

Chapter 39 : “The Castle Diaries”

The main difficulty in writing CG's biography is that after the marriage to Silvia there is no real story. CG is born, grows up, matures, ascends the throne, finds the lady of his heart, and then it's all over. The daily routine begins. CG and Silvia have often expressed a desire for recognition of the work they are doing. So what are they doing?

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The Court distinguishes between internal and external activities. The internal activities are the royal family's private life and administration. The Management Group meetings take three hours each week. The external activities are what is “displayed”. The Royal Court's information department publishes an annual activity report with the external activities in the form of a diary. In the annual report 1997-2011, 15 years, there are 7228 “events”. Per year CG participates in 291 events, Silvia in 211, CG alone in 110, Silvia alone in 81 & both at the same time in 130. During the last 10 years, Crown Princess Victoria has taken over some 70 events each year from CG and Silvia. The workload is uneven and has always been so. For example, in September 1974, CG was free 13 days and the rest of the time worked 190 hours.¹ It is difficult to assess their children's efforts based on the activity reports. Sometimes training is considered an external activity, sometimes not. In 1997-2011, Crown Princess Victoria had 43 percent of CG's external activities, Prince Carl Philip had 13 percent and Princess Madeleine 10 percent.

The activity report describes each event. The events have been coded according to the tables below. The coding has been done in three groups and then refined: *Torekov* is what has to do with CG's duties under the constitution. *Protection* is the organization in which CG is actively involved. *Representation* is everything else.

CG's constitutional activities according to the *Torekov* are 32 percent of the events, his *patronage* 17 percent and his *representation* 51 percent. At half of the events he makes a speech. All the events require administration so maybe the appanage is spent according to these percentages. Whether this is good or bad escapes my judgment. CG's critics tend to emphasize that his duties are too diffuse to be commented on. However, as the tables shows, they are not more diffuse than that they can be described. Another criticism is that his duties are up to himself, which is 50 percent correct, viz. have no connection to the constitution. CG's involvement in sports has been criticized but is not very extensive. He sees it as part of Swedish democracy. Everyone in the audience cheers for the winner.

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The court lists 66 organizations that CG protects. The list appears to be out of date. In the last 15 years, CG has been interested in only 48 of the organizations and only seven of them annually. CG protects the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) but WWF is not included in the list. The extensive “free” representation (category other) is that CG travels the country and takes an interest in most anything.

1997-2011 CG had 175 working days per year with 291 events. On an average Silvia participated in 45 percent of them. She has always devoted herself to family. Over time her

¹ Annette Kullenberg. Överklassens statschef: Om exploateringen av kungen. I: Överklassen i Sverige. 1975.

own activities have grown in scope. The number of common working days has fallen from 130 to 83. The number of joint activities has fallen from 166 to 100.

Silvia's other patronage is about disability issues and the Convention on the Rights of Children. Her other representation differs slightly from CGs. Less of history & technology. More of medicine & culture. Every now and then, she complains that no one writes about it. I have found two such statements. One from 1979 and this from 1988: "I often participate in interesting seminars and congresses on e.g. medical issues. When the only result in the newspapers then becomes pictures and texts that depict my clothes and my hat - then I am sad."² On her 70th anniversary, the subject was once again in the papers: "She suffers from the same thing that many other women suffer from, namely that we are all too rarely described according to our skills, and all too often according to how we look. Silvia is not just tiaras and frayed dresses."³

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Further lists are published by the Court of CG's state visits, national tours and municipal visits. It is difficult to understand what the court wants to accomplish with the lists except proving CG's energy and endurance. In addition to the state visits, there are numerous official visits. For example, Sweden-America have never had state visits but 17 official visits 1973-2011, several of them with CG. He spends about 40 days a year travelling within the country and abroad.

1973-2011, CG carried out 69 state visits and received 56 response visits. A total of 125 state visits from and to 50 countries. Dividing the world into regions, CG has mainly visited nearby areas: Nordic, Baltic, North Sea, Mediterranean & Central Europe (47 visits = 67 percent). The response visits were also mainly from these neighbouring countries (45 response visits = 82 percent). Visits and response visits from nearby countries have on average lasted 3.5 days. The remote countries a day longer. Obviously, state visits are more political than economical. Marks of friendship between regimes. That is also how they are perceived. An analysis of the economic impact of the state visits, slight to none existent, is presented in a later chapter.

Depending on how you define it, representation is all or half of CG's profession. Despite this, the management team does not seem to have discussed what it should be used for. The guidelines are to spread the visits across the country and to cater for all interests perceived as serious. It was the same idea as with the medal award. To reward people by paying attention to them. Marshal of the Realm Ingemar Eliasson, as an old politician, wanted to politicize the representation by giving it a stated purpose, but that seems to have had no effect:

IE: Representing the people and being a symbol of the nation should also be given an intellectual content. It should include the task of forming and articulating values upon which Swedish democracy is based. In this sense, the Head of State participates in a continuous opinion-forming without, however, interfering in current political issues.⁴

² Kerstin Alfredsson. Kungaparet i exklusiv intervju. Journalisten, 1988:33.

³ Lova Olsson. Intervju med Maud Olofsson. Svenska Dagbladet, 2013-10-20.

⁴ Ingemar Eliasson. Jag vet var jag kommer ifrån - stycken om mitt liv. Albert Bonniers förlag, 2013.

Table 39.1 Joint activities of CG and Silvia 1997-2011. Annual averages of number of activities. N=4358 over 15 years. One activity \leq 1 day. The digits are rounded to the nearest integer.

	N _{CG}	N _{Silvia}
Torekov		
Parliament	2	2
Cabinet meetings	4	
Foreign affairs committee	6	
Politicians (Swedish)	0	5
Politicians (foreign)	6	5
State visits	6	16
Diplomats	8	6
Patronage		
World Scout Foundation	14	3
World Wildlife Fund WWF	5	
Royal Academies	20	9
Other	10	5
Representation		
National Day Celebration	3	3
Inaugurations	16	7
County & Municipal Visits	5	3
Foreign travel	8	6
Sport	10	5
Swedish Armed Forces	8	1
Church	8	8
Hunting	4	1
Family	8	8
Scholarships & Medals	24	9
Royal Colloquium	4	1
Övrigt	51	6

Table 39.2 Silvia's own activities 1997-2011. Annual averages of number of activities.
 N=1214 over 15 years. One activity \leq 1 day. The digits are rounded to the nearest integer.

	N _{Silvia}
Charity	
The Silvia home	11
Mentor Foundation	9
World Childhood	15
Other	6
Representation	
Scholarships	2
Women's associations	2
Other	44