

Chapter 44 : “Partying”

Around 1979/80 the record producer Billy Butt lived in New York next door to CG's friend Christina “Titti” Wachtmeister. “At the parties at my house, Titti would tell me hair-curling stories from her youth in Sweden. For a short period in the 60's, she had been The King's girlfriend and she often said that there could be a constitutional crisis if the Swedish people knew what she called the “truth about the King's weaknesses for the opposite sex”¹ This sounds suggestive but has been difficult to confirm. CG has partied but not to such an extent that he would risk the crown. Moreover, it was a long time ago. I summarize:

*

Parties and nachspiels in the early 1960s took place at the Castle. The accounts of these are consistent. As long as there were outsiders present, CG stood in a corner for himself and looked unhappy. When he was among friends, he relaxed, danced dutifully and told stories.

Eyewitness accounts of CG partying in the late 1960s and early 1970s have been published continuously and in retrospect. The extent appears to have been once or twice a month. Initially they took place in private apartments or in booked restaurants and included his circle of friends. This completely changed when the nightclub Alexandra opened on May 13, 1968.

The nightclub Alexandra (1968-1988) was an international discotheque with liquor bar, restaurant, discotheque, piano bar, stage with performances and a banquet hall. The style was guards with 18th-century costumes and a lot of velvet drapes and crystal chandeliers. The customers were part hand-picked with membership cards and part those that the guards let in. The audience was very mixed, ranging from business profiles of the time to young actors and artists. The youngest guests were around 18 and the oldest were up 80. The doorkeepers played an important role in maintaining the “member mix” which was new for Sweden. Alexandra moved around among different premises: Strand hotel Nybrokajen 9 (1968-1969), old restaurant Cecil Biblioteksgatan 5 (1969-1977), Döbelnsgatan 3 (1978-1984) and the premises below Plaza hotel Birger Jarlsgatan 29 (1985-1988).²

CG mainly visited Biblioteksgatan 5. The premises there were in two planes with a banquet floor. The bar room was decorated in old classic pub style with wooden panels and fireplace. The Polar studio was nearby why the ABBA artists were often there. The first time CG was there was at Titti Wachtmeister's graduation party shortly after the opening. At first, he was like any other guest.

At the Alexandra discotheque in Stockholm where the prince usually goes with his guests, they say that he is a very unassuming man. He never demands any particular table, and he is always very friendly with the staff. The favourite dish is steak tartare. Beverage: beer, preferably Amstel, and schnapps. Coffee and Grand Marnier.³

¹ Billy Butt. Jag har sett bildbevis på Kungen. Newzglobe.com, 2010-11-04.

² Carl Johan Merner. Alexandra Charles - Stockholmsnattens drottning. Magasin, 2004-02-27.

³ Inger Pettersson. Månadens bok: Carl Gustaf ”Skandalprinsen”. Lektyr, 1973:22.

He usually comes relatively late in the evening and always with four-five good friends. He rarely dances, sits mostly at the table and drinks a glass of wine. Liv Porjé is always there.⁴

I [Amelia Adamo] was often at Alexandra's. You always kept an eye on what he was doing – if he smoked, how many drinks, what women he looked at – but we left him alone. There was no one who brought a camera and flashed it in his face.⁵

Later he got a reserved table for himself and his friends and the same at Number One and Lord Nilsson, a small discotheque on Regeringsgatan 66 above the nightclub Ambassadeur, and his presence was kept secret from the other guests by him entering and leaving by the back door. The information is piecemeal, but he is said to have drunk noticeably, sometimes so much, that during his visits there in the early 1970s he had to be helped out. However, he never drank himself into a stupor, nor was he affected in any other way. A stream of young girls sat at his table. He danced with both known and unknown. If they acted as if it was strange that they were dancing with him, he broke off and left them on the dance floor. In an interview he stated that it was his way of getting to know people. There is an anecdote from this time: “CG met a girl in London whom he invited to a Chinese restaurant. She asked: What are you really doing? - Oh, said CG, I'm travelling around trying to form an idea of the world. What a great job!”⁶ Gustaf VI and Prince Bertil were worried by the tabloids. Both summoned him to talk and tried to get him to abandon his party life and romances or at least be more discreet. They pointed out that the writings were dangerous for his entire future because it made members of the government perceive him to be uninterested in and ill-suited to his future office. No effect however.^{7,8}

*

The depictions of the CG's partying on the continent are almost identical. Here is exemplified by a visit to the ski resort Zermatt in March 1974:

The king's friends usually go down a week before, to have everything ready when the king comes: A maid is usually in place. She washes, sews in buttons and cooks when needed. In Zermatt, the king has many German friends, who come there every year. Young happy-go-lucky guys who like to arrange crazy parties. (Money is not lacking in these circles.) The King has always been a guest of honour at their wild party. He usually appears rather withdrawn: He always sits in an inconspicuous corner with a drink and lets friends take care of the introduction of new friends, even girls.

