

Queen's Birthday and National Day of Denmark



The Daily Star Special Supplement April 16, 1998

A Queen in a Kingdom

ON the 14th January 1997, Margrethe the Second, Queen of Denmark, celebrated the 25th anniversary of her reign, and Danes were as one in paying homage to the monarch who to a unique extent has been able to win the understanding and affection of the people for herself and her high office. In a way, a royal jubilee has something of the same feel as a silver wedding. On coming to the throne, the monarch enters into a close alliance with his or her people, into a life together, which may not necessarily be a happy one, irrespective of how long the association comes to last. In this present case, life together has been entirely idyllic. No one is in any doubt that Denmark is and will remain a kingdom, and that mellifluous word that even in the midst of a technocratic and demanding world is still redolent of a charming fairy tale from an age of chivalry.

Proud Danes

We Danes are very proud of having a queen rather than a king as Head of State. For it is the first time in the thousand-year history of the kingdom. The first Queen Margrethe, who reigned 600 years ago, was only regent for her infant son and thus had to be content with the title "High and Mighty Lady and Regent". With this title, which after all was pretty impressive, she managed on her own to rule not only Denmark, but the whole of Scandinavia — for a full 25 years, from 1387 to 1412.

Today, we sometimes think that Denmark's having a Queen rather than a king is a unique circumstance. In fact it is quite a common phenomenon in Europe. Thus, since 1890 Holland has had a succession of three reigning queens, while the British, who are otherwise so proud of their traditions, have a kingdom larded with strong



Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II

queens. It is a notable historical phenomenon that the clear discrimination, both social and legal, which used to be shown towards women did not apply when it was a question of the right of succession to a throne. Although in principle the rule throughout Europe was that of male succession to the throne, dispensation could at a pinch be granted so that a woman was tolerated on the throne when there were no sons available. Royal houses' desire for power was sufficient to overcome even the most potent of prejudices.

Denmark is no better than other nations in this respect. According to the 1953 Act of Succession, which is still in force, we too have a preference for male succession. "On the death of a king," says the Act, "the throne shall pass to his son or daughter, a son taking precedence over a daughter, and where there are several children of the same sex the elder child taking precedence over the younger child." With this, we went back to the mixed right of succession obtaining under absolutism in Denmark until 1849. In 1853, however, this was changed to a purely male right of succession in order to maintain the monarchy. For in Schleswig-Holstein,

the two duchies which until 1864 belonged under the Danish monarchy, female succession was not recognised, and so the duchies and the kingdom would be separated from each other at the next change of monarch if there were no male heir to the throne.

Not an Immediate Problem

The 1953 amendment to the Act of Succession, which was approved by referendum, quite simply had as its background the fact that Queen Ingrid and King Frederik IX, who reigned from 1947 to 1972, had no sons, but on the other hand three healthy and gifted daughters. According to the rule then applying, the throne would pass to the King's brother. The women's movement had indicated a desire for change, and both in the population at large and among politicians such understanding for the idea of equality had emerged that public opinion was unlikely to accept that the attractive, thirteen-year-old Princess Margrethe should be passed over in favour of a male representative of a collateral branch.

The changes to the Act of Succession in 1953 brought the Danish monarchy into line

with the rules of succession in Holland and Great Britain. So, there is still no complete equality. If Queen Margrethe's first child had been a daughter, the 1953 Act of Succession would have required this daughter to be passed over in favour of the younger son, Prince Joachim. Sweden took the logical consequences of the great breakthrough for women's liberty in the 1970s: In 1979, the Swedish

Parliament passed an amendment to what was known as the Order of Succession, giving both sons and daughters equal right to succession, and now a beautiful young woman, Crown Princess Victoria, stands ready as heir to the throne. With Crown Prince Frederik as the first-born heir in Denmark, a change in the law of succession is presumably not an immediate problem.



The royal couple with Crown Prince Frederik (left) and Prince Joachim.

The Queen's Biography

MARGRETHE II (Alexandrine Thorthidur Ingrid) Queen of Denmark (decorations: Order of the Elephant; Grand Commander of the Order of Dannebrog; Memorial Medal for 50th Anniversary of HRH Queen Ingrid's arrival in Denmark; Memorial medal Sept. 26, 1870-1970; Home Guard Badge of Merit; Home Guard 25-year Badge; Civil Defence League Badge of Honour; Danish Tourist Council Medal; Greenland Home Rule Gold Medal).

Born April 16, 1940 at Amalienborg; daughter of King Frederik IX (d.1972) and Queen Ingrid; married June 10, 1967 at Holmens Kirke to Prince Henrik of Denmark (b. Henri-Marie-Jean-Andre Count de Laborde de Monpezat), born June 11, 1934 at Talence, Gironde, France, son of Count Andre de Laborde de Monpezat and Countess Renee de M. nee Doursonnet.

