



The Monarchist League

American Member Newsletter

December, AD 2001

CENTRAL STATES NEWS

NEBRASKA BRANCH

A dozen members of the Nebraska Branch gathered at the home of Nick Behrens in Omaha on the evening of November 17 to celebrate the birthday of HRH The Prince of Wales. A toast to the Prince's health was offered, and a birthday card signed by all present was sent to St. James Palace.

The next event for the Nebraska Branch will be the annual King Charles the Martyr Service. This will be held on **Saturday morning, January 26, 2002** (not February 2 as was stated in the previous newsletter) at 10:00 AM. The service will be held at Saint Barnabas Church, 40th and Davenport Streets in Omaha. A Brunch will follow the service in the church's Undercroft. Members and friends of the Branch are asked to help with the Brunch. Please contact Nick Behrens at 402-455-4492 if you are willing to help.

EASTERN STATES NEWS

NEW YORK BRANCH

On the evening of Nov. 17, about 20 members and friends of the branch gathered at the Manhattan home of Stephen Stephanou. League member Theodore Harvey and his brother William performed Cello and Violin works by Bach and Ravel. A dinner followed. The group discussed the recent birth of Princess Elizabeth of the Belgians, and the prospects for the return of King Zahir Shah to Afghanistan,

KING CHARLES THE MARTYR SERVICE

The official national King Charles the Martyr service will be held on Saturday morning, January 26th, 2002 at 11:00 AM at the Church of the Transfiguration. The church is located at One, East 29th Street, between Fifth Avenue and Madison Avenue in Manhattan. The Church of the Transfiguration is known by nick-name as "The Little Church Around the Corner."

The preacher for the occasion will be Society of King Charles the Martyr member the Rev. Canon Prof. J. Robert Wright. Dr. Wright is Saint Mark's Church in the Bowery Professor of Ecclesiastical History at The General Theological Seminary in New

York. His most recent book is a history of Saint Thomas Church, New York.

Music of the Mass will be Harold Darke's Communion Service in F Major, with the anthem "Thou Wilt Keep Him in Perfect Peace" by S. S. Wesley. The Transfiguration Choir of Men and Boys will sing under the direction of Dr. Claudia Dumschat, Organist and Choirmaster. Luncheon reservations will be at the nearby Park Avenue Town House, 47 E. 29th Street, between Park & Madison Avenues. Payment (\$30 per person) must be received by 13 January. Please make checks payable to SKCM and note "Luncheon"; and send it to Dr. Mark Wuonola, 291 Bacon Street, Waltham MA 02451. Dinner will include soup or salad, a main course, and coffee. A cash bar will be available for drinks or wine.

KING LOUIS XVI REMEMBERED

The Annual Requiem Mass for King Louis XVI of France will also be held on Saturday, January 26, 2002. The Mass will be at 2pm at St. Anne's Cathedral, 110 East 12th Street in Manhattan. A reception will follow at the Café Loup. For more information contact Stephen Stephanou at 212-255-2900 or Comte Claude de Bardin at 212-679-4674.

RUSSIAN EASTER BALL

For those planning ahead, the date for the annual Russian Nobility Association Easter Ball has been set for May 17, 2002. As usual this will be at the Plaza Hotel in New York City.

For information about future New York Branch events, or if you have suggestions, or would like to help, please contact Stephen Stephanou at 212-255-2900, or write 105 Duane Street, Apt. 52-A New York, NY 10007.

FLORIDA CHAPTER - League members in Florida and Southeast Georgia are encouraged to contact Brad Lawrence, 800 Lincoln Road, Neptune Beach, FL 32266, to find out about future gatherings of the new Branch in that area. Visitors and guests are most welcome.

GREATER WASHINGTON DC - The Russian New Year's Ball will be celebrated on Friday, January 11 at Washington's Mayflower Hotel. For further details,

please contact Princess Selina Obolensky at 202-244-4728.

There are at present 25 to 30 members in the Washington DC, Maryland, and eastern Virginia area. This is more than enough members to start a League Branch in the area. We encourage members in the area to contact our Eastern States Delegate, Dr. Kenneth Gunn-Walberg, to discuss organizing a new branch.