The King's favourite place is Post Hotel. This is a fantastic place, really several hotels in one, where absolutely EVERYTHING can be found – and under one roof! The “Village” three storey disco is unique in Europe. People from all over the world come here to meet and enjoy themselves. The king usually sits in a “secret” room behind the bar with his friends. Every now and then he shows up and dances with some girl he has become acquainted with.

⁴ Sten Hedman. En chef utan makt. SE, 1973:17.

⁵ Dokumentär special: Från klick till ja, ja, ja. SR P3, 2010-06-13. [Intervju med Amelia Adamo.]

⁶ Husmodern, 1970:50/51.

⁷ Prinsessan Birgitta von Hohenzollern & Fred König. Prinsessan Birgitta. Min egen väg. En memoarbok. Albert Bonniers förlag, 1997.

⁸ Stig H:son-Ericson. Memoarer: Vita havet. Segling i kungliga farvatten. Bonniers, 1976.

Despite intense nightlife, the king is always up early in the morning. Skiing is the most important thing to him and he is very skilled in slalom. With the adjutant (this year his name was Peter Forsman) and the other friends the king spend the whole day on the slopes. The friends are really 100 percent loyal. There is not a girl, not a human being who gets into the gang, without being carefully checked that she is not the type who “leaks”. Absolute silence and secrecy about what goes on behind the facades, is a definite requirement.⁹

*

After the wedding, CG stayed at home for a few years. In June 1978 he, Silvia and several others finished a castle party by visiting Alexandra where they kept going until four in the morning. In 1983 he was seen at discotheques Atlantic. It became routine. Silvia and the other wives got tired of the late hours. They left early, then let the men amuse themselves. There are reports that Silvia went to sleep in the car while CG continued to party. At Alexandra Döbelnsgatan 3, with CG in his 40s, it could still go on like this:

It was a beauty contest that was organized at Alexandra in the mid-80s. When I had won, I was told that the king was in the room with his friends, and that he had bet a thousand bucks on me as the winner. Some of his friends asked if I wanted to see the king. A few minutes later, I was drinking whiskey with him. He was very nice and joked a lot. There's no doubt he was “under the influencer”. There were some pictures of the two of us, but one of the king's friends walked around among the many journalists and photographers who were there and explained to them that this “could not come out”. Yet it was a completely innocent conversation. But, indeed, the next day there was not a line in the papers about this.¹⁰

The perception of CG's behaviour seems to have varied. Some were critical. Others like Karin Lennmor, later editor-in-chief of Svensk Damtidning, understood him as follows:

I remember one of the first times I saw the king in reality. It was in the early 1980s. At that time, there was a hot spot top [floating] restaurant called Eriks, run by the king's friend Erik Lallerstedt. This boat or barge was anchored at Strandvägen. I sat there and had dinner when the king and a bunch of his male friends entered. It was Noppe, Aje and all kinds of people. Suddenly these guys wanted to drink completely ordinary drinks so they ordered rum and cola, cognac and lemonade and scotch and zingo and thought it was really fun to drink these drinks. It was a bit special because the king was in such a good mood that he started chanting his orders and everyone in the restaurant could not fail to hear this when the king started on “Guys do you want something to drink...”. I remember that I thought it was quite nice and fun that he who was then a young king could sit down and act like a normal man with his friends.¹¹

Little had changed about 1999/2000 with CG in his 55s and Alexandra's long gone:

A young woman we talked to fits well into the description [of how the man in the street perceives the women around the king's friends gang - blonde models with “a proper shelf”]. ...

⁹ Christina Berthold. *Damernas Värld*, 1974:12.

¹⁰ Fredrik Wilkingsson & Filip Hammar. *Kungen*. *Magasinet Bon*, 2002:1, s 131-138.