Succeeded Jan. 15, 1972 on death of King Frederik IX.

Head of the Danish College of Arms; Master of the Order of the Elephant and Order of the Dannebrog.

Zahles Skole; matriculation (private) 1959; previous examination in philosophy, Copenhagen University 1960; Studies for Diploma in Prehistoric Archaeology at Cambridge University 1960-61; studies in Political Science at Aarhus University 1961-62, at the Sorbonne 1963, at London School of Economics 1965.

Member of the Council of State April 16, 1958; Supreme Commander of the Defence Forces.

Training and voluntary service with Women's Flying Corps 1958-70; Allied Colonel-in-Chief, The Queen's Regiment (UK) 1972; Allied Colonel-in-Chief, the Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment 1992.

President of the Royal Nordic Ancient Manuscript Society; President of Queen Margrethe and Prince Henrik

Foundation: Founder of Queen Margrethe II's Archaeological Foundation; patron of (inter alia) The Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters, The Danish Bible Society, The Royal Orphanage; Crown Prince Frederik's Foundation (formed 1865); The Classen Trust; The League of Preparedness; Queen Louise's Charity Society; Danish Multiple Sclerosis Society; National Cancer Association; National Association for Tuberculosis and Pulmonary Diseases; Royal Agricultural Society; Funen's Patriotic Society; Danish Heathland Society; Danish Jockey Club; Danish Society for the Protection of Animals; Society for the Promotion of Physics;

Royal Danish Geographic Society; Danish Technological Institute; Danish Handicraft Guild; Dansk Samvirke; Society for Military Sciences; National Council of Danish Soldiers' Associations; Confederation of Danish Ex-Servicemen; Joint Council of Danish Guard Associations; Danish Sports

Association/Danish Olympic Committee; Danish Gymnastic and Sports Associations; National Union of Boys and Girls Brigades; Royal Danish Yacht Club; Association of 1888 for Dependents of Knights of the Dannebrog; The Rescue Medal Society; The Hans Christian Andersen Ballet Award; Danish Immigrant Museum, Iowa, USA; The Queen's Association of the Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment; The Danish Shooting Associations.

Royal Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London 1972; Honorary Fellow of London School of Economics 1975; of Lucy Cavendish College, Cambridge 1989; of Girton College, Cambridge 1992; Honorary Doctorates of Cambridge University (D.L.L. hon. caus.) 1975; of University of Iceland 1986; of University of Leeland 1986; awarded La Medaille de la Chancellerie Universitaires de Paris 1987; Honorary member of Swedish Royal Academy of Science, History, and Antiquities 1988; invited member of

Association for Promotion of Skiing, Oslo; Honorary Doctor of Oxford Univ. 1992. Has designed, inter alia, Christmas seal (1970), Greenland Christmas seal (1983), special postage stamp "fifth of May 1945-85" (1985), and Christmas Spoon of the Year (1984); designed/embroidered chasubles for Fredensborg Castle Chapel (1976), Kronborg Castle Chapel (1985); and Haderslev Cathedral (1987-88); and Episcopal copes for Elsinore Diocese (1986); and Viborg Diocese (1989); illustrated J.R.R. Tolkien's "Lord of the Rings" (1977); "Historier om Regnar Lodbrog" (1979), "Bjarkamal" (1982) and Poul Gorm's "Komedie Florens" (1990); drew/illustrated/designed calendars for Handicraft Society (1978-84), Sclerosis Society (1990), and Co-operative Association (1991); seals for National Association for the Mentally Handicapped (1988), and lithographs for Danish Red Cross (1988); translated Simone de Beauvoir's "All Men Are Mortal" (with H.R.H. Prince Henrik, 1981); Stig Stromholm's "the

Valley", "The Fields" and "The Forest" (1988-89), and Eric Linklater's "The Wind on the Moon" (1991); designed costumes for TV Theatre's "Shepherdess and Chimneysweep" (1987); illustrated calendar for Church Relief Fund (1993). Scenography for ballet "Et Folke Sagn", Royal Theatre (1991).

Exhibition of sketches and finished works at Kage Art Gallery Sketch Collection (1988), The Glass Museum, Ebeltoff (1988), Millesgarden, Stockholm (1989), Blafarveværket, Norway (1991), Baron Boltens Gard, Copenhagen (1991), Gammel Holtegaard (1993), Herning Art Gallery (1993), Burglinster, Luxembourg (1994). Awarded Mother Tongue Society's Prize 1989; the Adeil Order 1990.

