

Princess With A Mind Of Her Own

One of the most popular and admired members of our Royal Family—that is Princess Marina, formerly Duchess of Kent.

Through the years the Princess has endeared herself to the British public by her personality and charm. But even as a child in her native Greece she had the same endearing qualities, as well as being one of the loveliest of children with her gold-brown eyes and hair.

In those far-off, far-away days she learned her beautiful English from her governess, a Miss Fox, and even insisted on saying her goodnight prayers in English.

When her grandmother, Queen Olga, asked why she wouldn't pray in Greek she replied: "I've arranged it with God. I told him I liked to talk to Him in English best, and He said: 'Please yourself, Marina. All languages are the same to me.'"

One evening she was told to go to bed at six o'clock and say her prayers like any other good little girl.

"Lots of other little girls are going to bed now," she argued.

"God must be terribly busy listening to all their prayers."

"I'll go to bed later on, the rush will be over and God will have more time to listen to me."

Her father, Prince Nicholas, once lectured her for some misdeed, telling her she ought to tell God she was sorry for being naughty.

Looking him straight in the eye, she answered: "What would be the use? If God knows everything He must know I'm sorry without being told. I don't want to waste His time."

She didn't like music lessons, so her father sat down at the piano and began picking out nursery rhymes with one finger while she solemnly watched.

"Come along," he said, "you see Papa trying, don't you?"

"Yes," she replied with a quick, mischievous smile, "that's why I don't." Papa retired, defeated.

Her French governess, Mlle. Perrin, said of her at the age of six: "I remember how delighted she was when I had a headache."

She would come into my room pretending to be the doctor and put cold compresses on my forehead. In doing so she saturated my bedclothes! These stories are recounted in an admirable biography **H.R.H. Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent** by J. Wentworth Day.

As a young girl Marina was removed to marry only for love. Once she overheard the family solemnly discussing the upheaval caused when her elder sister Olga suddenly broke off her engagement to the Crown Prince Frederick of Denmark.

"Why on earth," she broke in, "should Olga marry him if she doesn't love him? I wouldn't..."

Smiling, her mother commented: "Out of the mouths of babes..."

A game she loved to play with her two sisters and friends was "keeping house" up in a fig tree on an island where the Princesses spent their summer. Princess Helena von der Hoven, a family friend recorded:

"Each member of the party had her own branch which represented her 'room' and all the things on this branch were entirely her property."

"One could visit the other and exchange fruit which was carefully passed over on fresh green leaves."

"It needed a lot of agility not to drop any if such a mistake happened it was greeted with a lot of merry laughter and jokes."

"Though one of the youngest, Princess Marina was always the ringleader and kept the company in fits of laughter by mimicking."

her governess."

More than once during her girlhood war and revolution drove the family into exile.

When Greece became a republic under Venizelos in 1922 and King Constantine, her uncle, left his country for ever, Prince Nicholas accompanied him to Palermo, Sicily.

He then cabled his wife and two elder daughters in Paris, and Marina, who had been sent to England, to join him. And there the family reunited.

Once more, says Wentworth Day, their roots had been torn. Their fortune was confiscated. For the second time they were wanderers on the face of the earth.

Marina, then a tall, slender sixteen, looked at her parents and said, with that touch of mischief which sometimes lit her face: "We really needn't have unpacked our trunks."

Later, in Paris, Prince Nicholas took a studio at Auteuil, painted all day, and sold his pictures at a good price to augment the meagre family funds. He and Marina often went out sketching.

One day a little girl from her mother stopped and stared at the couple, busy with their paint boxes.

"Are those musicians, Mummy?" she asked. "Do we have to give them a song?"

After Constantine's abdication her uncle, Prince Christopher, rescued her father's money and securities and her mother's jewelry in a daring escape from Athens at a time when five ministers and a general were shot by Venizelos's orders and her other uncle, Prince Andrew—Prince Philip's father—narrowly escaped the same fate.

Helped by his lawyer and old tutor Prince "Christo" stowed the jewelry in an old wooden box with its bottom almost falling apart, and she carried it with her.

There the three boarded a small rowing boat, fearing every minute that the harbour officials would recognize and detain them.

They'd brought with them a large white Persian cat in a basket. Marina's mother's dearest pet. It drew attention to them by yowling.

Next a suitcase burst open. Stocks, share certificates, money spilled out and were hastily stuffed back.

When they reached their objective, an Italian steamer, an armed Greek sentry with orders to examine every passport barred the gangway.