¹¹ Karin Lennmor. *Mitt starkaste minne av kungen*. Youtube, juni 2008.

- I have been with the king's friends a few times. It usually takes place either in a restaurant or in a private apartment. Before we girls show up, the men have had some activity for themselves, like sauna or hunting. Then they'll have dinner, and we'll arrive just in time for the buffet.
- They party hard and the king is keen on schnappsing vodka. Many of the women are pretty embarrassing. They dream of getting a rich lover who can pay for their walks on Biblioteksgatan. Those times I've met the king, he's done his job perfectly. Sure, he's drunk, but he's always nice and talks to the women without crossing the line. It's worse with his friends. Some of them are really creepy. They promise St Tropez trips to most everybody, despite the fact that they have a wife and that we girls sometimes are good friends with their children.
- When they get drunk enough the men want to dance. These guys are unbelievably bad at it and they have a bad taste in music. Absolute Hits or Absolute Dance until you are ready to scream. If you get tired in the wee hours and want to go home, you are not allowed. The doors are guarded by bored security guys, who do not let anyone out until the king leaves the party. And that's usually very late in the day.

Another young woman ended up in a two-hour conversation with the king during a similar event.

- The atmosphere was very old-mannish. These people do not age in the normal way. They are desperately hanging on to youth, sex and whatever. Lewd drinking songs from their university days. Lewd jokes that were funny in the 1800s. I liked talking to the king though. I asked him a lot of questions about things that I have always wondered about - if he has any best friend, if he has had summer jobs and so on - but it felt like he was very nervous where his answer would end up.
- Although we girls are “approved” by the king's friends, I don't really think he can relax completely in our company. I'm guessing he's doing his hardest partying when he's alone with his geezers. At least some of his friends hinted at such during the dinner. The funniest incident was when I asked him if I could address him as “you”, instead of constantly saying “Does the king want more vodkaschnapps?”. He looked very puzzled and said: “But I AM the King!” We both laughed at that. Then Michaëla de la Cour entered the hall. ...
- When Michaëla entered, I turned into air. The king was really entranced by her.

This Michaëla affair is confirmed by two more women who took part in the festivities, but both also point out that another former Army of Lovers member is even better placed on the King's personal ranking list.

- Camilla Henemark is still the favourite. The King thinks she is interesting. She's not a 22-year-old model with nada to say. She has “lived”, he thinks.¹²

Numerous fragmentary records of these parties are circulating, they seem to have taken place in the late 1990s. The conversations were low class. One of CG's standard jokes was “Guys, don't you have your own air plane?” (Since 1992, CG has access to the state's Gulfstream IV twin-engine business jet.) If you want to be the first among equals, I suppose you must sometimes impress the point. It was smoking, drinking, eating, bragging and sometimes fornicating in lavish or not so lavish surroundings. The women were Swedish demimondes: Artists, bored mistresses, kept woman, party-hungry singles, overage divorcees and the curious. It is hard to fathom what CG was doing there. The level of pheromones was often high enough to make virgins swoon. Maybe it was that. Or it was the change of scenery. Or

¹² Fredrik Wilkingsson & Filip Hammar. Kungen. Magasinet Bon, 2002:1, s 131-138.

that the very secrecy amused him. Sometimes CG was transported home by bodyguards who, just in case, threatened all eyewitnesses, coffee girls, the high guard, etc., to protect his name and good reputation. In this environment, the artist Camilla Henemark, hard to impress and senselessly delicious, must have appeared as a revelation.

The information about how CG behaves before he passes out is contradictory. According to some, he gets relaxed, funny and has even danced on the tables. (That must be in Zermatt where the tables are dimensioned for that.) According to others, he becomes silent and “mumbly” so no one understands what he is saying. Like when he's stressed out. It happens that he loses his composure, unclear whether it is due to the liquor or something else. Noppe & Co know well which buttons to press. There seem to be a lot of aggressions being vented.

A common routine that occurs approximately every two months is, according to Expressen's respondent, that they gather at the home of Aje Philipson, Noppe Lewenhaupt or Anders Lettström for a drink. The king's closest “party friends” are a close-knit gang of just under ten people. Then they go off to one of the cinemas that arranges private screenings, arranged discreetly but with flair by royal friend Christer Gustafsson who is also a good friend of Björn Borg. There, the friends usually watch some action film, chosen at the King's request, several months before the Swedish premiere. The King's favourite actor is Steven Seagal.

