

Lessons In Life For The Future King William V
The polished CV of the Modern Next-in-Line in the family business

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I had commented in February that people - whether princess material to next-in-lines for the throne or next-in-line at the checkout counter - marry when their CVs are ready. In this article I examine what extra training and skill should the next-in-line royals possess before they walk down the aisle? Not much different from potential high-flyers, captains of industry, and Masters of the Universe throughout the world. But when you take into consideration that theirs is family business, we direct our focus to the best practices of succession planning for family-owned and -run enterprises, whether royal or regional or multinational.

Ladies, if you want to avoid what happened to Kate Middleton, and a word to all potential Walkers - don't be a clinging vine, do your bit and realize that your swain is doing his or her best for the country.

Those best prepared to take over the family business grasp two important realities: their place both in the enterprise and in an evolving world. I will examine where Prince William is in this discourse and look at his other counterparts. If you want the Family Firm to be steered in the right direction with the right skills, the education of those next-in-line are best served through the 4 Wells:

1. Well traveled

Getting outside the comfort zone of your own country to meet all social classes and incomes and diversity of people - in business, we call it networking. Could the sulphurous Mabel Wisse Smit, be effective in her work with the Soros Foundation and at Davos without a full addressbook, now that she is Princess Mabel?

For the Wales boys, I say it is time for them to meet their foreign relatives. What good does it do for the Windsors to send Prince Edward and Sophie to royal weddings and anniversaries? He is already married, so send the next generation. William & Harry, Beatrice & Eugenie... Unfortunately the last significant European royal event William attended was the baptism of the first son of Crown Prince Pavlos of the Hellenes and his heiress wife, the former Marie Chantal Miller. And that was because young Prince Constantine's ceremony took place in the London Orthodox cathedral! The Wales boys need to get out of the country and meet the relatives in Europe and elsewhere.

An integral part of seeing the World is to gain solid real-world business experience abroad, not just a gap-year. William and Harry would do well to intern in Tokyo or New York or Hong Kong, significant capitals of commerce and finance and politics. Serious jobs, not like the shrunken holiday course Prince William took at HSBC nor shore leave with the UK army.

The road has been well-travelled with Crown Princess Viktoria of Sweden interning at the UN in New York and Prince Joachim worked with Daersk. (After my own French studies at the Universite Catholique de l'Ouest in Angers, Princess Viktoria later went there. Our experiences differed - whereas I ate everything, she did the opposite and developed anorexia.) Louis Alfonso de Borbon duc d'Anjou works in banking with his Venezuelan father-in-law
<http://forum.alexanderpalace.org/index.php?topic=7659.msg248934>. Richard Li,

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the eldest son of Hong Kong's Li Ka-Shing, even made a bid for Air Canada when he was based in the country. Bill Ford, who just stepped down as head of Ford Motor Company, spent time in Ford overseas. He carries the legacy of two American entrepreneurial families – the Fords and the Firestones (yes, those tires). Kate taking a job in fashion in New York? A natural step up to work in one of the Style Capitols of the world, as they say in *The Devil Wears Prada*, "Do you know how many women would kill for this?"

2. Well read – No one wants a repeat of the insular education that the sons of George V and Queen Mary received. Edward VIII remained incurious – "Who is this man, Bronte?" - although George Duke of Kent was always worldly, probably due to the Teck and Cambridge blood of his part-Hungarian mother.

One way to induce a wider perspective is to be widely educated – Crown Prince Naruhito spent time in Oxford. HM's sons benefited immensely from their education outside of the UK. Andrew enjoyed his time in Canada to the extend of taking Sarah on a canoe trip years later, Charles has spoken well of his time in Australia, and Edward is polite about his stint in New Zealand.

The American education of most European heirs is smart thinking of the times – US finance and commerce is significant. Prince Philippe studied at Stanford University outside of San Francisco, Prince Felipe shared a flat with his cousin Prince Pavlos of Greece during their Master degree studies in Washington, and Princess Viktoria went to Yale for a time. Diana, it was said, wanted the boys to go to an Ivy League university like Brown University where Lady Gabriella Windsor graduated. It is also the alma mater of Prince Albert of Monaco.

3. Well spoken – The formula for communications skills for heirs seems to be one part of A) Know in the languages of your country and B) add a significant world language, in most cases, English

You can see this with the heirs in Japan and Malaysia and Brunei. Henri, Grand Duke of Luxembourg, and his Latina consort, the former Maria Teresa Mestre, made sure their children, including their own prince William, heir Prince Guillaume, enrolled in local schools to pick up Lëtzebuergesch, the local dialect. Grand Duke Henri and his 4 siblings had educated mainly in French, until recently the official language of the country and would have benefited from fluency in Lëtzebuergesch, since 1994 an official language. The same for the affable Albert II of the Belgians who manages to speak French and Flemish/Dutch, but his heir, Philippe and wife Princess Mathilde, are often criticized for their more hesitant command of Flemish/Dutch.

In the UK, the resurgent movement amongst the Welsh, the Irish, and the Scots means there is more than just English to learn. Charles, Prince of Wales, in the 60s spent time intensively learning Welsh before his investiture in Carnarvon Castle. With the results of the latest vote in the Scottish parliament and passing of the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act of Apr 21, 2005 making Gaelic the official language there (with 'equal respect' to English), it may behoove the Wales boys to learn the language. Given that they sojourn almost 10% of the year at Balmoral, they should have picked up a smattering. Wonder if St Andrews, the Scottish university where William picked up his degree, has a requirement for its students to learn even

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rudimentary Scottish Gaelic? Would be one factor in the unity (or breakup) of the United Kingdom.

