

Continued from page 1

seem to have given him a reprieve, more than 25 years later, for his role in his disastrous marriage to Princess Diana, which ended in tragedy. He was an adulterer. But he was also deeply in love. With Camilla, it turned out, now queen consort.

Episodes of the popular television series 'The Crown' portrayed him as a cold fish, a cruel man, uncomfortable with himself. But Charles is known to those who know him to be quite warm in person. In a long receiving line at a palace function, the queen kept it moving. Charles lingers. "His staff always say his investitures always take a lot longer than the queen's, because she's quite good at having a few words and the handshake and then, right, that's off you go," Hardman told 'The Washington Post.' "Whereas Charles is much more prone to start having conversations and go, 'Oh, you're a sheep farmer. What sort of sheep do you farm?' It's just a different approach."

In public, he can be awkward. Tonally off. As when he boasted that his climate-conscious Aston Martin sports car ran on wine and cheese. He has adopted some peculiar – and oddly specific – positions over the years, on topics like the best breeds of sheep and the importance of proper joinery carpentry. He also has big ideas about climate change, urban blight, organic farming, and the dehumanizing nature of modern architecture. ...

Queen Elizabeth II never gave a press interview in her life, even though she lived through a time when the British press were hem-kissers to the monarch. Charles



King Charles III greets the public in Doncaster, Britain, on November 9, 2022. | PHOTO: Molly Darlington/Reuters/Picture Alliance

has spent hours and hours with the BBC, despite having faced the media buzz saw, the worst of the worst tabloids in the 1990s.

The queen believed, devoutly, in Jesus Christ as lord and savior. She was a religious figure as "Defender of the Faith and Supreme Governor of the Church of England." Her Christmas messages often got in a mention of Jesus.

Charles is more spiritual than devout. He believes we have fallen from grace, from a more tradi-

tional, natural, Edenic state, by succumbing, much too much, to mechanistic, technological, modernist thinking. In his 2010 book 'Harmony,' a 336-page exposition of his princely philosophy, Charles decries how the Age of Convenience produced the Age of Disconnection.

The queen had her many charities, and so does Charles. But he has gone much further in using his to express a worldview. As Duke of Cornwall, and overseer

of the Duchy of Cornwall, he was responsible for 129,600 acres of land across 20 counties in southwest England, focused on "sustainability," one of his favorite words – and not one the queen dwelled upon. ...

The Prince's Trust, too, over four decades, has helped a million young people in Britain and around the Commonwealth, with free courses, grants, and mentoring opportunities.

Charles has foundations, and he has donors – and that has caused some minor scandals, such as reports of cash donations from a former Qatari prime minister that were handed over in a suitcase and a Fortnum & Mason shopping bag. The Charity Commission declined to investigate. Charles said all donations have been legally declared and accounted for. Charles has said he will return to live in Buckingham Palace in central London, an edifice his mother had mostly abandoned since the pandemic. But the new king also says he wants to slim down the monarchy, get it on 21st century footing. ...

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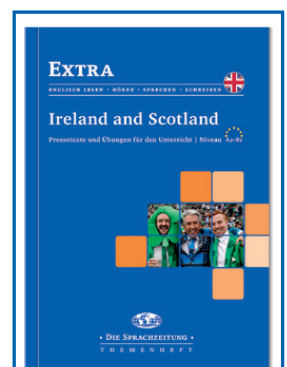
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Camilla's new title, explained

QUEEN CONSORT

What's the difference between 'queen' and 'queen consort'?

BY MARIA PUENTE

KING CHARLES III now presides over the British monarchy. And by his side: Queen Camilla. Wait a second. When Queen Elizabeth II, who died Thursday, reigned for her 70 years, her better half wasn't King Philip but rather HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. As with many things royal, it's complicated.

Camilla's new title was set in motion last February, when Elizabeth decreed during festivities marking her seven decades on the throne that the Duchess of Cornwall should be known as Queen Consort, as opposed to Princess Consort, when Charles ascended to the throne.

"Queen Consort" is the fancy name for the wife of a reigning king, which the United Kingdom has not had since 1952, when King George VI died and his widow, Queen Elizabeth, became the Queen Mother. Confused? You're not alone. We shall endeavor to explain.

What is a queen consort?