- We have had several private shows for the King and his friends, among other things, they were here and saw Bond when we had those films, says Katharina Berglund, Marketing Manager at UIP, United International Pictures. According to her, Queen Silvia has also been present at some occasions, but this is unusual.

- It is of course almost impossible to go to a normal cinema for them, says Berglund, who tells us that the private cinema rooms can take up to 25 people.

According to several independent sources, the company then goes to some apartment in Stockholm, different from time to time and eat a nice dinner with good wines.

- At these parties, no wives are allowed to attend, besides I do not think that there is a lady with pride who wants to, says a person with good insight. In time for dessert and cognac, the invited women arrive. Those invited have already met the King's friends who know that they are not spreading any rumours. The king must be able to relax with his friends.

- The King attends the final count, when the disloyal or boring have been weeded out, says a source.

Another source tells us that these parties have been traditional for many years.

They never grow up, and now that they're all around 60 years old, it's getting pathetic, says a close source. Several of the king's friends live playboy life and have remarried several times and with considerably younger women.¹³

Aftonbladet managed to find photos from one of the events and interviewed two participants Monica & Carina. The pictures depicted a smaller banquet - as it seems at a private apartment - and perhaps 25 participants. CG looks to be in its 40s. He's making a welcome speech. Next to him is Anders Lettström. The others are pixelated. Long after, the women had the same thoughts: “You can't say that we were luxury prostitutes because we didn't get paid, but they paid for everything and expected that you would comply. They are nice, charming even, but

¹³ Terese Christiansson, Anders Fallenius & Johan T Lindwall. Här festar han med grabbarna. Expressen, 2004-09-26.

you are treated as their personal possession.”¹⁴ At CG's 50th birthday party, Magnus Uggla entertained with his song “Old geezers” which he long afterwards claimed was inspired by the royal party fixer Christer Gustafsson. The lyrics were uncompromisingly low-level: “Pick'm up, teenage slut, make'm cum, gezzar scum, keep going until the heart attack!” That's life folks.

The wives seem to long have suffered in silence. Later, there were several divorces. In early 2000, an anonymous interview with Aje Philipson's ex-wife Gisela Schöön was published:

Se & Hör: It began with a multimillionaire and known good friend of King Carl Gustaf suspecting that his slightly younger wife was betraying him. He hired a private investigator who watched her day and night and tapped her telephone. The work produced results and the man was told - the wife met another man. And not just any old man but a very good friend of his! But the private detective's efforts also produced other results. The telephone tapping revealed that four other women, good friends of the family even, talked about their own erotic adventures. The shocking news caused the middle-aged men to hit the ceiling. In all four cases, divorce proceedings are now under way.

Gisela Schöön: You have to understand the environment. These men are very wealthy. They have never really had to work seriously and they have an extremely old-fashioned view of how women should be. Unfortunately, there are women who buy into this concept. They get married because they know that they will be financially cared for, they get to live luxury lives, they get to see things other misses and some are also invited to the King's and Queen's private parties at Drottningholm. ... But getting married into Stockholm's jetset means there are things you just don't do. A woman shouldn't have a regular job, really. She can study, she can learn to do something, but it must not end in any employment. You are expected to stay sweet and fresh, buy stylish clothes, take care of the children, make sure the floor is cleaned and be a partner at parties. At most, it is okay to operate an exclusive boutique and stand there for a few hours a day. ... It is assumed that the husbands have the right to be out on their own adventures. Alone, with friends or in whole gangs. And then it's picking up fresh meat, mostly young girls, cute and starry-eyed models. Just like we once were... Actually, I got tired of my husband's infidelity. It was not a one time thing, it was always going on. It was part of his life. Sex and pleasure with others - home life and fancy official parties with me in long dress. As a childrearing sweet thing to display when it suited him.¹⁵

CG was drawn into it. He had an affair with Camilla Henemark. More about she later. Silvia seems to have been aware of what was going on. There is much evidence of her aversion at this time to Philipson and his circle - their infidelities, divorces, remarriages and trophy wives. She emphasized her independence through a biography and devoted herself more and more to her own interests.

*

¹⁴ Erik Wikman, Mattias Carlsson & Richard Aschberg. Hon var sällskapsflicka åt kungen. Aftonbladet, 2010-11-06.

