
The Monarchist League

American Member Newsletter

June, AD 2001

CENTRAL STATES NEWS

NEBRASKA BRANCH

THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY and St. George's Day were celebrated on Sunday, May 20th at St. Barnabas Church in Omaha. There was a High Tea beginning at 4:30 PM followed by Solemn Choral Evensong at 5:30. The music featured favorite British national hymns, including "God Save the Queen". Some 100 people attended.

SERVICE FOR TSAR NICHOLAS II OF RUSSIA

- This annual event will be held on Saturday morning, July 7 at Saint Vincent of Lerins Orthodox Church, at 51st and Lake Streets in Omaha. Fr. Stephen Walinski, the priest of St. Vincent's, will officiate at Matins beginning at 8:00 AM and a Mass at 9:00 AM in honor of Tsar Nicholas II and the New Martyrs of Russia. The service will also honor St. Generosa, Virgin and Martyr, 202 AD, whose relic is contained in St. Vincent's High Altar. Coffee will follow the services.

EASTERN STATES NEWS

NEW YORK BRANCH

This year's Russian Easter Ball held on Friday, April 27 at the Plaza Hotel in New York City was a great success. There were a number of League members from all over the USA in attendance, including folks from California, Maryland, Illinois, Pennsylvania and New York. Included among the guests were HRH Prince Michael of Yugoslavia; HH Prince Nikita Romanov, HE Aksoltan, Ambassador from Turkmenistan to the United Nations; HE Arnoldo Listre, Ambassador from Argentina to the UN; HE Pavel Prokofiev, Consul General of the Russian Federation; Mr. Alexander Muzykkanski, Minister of the Moscow City government; and Consul Rainer Munzel from Germany.

The entertainment was the Serbian children's dance troupe "Oplenac" from Mississauga, Ontario. Their appearance was arranged by our Eastern States Delegate, Dr. Kenneth Gunn-Walberg, who also serves as a member of the International Dance Committee for the Russian Nobility Association.

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 to 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 - 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.

WESTERN STATES NEWS

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BRANCH

H.M. Kigeli V of Rwanda came to Los Angeles on March 20 and 21 to personally award Mr. Roy Green the Medal "Reconciliation et Paix" of the Kingdom of Rwanda in recognition for his work to help the King's charity to assist orphans of the Rwandan genocide, and for his past work as the Southern California Branch's coordinator. The King also visited Ponomo College in Claremont, where he toured the campus and delivered a lecture to political science students. A reception followed in the evening. Charles Coulombe served as the King's Aide-de-Camp.

Because of health concerns, Roy Green has had to stand down as the Branch coordinator. We are greatly in need of a member to volunteer to take over from Roy. If you would be willing to consider this, please contact Charles Coulombe.

For information about future Branch events contact Charles Coulombe, 626-357-7236, ccoulomb@thinline.com You may also contact Megan Evans, 23 Deerborn Drive, Alisa Viejo, CA 92656, 949-643-8367.

SAN FRANCISCO ROYALTY CONFERENCE

The fourth annual Royalty Conference sponsored by the European Royal History Journal will be held at the Sheraton Hotel at Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco, California on October 13 and 14.

There will be a memorable list of presentations with the following royalty authors participating: Theo Aronson, David McIntosh, Ilana D. Miller and Arturo E. Beéche. There will also be presentations by ERHJ contributors, among them Charles Stewart, Thomas Polk, Lisa Davidson and Stephen Stephanou.

Among the topics presented this year will be: Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, Reminiscences of a Royal Author, The Grand Dukes of Oldenburg, Unwanted Royal Marriages, (Part II), The Queen Victoria Exhibition at Schloss Callenberg, King Michael of Romania: A Tribute, The Brazilian Imperial Succession Question, The Royal House of France, Princess Victoria of Hesse and by Rhine (Marchioness of Milford Haven), The Alexander Palace at Tsarskoe Selo.

Space is limited to 50 participants. Conference fee of \$125.00 must be received no later than the first week of September!

Prince Andreas of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, head of the Ducal House, has been invited as the royal guest of honor to this fall's conference. To make reservations, e-mail erhj@eurohistory.com

ROYAL SPANISH EXHIBIT IN MISSISSIPPI

"The Majesty of Spain: Royal Collections from the Museo del Prado & Patrimonio Nacional" opened its doors on March 1 at the Jackson, Mississippi Arts Pavilion. The exhibit features 14 galleries with 600 pieces of art including paintings, sculptures, tapestries, palace room re-creations and furnishings. The items come from the two famous Madrid museums named in the title as well as items from the Royal Palaces of Madrid, El Escorial, and Aranjuez. The exhibit includes a 55-foot-long gilded royal gondola of King Fernando VII. The crowning jewel of "Majesty" is a re-creation of the Porcelain Room from the Palace of Aranjuez. The room is composed entirely of porcelain panels decorated with fanciful, raised-relief figures.

