## Appendix: Estelle Manville (1904-1984) – "the U.S. Import Item".

As has been commented on Folke was something of a social chameleon, adapting to the challenges at hand & to the environment: During his military service he started smoking, drinking and coursing. His closest friend was Sigfrid Ericson [Rålamb]. Both belonged to the Dragoon regiment's party animals, the so-called "snaskebassarna" (Danish for necking or kissing), who with white carnations in the tuxedo made the city unsafe for virtue. The snaskebass parties used to take place at Blanche Black Cat Bar. Cecil's Bar is also mentioned. A number of connections - legitimate and not - were forged in the process. During his first sick leave, Folke began a relationship with Swedish revue artist Lillie Christina Ericsson (1892-1981) which resulted in a daughter in 1921. As the story goes, he wanted to marry her but his parents refused consent and threatened to withdraw his maintenance. There is also a report that his godfather Gustaf V - he neither a friend of mésalliances - somehow intervened. Whatever the cause, Lillie married another, and Folke or his parents paid maintenance for the daughter until 1939. Folke never met her. When coming of age, she was summoned to the court, received a lump sum, and promised to rescind all further claims, which she did. The grandson claimed that Folke had felt deep regret and promised to "do something for humanity" as reparations for his breach of promise. 1 That is difficult to verify. It is easier to verify that the next amour Estelle Manville had plenty of money and that Folke married her abroad. This occurred in 1928 during his second sick leave.

As mentioned Folke also had two possibly platonic affairs: In his teens (see chapter 48) & in his 40s (see chapter 49). There is no information on either.

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Estelle Romaine Manville was born on September 26, 1904 in Pleasentville, New York. Her father was the industrialist Hiram Edward Manville (1872-1944). Her mother was the socialite lady Henrietta Estelle Romaine (1878-1947). Estelle had a brother Hiram Edward Jr (1906-1982). The family tradition was that the family was noble or close to:

[It was with some difficulty I was able to ascertain that his [the father's] first ancestor on American soil was named John Manville, who in 1674 landed in the new country. This John Manville was in turn a descendant of Joeffrey de Magnavil from Normandy, one of William the Conqueror's companions in the war against England. Another European ancestor of Mr. Manville was Jeoffrey de Mandeville and was dubbed by King Stephen to Earl of Essex. The future Countess Bernadotte is descended from Claes Jansen Romaine, who together with the Prince of Nassau attempted to establish a Dutch colony in Brazil but settled on Long Island off Newyork in 1660. The history of the Romaine family is prominently linked to the development of Long Island and the State of New Jersey.<sup>2</sup>

On December 1, 1928, when she married Folke, Estelle became Countess of Wisborg but lost her title on March 3, 1973 when she married the court curator Carl-Erik Ekstrand. As a person she was very reserved why her CV below is surely incomplete. There is a short Swedish biography (Knagg 1932: ss. 336-344).

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Karlsson, Mats. "Bernadottes okända dotter." Fokus 1938:37.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> "Den blivande grevinnan Bernadotte." Vecko Journalen 1928:34, s. 11.

Estelle used to begin her family history with her grandfather Charles Brayton Manville (1834-1927), the creator of the family fortune. He was a jack-of-all-trades, including photographer, salesman and gold digger. However, it did not go well. It went better for the Milwaukee-based "Manville Covering Business" (1886-1901) which sold asbestos insulation for steam boilers. The only competitor was the New York-based firm "H.W. Johns Manufacturing Company" (1858-1901). After John's death, the two companies merged in 1901 as the Johns-Manville Corporation. The following year, Charles retired and left the business to his three sons, Thomas (1864-1925), Charles jr (1866-1920) & Hiram (1872-1944). Thomas was the driving force. At Charles's death in 1927, the company went public and was then valued at \$150 million, but during the depression its value declined declined.<sup>3</sup>

Estelle has told of some dramatic highlights:

Both our grandfather and our father were forced to live part of their life in a constant struggle against, even a threatening conflict with Indians on the warpath. When my father was small, the family lived in a log cabin on the prairie. Once, Grandpa went away with the cart and left Grandma and the three boys at home. It was an exciting adventure for them. After a few days a soldier from Fort Meade came galloping and advised them to take shelter at the fort because the Indians were on the warpath. A neighbouring family picked them up on their way to the fort, because they only owned the carriage my grandfather had brought.