Address: Amalienborg, DK-1257 Copenhagen K, Denmark.

[From: Kraks Bla Bog (Who's Who), 1994]

THE Danish monarchy is a unique institution. And not only in our own Danish history and self-awareness. An unbroken royal line of fifty kings and two queens is actually a world record. More than a thousand years ago, King Harald founded the kingdom of Denmark. And even though not all the Danish kings have by any means been world champions, the Danish monarchy throughout its thousand-year history, from the Viking kings to the modern constitutional monarchy, has had an almost mythic ability to adapt to the social and political changes of the centuries. In many ways it has been the Crown that has preserved this small country at the tip of the European continent through wars, revolutions, reformations, and foreign occupation.

The Thousand-Year-Old Kingdom

HOWEVER much the general liking, indeed love, for the person of Queen Margrethe ensures her position as the reigning queen, the foundations of the Danish monarchy are its deep roots in Danish history.

For it is not the case that the monarchy owes its position to the Danish nation — in actual fact, the opposite is true: Denmark as a nation state has arisen as the result of the monarchy. It was the oldest kings who, with the support of the Catholic Church and by means of military might, determined and defended the boundaries of the realm more or less corresponding to present-day Denmark. At the end of the tenth century, proud of his achievement as the founder of a unified realm, King Harald Bluetooth presented himself on the famous runic stone, in memory of his parents as "The Harald who won for himself all Denmark and Norway, and made the Danes Christian."

The basis for the formation of a state was a kind of pact between the king and the people: the king undertook to ensure peace and order within the borders in return for being given the prerogative of collecting taxes and customs dues and also the right to proclaim laws — and even a thousand years later, that basis is still broadly speaking the same! Harald was succeeded by a long and varied line of kings in which there were both rogues and heroes. The throne rocked and swayed in constant unrest, because the kings were often at cross purposes with the three groups that were supposed to form the cornerstones of their power: The Catholic Church, the nobility and the tax-payers — and who often lacked both the will and the means to fulfil their duties to the king. Denmark was an elective monarchy, but the nobles usually chose the king's oldest son so as to avoid civil war and ensure continuity in the way in which the state was administered. From 1448 the Oldenburg dynasty sat securely on the Danish royal throne: eight Christians and seven Frederiks succeeding each other over a period of 400 years — at first constrained by the nobility on the basis of so called coronation charters, documents severely limiting the kings' freedom of action.

Democracy

In 1660, King Frederik III allied himself with the well-to-do

citizens of Copenhagen and carried out a coup against the nobility. The king was made absolute in the French manner, and a splendid formulation was given to the new form of government in what was called the Law of Kingship of 1665, the only written absolutist constitution in Europe. All power was gathered in the hands of the king — that is to say insofar as he had the strength and the ability of exercise it. The actual power of decision was largely put in the hands of officials in the royal chancelleries. Danish absolutism was never oppressively, but became increasingly gentle and citizen-friendly, especially after 1800 when the political messages from the revolutions taking place all over Europe were picked up in Denmark.

The last absolute kings believed that a gentle, patriarchal rule could keep political liberalism at bay. But the revolution in Paris in February 1848, which spread throughout Europe and overturned various ancient royal and imperial thrones, could not fail to bring about a change in Denmark, especially as it took place at exactly the same time as a new king acceded to the throne in Copenhagen.

The new king, Frederik VII, was not suited to being an absolute monarch, but he was unusually well suited as a jovial citizens' king. With a splendid, magnanimous gesture he re-

nounced power and gave the people a free constitution at the same time as surrendering half his royal palace of Christiansborg to the legislative assembly. In the first democratic constitution of the 5th June 1849, the king's influence was considerably reduced, but not abolished. Power now came from below, from the people, through their right to vote, and the King's responsibility was transferred to his ministers. But the constitution was formulated in such a way as to ensure that the king was not deprived of his dignity, but still, at least symbolically, stood as the actual Head of State.