The exhibit continues until September 3. Exhibit hours are 9:00 AM to 10:00 PM daily, with the last tour beginning at 8:00 PM. The cost is \$15 for adults, \$5 for youth under 18. For tickets or information call (800)960-9900 or visit www.majestyofspain.com

YOUR DELEGATES

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The Monarchist League

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FILM ABOUT HAWAII'S QUEEN PLANNED

Hawaiian actress Leo Anderson Akana, who portrayed Queen Lili'uokalani twice on Hawai'i stages, is involved in pre-production talks with the Ladd Company, a Hollywood production company headed by Alan Ladd Jr., whose previous big-budget films include "Braveheart," "Chariots of Fire" and "Star Wars.", for a film based on her own screenplay about the Queen. Akana projects that filming could start in the Islands as early as this summer. Akana expects to play the lead in the as-yet-untitled feature, about the life and times of Hawai'i's last Queen.

The movie may have an estimated projected budget of between \$45 million and \$70 million. Plans call for filming on location in Hawai'i, San Francisco, Niagara Falls, Boston, London and Washington D.C., places where the Queen made an impact. The approach to the film will likely be as a major costume drama, similar to "Braveheart," "Amistad" and "The Patriot."

The screenplay prepared by Miss Akana portrays Lili'uokalani as a woman and an icon, examining her personal and political life from 1867 through 1898. The plot is to relate the treachery and espionage against the Queen, perpetrated in Hawai'i and on the continent, juxtaposed with the wrenching circumstances and conditions imposed upon the Queen's supporters. Prominent historical figures, such as Henry Cabot Lodge and Theodore Roosevelt, are portrayed as covert operatives, complicit with insurgents out to nullify the kingdom's sovereign status. Akana said the role as proposed involves music and song, too, to reflect the life of the complex Queen, whose compositions include "The Queen's Prayer," "Kaulana Na Pua" and "Aloha 'Oe." The Queen, who played piano, organ, autoharp and guitar, "often used music as a place to go, to meditate, to express, to find peace," says Akana.

KING MICHAEL OF ROMANIA VISITS HOOVER ARCHIVES

As reported in a recent newsletter, King Michael visited the Hoover Archives in the San Francisco area. The following report appeared in the Winter newsletter of the Hoover Archives.

On October 19 and 20, 2000, King Michael I of Romania, the only living head of state from the World War II era and a decorated war hero, visited the Hoover Institution, where a great cache of the

documents of The Romanian Royal Family's history are kept.

The King and his family were escorted on a tour of the Institution and the archives by Deputy Director Charles Palm and Hoover archivist Elena Danielson. In the reading room of the Hoover Archives, King Michael viewed a display of some of the many items from the Romanian archive collection, including documents, letters, and pictures of his childhood and young adult life in Romania before he was forced from the country by Communists in 1947. The display, prepared by Archival Specialist Laura Cosovanu, deeply impressed the King, who was visibly moved at seeing such rare and personal items as letters from his grandfather, a beautiful, handwritten manuscript by his grandmother Queen Marie, pictures, official documents, and other mementos from his life in Romania.

At a luncheon given in his honor at Hoover, King Michael praised the archives for preserving not only his family's history but the truth of Romania's past, which the Communists tried to eradicate. "During the dark days of communism," said King Michael, "the Hoover Archives was a beacon of light. As someone who has experienced communism firsthand, I thank the keepers, administrators, and academic specialists of this Institution." Thomas W. and Susan B. Ford Distinguished Fellow George P. Shultz paid tribute to the King and the Romanian people for their perseverance during communist rule. He shared the King's recognition of the importance of the Hoover Archives in preserving the record of history for future generations. "It is a striking thing," said Shultz, "how Hoover helps record history and keep it alive for mankind. The Communists tried to wipe the Romanians off the earth, but they couldn't because of the records kept here. Hoover helped preserve a culture, a people, a society." After the luncheon, Danielson presented the King with an album of photographs and mementos from the archives.

On the second day of his visit, King Michael met with a small group of reporters and talked about his desire to return to Romania and reclaim his kingship. He emphasized the great show of support he has received from the Romanian public each time he has returned to his homeland for a visit. For many, King Michael is a hero because he has continually fought against those who have oppressed the Romanian people.

During World War II, at the age of 22, King Michael secretly negotiated with the Allies in August 1944. He proceeded to lead the coup that arrested Romania's fascist dictator and aligned the country with the Allies, helping to shorten the war by six months. He was awarded the Legion of Merit by the United States and the Order of Victory by the Soviet

The Monarchist League

Union in 1946 for this act.