With the Wales boys covered in the area of English, which other significant world languages should they pick up? It is all well and good to learn Swahili for pure interest – glass houses case, I admit to voluntarily enjoying Latin for 4 years – but it won't be long before savvy people direct them towards languages with a wider practical use for speeches and visits to the UK's most significant trading partners. Thanks to Mrs Thatcher's legacy, the UK positions itself as European, not Commonwealth. In the EU is a choice of languages – Spanish, German, French, Italian, Russian. Or at developing markets like Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Hindi. (Any of you practising yoga already know Adho Mukha Svanasana ...) To get the full robust flavour of Hong Kong martial arts movies in the Jackie Chan canon, Harry would be advised to pick up some Cantonese!

4. Well groomed & well disciplined – Whereas the Queen and Prince Philip's household was very strict, it seems like the divorce between Charles and Diana, and her untimely death, left the boys rudderless. The armed forces provide a structure for William and Harry. This translates in self-discipline that bode well for the future. When they have duties to carry out and really would rather do something else. Training gets them through the day.

The other advantage of the armed forces is well, like the movie title says it all, An Officer and a Gentleman. They say that psychology follows physiology – and one hopes with time that the bearing of a serving officer in HM army will not repeat the spectacle of William and Kate. With practice, they will learn that Gentlemen do not dump their sweethearts in front of the media – they never lead them on and they always see the lady to her doorstep. (In short, listen to Boyz II Men and All 4 One's I Swear...)

So there you have it. A few more comments...

If it is true that the Queen Mother ignored Prince Harry in favour of William, it must be due to forgetting her own husband was also a second son. The best planning, however, is to educate each and every one in the succession line. Not just the heir, not just the spare. The Italian captain of industry, Gianni Agnelli L'avvocato, could see his only son by his aristocratic princess wife Marella, Edoardo, was not up to the job of running Fiat and groomed his nephew, Giovanni, as next in line. Unfortunately, the young man died of stomach cancer, barely a year after marrying Avery Howe and leaving a baby daughter Virginia Asia Agnelli, and l'avvocato turned to the sons of his daughter by her first marriage, which is why the young John Elkann is the heir. His younger brother, Lapo Elkann, in charge of marketing Fiat to the trendy Eurocrowd, currently is recovering from a scandal involving drugs and male transvestite prostitutes.

(Avery Agnelli remains a widow although has been with London's hair salon entrepreneur John Frieda (ex-husband of Lulu, who is ex-wife of Maurice Gibb) for four years. They have a toddler daughter and infant son together.)
<http://www.richardyoungonline.com/iloverly/photos/12381>

King Alphonso XIII of Spain had a first son with hemophilia (transmitted genetically from the queen, Princess Victoria Ena of Battenberg), a second son rendered deaf-

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mute from a botched operation, and so it was his third son, Juan, the father of the present king Juan Carlos, who was the hope of the Borbons.

The Orleans claimant to the French throne, Henri Comte de Paris Duc de France, has as heir, Prince Francois comte de Clermont, who is developmentally handicapped due to prenatal complications. Prince Henri announced that when the time comes, Francois will succeed him but under the auspices of his second son, Prince Jean duc de Vendome. Bachelor prince Jean spent some time in California studying business and has a classical French education. His younger brother, Eudes duc d'Angoleme, and his noble wife, the former Marie Liesse de Rohan Chabot, have a son and daughter, ensuring the line continues from Henri. Of course the Comte de Paris's brothers have plenty of heirs along their own male line.

With both Wales boys in the British army, it would be prudent to ensure Andrew and his York daughters are ready... just in case. Donald Trump's three children by Ivana are smart and well-educated to take their place by his side, both in business and on the show, *The Apprentice*. His elder daughter Ivanka studied at the rigorous Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, an excellent business training ground for Princesses Beatrice and Eugenie if they have the grades for admission.

Another reason for prestigious Canadian and American universities for royals is their Darwinian nature. Who your forefathers are count little on campus ground – it is your academic performance that matters. And to be surrounded by the best and the brightest from all over the world. As the saying goes, "You are special, just like everyone else."

Lastly, a cadre of superbly trained family members is a bulwark against penury just in case something happens politically. After the Greek royals were exiled in the 1920s, Prince Nicholas and his wife, Grand Duchess Helen, rented out their palace in Athens and took up residency in Paris where he sold his watercolours and oils. Daughters Princesses Olga, Elisabeth, and Marina did some work including modeling and endorsements. Once Princess Raghild of Norway married her decorated war hero, Eric Lorentzen, they had to leave the country and try their luck in Brazil, where she had to figure out how to manage without a retinue.

Unlike Princess Margaret's children, who could get by on their inheritance from their mother and Queen Mother, but choose to work, the offspring of the Kents have nothing of the kind to fall back on and must earn their living. The children of another Margaret, the Spanish Queen Margarita of Bulgaria, are in similar circumstances as their mother is extremely wealthy but they are in either business or medicine. While their father, Simeon, is in Bulgaria, still in politics as former prime minister, the siblings are mostly still based in Spain, one notable exception being London businessman Prince Kyril, whose wife Rosario is a muse of Valentino.

You can see why most reach the age of 30 before they can develop the 4 Wells and feel confident to take on the Family Business. Does William have a ways to go before he can be available for marriage? Yes, Kate, it was a matter of sad timing. This 'program of studies' is applicable to all who aspire to work in business, politics, or the nascent environmental movement. Let's get equipped to make a difference.