Venizelos was making sure that no member of the royal family would get away on that ship.

"Christo" ran up the gangway, gave the sentry a tremendous blow in the stomach which doubled him up, and rushed to his cabin, where the sentry had no power to arrest him.

The tutor got past, too, with all the luggage, jewels, money, and securities.

Despite all her family's misfortunes Marina eventually found happiness in her marriage to Prince George, Duke of Kent, who said of her:

"She's the one woman with whom I could be happy to spend the rest of my life."

But tragedy dogged her again when he died in an air crash in Scotland during the Second World War.

Wentworth Day gives a revealing account of her life and personality, and the dramatic events that beset her family, in this first authentic biography.

Today the Princess is an elegant and much respected public figure who shows little of the many, and sometimes harrowing, vicissitudes she has had to endure. This timely biography can only further enhance the wide esteem in which she is held.

Obey the traffic signs — they are placed there for YOUR SAFETY.

CHRONICLES OF GINGER FARM



Gwendoline P. Clarke

For more than a decade readers of this, and many other Canadian weeklies, have followed with interest the happenings described in the column entitled "Chronicles of Ginger Farm."

There was little of the sensational or headline-making in those happenings. Week after week, season after season and year after year the column chronicled the life of the Clarke family living — and working — on a Southern Ontario farm.

Yet the column, and above all the sincerity of the original painting, which the museum bought for only \$7,500 in 1934.

Delighted with his double painting, Nagel commented last month in St. Louis: "It's a nice little dividend. A fantastic turn of events — to have a painting stolen, get it back, and then find out you have two instead of one."

It's a fully realized sketch with the full authority of Cézanne's talent," Nagel said. "It was probably done when he was in his early 20s, a few years before he died his sister in 1868 or '69. It's an obvious choice, if you had to cover one face or the other, which one you would choose, but it is still a sketch of museum quality."

The most generally forgotten grand catastrophe in recent history, except by those who were close to it, is probably the Japanese earthquake of 1923. Yet among all the natural disasters of which convincing records are available, this was the greatest in all history. In Tokyo alone, it resulted in a fire covering nearly twice the area of the famous London, Chicago, and San Francisco fires combined. Some 80 per cent of the city, including 300,000 private houses, was destroyed. In Yokohama things were worse—80 per cent of the city reduced to rubble and ash.

The inkeeper was helpful. He phoned the police and found a motorbike which Joachim could hire.

Leaping on the machine, Joachim roared away in pursuit. In half an hour he was only a few yards behind the Algerian. Thundering along beside the Rhine canal they reached a dangerous bend. Neither slackened speed.

"Look out!" screamed Helga. But it was too late—the car sped into the barrier and plunged below the surface of the canal.

Tearing off his jacket, Joachim dived in. But he could see nothing in the murky water. Then suddenly two heads bobbed to the surface. Joachim swam over to Helga and tried to calm her as she struggled in the water. Then he gasped with relief as the police cars hurried up to the edge of the canal and played their searchlights on the water.

The three were soon fished out. Amazingly, none of them was hurt. The Algerian is now in Mulhouse jail, awaiting his trial. Helga and Joachim continued their honeymoon. But they won't do any more hitch-hiking.

When the average husband looks around and sees the kind of men most women marry, he can't help thinking that his wife has done mighty well.

Two Masterpieces For Price Of One

It looked at first like a routine job. The painting just needed cleaning — nineteenth-century varnish had turned the lady's cheeks a trifle yellow — and the canvas backing, which was disintegrating from age, needed replacing. In Kansas City, an expert art conservator, quietly began restoring Cézanne's "The Artist's Sister."

The painting, owned by the St. Louis City Art Museum, was one of eight Cézannes that had been stolen a year ago while on loan to an exhibit in Aix-en-Provence, France, the artist's birthplace. The stolen paintings were all found in an abandoned automobile in Marseille last April; fortunately the thieves had treated "The Artist's Sister" gently, and it had suffered almost no damage. The thieves had only removed its frame.

However, the St. Louis Museum decided to have it cleaned and relined.

In his lab, Roth started on the backing after he finished the cleaning job. First he carefully cut the old liner away in strips with a razor blade. Then he applied the unusually thick layer of glue underneath. With wet packs of warm water-soaked gauze, he reduced it to a jelly-like consistency and began delicately picking the particles away with miniature spatulas. What emerged to Roth's surprise, was not the blank brown canvas he had expected to find but a heavy application of dark green paint. During three days of digging out glue, Roth watched as another Cézanne—a portrait of a peasant—gradually appeared.