EASTERN DELEGATE'S REPORT

Our Eastern States Delegate, Dr. Gunn-Walberg reports that he was invited to be the guest speaker at the "Slava" Day celebration in Toronto, Canada, on December 16. "Slava" Day is an important Serbian holiday celebrating St. Andrew, the First Called, the patron Saint of both Serbia and the Serbian Royal House. The celebration is organized annually by the Serbian National Shield Society of Canada. Dr. Gunn-Walberg's address urged those present to give their continued support to Crown Prince Alexander and work for the Yugoslavian Monarchy to be restored. In a congratulatory message to Dr. Gunn-Walberg, Crown Prince Alexander thanked him for his kind words and also pointed out that for the first time since 1941, the Royal Family would be celebrating "Slava" in their own chapel in the Royal Palace of Belgrade.

As many readers will already know the Palace in Belgrade was returned to the Royal Family this past Summer. The Serbian Patriarch recently presented to the Royal Family several liturgical vessels which had been originally in the Royal Chapel but had spent recent decades in a Belgrade Museum. The chapel has now been restored and was blessed by the Patriarch on December 13.

Dr. Gunn-Walberg also reports that the League's New York Branch recently helped raise \$3080 - half of which will assist the victims of September 11, and the other half will help fund the Moscow Memorial of the Russian Imperial Dynasty. Dr. Gunn-Walberg and member Thomas Hutson visited the museum earlier in 2000.

WESTERN STATES NEWS

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BRANCH

We are happy to report that Roy Green has been able to return as a member and as the coordinator of the Southern California Branch. He can be contacted at 818-244-2359.

For information about future Branch events contact Roy Green or Charles Coulombe, 626-357-7236, ccoulomb@mail2.thinline.com

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH?

Members in the San Francisco or Northern California area who would be interested in getting together for social events and possibly to form a new

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branch are asked to contact League member Joel Wallenberg at his e-mail address - yoelw@yahoo.com

PRINCE ANDREW IN NEW YORK CITY

The Duke of York began a three-day visit to New York on October 15 to pay tribute to the thousands of victims of the September 11 attacks and to open the UK With NY festival celebrating the links between Britain and the city.

In his first official engagement of the visit, Prince Andrew delivered the first greeting at the principal Sunday service of St Thomas Church in Manhattan, where Prime Minister Tony Blair also had participated in a memorial service for the British dead in late September.

A small crowd cheered as he arrived at the church on Fifth Avenue. He then attended a concert of military music by the Coldstream Guards and the Scots Guards. There was applause as the Coldstream Guards played the American national anthem.

During his visit he also met Mayor Rudolph Giuliani at New York City Hall, and on behalf of the Queen conferred an honorary knighthood of the Order of the British Empire on the out-going Mayor for his leadership after the terrorist attacks. Mr. Guiliani will visit Buckingham Palace at some future date to formally receive his honor from the Queen.

PLEA FOR CROWN OF STEEL

We recently received a plea for help for the newsletter Crown of Steel, a publication of the Friends of King Michael Society of Romania. Because of continuing economic and other fiscal problems in Romania the future of this publication is in doubt. If you can help, please send assistance the form of a check or money order to this address:

ARTUR CHOMIUC
Calea Romanilor, Nr. 20-22
Bl. E2, Sc. A, Ap. 9
ARAD, ROMANIA

HM King Michael of Romania recently celebrated his 80th birthday. If you would like to send a belated birthday greeting, the King's address is:

The Secretary of His Majesty
King Mihai I of Romania
Villa Serena P.O.Box 627
CH - 1290 Versoix / Geneve
Switzerland
E-mail - msregele@swissonline.ch

We might also note that we have also received a request for monetary support for the continuing travel expenses of the Romanian Royal Family, which have drained their personal resources.

YOUR DELEGATES

Eastern States--Dr. Kenneth Gunn-Walberg, 126 Centre St., Philipsburg, PA 16866. 814-342-0224

email: canonken@mymailstation.com

Western States-- Charles Coulombe, PO Box 771, Arcadia, CA 91066. 626-357-7236

email: ccoulomb@mail2.thinline.com

Central States-- Nick Behrens, 3166 Kansas Avenue, Omaha, NE 68111. 402-455-4492

email: nbehrens@metropo.mccneb.edu

The Monarchist League: American Member Newsletter is a quarterly publication edited by Nick Behrens.