All previous wives of British or English kings were queen consorts (that includes all six of Henry VIII's wives, at least while they were married to him). In the 20th century, there were two: Queen Mary, wife of King George V, and Queen Alexandra, wife of King Edward VII (Queen Elizabeth II's grandmother and great-grandmother, respectively). Handy hint: Here's how you can tell the difference between the two Elizabeths: Queen Elizabeth II had a Roman numeral after her name, signifying her as the second sovereign of that name, not a consort.

Also for the record, there have been only six British or English reigning queens among the 41 monarchs since 1066 – Mary I, Elizabeth I, Mary II, Anne, Victoria, Elizabeth II – so it's easier to tell them apart.

What does a queen consort do?

As with the first lady of the United States, there's no job description, no official duties, and no salary. But there's high visibility, high pressure, and high expectations from the public whose taxes pay



Camilla, the Queen Consort, in November 2022. | PHOTO: Chris Jackson/AP/Picture Alliance

In general, a queen consort's job is to support the king in any way she can. Job No. 1 is to birth heirs, but that isn't an issue for Charles, 73, and Camilla, 75, who each have children from their previous marriages. The royal succession is set for three more generations: After Charles comes his elder son, Prince William, 40, and after that, William's elder son, Prince George, 9.

As the wife of the Prince of Wales for the past 17 years, Camilla has already been doing what a queen consort would do: She is a royal patron to scores of charities and good causes, accompanies her husband on royal tours, meets thousands of people every year,

and is gracious and charming with everyone. One no-no: getting involved in political matters.

Who could be a model for Queen Camilla?

Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, who became queen consort after her brother-in-law, King Edward VIII, abdicated in 1936, helped save the British monarchy by steeling her nervous, stuttering husband, who was nearly undone by the pressures of being an unexpected king, especially during World War II. She went with him everywhere, visiting bombed-out Londoners in the East End and spreading her

brand of royal magic that people remembered fondly many decades later. When Buckingham Palace was bombed in 1940 and the king and queen narrowly escaped harm, she said she was glad because it "makes me feel I can look the East End in the face." When she died in 2002 at age 101, an estimated 200,000 people filed past her casket at the Palace of Westminster over three days. The line stretched more than a mile along the River Thames.

Do we have to call her 'Queen Consort Camilla'?

No, Queen Camilla will do. It's nicely alliterative, and the "con-

sort" part is understood. The official palace press operation will always refer to her as "Her Majesty" in any news release, but American media rarely use HM or HRH, for "Her Royal Highness," in referring to Camilla now.

Why isn't Camilla the Princess of Wales?

Because of Diana, the late Princess of Wales, who long blamed Camilla for the breakup of her marriage to Charles (even though that wasn't all Camilla's doing) and because public fury at Camilla remained when she and Charles were married in 2005, eight years after Diana's death in a car crash in Paris. At the time, it was decided that Camilla would take one of Charles's lesser titles, Duchess of Cornwall, to help soothe public feelings.

How come men married to sovereign queens aren't called 'King'?

Because by sexist definition, a king outranks a queen, and if she is the heir – the elder daughter of a king – and she has no brother, as in the case of Elizabeth II, then she is the sovereign and not her husband. He has to walk a few paces behind her for the rest of their married life. That's especially true if he's foreign-born, as was the case for Prince Philip.

Will Queen Camilla be crowned?

Yes. The most important head at any coronation is that of the sovereign, but the queen consort is crowned, too.

And according to 'The Mail on Sunday,' Camilla will be crowned with the Queen Mother's platinum and diamond tiara, created for George VI's coronation in 1937. The crown features thousands of diamonds, including the infamous 105-carat Koh-i-Noor diamond from India, which came into British hands and the British Crown Jewels by murky means in the colonial era. It was last seen in public resting on the Queen Mother's casket at her funeral. By contrast, when Elizabeth II was crowned in Westminster Abbey in June 1953, she was alone on the throne above the Stone of Scone, and she alone received St. Edward's Crown from the Archbishop of Canterbury.

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The Queen Mother, Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, was queen consort from 1936 to 1952. | PHOTO: Peter Wood Archives/Getty Images



King Edward VII and wife Alexandra, who served as queen consort from 1901 to 1909. | PHOTO: PHOTODISC

COMMENT

The very special power of the royal courtier

ROYAL ENTOURAGE

From Henry VIII's groom of the stool to Elizabeth II's ladies-in-waiting, the Crown's inner circle occupy a unique position.