The 49th Monarch

With the much-loved Frederik VII, the male line of the royal house of Oldenburg died out in 1863. But by recognising, exceptionally, the transfer of the right to the throne via a princess of the family, the Glucksborg collateral branch was introduced to inherit the throne after him. Christian IX, the first Glucksborg monarch, had grown up in the old patriarchal way of thinking from before 1848 and scarcely understood that he was now ruling over a politically conscious people, who protested vehemently when he insisted on choosing his ministers from among men of his own class: land-owners, officers and high-ranking officials. This sensitive point in the constitution

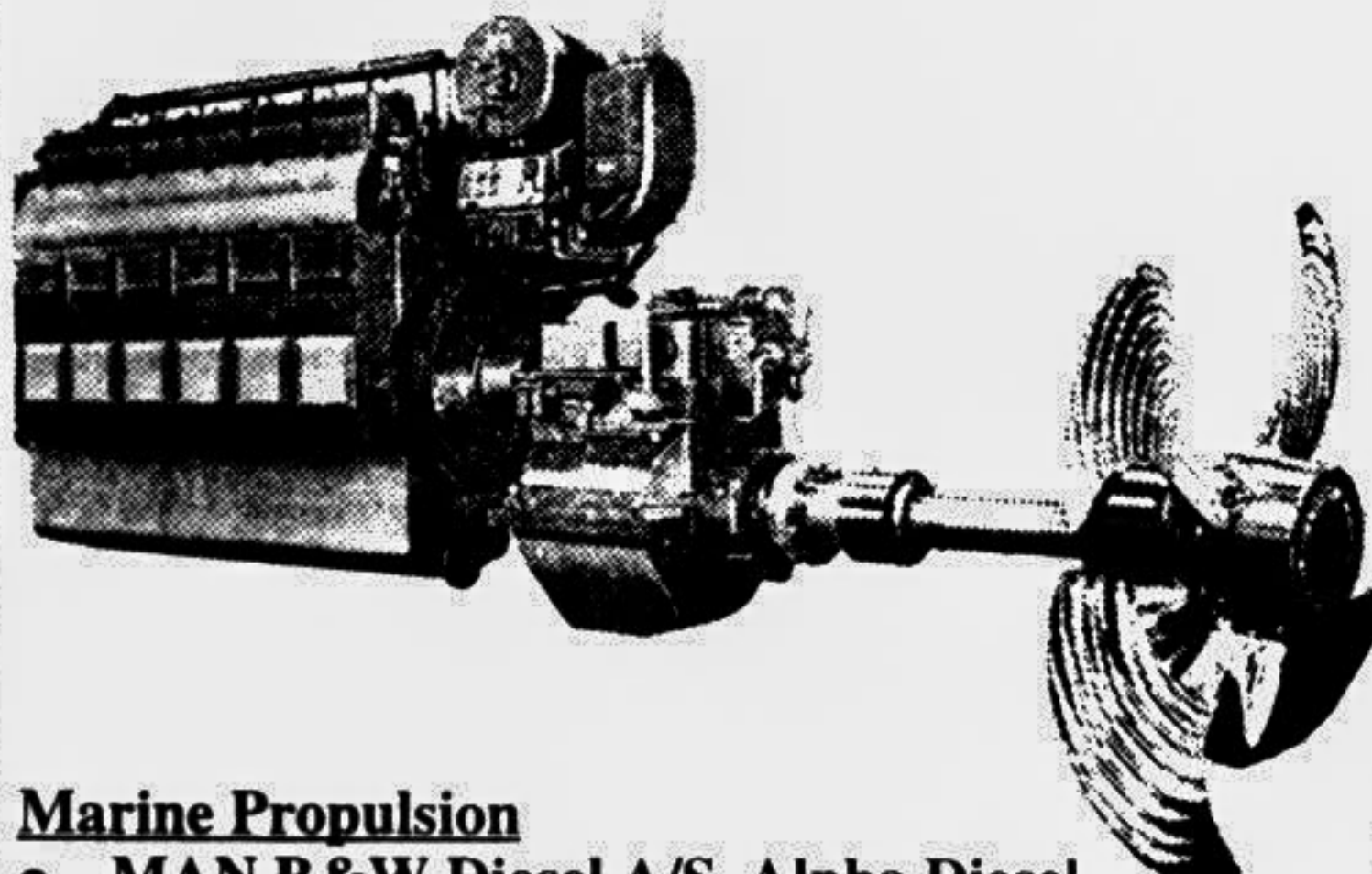
concerning the king's right-freely to choose his ministers became the turbulent centre of a political conflict that impaired the good relationship between the king and his people for several decades from 1870. Among other things, it was a question of the royal house adapting to a new age in which power did not issue from the throne, but from the voters. It was not an entirely easy matter, because at the same time absolutism's symbols relating to the administration were retained almost unaltered; indeed, even the ministers elected by the people wore a royal uniform like other royal officials until 1909. The legislative assembly, the rigsdag, was "graciously" summoned and dismissed by the monarch, as though it were the king's property. Proclamations and laws were issued by a monarch who until 1972 also retained the age-old title of King of "the Goths and Wends" and called himself Duke of a number of North German territories long since lost. This was all pomp and ceremony, which all Danes loved because it bound the citizens of the country together around the magnificent, colourful royal house. And so it still is, although Queen Margrethe has removed some of the most old-fashioned and unrealistic elements in her title.