When my father got older, he was given the task of managing a mine in Mexico. The natives never liked the gringos - their name for the whites. One night my father was alerted of an impending mutiny at the mine. After being convinced it was of no use him staying, his Chinese chef filled his saddle bags with toasted corn and he disappeared towards the nearest railway junction. When he reached the village, he entered the only hotel there was. Despite fatigue, he moved his bed from the window for the sake of his cold feet. Later, a shot and a bullet went through the thin wall, and the hole was aligned with where his head would have been, had he not moved the bed. The news of the mutiny had caught up with him! He then got out of the window by means of a fireline and stayed hidden near the station until the train arrived in the morning.<sup>4</sup>

This seems somewhat fanciful. Fort Meade was built in 1878 during the Black Hills Gold Rush. Rumours of Native Americans on the war path were either from an episode in June 1882 when a treaty with the Lesseton Indians in North Dakota was about to expire<sup>5</sup>, from the panic at the time of the Sioux War of 1890/91 – the one that ended with the massacre at Wounded Knee – or the Bannock Revolt of 1895. But by then the family lived in Milwaukee.

The labour dispute in Mexico took place at some unknown time. Estelle's father has told an alternative version:

When I was a young boy, my father lost his entire fortune in the mining business and I had to start life with absolutely empty hands. I even worked as a miner. It was hard times. No eight hours working days, but often 10-15 hours a day down in the mines.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Fortune 1931; Ingham 1983; Kalanik & McNulty 1993; McCulloch & Tweedale 2008; NHS 2016.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Bernadotte 1940: ss. 37-38.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> "An Indian Scare in Dakota." The Chicago Tribune 1882-06-10, s. 10.

Of course, the safety devices at the time were not as effective as they are now. I never knew in the morning, when we would go down with the lift, if I ever would see the light of day again. But the joy was all the greater when on Saturday evenings I came home with my hard-earned dollars.<sup>6</sup>

In 1911, his sons built a brand new asbestos factory outside New York City and around it grew up a whole immigrant community, also called Manville. Labour protection was neglected, and the company was already in the 1920s charged with several cases of asbestos. Later it was collectively sued for several thousand cases, which led to its bankruptcy in 1982. At that time, the majority of shares were owned by J.P. Morgan & Co. It is not known how large a share Estelle had, but no matter how you twist it, she inherited blood money.

Estelle's grandfather, father, brother and uncles all held positions in the company, but never Estelle or her cousins Thomas Franklyn jr (1894-1967) & Lorraine (1896-1959). Thomas was regarded as a foolish no-gooder. As the story goes, his father bequeathed him an annuity and a million dollars when he married. The will did not stipulate the number of marriages, however. Eventually there were 13 (!) of them.<sup>7</sup>

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At the end of March 1928 she met Folke who had been invited to Gustaf V in Nice. There he encountered the family Manville - father, mother & daughter. These were invited to dinner at Gustaf's and Folke had Estelle to the table. He made little impression on her at the time, but later she was taken in by his qualities of character and determination to get engaged to her. According to one version, the couple had only known each other 4 days when she accepted his proposal. According to another version, Folke had a relapse of his stomach ulcer, returned to Sweden and proposed to her by letter from the sickbed. There is a family rumour that Gustaf V acted as a marriage broker but it has not been possible to confirm. More likely is that Prince Gustaf Adolf, who also was in Nice, contributed to the marriage by talking well about him. Gustaf V had nothing against her. "A delightful girl, modest ta a fault," was his judgment. Others were equally positive:

"There was only one in the crowd [of young American women] who differed from the rest, a tall, slim, young girl, with black hair and black eyes, and the severe looks that you sometimes see in young girls [here] down in the South. ... A beautiful head with a bun in the neck, no make-up, a relatively long skirt, and not a single piece of jewellery. ... in essence, she resembled a conservatively raised Swedish manor-house girl."

