small inn at Tempelhofer Feld and marry. At the time of his marriage, his wife was a cook in Poznań. She is Polish by birth and still after thirty years of residence in Berlin she reveals her descent in her German which is by no means perfect.

When Patzek senior formed his own family, he began to work his way up, energetically and purposefully. He rented out market places and made individual stalls for the market traders. He later founded a large road haulage business. As a significant plus on his credit account, he reckons that during the war he had large army deliveries and during the entire post-war period has done great business with the magistrate without even the slightest reproach of unsound business methods.

”I know every one of them, every one of these great-mouths,” he says, ”who have now been pilloried for having unjustly targeted the public at their expense. I myself have carefully parried every attempt to get myself involved in the huge mess of post-war affairs, which has now been such trouble sorting out and where it was not known where corruption started and ended. I have managed to get by despite the fact that the red government immediately expropriated my farm, despite inflation and despite the crisis. But that is not my only merit, it is mainly my wife's. That much I understand that where the woman stands supports her husband, that family fares well.”

”For us, the family is everything - our family life is our sanctuary,” injects Mrs. Patzek, and looks like a completely different person than the wife Patzek who a week earlier, strong as three major's widows from Ekeby [a character in Gösta Berlings saga], chased the journalists on the door. ”Our work has been our life,” she continues. ”But we have endeavoured to give our daughter as good an education as possible and first of all we have thought that she would not only acquire unproductive talents. She has studied music, plays tennis outstandingly and she drives her car as well as any professional driver. She speaks French fluently, although she has never been to France. But she can also cook and care for a home. I know that she will be a good housewife. It has been claimed that she would have participated in films, but she certainly has not. I would never have allowed it.” Mrs. Patzek goes on, that the daughter was never left unattended. Together with her parents she has visited Karlsbad and Kissingen and the whole family has made long trips in their huge car including to Switzerland. If the

parents were ever unable to keep their daughter company, they would leave her under the supervision of her eldest brother. The Prince got to know Miss Erika a year ago. His courting was quite romantic, says Mrs. Patzek:

"He called often, and on the phone we heard a sympathetic voice almost without a foreign accent, asking for Miss Erika. Then he came to visit, and we got to know him under the name Holger. Erika had several offers of marriage, and it is only natural that we, like any other father or mother, should have liked a marriage which at least secured her material future. But my husband liked the young hr Holger and thought, that even if he was just a young Swedish artist with an uncertain future, he made Erika happy and that was the main thing. I am also sure that Prince Sigvard will make my daughter happy and I am therefore satisfied.

Can you imagine, moreover, that for half a year I did not know who he was? He called and he came, but only under the name Holger. Only after six months had passed did Erika tell me: 'Mom, I have to entrust you with something. Sigvard is a prince, but Mom, we like each other!'"

It was a real blow to me. I cried and looked for a way out, because I was quite convinced that this love story would not have a happy ending. Nor dared we tell my husband, we were anxious about that, both Erika and I."

Patzek senior looks self satisfied. "Erika presented the prince to me as a good friend of Georg, my eldest son! He came out to us at Globsov, and we all had fun together. Erika was like a another being, happy as a lark in the sky, and therefore it was not possible to fool old Patzek. Freundschaft had mother said, but I soon told her that that is indeed more than Freundschaft between the young Swede and Georg, It was written all over that there was something else that kept them together."

"But at last I had to tell my husband the situation," continues Mrs. Patzek. "And so the prince asked for Erika's hand. But my husband said no, decidedly no. He absolutely refused to consent to the marriage. When the prince insisted, my husband asked him to go to Stockholm and talk to his "königlichen Vater". The prince did just that, as you know, but came back without his father's consent. By Christmas, he announced that he would marry without his family's consent. And what could we do? It was a difficult situation, but we could not prevent the prince from following his heart's command nor our daughter. And for us the Prince was Mr Holger – it was as Holger we had got to know and like him."

"Now there's nothing to do about it," says Mr. Patzek, and also implies that he intends to help the two young people according to his ability. Out in Globsov they initially have four rooms at their disposal. Two of the rooms have been left unfurnished, for the Prince has his own taste and these rooms he will decorate himself, partly with furniture from Sweden.