In 1947, however, Communists forced his abdication and King Michael traveled to England. There, having been left with next to nothing, he sold vegetables to survive. Eventually, the king moved to Switzerland, where he became a test pilot for an American airplane factory.

In all his time away from Romania, the king never gave up his fight to regain his kingship. Reflecting on his long struggle to help his country and restore the monarchy, King Michael said, "I am proud of what I have done for my country. I have no apologies to make and nothing to hide from the judgment of history."

NEW YORK REQUIEM FOR ITALIAN QUEEN

A memorial Mass for the late Queen Mother Marie Jose of Italy was held on Monday evening, February 26, 2001 in New York City. *(Unfortunately, the name of the church was not reported).*

The Mass was attended by 28 knights of Sts Maurice and Lazarus, and representatives of the Order of Merit of the House of Savoy, the Order of Malta, and the Constantinian Order. League member Mr. Guy Stair-Sainty represented the Papal Orders and, in uniform, escorted the principal celebrant Archbishop Renato Martino, Permanent Delegate of the Holy See to the UN, into and out of the Church. The Delegate of the Savoy orders, Gr. Off. Carl Morelli, Esq, and the former Delegate, Commander James Risk, read the lessons. The Belgian Ambassador to the United Nations attended, as did the Italian Consul and a personal representative of HRH Crown Prince Victor Emmanuel.

Written condolences may be sent to H.R.H. Prince Victor Emmanuel of Savoy at the office of the Chancellery at 46 Avenue Krieg, 1208 Geneva, Switzerland. Contributions in memory of Queen Marie Jose can be sent to the American Foundation of the Savoy Orders, Incorporated, at 605 Third Avenue, Suite 1501, New York, NY 10158.

KING AND QUEEN OF SPAIN ON AMERICAN ROYAL PROGRESS

From March 28 to April 3, King Juan Carlos I and Queen Sophia of Spain visited several American cities.

On Wednesday, March 28 President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush welcomed the King and Queen Sofia to the White House. White House officials declined to say what was discussed as the President had tea with the monarchs in an ornate room in the presidential mansion. But before the

meeting a US official said that "the President and the King will reaffirm strong US relations with Spain, a NATO ally, through this visit." It was also thought that regional issues such as the Middle East, Latin America, and the Balkans will be discussed during their meeting.

Spanish Foreign Minister Josep Pique accompanied the King on what was his 11th visit to the United States, but the first since President Bush took office in January. The King also met Republican and Democratic party leaders in the Senate on Thursday, March 29, before heading to Jackson, Mississippi.

ON TO JACKSON -On Saturday, March 31 The King and Queen became the first reigning monarchs to touch Mississippi soil when they stepped off a Spanish Air Force Boeing 707 at Jackson International Airport. Governor Ronnie Musgrove and other Mississippi state officials greeted the royal couple and about 30 Spanish dignitaries at the Air National Guard facility. Edward Romero, U.S. Ambassador to Spain, and U.S. Sen. Thad Cochran, R-Miss, were also present.

Gov. Musgrove expressed the hope that the visit would spotlight and strengthen Mississippi's economic and cultural ties to Spain. "Every time we have the opportunity to present Mississippi with its outstanding resources, people and opportunities, we have a better chance of drawing another company or cultural opportunity," the governor said of the royal visit.

The King and Queen, accompanied by an entourage of "dukes and diplomats", left the airport in a motorcade of about 20 cars, including police and Mississippi Highway Patrol vehicles. The delegation spent Saturday in Jackson, touring the "Majesty of Spain" exhibit (*mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter*), visiting with lawmakers at the Capitol and attending a reception at the Governor's Mansion.

About 100 spectators and exhibit volunteers, waving the Spanish flag, cheered for the King and Queen as they arrived at the "Majesty of Spain" exhibit. The royal couple was greeted with fanfare by U.S. Army trumpets, and a stone plaque was unveiled to commemorate the visit. As they made their way inside the exhibit, they were shown a portrait of the King displayed in one room.

The Duke of San Carlos Alvaro Fernandez-Villaverde, president of Patrimonio Nacional which oversees Spain's royal collections, accompanied the monarchs during the exhibit visit. He showed the King the first treaty signed between the U.S. and Spain. "This is what was happening between the two countries at the time of all this wonderful art," Fernandez-Villaverde told the King.

The Monarchist League

AND ON TO FLORIDA - Late Sunday morning, April 1, the King and Queen arrived at St. Augustine, Florida, the USA's oldest city. St. Augustine was founded by Spanish explorer Pedro Menendez in 1565, 42 years before the English colony at Jamestown, Virginia.

The King sat in the antique chair which the city of St. Augustine had fixed up just for his visit as he signed the city register in the Governor's office of Government House. The chair was retrieved from attic storage in Government House and specially repaired and reupholstered. According to the city's director of historic preservation and heritage tourism the chair will not be used by anyone else.