¹⁵ Sten Hedman. Societetsfrun: jag skäms inte en sekund. Se & Hör, 2000:9.

In 1988 Alexandra closed down. CG was also a member of Club Sällskapet (The Society), but its ban on women was a deterrent, as was its intellectual ambitions in the form of lectures and debates. In 2003, CG's good friend Carl Adam "Noppe" Lewenhaupt opened a members only club Noppe Bar & Restaurang AB that was more in CG's taste. Lewenhaupt thought he had too little to do and needed a hobby. Originally he had intended a neighbourhood bar. The members are chosen by a committee of Noppe, Anders Philipson and two other people to ensure a mix of gender, age and occupation. (67 percent are men; age is 24-92 years; the oldest is Noppe's aunt; professions range from artists & journalists to politicians & financiers.) The number of members is limited to about 1000. With so many members and their guests, the club is relatively "folksy" as once Alexandra's. It operates with strict commercial practices and gives some profit. Silvia's nephew founded a similar but more exclusive club Nobile in 2009.

Since members sign a non-disclosure agreement, there has been a lot of speculation about what is going on at Noppe's. The columnist Linda Skugge calls it a "noble meat market" but that's to overdo it. We enter Noppe's.

The entry to Noppe's has a code lock. The code was long 6969 but has been replaced. On one wall hangs an oil painting in a gold frame of Noppe himself with a crown. On the other wall a picture of the dog that Noppe received his nickname from. There are also portraits of Noppe's ancestors photocopied on canvas. There is a bar counter and several sofas in wine red velvet with low tables. It is incredibly nice at Noppe's says an anonymous guest, like a living room in the middle of Stockholm, personal, cozy and it is easy to go there without company. Sometimes artists perform. In the toilet, there is a picture of a female butt sitting on a chop and gleaming with sauce. Also a woman's tongue licking caviar from a finger. They were removed after a female member took offence, but came back at the request of others.

When CG arrives with a bodyguard, no one pretends to notice them. He and Noppe have a drink at the bar. When the other guests arrive, they disappear down into the basement floor Geezer's Dozen, daytime Noppe's office, otherwise party hall. Some female guests are usually invited. A female voice: It's usually a good atmosphere. The king is always nice, interested, and a gentleman. There is a lot of talk about young women being picked up for later activities, but not when I have attended. This is a group of older men who want to hang out in private without anyone watching them. ... Late at night, the gang comes up to the bar. Then they usually are quite tipsy, not drunk but obviously affected.¹⁶

Geezer's Dozen was a limited company founded in 2003 and a club within the club - originally created to help with the funding of Noppe's. The members were a mixture of old friends and wealthy newcomers. In 2011 it consisted of Johan Åkerhielm (chairman of the board), Carl Adam "Noppe" Lewenhaupt (CEO), Fredrik Ramberg, Erik Lallerstedt, Anders "Aje" Philipson, Laurent Leksell, Fredrik Gottlieb, Christer Tegnér, Patrik Brummer, Stefan Persson, Anders Lettström, Mats Arnhögar. Each had invested 125 thousand kronor. They met every one or two months - not necessarily at Noppe's. "When the old gpng meets - often in a mansion outside the city, or in a chambre séparée later at the gourmet restaurant Pontus in the Greenhouse in the Old Town - he dares to throw the crown aside and just become "CG", a basically nice guy with a good appetite for booze, cars and saunas. ... In recent years, he has only become more intent at partying. It's probably because he no longer has any problem with

¹⁶ [Sammanfattning av flera artiklar.]

being king. The Bernadottes are such; they age like good wine.”¹⁷ The newspaper S in 2010 published a map of the most common haunts.¹⁸

*

CG also organizes parties of his own, often in the form of a supper, which he likes to spice with horseplay or imitations. CG is good at imitating people and calls. For example, he plays the horn on his lips. The parties come in many sizes and variants, e.g. masquerades. These can be very expensive. For example, Silvia had a Finnish gypsy suit stitched up. Other times she was Marilyn Monroe, Bedouin, Rococo etc. CG has been Zorro, unknown nigger with cigar, Cassius Clay, the boxing promoter Don King, barbed hippie with gold chains over the brisket or hidden in behind full beard. At one point he wore a turn-of-the-century swimsuit with a small ruffled hat. He has also appeared as a rabbit, African tribal chief, oil sheik, Oriental prince, nurse, Birger Jarl, drag queen, gondolier and goblin.¹⁹ CG has worn some of these outfits at the “ski carnival” that used to be held at Easter in Storlien.