"We old will not change our taste," says the father, "we live as we have always lived. But the Prince and Erika are young modern people and will of course establish themselves in a modern way. The Prince will now furnish his apartment at Bernburgerstrusse according to his own mind. And he has taste, I promise you! Out on Globsov we are building a large, open fireplace for him. My youngest son has just been out to make sure that it is ready the day of their return.

First of all they will make their honeymoon to the Riviera. I have arranged the trip for them, but they may choose which places they would like to go to. When they come home, we shall celebrate them properly. Prince Sigvard hopes that he will soon find a job, but it is not so terribly urgent with that! But he knows his work, and the last days in Berlin he lived on his wages, when his appanage was withdrawn."

And then Patzek ends up showing us his entire collection of hunting trophies. They are legion and soon to many to harbour. He's a huge Nimrod, Patzek senior.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Chris. Inte visste vi att han var prins... Vecko Journalen 1934:10, ss. 20-21,50.

To avoid all the fuss, Sigvard & Erica wanted to marry in London. They had to spend 14 days in the country to be allowed. They slept in hotels, walked around the city & visited museums. They were quickly recognized. The Swedish-American press summarized:

It has been difficult days in England for Count "Bernadotte of Soliden" and his young wife before they eventually got married and departed from the world city of London. The former prince had to stay with his fiancée in England for 14 days before the marriage could take place and although they went there secretly, the newspapers soon found out about the matter and a lot of people called on them or tormented them with interviews - among them representatives for the Swedish royal house, for father, grandfather and other relatives wished right until the end to dissuade the prince from marrying the German beauty Miss Patzek. But as a man who stands by his word, the prince endured all strains, which surely makes him doubly loved by the young bride.

In a conversation with a friend, she, according to a Swedish newspaper, told of her disappointment at the public's curiosity and the attempts made to prevent the marriage and declared that it would be nice as married couple to disappear and be forgotten - -

A personal friend of Miss Patzek has told of her impressions and the interview is published in one of London's morning newspapers. Miss Patzek is reminiscent of the Egyptian queen Nefertiti, the newspaper explains.

"Everything has been ruined," explained Miss Patzek a little upset. "When we travelled from Berlin with my brother Georg as an apron, I dreamt of two lovely weeks in London, but now we have to sneak out the back door and the phone rings without pause. In addition, Sigvard has had to discuss the situation with Count [Folke] Bernadotte, who is in contact with his father. I cannot understand," she continued, "how the news of our arrival here came out. All we know is that someone telephoned the Swedish legation and told Baron Palmstierna that Sigvard was in London to marry 'a certain person'. Baron Palmstierna then made contact with Stockholm. This is not at all fun and we'll be completely torn up before it ends."

"It will be a great relief, when we are married and forgotten", Prince Sigvard adds. "I can then start working in peace and quiet at UFA and you, darling, can start practising as a movie star."

"I hardly know, if I wish to become a movie star, Liebling", Erica replies in German. "I'm just as happy to be your wife. As a director, you will conduct and command all possible female stars, while I as your wife..."

"Will direct and command me," adds the prince and kisses her chivalrously on the hand. Ensign Lennart [Bernadotte], who himself married a beautiful, ordinary Stockholm girl, congratulates his cousin.

"Erica is just the right type for Sigvard", says Ensign Lennart Bernadotte in a statement to Aftonbladet, "intelligent, cultivated, sweet, and with the most wonderful eyes I have ever seen, except Karin's of course. They simply fit each other like hook and eye. I am very happy to have such a delightful relative and wish them all the best for the future. And it is fun to get company, to become one of several Mr Bernadotte.

"I have met Erica on several occasions in Berlin and can testify to what a charming young lady she really is. Sigvard gets a wife he can be proud of. I am glad that Sigvard chose Erica Patzek. Erica is exactly the girl he should have. And then he gets a perfectly nice brother-in-law, Erica's brother Georges, who studies law and charms everybody."

The bride-to-be belongs to a wealthy Berlin merchant family of the bourgeois type. The family lives in Berlinstrasse 141, close to the Church of Sweden, and has its own house, which from the street gives the appearance of an old patrician's home.

However, it has rented out the bottom floor to a vegetable shop and has further established an office for wholesaling. The store is mainly handled by the mother, a spirited and straight forward businesswoman. In the courtyard, the family has a garage and also a petrol station for their cars. They are running quite a large business. From their estate, an old entailed estate, located at Glopsow on the way to Mecklenburg at Stechliner-See, are daily dispatched extensive consignments of various vegetables, grown out there. The father runs a large market in Berlin and owns a lot of stalls, which he furnishes with vegetables.