Signing a constitution does not bring about a revolution. It was three generations before the people and their kings had adapted to the rules governing a popular democracy. Christian X, who reigned from 1912, still interfered in politics, deeply concerned about the welfare of his people as he was. The result was a serious confrontation with his ministers at Easter 1920, an encounter that for a short while endangered the throne. After the conflict was solved, the air was cleared. King Christian lived up to his obligation to choose his ministers on the advice of the parties in the Rigsdag. On the other hand, he managed to become just about as popular as Frederik VII when, during the German occupation 1940-45 he became the focal point of people's opposition to the occupying forces.

What an incredible historical perspective there is behind this unbroken row of Danish kings stretching right back to King Harald, who died in AD 985. Queen Margrethe II is the 49th in this sequence, the highest branch of a mighty oak tree with roots buried deep in the soil of Denmark.



Wishing Happy Returns to Her Majesty Margrethe II of Denmark

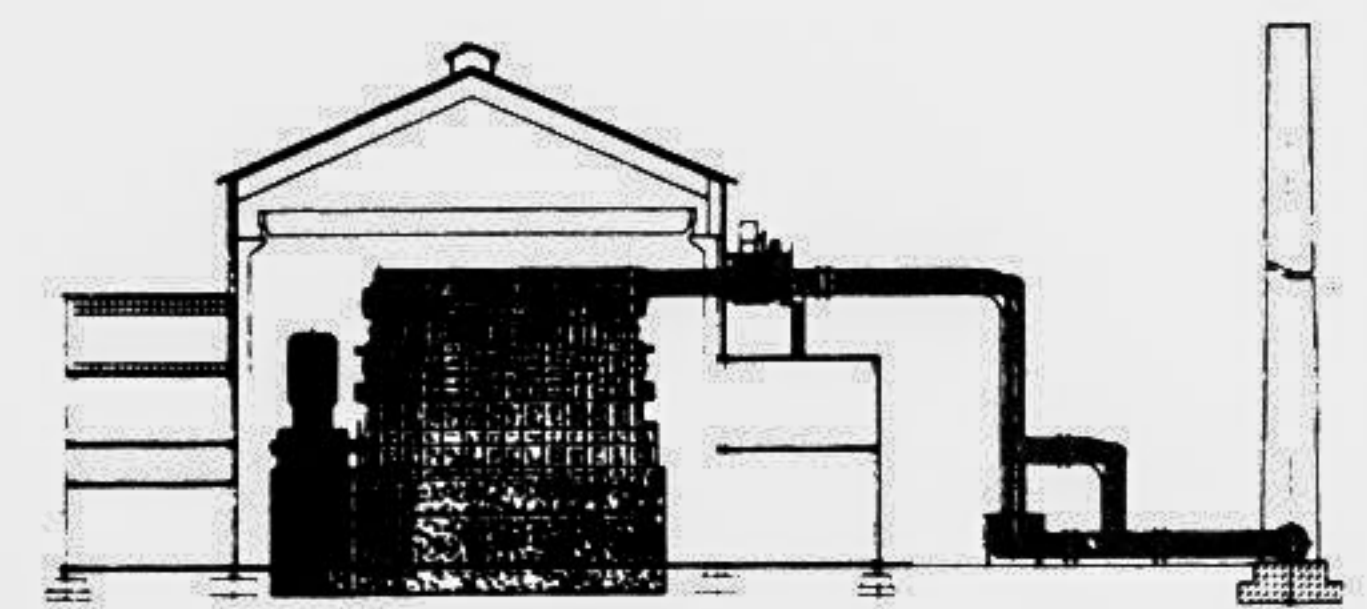


Marine Propulsion

- MAN B&W Diesel A/S, Alpha Diesel DK-9900, Frederickshavn, Denmark.
- MAN B&W Diesel A/S DK-2450 Copenhagen, Denmark
- MAN B&W Diesel AG Augsburg, Germany.
- MAN Nutzfahrzeuge AG Nuremberg, Germany.

• Danish production ranges from 800-16740 BHP with slow & medium speed Engines.

• German production ranges from 450-93120 BHP with slow & medium speed Engines and from 82-1200 BHP with high speed Engines.



Power Generation

- MAN B&W Diesel A/S DK-2450 Copenhagen, Denmark.
- MAN B&W Holey A/S DK-4960, Holey, Denmark.
- MAN B&W Diesel AG Augsburg, Germany.
- MAN B&W Diesel (Singapore Pte) Ltd. Singapore.

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