During a speech from the balcony of Government House on the Plaza de la Constitucion, the King spoke of Menendez and 800 other Spaniards who landed at Cape Canaveral on their way to St. Augustine. "Perhaps Pedro Menendez had a premonition when he landed at Cape Canaveral on his way to the bay of St. Augustine that three centuries later that the United States would be sending manned space ships from there to the moon," the king said. "We must remember and preserve the past and prepare for the future." The King spoke Spanish and English in his address to about 5,000 people, many of whom waved Spanish flags. "To have any head of state visit St. Augustine is an important event, but since it is the King and Queen of Spain, the significance is so much greater," Mayor Mark Alexander said. "We have residents here who trace their ancestral lineage all the way back to the city's founding Spanish families."

After his speech, the King attended a private luncheon and then toured a building owned by the Spanish government, a Spanish museum and the Castillo de San Marco, a Spanish fort built in 1592. The King and Queen enjoyed seeing the sword exhibit at the fort. One sword, which was given to the Castillo de San Marcos 30 years ago by then Prince Juan Carlos I, is encased at the fort. Wilson said the King got a chuckle out of reading the inscription at the exhibit, which stated that "Prince Juan Carlos (now King)" made the donation. The King wanted to know more about the fort's ongoing construction project, structure and view.

The Spanish Garrison re-enactors at Castillo San Marco are well known in St. Augustine for their black powder musket firings. However during the visit their powder pouches were empty. They were not allowed to have black powder that day. Just to be sure, the Secret Service inspected the group before the King's arrival. The Spanish Garrison also was the King's honor guard for the occasion.

political party to field candidates in the Bulgarian Parliamentary elections to be held on June 17th. Since most of you will read this newsletter after the elections have occurred, it is somewhat pointless to give current news here since the news changes daily. It does seem that most observers and polls show that the King's party is headed for a handy majority. This despite recent attacks on the King and his party by some members of the current government.

American readers may have missed an unusually ugly and nasty editorial in the Washington Post that appeared on May 10. Titled "Once and Future King", the op-ed attacked the King saying: "Out of nowhere, a former Bulgarian king forced from his throne in 1946 has taken a huge lead in opinion polls before parliamentary elections scheduled next month by promising to solve the country's problems in 800 days. The scary thing about Simeon Borisov Saxe-Coburg, or Simeon II, is that his unlikely background just might allow him to gain power where the previous challengers have fallen short. That could be a disastrous result for Bulgaria, which, after years of delay, finally embraced free market reforms during the past four years, making it a serious candidate for eventual admission to NATO and the European Union. The erstwhile boy-king, forced from his throne at the age of 9 and living mostly in Spain ever since, has been studiously vague about what sort of policies he will pursue if his party wins a majority in Parliament - or even whether he will take office himself. But many Bulgarians suspect that he will attempt to restore the monarchy, making himself king once again with powers that would exceed those of the current president - not to mention the ceremonial royalty of Western Europe. Even were he to respect democracy, Simeon II could do much harm to Bulgaria."

After going on to extol the current government led by Prime Minister Ivan Kostov, the Washington Post concluded by saying: "With his regal bearing and grand gestures, Bulgaria's former king seems to offer quick relief. The country's would-be allies in the West can only hope that the shallow spell he casts wears off before Election Day".

Among the rebuttals to this op-ed was one from our League Secretary-General. Some of his points are as follows. "King Simeon did not come "out of nowhere". Notwithstanding his receiving part of his education in the United States, he has kept in close touch with his countrymen for decades, and since the fall of communism, his wise counsel has been sought by politicians, academics, businessmen and Bulgarians of every walk of life who have called on him in their thousands".

The Monarchist League

"Would it be right to dismiss a candidate for the US Presidency because his only previous experience had been as Governor of a state which is known even by most Americans as "nowhere"? No, of course not, for if he had as much to offer the United States as King Simeon offers Bulgaria, and enjoyed similar popular support, he would not deserve such condemnation".

"While it is unthinkable that the United States should ever adopt a monarchical system, I hope those countries which are monarchies, and those republics which wish to restore their monarchies will in the future receive greater respect and understanding from Americans who hitherto have failed to appreciate that 'the American Way' is not the only way, nor necessarily the best way. This may sound dangerously like heresy to you, but President Bush has learned this lesson, for on his inauguration said he believes it is not right for the United States to say "We do it this way, so should you".

Even though this item appeared over a month ago now, we still urge our members to write and protest this very unfair and ridiculous editorial. Write to The Washington Post, 1150 15th Street NW, Washington DC 20071, fax 202-334-5651.

AMERICAN MONARCHIST ARCHIVE



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