AFGHAN KING IN THE NEWS

As of this writing, meetings are being held in Germany by leaders representing the various tribes and factions of Afghanistan. It seems quite likely that at long last the Loya Jirga Assembly, an idea long urged by HM King Zahir Shah, will soon be convened.

It is the King's future role which of course is of much interest to our members. Depending on the day one reads the news, it seems likely that the King will indeed be returning in at least a "symbolic" caretaker role. "Interim Head of State" is a phrase recently used in some news articles. Most news reports are quick to state that restoring the monarchy as such is not part of the plan - though occasional reports of interviews with Afghan citizens inside the country show more enthusiasm for restoring the monarchy than the American media and government acknowledge.

In recent testimony to a House of Representatives committee, Secretary of State Colin Powell outlined the U.S. vision for the future of Afghanistan after the end of the U.S. military campaign, and said that in his view that the King could act as a rallying point for fractious Afghans. "The King will play an especially important role, not that I would expect him to become the chief executive of the next regime, but he brings a certain authority to the process. He will be able to rally all of the elements together, and he has certainly indicated he is willing to play that role and an important role it will be," Mr. Powell said.

This is somewhat ironic given recently declassified documents which show that back in 1973 the United States tacitly supported, or did nothing to stop, the King's ouster, when his cousin, Prince Daoud Khan, deposed him.

Washington's negative view of the King has been revealed in state department archives unearthed by the National Security Archive, a research institute at George Washington University. The documents show, among other things, that the US ambassador in Kabul, Robert Neumann, had more than a year's warning of the coup. In a cable to the secretary of state, William Rogers, in March 1972, he reported on

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a visit by Wahid Abdullah, the information director at the Afghan foreign ministry, who was known to be a "fervent supporter and booster" of Prince Daoud.

According to the cable, Mr. Abdullah asked: "What would be the US government's reaction to Daoud's assumption of power?"

The ambassador asked Washington for advice. In its response in April 1972, Washington told Mr Neumann to stay in touch with Prince Daoud's emissary, Mr. Abdullah, and to make the point that the US wished to maintain good relations with Afghanistan, no matter who was in power.

This seeming indifference to the fate of the Afghan Monarchy was rooted partly in Washington's acceptance that Kabul would fall increasingly into the Soviet Union's sphere of influence, but also stemmed from US ambivalence towards the King, as well as its traditional antagonism toward the institution of monarchy. Had the US discouraged Daoud's plot, quite probably the next 30 years of war and suffering, and now terrorism, would have been avoided.

If the King does indeed return to Afghanistan, in whatever role, his time may be brief. He is 86 years old. Whether as a temporary figurehead of constitutional monarch, the country will need royal leadership for some time to come. But what of the future? It seems that it may be the King's youngest son, Prince Mirwais, 44, to whom Afghan advisers might turn as the likeliest king of tomorrow. From his home near Rome, the Prince said he would have to take the crown if asked. Although fourth in line to the throne, Prince Mirwais is always by his father's side and has become a trusted adviser. His three brothers have been uninterested in becoming directly involved in their country's affairs, he said, and, as a result, he is now being groomed as his father's heir.

In a recent interview the prince commented that: "If the monarchy were to come back, if Afghans would accept that, then we, the family, can't shirk our responsibility. The Afghan people, I believe, need a symbol, and the monarchy would be a solution. People have had so many bad experiences with all these religious republics . . . that they think of the monarchy as a golden age."

We urge League members to continue to contact their congressmen and government departments to support the return of the King to Afghanistan, and to support the restoration of the Monarchy.

Those wishing to learn more about the Afghan Royal Family, may visit a new web site dedicated to MH King Mohammed Zahir Shah and the Royal House of Afghanistan. It is: www.zaher-shah.fr.fm.