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In Stockholm, one of Erica Paetzek's closest friends, Miss Erika Werner, a young 20-year-old lady, has a great deal to tell about the life of the Prince and the Prince's Berlin fiancée. The friendship between the two ladies is of quite an old date, when they both attended a convent school in Berlin-Schöneberg. Miss Werner is visiting Swedish friends.

"I'm in a position to tell you where the prince first met Erica," says Ms. Werner, "it was at a New Year's ball last year at Hotel Eden in Berlin and after what I can understand it became love at first sight. The coincidence resulted in several invitations to the Prince from the family of Miss Patzek, which the Prince happily accepted. The acquaintance developed quickly and it wasn't long before Miss Patzek and I each day fetched the prince from his work at Neu-Babelsberg in the prince's car, which Miss Erica preferred, although she had her own cars. Often the prince and Erica made longer excursions to her father's estate in Mecklenburg, or other place. From time to time Miss Patzek served as the hostess at the small parties the Prince held in his pleasant studio, where everybody danced and had a good time. Erica performed her hosting duties outstandingly and won everyone's admiration through her pleasant demeanour.

"Her last birthday was celebrated in the prince's studio when Miss Patzek received a bouquet of flowers of no less than 60 roses. The Prince very often gave her flowers, especially orchids, which Erica liked best.

"Erica is also known among her friends for her great love of animals. She has a large Shepherd, who follows her faithfully and has the name "Lorbas", and a small Siamese dwarf cat."<sup>4</sup>

No details have been found about the rest of the marriage & the cause of divorce. Patzek's background as a sheltered family girl virtually guaranteed that she would quickly change into something else when her family wasn't there to keep her in line, but she & Sigvard developed in different directions. Both seem at the end to have realized the inevitability of the process. "I parted from Erica quietly without too much fuss but to the obvious pleasure of my family."

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### Sonja Robbert (1909-2004)

Sonja Hélène Robbert was born October 12, 1909, in Copenhagen to the ship owner Robert Alexander (Christensen) Robert (1873-1954) and his wife Ebba Elisabeth Suenson (1886-1972) in Copenhagen. Sonja was married three times: 1<sup>st</sup> time 1930 with Frenchman Charles Valissant (1906-?). 2<sup>nd</sup> time 1933 with businessman Niels Rasmussen (1903-1961). 3<sup>rd</sup> time 1943-1961 with Sigvard. She had a son in the 2<sup>nd</sup> marriage & a son Michael (1944-) in the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

<sup>4</sup> Vestkysten, nr 11, sida 1, 1934-03-15.

Sonja is mentioned in the chronicles (Elgklou 1978: s. 189; Skott 1996: ss. 373-375; Sundberg 2004: s. 261; Lindqvist 2010: s. 119; Norlin 2015: s. 247).

Sonja was a renown cloths designer, hired by the royal ballet & at the time of the marriage she ran a fashion salon. She died May 21, 2004, and was buried in Järna. The reason for choosing Järna was her lifelong interest in anthroposophy. This has for some reason been down played. I start with her royal biography & finish with her anthroposophical biography - and never the twain shall meet:

- ”Sonja was from early age interested in art and in her twenties she moved to France, to develop that side. During these French years her signature was panoramic pictures in watercolours.” In addition to becoming known as an artist she became known as a fashion designer, but it was probably in her capacity as artist that she met the prince of Sweden.”<sup>5</sup> - ”About Mrs. Robbert's appearance, one of her female friends in Sweden tells us that she has dark blond hair, dark blue eyes, a beautiful figure and that she dresses excellently, more like a French woman than a Danish. She is also very linguistic and musical and a delightful hostess in her beautiful home. More recently, Mrs. Robbert has worn a series of simple, beautiful clothes in a very personal style, which have been composed by Bernadotte himself.”<sup>6</sup>

During his marriage to Erica Patzek, Sigvard only had contact with his sister Ingrid. Sonja was much more popular in the family, probably not so burdened by the conflict of succession, and during the end of World War II they lived at Stockholm Castle. What led to the divorce in 1961 is not known, but it was preceded by conflicts.<sup>7</sup> ”Countess Sonja lived and worked in Copenhagen a few years after her divorce, but in the late 1960s she moved to Järna outside Stockholm. Here she gave courses in painting for both adults and children and was reportedly a popular profile in various cultural events during mainly the 1970s.”<sup>8</sup>