"What a lovely young lady. Mild yet firm, soft, graceful, knowledge-seeking, artistic talent. ... And yet not a trace of being capricious or spoiled, so millionaire's daughter she is. No ostentation or artifice."<sup>10</sup>

Even later Estelle had good press relations but it seems to have been more that she charmed the journalists than that she opened up to them. She spoke pleasant close to perfect Swedish

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> "Från gruvarbetare till asbestkung." Vecko Journalen 1928:36, ss. 8-10. [Citat ur New Yorker.]

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Manville 1972: ss. 13-19; Waterbury m.fl. 2009: s. 78.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Hadenius 2007: ss. 13-14; Lindqvist, Roger. "Prinsessan döps efter hans mor." Uppsala Nya Tidning, 2012-02-25. [Intervju med sonen Med dr Folke Bernadotte.]

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> "Den blivande grevinnan Bernadotte." Vecko Journalen 1928:34, s. 11.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Tigram. [Margit Siwertz.] "Hemma hos greve Folke Bernadotte." Vecko Journalen 1930:13, ss. 26-29,54.

but there are no newspaper or radio interviews. She wrote her own articles and avoided divulging herself. There is no information about her childhood. However, it is possible to piece together some details even if Folke interrupted her when she strayed. She had been home educated by a governess. She had not been to any finishing school. She made her social debut on her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. She was interested in painting, sculpture, horseback riding and played several instruments as guitar, piano & organ. She spent the summers in Wisconsin with her family. She was a bookworm and her parents worried that she would get ideas. Raised with go-getters, she thought New York's marriage candidates rather childish. She had no concrete plans for the future. Folke was a way out. After his death, she was interviewed about the proposal:

When I first met Folke Bernadotte it was perhaps not so strange that I had a preconceived opinion about him because I had heard how his uncle, King Gustaf, had sent for him from Sweden. He seemed to me to be a dark confident man - one who believed, that he could have any girl. During our first dinner I therefore devoted minimal attention to him and mostly talked with the guest on my other side. The convention, however, required him to invite me to dance sometime during the evening. Our first moves were performed in a disturbing silence. Suddenly, a bunch of balloons were dropped from the roof and a hilarious wealthy old lady, known for her gigolos connections, started kicking at them. At that point I saw that my dance partner's eyes were intensely blue and that he was actually light rather than dark, thanks to his infectious laughter. He was like transformed. My previous caution disappeared and the rest of the evening we had a lot of fun.

Four days later we sat at the Sporting Club (the old one which then burned down), exchanged views and discussed the future. Even though I then regarded it as a typical Riviera romance soon forgotten, I failed to do so because of the letters in the following months, what stood in them and what they implied - that came to mean so much, but that probably never would have been written, unless Folke was ill and given time and opportunity for writing them.

I began to sense that he might be the "fairy tale prince" I had dreamed of since youth. A man whose character and drive was above the rest - a man who would amount to something. He told in the letters unreservedly about his life, "there shall stand nothing between us" and they also contained writings about everyday events such as when his brothers storage house in the country burned, while he himself lay sick and could not participate in putting it out. Although he was in bed, he obviously took care of and amused the children so that they would not be afraid or run in the way while it was going on. All that told me a great deal.

That my first impression of Folke could be so off, I still find hard to understand. How thoroughly I have mistaken was underlined once again when I [on July 12] saw him at the quay in New York in response to a telegram from me. He looked a shy boy, eager to make an impression in a foreign country of almost completely unknown people. The trip with my dad's yacht up the coast to Canada gave us the opportunity to get to know each other better. My mother fell in love with Folke and my father liked him, despite an allergic reluctance to foreigners — especially those with titles. My brother found him a regular guy.