The royal house's preference for masquerades has a social function. The mask temporarily deletes class boundaries. It's like being at a lavish corporate party where everyone, including the boss, socializes on an equal footing. CG's social image in different contexts - he downplays his role of king - is part of the role-playing game. However, you should be careful not to take it at face value.

*

Around 1978, a largish private dinner could look like this:

* What's it like at a royal party (that's the name even if Carl Gustaf and Silvia are not hosts), asks one who has never been. And how are the King and Queen so private?
- It's not very different from a normal party, responds those who usually attend. And the King and Queen behave in such contexts just like any other young couple. A single difference concerns the Queen. She always wears her hair down as to mark that this is her private life. If you get into these circles it is quite easy to both invite and be invited to a royal party. Both king and queen are amused by celebration and glam - and there are always reasons for it. It can be an anniversary ... inauguration of some kind ... birthday, yes the reasons are many.

* How does the evening begin?
- First there is the mandatory dinner. Waitresses and porcelain are rented and on the menu is everything that belongs to a first class supper – including the right vintage wine. The number of guests usually hover around 100. These are invited, notified of the time and place via printed invitation cards. The gentlemen are dressed in tuxedo and the ladies in long dress. The ages vary greatly, ranging from 17 to 70 years. The etiquette is rigid, mainly among the older party participants, but they influence the rest. There are rarely any so-called oversteps.

No royal party lacks either live music or dance. The orchestras vary slightly - but all are of good Swedish top class. The host dances with Queen Silvia a few laps - then the

¹⁷ Fredrik Wilkingsson & Filip Hammar. Kungen. Magasinet Bon, 2002:1, s 131-138.

¹⁸ Leif Holmkvist. Kungens hemliga klubb. Tidskriften S, 2010:22.

¹⁹ Ida Thunberg. Kungens vilda festnatt. Expressen, 2005-09-18.

other dancers fall in ... The dance comes loose, and the mood rises quickly among everyone. There is a party feeling. The rock music is as poppy as nice swinging rhythmic tones a la rumba and samba - music that not least Queen Silvia and the king with for that matter like sharp. Often they themselves go up to the orchestra and wish more of some special favourite song The clock usually approaches ten before the dance begins and it does not stop until half past four o'clock in the morning if there is real speed at the party. The dance is interspersed with disco music during the breaks. The Queen likes to dance and is of course invited every time. The king usually takes things a little easier. They rarely dance with each other just so that other guests can have the opportunity to invite.

A frequent feature is a form of an "11-guest". These are usually current stars from the tavern shows that come to visit. Recently, there have been guest appearances of After Dark, Magnus Uggla, Björn Skifs and Lill Lindfors among others. The only person who has rejected such an exclusive side job is Cornelis Vreeswijk, not for ideological reasons, but because of other commitments. It also happens that the king makes improvised speeches. Normally, the head of his cabinet, Jan Mårtenson, is responsible for the official speeches, but the King now has a good name for himself to make fun acceptance speeches unprepared.

* How to address the King and Queen at these private events'?

- No one says "you", neither Carl Gustaf nor Silvia. The closest the inner circle of friends comes is to address them as the King and the Queen. [Even if they want to be regarded as private persons in this context, it cannot be denied that they are the main attraction. The other guests flock around them and the conversation is lively. Topics vary, of course, but one is forbidden - politics. Silvia speaks better and better Swedish and appreciates that the conversation is being conducted in her new mother tongue.

When for once free of press photographers, the king also lets loose more than usual and you often see him vigorously gesturing during the talks - unlike the strict hands-on-back attitude when he is out on official missions. None of the guests at a royal party get drunk even if there are spirits of all kinds. If someone falls out of the frame, he is no longer part of the circle. That circle is almost always the same at every party - it's just the guests around them who shift.²⁰

Someone in the circle of acquaintances (possibly to help CG's image) has published the following story on Flashback of a more informal event in 2011:

As I pointed out before, there are many who think they "know" the king (because it is nice and exclusive) but not many who really know him. I remember the first time I met him, then there were all sorts of "nice people" in place and everyone went up to and greeted the king (including myself), ladies kissed him on the cheeks and the gentlemen shook hands and bowed politely and they tried to talk to him as if they were friends and you could look at the king's facial expression that he thought it was hard that everyone should always talk to him. At least I understand my relationship with him, i.e. that I do not know him and that he does not want to know me, so I leave him alone, which he likes and thus remembered my name (at another occasion he said "Hi LongJon" [pseudonym] and held up his hand to me, I was completely flabbergasted :)

²⁰ Birgitta Gauffin. Så här går det till på de privata kungafesterna. Husmodern, 1978:29.