- I first experienced Sonja Robbert in the 1970s as a strict and conscientious painting teacher in Järna. Born in Denmark in 1909, she had lived as an artist in France in the 1930s after which, towards the end of the 1950s, she painted stage panoramas in watercolours for Eurythmy for Marie Savitch at Dornach. At Farum, Denmark, in the 1960s, she established her studio for painting with children as well as adults. From this 'island of culture', where music also played a part, Arne Klingborg called her to Järna in 1959. Since then she has been a part of the artistic and cultural life there. She gave courses on subjects such as the history of dance, Goethe's 'Fairy Tale' and his theory of colours, Steiners mystery plays and *Nature of Colour*, the seasons of the year, and the eurythmy figures.

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Sonja Robbert's main concern is expressed in the phrase 'coloured space'. She held that the age of representational art was actually long gone. Every artist, she maintained, including the representational artist, should try to enter the realm of music. There the spiritual in art could be grasped in consciousness of self where creation could be accomplished out of nothingness, She had painted her great stage panoramas as a way of getting away from the traditional blue backdrops. The coloured lights illuminating the panoramas were to create for the audience a living 'coloured space' in which the eurythmists could be creative in the present moment. It has to said that Sonja Robbert's

<sup>5</sup> Johannes [Öbergs] kungliga porträttblogg. Grevinnan Sonja Bernadotte. <joberg.blogg.se> (2016-01-01).

<sup>6</sup> Dagens Nyheter, 1943-10-20, s. 16.

<sup>7</sup> Skott 1996: ss. 374-375.

<sup>8</sup> Johannes [Öbergs] kungliga porträttblogg. Grevinnan Sonja Bernadotte. <joberg.blogg.se> (2016-01-01).

colour improvisations have to date met with little understanding, which means that so far it has not been taken further.<sup>9</sup>

Maybe she perceived Sigvard as too trivial a person – a mere designer - to have any further use of him.

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### Marianne Lindberg (1924-)

Gullan Marianne Lindberg was born July 17, 1924, in Helsingborg as the daughter of musician (?) Nils Gustaf Lindberg (1898-1978) & cashier Thyra Dahlman (1900-1996). She had a younger brother, Rune. Marianne was married twice: 1<sup>st</sup> time 1948 with engineer Gabriel Tchang (1919-1980). 2<sup>nd</sup> time 1961 with Sigvard. She had three children in the 1<sup>st</sup> marriage: Robert, Richard & Marie.

Marianne has written her memoirs (Bernadotte 1986). She is mentioned together with Sigvard in the chronicles (Elgklou 1978: s. 189; Skott 1996: s. 375; Sundberg 2004: s. 261; Lindqvist 2010: s. 121; Norlin 2015: s. 247).

Marianne's memoirs mainly consists of "namedropping" & anecdotes, but there is some information about her family & person. Her parents divorced in 1934. The cause is unclear. Marianne had an orderly upbringing, helped at home & graduated in 1940. She then mixed work and amateur theatre until 1945 when she entered the Dramaten acting school and could devote herself to the profession full time. In 1948 she married the engineer Gabriel Tchang and had three children with him. They separated in 1959 and the following year they divorced. The reason seems to have been her acting life: the tours & the working hours. In order to care for the children, she quit acting in 1959 & was 1959-1962 head of department for NK's gift shop. Then came representation together with Sigvard & patronage with the help of high society volunteers:

Some of the commitments were the Foundation "Technical assistance for the handicapped", "Sigvard and Marianne Bernadotte's Research Foundation for Children's Eyes" & Marianne Bernadotte's Scholarship Fund for outstanding research on dyslexia and education. These have given her two honorary doctorates at Karolinska Institutet & at the University of Bologna.

To be persuaded by Marianne to do something was to suffer the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree until you gave in. Her language skills were initially too poor for foreign engagements, so she read English & French at the workers educational organisation and then a B.A. with French, art & theatre history and cultural communication. After that, she was invited to join Sotheby's international expert group and set up an artist's fund. Marianne had always been very interested in clothing & with Sigvard's fortune at her back she could cultivate that interest to the extent that she 1985 was designated as one of the world's 10 best dressed women.

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<sup>9</sup> Saether 2001: ss. 69-70.

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