BY BEN MACINTYRE

"BUT WHERE are you really from?" Lady Susan Hussey repeatedly demanded of the charity boss Ngozi Fulani, apparently unable to comprehend that a woman with black skin might really come from Hackney. Hussey herself seems to come from the Jurassic period of royal history (it's hard to be certain without carbon dating), when courtiers with arcane confected titles still roamed the palaces, meeting only other nobles, rendered powerful by proximity to the royal personage and unencumbered by contact with the modern world.

Before her abrupt departure from Buckingham Palace, Lady Susan Hussey of North Bradley had been a woman of the bedchamber to Elizabeth II, a lady of the household to King Charles, Dame Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order, recipient of the Royal Household Long and Faithful Service Medal and (for as yet mysterious services to Mexico) the Order of the Aztec Eagle. The Aztec Empire ended in 1521. She was the longest serving lady-in-waiting. She joined the royal household in 1960 and has been waiting in a ladylike way ever since.

This is what Hussey was; what she did was answer letters, attend memorial services, arrange the acquisition of personal items for royal use, make small talk, inquire after the health of royal acquaintances who were unwell, and generally tell the monarch exactly what she (and latterly he) expected to hear. This does not necessarily equip one with a nuanced understanding of 21st-century racial sensitivities, which is why, when this 83-year-old from an Ancien Régime was wheeled into a situation involving people of different colours, it all went horribly wrong.

Not since the great "Bedchamber Crisis" of 1839 has one of these obscure denizens of the royal bedroom crashed on to the front pages. On that occasion, the



Lady Susan Hussey in 2012. | PHOTO: Max Mumby/Indigo/Getty Images

to replace some of her 25 ladies of the bedchamber, many of whom were wives or relatives of leading Whig politicians, with Tory companions. She refused; Peel declined to form a government. Prince Albert, ever the diplomat, defused the tense situation by persuading some of the queen's ladies to resign voluntarily. That crisis reflected an age when courtiers were still politicians of real influence, as they have been through most of British history.

Under the Tudors, the queen's senior royal attendant was known as the chief gentlewoman of the privy chamber. Kings were attended by the groom of the stool, an aristocratic lavatory attendant whose job was almost as nasty as its sounds. Named after a portable loo known as a "close stool", the role was created under Henry VIII to assist with royal bowel movements and generally attend to his ablutions. (Even more unpleasant was the job of the king's gong scourer, appointed to clean out, by hand, the underground, non-flushing sewers of all royal palaces within 20 miles of London.)

The title of groom of the stool – not to be confused with "esquires of the body", who tidied the bedroom and changed the king's pants – inevitably attracted some spectacular toadies, but it was a position of real influence, with direct access to the king and control over the key to his bedroom. Over time, grooms of the stool in effect became personal secretaries and even ministers of the royal treasury. The groom of the stool was, in every sense, the power behind the throne.

The fastidious Victorians tried to pretend the groom of the stool was really the "groom of the stole", a wardrobe manager in



Royal courtiers to King Charles III: From left, Sir Edward Young, Peter St Clair Erskine, and Sir Clive Alderton. | PHOTO: Max Mumby/Indigo/Getty Images

charge of draping furs around the royal neck rather than lavatorial duties. The job was finally abolished in 1901, when Edward VII became king.

Grooms of the stool served only kings, so with the accession of Elizabeth I, the position was replaced with the first lady of the bedchamber, forerunner of the role occupied by Hussey. Women of the bedchamber were also required to taste Her Majesty's food, in case it was poisoned. In 1728, Abigail Hill described her duties thus: "The bedchamber woman pulled on the queen's gloves, when she could not do it herself."

The royal retinue, like the royal family, is much more diverse than it was, even if its upper ranks are still dominated by white aristocratic males, the "men in grey", as Princess Diana referred to them. But among the pursuivants and the extra women of the bedchamber, the equerries, clerks, and grooms, lurk antediluvian attitudes. Hussey has emerged as the clear

front-runner in the 2022 Duke of Edinburgh Awards for Extreme Insensitivity in the Royal Household, but she is not the only contender.