The telegrams that announced our decision were sent from Sidney [Nova Scotia, Canada] by an unfazed telegrapher, who certainly thought the addressees were fictitious. Folke's sense of humour was a great asset that was noticed both then and later. Folke and my father were already telling their very best stories and careful to explain to each other why they were funny. It wasn't always easy to find Swedish equivalents to word plays. Folke could laugh at himself and with others.<sup>11</sup>

The engagement was announced at a dinner on August 3, 1928. Then Folke, the fiancée and her mother made a visit to Sweden so that the family could meet her. On their return, a group of journalists were waiting with the questions normally asked: How long have you known her? How long have you been engaged? Where did you first meet? Who introduced you? Did she immediately say yes to your proposal? When did you kiss her the first time? Folke alternately gave answers and dodged the bullets. The journalists seem to have been satisfied, but in such case expectations must have been low:

"We are going to Stockholm and live where I have a flat," the count said on his arrival from Sweden with members of his wedding party. "I intend to have a radio, an electric refrigerator and a vacuum cleaner, just like all other folks have." ...

The count revealed that he first met Miss Manville at Monte Carlo, last spring. "How many times did you have to ask her?" he was questioned.

"No, no, no, no," he shouted, laughing in spite of himself, as a blush colored his neck and face. "You mustn't ask me that. It is not easy to get the best girl in America." <sup>12</sup>

The wedding took place in Pleasentville, New York, on December 1 – the ceremony at a local church, the feast at the newly built 56-room Manville house. 1,450 guests were invited at a cost of \$250,000. (Since the wedding presents were worth over a million, the event actually turned a profit!) It was later described as the closest thing the United States had ever come to a European royal wedding with Swedish dragoons, valets in 18<sup>th</sup>-century outfits, etc. Estelle's brother was the only marshal to wear civilian clothes. Prince Gustaf Adolf was best man and the bride and groom left the church under a Swedish sword hedge. Estelle cut the two-meterhigh wedding cake with Folke's sabre. The dragoons toasted the bride and groom with beating a boot on the table so it shook. The American journalists thought everything very exotic. Some 20 Swedish friends, relatives & acquaintances, were invited with all costs paid. All the men had some connection with horses:

The Royal House: Prince Gustaf Adolf (1906-1947) & Prince Sigvard (1907-2002) representing Gustaf V. The family: Brother Carl Bernadotte (1890-1907) with wife Marianne (1893-1978; b. De Geer af Leufsta); sister Elsa Bernadotte & sister Sophia Fleetwood. The jockey club: Count Carl Bonde, Master of the Royal Stables with his wife Ebba; Master of the Royal Stables Baron Carl-Erik von Platen (1895-1972) with his wife Gunhild (1899-1975). The Dragoons: Count Nils Wachtmeister (1891-1960) with Mrs. Märta (1896-1976; de Geer af Leufsta); Per Janse (1893-1961) with Mrs. Ella (1895-1949; f. Holterman); Johan August Enhörning (1895-1977); Baron Sigfrid Ericson [Rålamb] (1896-1930); Baron Carl Lagercrantz (1898-1961); Gösta Pauli (1900-1976) & Count Eric Olof von Rosen (1902-1967).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> "Estelle Bernadotte berättar." Vecko Journalen 1958:37, ss. 4-5, 33 & 1958:38, ss. 18-19, 42-44. [Sista delen 1958:39 fattas.]

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> [Intervju med Folke B & Estelle M.] The Evening Independent 1928-11-27.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> New York Times 1928-10-23, s. 34.

With the economy now secured, Folke was able to move house. From November 1, 1930, the couple lived in a suite on Karlavägen, later on Valhallavägen & Folke's old Officers' Mess Dragongården.