Last month, the St. Louis Museum put its double Cézanne on view, suitably separated so that the faces on both sides were visible. Since the newly found one is upside down in relation to the other, it is a guard obligingly swivels it vertically in its special frame for the benefit of visitors.

Charles Nagel has estimated that the find raises the value of the work to \$225,000, \$75,000 more than the current value of the original painting, which the museum bought for only \$7,500 in 1934.

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High Prices For Old Wash-Benches

The antique business baffles me because a piece of old furniture is a lovely thing, and adds the domestic nook, but why do the summer people from New Jersey look so pleased when they get an old wash bench to strap on the top of their automobile? I always watch them drive by, wondering how much they paid for it, and if a hand-saw one at the same price wouldn't be a better buy.

Somewhat, I feel the processes of thought aren't balancing the simple facts: That the bric-a-brac and antiques accumulated to edify the tourists are the same as the family, somewhere, just cast aside as expendable. The wash benches now moving out are not going to be used as wash benches, of course.

I happen to possess the lumber, facilities and talent for making wash benches. I can do it. They would be clean, sturdy and improved in design, although I could make them like old wash benches if I wanted to. If anybody wanted just one, and I had to tool up for it, the price would probably be comparable to the going tab today on an old one, but if I could get an order for 500, I could make them very cheap indeed.

It's a little disturbing to think that after I made them, and 1500 years went by, they'd be antiques, too.

I have made antiques, I made a cobble's bench, for instance. Then I came home and made one just like it. I was fun. The old bench had three drawers, and they were fitted with what we call flush-handles. They are brass, recessed into the wood, and you can buy this kind of fitting at any marine hardware store, or chandlery, today just as well as you could in olden times. They are standard for outfit and launches, so I went and bought six of these, identical with the "antique" ones, and put them on my three drawers.

When I got the bench to my kitchen, I gave it a rinse with kerosene, and buttered it up good and handsome. It is handsome, and all who see it pause to admire it.

But I get varying reactions.

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Anyway, if there's merit in having a cobble's bench in the living room, to hold up the quets and magazines, we've got it. It does not mean that we peg shoes in the parlour. And I think, apart from the advantage of age, it is better to have a wash on it than to have an old one that is scarred and bent.

The ancient wash bench was hardly designed for a thing of beauty and a joy forever. It was not so long ago I can't remember still. Plumbing on the old farm is a three wash benches. We had the tank on the back of the back steps for a casual ablutions of the sweaty, dirty anatomy of the agronomist, who came up from the fields to wash his face. The function of the bench was, you might say, aesthetic, but in a special country way that doesn't seem to me to point obviously at present-day delight in owning one. Just before a meal somebody would fore a meal of warm water and soap from the back of the kitchen water, and with a pail of cold water beside it, would sit on the bench. There was a clay flower pot with ends of soap in it — the hole in the pot offering a drain so the soap wouldn't go mushy, and also it was a test of the hired man to help get a good "hole" on a piece. A good rough towel would be provided, and a basin and dipper.

I will not say there was nothing artistic about the bench. It was a test of the hired man to stand and watch a hired man leave himself. The water splashed about a good deal, and he slapped it over his neck, and he puffed and glowed, and you could see that it felt good. Dusty from threshing or grimy from pulling weeds, he rejoiced in the cool, and he came forth sweet and pure, shining like a boiled egg, his hair brushed as for a wedding. Grandfather judged him good; Grandmother by their work at the wash bench.

The other wash benches, in the laundry, were for clothes tubs. I can't remember anything in particular, which surrounded these which would make them priced in retrospect. If Grandmother had been told that some day her old benches would fetch a fancy figure, I'm sure she'd have hooted at such nonsense. Hers was an era that looked forward to set tubs and a length of hose, and the happy time when the wash bench could be hove on the dump. If she could have, by second sight or powers of imagination, contrived to foresee automatic laundries and driers, I think she would lament the low intelligence of a woman who, having these miracles, would go on a vacation up in Maine and pay good money for a wash bench to carry in the way back to your province or state. — By John Gould in the Christian Science Monitor.

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A. Often you can remove the mirror-like appearance by rubbing the fabric lightly with very fine sandpaper. Dampen a navy skirt or pair of trousers with bluing water, and press while still damp. Shiny suits may also be sponged with vinegar before pressing.

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