

**DUKE & DUCHESS
OF WINDSOR**
SOCIETY

ISSUE 2 2005

Quarterly



The Windsors
at the White House

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ON THE COVER: President and Mrs. Richard
Nixon pose with their guests, the Duke and
Duchess of Windsor, at the White House. The
Nixons hosted a white-tie dinner for the Duke and
Duchess. Date Photographed: April 4, 1970.
Image: © Bettmann/CORBIS

Autumnal greetings to everyone! His Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales, and his bride, *Her Royal Highness*, The Duchess of Cornwall, are about to visit the US. Imagine if Wallis and Edward could have enjoyed such favor and luck. Imagine if Camilla had to suffer the badge of shame that the Royal Family heaped on Wallis, a fellow divorcee.

I shall refrain from any more editorial comment for now. What I would enjoy discussing is the latest issue and the trove of member treasures it contains.

New Society member, **Tori Van Orden Martinez**, brings us the first of a two-part article on Wallis's relationship with "The Firm." Thank you to Tori for her crisp writing and focused perspective on aspects of the couple's lives.

Several years ago, I purchased on Ebay an authentic White House invitation circa 1970, for a dinner that the Nixon's gave in honor of Wallis and Edward. I received a bit of Member inspiration for the White House profile article on the same evening from two of my Society muses, both former co-editors of this Journal. **John Wieneman** sent me a beautiful "comp" rendering of an article which profiled the same invitation as well as a fascinating Society article that was published in The Washington Post at that time. As I combed through a pile of research materials that **Erna Bringe** graciously sent to me when I first took over the reins of this publication, I found a photocopy of the exact Post article to which John had referred. The article is reprinted here with permission from The Washington Post.

It may be possible that WE visited the White House sometime between the years of 1945 and 1970, however, I chose to focus on the "bookend" sentinel visits: their first visits to the Roosevelt White House during the War and their final, most triumphant visit at the end of their lives. For me, it is poignant that both the beginning and ending visits represented pinnacles of their lives. During the war years there was still so much anticipation and interest in what the couple's future would hold and they were enjoying the first public successes (as well as criticism) in the United States since their marriage.

The gala at the White House, in honor of the aging couple, represented the sentimental goodwill that the U.S. held for the couple, a very significant nod to the success of their marriage (despite the ravages of the lifelong campaign against the couple by the Royal family and the usual trials and tribulations of matrimony). In the Duke's words that evening: "I have had the good fortune to have a wonderful American girl consent to marry me. I have had 30 years of loving care, devotion and companionship -- something I have cherished above all else."

I would like to dedicate this issue to the Society's most enthusiastic and prolific member, **Lee Levine**. In this issue, Lee provides us with a current look of his hometown, Washington DC, and visits two of the many Windsor-related locales in the area. I've also filled "WE Sightings" with Lee's contributions: I literally have such a huge inventory of articles that Lee has sent me that I needed to clear out the coffers and provide Lee's diligence with the attention it deserves.

WE SOCIETY Letter from Mark Gaulding



June Gaulding gives us another delectable WE recipe from Wallis's cookbook...this time a recipe that was also referred to in Vogue, July, 1943. I don't know about you but I think the Vogue version sounds better.

Thank you and BRAVO! to Society member, **Michael Botsko**, for participating in this issue's Society Member and "le collezioni" profile. And even more thanks and kudos to Michael for taking the time to photograph and provide personal commentary about many treasures from his amazing collection of Duke and Duchess items. I salute him for building such a comprehensive and beautiful assortment of items that sold hither and yon in the great Sotheby's (1998) and the more recent Christie's (2004) auctions of the couple's belongings. Isn't it a pleasant thought that someday many of the couple's items would end up back together again...in Michael Botsko's collection? It doesn't matter whether you collect royal memorabilia, books about the couple, or just hold provocative opinions and thoughts about the couple, this is the forum for it. And that, I think, is the best part of this Journal.

New Society Member, **Hector Zerbino**, representing the Windsor's adopted country of France, brings us news of an upcoming auction in Paris with supposed Windsor-related memorabilia originally belonging to the Bedaux's, hosts of WE's wedding locale, Château de Candé.

Welcome to the seven new Society members who are broadening our Society's world significantly. Our newest members hail from Australia, England, France, Italy, and US coasts. I encourage all of you to participate in this Journal. As you'll see, it is member participation -- through opinions, personal profiles and contributed articles -- that make this Journal interesting.

Please continue to send your Wallis and Edward "Sightings". I will be expanding this section to two pages in future issues, to exhibit more of your contributions. If you do send a sighting, please include the name of the publication or book, the issue it appeared in, and as much information as possible to properly cite the source in which it appeared. We are, after all, a scholarly group.

Finally, membership dues in the Society will be due with the next (and eighth) issue of the Journal since I assumed the reins from former editor, Lynn Carroll, three years ago. We will be expanding your membership "benefits" to include not just four Society issues, but also your very own membership card, as well as a Society bookmark. I don't know about you but I can't wait to see the look on someone's face when I whip out my Duke and Duchess of Windsor Society membership card. I've always wanted to be a "card-carrying member".

Oh, and take a look at the eBay auction sighting...Society journals from the '90's have been selling. So hang on to your copies: in just a few years you might be able to sell them on eBay--a testimony to the collectibility of all things Wallis and Edward. Best,



Duke of Edinburgh, the Duchess of Windsor, Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Charles outside the Windsor's villa in Paris. The photo is from the Collection of Mark Gaulding.

The Duchess and the Royal Family

Part One of a two-part series

by Tori Van Orden Martínez, ©2005

Most of us are very familiar with the infamous relationships that Wallis, Duchess of Windsor, had with Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, and Queen Mary, but some very interesting relationships with other members of the British royal family are less well-known. Despite their relative obscurity, some of these relationships are surprisingly complex, especially considering how little time the Duchess actually spent with the royal family. From Wallis' interactions with the present Queen and her family to the unique bond she shared with Princess Michael of Kent, these relationships affected the royal family for more than 56 years. While some of them were reflective of personal vendettas, political ambitions and even greed, others managed to reveal rare moments of surprising tenderness and empathy.

The Kents

If Wallis ever came close to becoming friends with a member of the British royal family, it was with the Duke of Windsor's youngest surviving brother, Prince George, Duke of Kent. Perhaps more than any of his

brothers, Prince George was a wild child. He ran with a fast set, stayed out late at clubs, and dabbled in drugs. More serious allegations of his behavior go as far as accusing him of bisexuality and drug addiction. By 1930, however, Prince George appeared to have settled down somewhat, thanks in part to his close relationship with his eldest brother, the Prince of Wales. For all his own "fast" living, David – as the Prince of Wales was known to family – had served as a balancing influence to Prince George, and the two spent a great deal of time together. It was thanks in part to this closeness that Wallis met both princes for the first time on the same evening in January 1931.

The story of how Wallis met the Prince of Wales requires little retelling, but the long and short of it is that she had been invited to attend a house party at Burrough Court, the country home of the Prince of Wales' current mistress, Thelma, Lady Furness, at Melton Mowbray in Leicestershire. Lady Furness' husband was conveniently