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Estelle was introduced to Folke's circle of acquaintances, learned Swedish, worked with interior design and decoration, followed Folke on his representation and kept silent with her American views. In particular, she seems to have found the respect shown to the royal family completely incomprehensible. The visits to her home every year were a breather, but nothing is known about her American connections. She impressed the Swedes as an educated person. Perhaps she exaggerated that point. In 1934 a book with survey answers was published including hers. Estelle comes across as an intellectual snob:

- Question: Which historical figure do you value the most and why? Answer: Marcus Aurelius and Florence Nightingale.
- Question: What work of art has made the deepest impression on you?
  Answer: The funeral of Count d'Orgaz, El Greco. The Madonna of the Cliffs, Leonardo da Vinci. The Burgos Cathedral.
- Question: The names of five of your favourite books.
  Answer: Plutarch's lives, The Amazing Marriage (George Meredith), Wuthering Heights (Emily Bronté), The Bridge of San Luis Rey (Thornton Wilder), 20 thousend Leagues under the Sea (Jules Verne).

Much of Estelle's time was initially devoted to the couple's four sons Gustaf (1930-1936), Folke jr (1931-), Fredrik (1934-1934) & Bertil (1935-). Gustaf's death in 1936 was very traumatic. He had an ear infection and refused to take a syringe. Estelle let it be because she was brought up in the American way to respect the integrity of the individual. When Gustaf died of his infection, she took it so hard that she spent time at a resting home. Folke Jr was 1944 enrolled at Lundsberg boarding school and met his parents mainly during the holidays. This seems to have been Folke's idea. His brother Bertil went to normal school.

Estelle's royal career ran parallel to that of Folke's. When the couple returned to Sweden in 1932, she began to represent on her own. Like Folke in his business activities, she started from scratch. She participated in dog and flower exhibitions, worked in the Salvation Army's sewing association, sold stockings & mother's day flowers at bazaars, showed the home to journalists, competed in table setting, followed Gustaf V on inaugurations etc. as "belle of the boat". She belonged to Princess Sibylla's companions and socialized in court circles. When Folke became Prince Gustaf Adolf's head of the court in 1934, she was also present at the formal opening of the Parliament. From 1934 to 1948, she worked in the following areas:

• When Folke became a board member of the Swedish America Foundation in 1934, she was hired as a discussion leader for a table discussion about Swedish and American child education. Estelle summarized her views in an article. Her point seems to be that one of the primary tasks of school is to strengthen the child's self-esteem. In 1937,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Berg red. 1934: ss. 26-27.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Hewins 1950: s. 63.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Bernadotte, Estelle. "Svenska barn och amerikanska." Idun 1934:43, ss. 1191,1201-1205.

she became vice-chairman of the committee of the museum of "Swedish contributions to America" and the following year president of the Sweden branch of the American Women's Club.

- In 1934, her scouting career began. When Folke in the spring of 1934 was accepted as a Scout in the YMCA, Estelle was at the same time enrolled in the Swedish Girl Scouts (SFS). This was not entirely undeserved because she had actually 1915-1918 been a member of the American Girl Scouts. After that she became chairman of the SFS Stockholm district, in 1940 (?) vice chairman of the SFS central organization, in 1948 SFS's "foreign secretary".
- In 1940, Folke & Estelle wrote a book about Scouting and raising children. <sup>17</sup> Folke propagated for the way he himself was raised where discipline & obedience was the most important thing. This was not consistent with Estelle's idea of freedom under responsibility and reasoning with the child to make it realize its mistakes. The following year, she published her thoughts in a series of articles of her own. <sup>18</sup> While this was happening, the children lived with Estelle's parents. The reason is not known. There is a report that Folke had an affair or romantic relationship with another woman and perhaps they needed time to patch up the marriage. Alternatively, their conflicts about bringing up the children was not good for them.
- During the war, Estelle in her capacity as a Scout leader served in cooperative organisations: In 1939, the working committee of the Women's Associations' Preparedness Committee (KBK) that organized civil defence-oriented courses for a dozen women's associations. In 1944, she succeeded Folke in the St. George's Committee for Cooperation between Boy and Girl Scouts. Other engagements were related to bringing up children.
- In 1940, Estelle began to take an interest in work & occupational therapy to help rehabilitate the Finnish war invalids<sup>19</sup>, and during a U.S. stay in 1944 during her father's funeral, she made study visits to the hospitals over there:

