

Gustav VI : Rumours.

The rumours of Gustaf VI's indiscretions follow the pattern as those of previous monarchs. In his case, there are two adopted orphans who claim to be related. Biographer Kjell Fridh (1995) gives them (without source as) Ruth Prestberg-Bruzelius (1906-1999) & Carl-Erik Olivebring (1919-2002).¹ I take them one at a time:

- Ruth [Zoila Elisabeth] was born June 25, 1906, in the court parish (which consisted of people with any connection to the castle). His mother was Hildur [Katarina Maria] Bruzelius (1878-?). Father unknown. Ruth was adopted at birth. Ruth later claimed that her father was King Gustaf (VI), that he and her mother had met at a society party and that she (the mother) received 50 thousand as a lump sum, provided she did not reveal the father's true name. Since the mother in 1909 worked as a bottle rinse, Gustaf (VI) does not seem so likely a candidate. In 1911, the mother had another child who was also adopted. The father of this was a mechanic Berg.²

According to Fridh, Ruth had spoken in the weekly press, from which he had reasonably received the information. The sister-in-law (?) Agneta Prestberg said she heard "what Ruth told me while she was alive" but referred to a vow of silence. The site Roots points to a link from 1998 "<http://hem.passagen.se/andata/kungar/206.html>" which, however, was deleted in 2007.

- 1905-1908 a rumour spread that Gustaf & the actress m Rosa Grünberg (1878-1960) had children together, which went so far as to people calling her home and asking how many. A rumour-monger was fined.³
- Carl-Erik [Gerhard] was born April 20, 1919, in Hedemora. His mother was the housekeeper Judit [Cecilia Serafia] Andersson (1877-1924). His father was the retired yeoman Mats Lars Ersson (1844-?). Carl-Erik grew up in a foster home but was not adopted. His foster parents was the working-class family Erik & Hanna Eriksson. Carl-Erik later took the surname Olivebring. From 1946 to 1962 he lived in America. In 1982, Hänt i veckan had a report about his pedigree.⁴ Olivebring then learned that his mother was in fact a lady-in-waiting, named Haugwitz & that his father was Gustaf (VI). The reason for giving birth in Hedemora was allegedly to avoid a scandal.⁵ However, it has not been possible to verify Haugwitz's employment. It was not her own name, but her mothers.

The author of the report, Henry Sidoli, did not state his sources, but wrote "By investigating a number of both official and unofficial sources, I eventually managed to make it absolutely clear that the rumour was true." Maybe so. Olivebring published his memoirs in 1996, but they also did not contain any sources about his ancestry. However, there is a signature by the author Per Östlin, who assures that there was a very credible source, which however Sidoli took with him in the grave.⁶

¹ Fridh 1995: ss. 186-187,198.

² Rötter 2002. [Ingrid Bergström, 2002-01-13.]

³ Dagens Nyheter, 1908-10-30, s. 2 & 1908-12-04, s. 3; Elgklou 1978: s. 170; Barck 2000: s. 108.

⁴ Sidoli, Henry. Jag är prins Bertils halvbror och kungens farbror. Hänt i veckan, 1982:5.

⁵ Rötter 2002. [Ingrid & Olof Bergström, 2011-08-23.]

⁶ Olivebring & Östlin 1996: ss. 150-151.

That Gustaf (VI) would seduce bottle rinsers & maids seems like pure fantasy. The chronicles raise the social standing of his mistresses a notch to actresses & maids of honour, but no sources, or even details are available.⁷

⁷ Skott 1996: s. 139; Lindqvist 2010: ss. 113-114; Norlin 2015: s. 177.

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