Later in the evening, he saw him sitting at the bar smoking a cigar (indoors, even though you weren't allowed ;) drinking a whisky and he sat talking to the bartender. I talked to another on the spot about this, of which he also thought that the king thinks it is nice to be a little “alone” from time to time.

However, when he is with his close friends during a party, he is a completely different person from the one he is outwardly. Then he becomes a lovely, lovely gentleman, who pulls all the dirty jokes in the book and counters with quick jokes and ironic answers about everything. I remember an occasion where we were a “small gang” of between 15 - 40 people (I know the exact number, but must be careful here) and he drew his favourite line (as I heard on two other occasions) when he ordered whisky and says aloud “Pour in a lot of whisky, I have to prove to Magnus Uggla that I am not only king in Sweden” but also in the bar”.

The King loves cigars and his favourites are Hafströms of Sweden. He is extremely fond of whisky and red wine and he loves sweets (his dessert plates are always the greatest when there is a buffet). His watch is a Sjöö Sandström. [A “Royal steel classic” for 50 thousand, a 50-year gift from the manufacturer; CG may also have a Hublot, a gift on his 40th birthday.] He always has a shirt with cuff buttons. He is more likely to wear a jacket and trousers (coloured separately) than a whole suit. His jacket is usually Oscar Jacobsson or HM (!). He loves nature and hunting and he is not afraid to make his needs out in nature or to sleep in tents (here I have a funny story that the king pulled on two occasions: When he hunts, SÄPO is always with him and guards him. In the evening they went to the hunting lodge, to pitch tents to his bodyguards and the king's bed was made in the hunting lodge. The king enters the cabin and comes out angry and speaks loudly and says “Men! Who made my bed in the hunting cabin?” A trembling bodyguard raises his hand. The king looks at him and says “it was fantastically well made. As a reward you get to sleep inside the cabin, while I sleep here outdoors”. And so it was. The king slept in a tent, while one of his bodyguards slept in the royal cottage).

The king is quick and has a very sarcastic humor. He likes to joke about himself and about the Queen. [The joke about Silvia has sometimes made the surrounding community wonder. Epithets like “The German bitch” seems more aggressive than funny.] He has nicknames of all his friends. And, he's a hell of a storyteller. When the situation suits him, everyone sits still and the king draws storyline after storyline (that I think he seasons up with a bit of invention sometimes, to make them even more fun). He likes to make dirty joke and to say “that's what she said” when it is suitable.

With my hand on my heart I can say that I have rarely had so much fun, as when I have been at the “private” and “small” events where the king has attended. The atmosphere is always good and he goes from being king to an ordinary fellow man who has the most fun stories and the best jokes to tell.

Unfortunately, he cannot be so in public, as a king he should be grand, stately and overbearing and not comfortable, entertaining and humane.²¹

²¹ Flashback. Skvaller om kungens polare Anders Lettström. ”LongJon2”, #58, 2011-02-12.

These informal parties also follow a protocol, even though it has been relaxed over time. CG in many ways behaves like a courtier - necessary when you deal with so many people.

Since courtiers are nowadays a dying breed, I shall describe how the profession was understood in the past. One aspect was tact. For example, Gustaf V took care not to normally accentuate or belittle anyone and not himself. Public recognition should always be based on personal merit and should not set a precedent or be designed in such a way as to make someone feel bypassed. When he greeted a company, the order in which it was done would appear natural but at the same time take into account the rank of the persons. His jokes should never hurt. In addition, King Gustaf V was keen on fair play. His questions were always honest and he demanded an honest answer. However, he could not stand criticism of absentees. Perhaps one can sum it up as that he lived by the standards of absolute justice & absolute consistency. CG doesn't have the patience to do that, but he avoids bad-mouthing people.