It matters not if monarchs do not cook, dress themselves, put on their gloves themselves, or make their own beds and get angry with underlings when the pens leak. Who cares if the king's toothpaste is squeezed for him from a crested silver dispenser? But the royal entourage is no longer simply a cocoon around the Crown. These are also public figures: what they think and say moulds perceptions of Britain. The Russian and French Revolutions occurred, in part, because the monarchy was perceived to be surrounded by courtiers out of touch and out of sympathy with the general populace. Medieval barons frequently justified rebellion on the grounds that the ruler was being badly advised by unworldly or wicked counsellors. Elizabeth II achieved the magical trick of appearing close to her subjects while remaining impossibly and unbridgeably distant from them, encircled by people who never questioned her view of the world. Whenever a royal dinosaur utters something grimly inappropriate and absurdly anachronistic, that gap widens, and the species totters closer to extinction.

Kings require companionship, confidantes who speak and think as they do. But in an increasingly accessible and relevant monarchy, royalty also needs attendants who think, sound, and look different to them, advisers and consorts able to bring the rest of the real world closer. People, in short, like Fulani, who come from a Britain that ordinary people live in.

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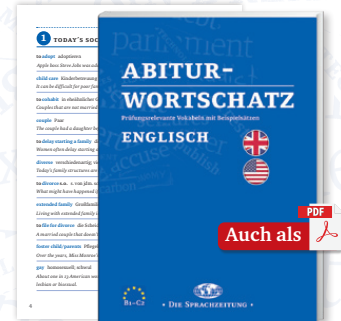
Painting from Charles Edward Wagstaff that shows the coronation of Queen Victoria as she surveys her family, clergy, and courtiers. | PHOTO: Heritage Images/Picture

abdicate	abdanken
abdication	Abdankung
accession (to the throne)	Thronbesteigung
Act of Settlement	Gesetz von 1701 zur Thronfolgeregelung
adviser	Berater(in)
archbishop	Erzbischof
ascend the throne	den Thron besteigen
ascension to the throne	Thronbesteigung
assassination	Attentat
behead	enthaupten
ensorship	Zensur
chair	den Vorsitz führen
chancellor of the exchequer	brit. Finanzminister(in)
civil list	Zivilliste (dem Monarchen und seinen Angehörigen gewährter Betrag im Staatshaushalt)
consort	Gemahl(in)
constitution	Verfassung
contemporary	Zeitgenosse(-in)
coronate	krönen
coronation	Krönung
counsellor of state	Staatsrat(-rätin)
court circular	Hofberichterstattung
crown jewels	Kronjuwelen
crown	krönen
divine right of kings	Königtum von Gottes Gnaden
duchess	Herzogin
duchy	Herzogtum
duke	Herzog
estate	Anwesen
footman	Dienstbote; Lakai
governance	Staatsführung
head of state	Staatsoberhaupt
heir apparent	rechtmäßige(r) Thronfolger(in)
heir to the throne	Thronerbe(-in)
Highness	Hoheit
independence	Unabhängigkeit
inherit	erben
international relations	internationale Beziehungen
investiture	Ordensverleihung
lady-in-waiting	Hofdame
legal tender	gesetzliches Zahlungsmittel
legislative process	Gesetzgebungsverfahren
lord chamberlain	Oberhofmeister
Majesty	Majestät
nationalisation	Verstaatlichung
orb	Reichsapfel
patron	Schirmherr(in)
primogeniture	Vorrecht des Erstgeborenen
queen consort	Königsgemahlin
realm	Reich
referendum	Volksentscheid

regalia	Insignien
regicide	Königsmord
regnal name	Regierungsname
reign	Regentschaft
reparations	Wiedergutmachung; Entschädigungszahlungen
republicanism	Wandel zur Republik
restoration	Restauration
royal courtier	Höfling
rule	Herrschaft
scepter	Zepher
select committee	Sonderausschuss
slavery	Sklaverei
sovereign grant	jährliche Zahlung der brit. Regierung an den Monarchen zur Finanzierung seiner öffentl. Verpflichtungen
sovereign	Souverän(in)
succeed	nachfolgen
succession to the throne	Erbfolge; Thronfolge
treason	Hochverrat
xenophobia	Fremdenfeindlichkeit

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