CROWN PRINCESS OF SWEDEN VISITS CALIFORNIA

Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden paid a semi-official visit to various California cities during the last week of October. The 24-year-old's visit in Los Angeles, San Francisco, etc. was a whirlwind of Swedish-American diplomacy. The principle reason for her first "working" visit to California was to promote Swedish design and to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of the Nobel prize, founded in 1901 by Swedish scientist Alfred Nobel.

On Sunday, October 28, the Crown Princess attended worship at Glide Memorial Church in San Francisco, which she described as "a fantastic experience." When it came time to reach out and touch a neighbor, "they clasped hands with me before they knew who I was". The Rev. Cecil Williams did introduce her late in the service, "embarrassingly enough," she said about the attention she received when the crowd learned who she was. She can't remember a time when she didn't know that she someday would be queen. "It's always been part of growing up, but at the same time, what came with it gradually has become clear."

Moving on to Los Angeles her schedule was jam-packed from dawn 'til dusk. On Wednesday the 31st, the itinerary included eight stops. It began at 9 a.m. with a visit to UCLA, then included visits to the Swedish Consulate in Westwood, to Frank Gehry's office in Santa Monica, to the Pasadena Art College of Design, and ended at 10 p.m. after a reception for 500 people at Huntington Gardens.

The Crown Princess recently completed two years studying political science and history at Yale. In an interview the Princess commented that she is acutely aware of her status as a role model—and feeling the pressure. The most difficult part of her job, she says, is "trying to live up to people's expectations. People put pressure on you, but above all you put pressure on yourself."

She also commented that she never understood why her parents were so tired when they came home at night until she started keeping the same sort of schedule. "You feel so watched in a role like this and you don't want to do anything wrong. And there are no written rules for how to behave. So I'm just very blessed to have my parents to watch."

On Thursday, Nov. 1 the Princess started her day with a trip to Universal Studios, then attended a genius meet-and-greet with Nobel laureates at the California Science Center. That evening, the last event of her day and her trip to California, she was the guest of honor for a Swedish design exhibition at Lampa & Mobler—a Beverly Boulevard boutique with arty lamps and furniture.

The Monarchist League EDITOR'S COMMENTS

I would once again like to thank Mr. Walter Moore of Ellicott City, Maryland for keeping me informed by sending me e-mail reports from which I can draw to compile this newsletter. His vigilant eye is much appreciated!

Members may also have noted that we a new Secretary General for the League has been appointed. Mr. Stephen Lester, will be taking over this post from Mr. Donald Foreman.

Mr. Foreman has served in his position for over 10 years. It has been my personal pleasure to have enjoyed a good working relationship and a close personal friendship with him during this time. His keen management and thoroughness have helped the League to grow in numbers, in stature, and in influence. The League is now much sought after by the World news media for its opinions. This is something that did not happen much ten years ago.

Because of personal considerations, and the feeling that "ten years is long enough," Mr. Foreman decided to step down. However, he will continue to be a regular contributor to our journals, and I know he will continue to be a good friend.

MEXICAN MONARCHISTS

We want to remind our readers about the web site of the Iturbide Circle. Dedicated to the memory of the Mexican Empire of Don Agustin and Dona Ana Maria Iturbide (who is buried in the churchyard of St. John the Evangelist in Philadelphia, PA), the site is now at: www.geocities.com/iturbide_circle.

The web site is becoming a repository of English language information about the Iturbide family. It is also becoming a meeting place for Mexican researchers, who can now post inquiries they have regarding the Iturbides. We invite members to sign up!

Those interested in the Iturbide family or the Second Empire of Maximilian may contact Mr. Daniel Morrison, P.O. Box 131, Horsham, PA 18901.

LEAGUE ITEMS IN US DOLLARS

Items advertised in the League journal *MONARCHY* should be ordered directly from League headquarters in London. Payment may be made by personal checks or money orders. For your convenience, we list these items and their cost in US dollars, postage from Britain included: League Neck Ties - \$21, League Blazer Badges - \$21, League Lapel Pins - \$7.50, Back issues of *MONARCHY* are \$2.50 per issue. Old back issues of "THE MONARCHIST" (our previous publication) are \$4.00 per issue.

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