In the autumn of 1944, at the initiative of Countess Estelle Bernadotte of Wisborg, a committee was formed in Stockholm for courses in work & occupational therapy. In the autumn of that year, the Committee organized a weekly propaganda and education course on employment therapy. The course, in which some 30 supervisors and already active occupational therapists participated, included lectures in psychology and pedagogy, occupational therapy in various hospital areas, such as for the mentally ill, in institutions of the handicapped, epidemic hospitals and coastal sanatoria; further lectures on the importance of employment and occupational therapy in war surgery, on the physiological background of movement therapy, etc. In addition, there were lectures about the position of work & occupational therapy in Sweden, Finland, England, Denmark and Germany, as well as visits and demonstrations of health care institutions where occupational therapy was practised. In connection with the course, propaganda lectures

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Bernadotte 1940.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Bernadotte, Estelle. [Artikelserie om barnuppfostran.] Husmodern 1941:1; 1941:3; 1941:5; 1941:7; 1941:9; 1941:11; 1941:13; 1941:16; 1941:19.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Bernadotte 1944.

were arranged with film exhibitions for board members, doctors and others within Stockholm City Health Care.

In the spring of 1945, the same committee organized a three-month trial of work & occupational therapy at Sabbatsberg & Garnisonen Hospital in Stockholm, which attracted great interest from both patients and doctors and staff. In the summer of 1945, a two-week course was held for occupational therapists, which was located partly in Stockholm and partly at Steneby craft school in Dalsland, where the students - this time being handicraft or weaving teachers — attended lectures in pedagogy and practical teaching in various kinds of handcrafts, such as painting and calligraphy, woodweaving, woodwork, straw work, metal work, artistic sewing, paperwork, Christmas tree decorations, etc. In connection with this course, the committee in collaboration with the American legation at the Technical Museum in Stockholm organized an exhibition of work therapy in America. The exhibition was also shown in Gothenburg.<sup>20</sup>

In 1947 she became an honorary member of the Association for Occupational Therapy,

In 1968, she was patron of the profession. He also received the Vasa order.

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After Folke's death, she received honorary commissions: "Head of the Swedish Girl Scout Association 49-57, board member of Folke Bernadotte's memorial fund, Swedish National Association vs TB, the Red Cross home foundation, board member of Friends of the Sophie hospital, UN prisoner of war commission 51, chairman of the Swedish Girl Scout Council 51-60, member of the World Committee of the Girl Scouts World Federation 52-60, chairman of the same since 57." She was also active in the UN Children's Fund UNICEF, engaged in the care of nature, supported a home for old women and chaired the Folke Bernadotte Foundation for Children with Cerebral Palsy. In 1972 she left most of her assignments.

Economically, she had it good. She received an unknown amount in dowry and inherited Folke. The estate of her father was valued at \$14,499,540 gross, \$4,906,450 net. Estelle received a third of the proceeds and \$249,513 in cash.<sup>22</sup> In 1958, she is supposed to have been worth (=paid taxes on) an estimated 10 million. She was the richest woman in Stockholm, if not in Sweden. By 1973, her worth was an estimated to 60 million.

The money was managed by Carl-Erik Ekstrand (1910-1988), a former non-commissioned officer at Folke's regiment, later a court curator, who had attended evening classes in business administration and then created his own fortune. Ekstrand and his wife lived at Dragongården and after his wife's death he married Estelle. There was a big fuss about Gustaf VI approving the marriage, but perhaps his approval was needed. Ekstrand's simple background made the marriage a mésalliance. It took place on March 3, 1973, and until Estelle's death May 28, 1984, the couple alternately lived in Sweden, the United States and Saint-Paul-de-Vence near Nice. Estelle died in Uppsala from complications of a hip operation.

<sup>21</sup> Vem är Vem 1962: s. 134.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> SOU 1947: ss. 23-24.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> [Det Manvilleska dödsboet.] Svenska Dagbladet 1947-05-08.

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