

MAJESTAS REGALIS

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A Note From the Chairman Concerning this Month's Issue

Due to matters outside of my control, this issue of *Majestas Regalis* is ten days late. I apologize for the delay in posting this edition and sincerely hope to have the next issue ready for your viewing on 1 September. Articles for the next issue are due on 24 August. Thank you for your patience and continued readership and God bless.

Royalist Party of America Adopts Mission Statement

By Eric L. Turner

Chairman of the Royalist Party of America

Since my election to the chairmanship of the Royalist Party of America, I have been trying to put into place all the necessary components for the development of a successful political entity. One of the first things that I noticed as being common among political parties was a mission statement.

From one party to the next, mission statements varied in length from a single sentence to several paragraphs. Considering the nature of our party and the aversion to the majority of the membership to political correctness, I felt that a simple and concise statement of our overall goal and beliefs was what the party needed. Following input from the membership, the following statement was adopted on Monday, 12 July: ***We, the membership of the Royalist Party of America, commit ourselves to the establishment of a constitutional monarchy for the United States of America. It is our belief that to create a true sense of trust between the governed and the government, our nation's leader must be above the politics of the day, beholden to no special interest group, and free to do what must be done for the good of all Americans, not just the party he or she leads.***

This mission statement shall be our party's 'roadmap'. It shall keep us from losing sight of our purpose and aid us in reaching our goal, the creation of a non-partisan, constitutional monarch to faithfully serve the people of this great nation and to banish the special interests from the halls of government for good. 🇺🇸

From the Chairman

The first issue of *Majestas Regalis* is now behind us and appears to have been quite a success. I have received several emails regarding the newsletter and a few suggestions regarding its content. *Majestas Regalis* is still in need of additional columnists and guest columnists to get this newsletter where we want it to be. There is also a need for more letters to the editor so as to get a good debate going on any topic that is deemed worthwhile by its submission to the Letters to the Editor section.

So as to involve more members in the administration of the party, the Secretariat of the Royalist Party of America has been formed. At present the Secretariat is comprised of two offices, that of Secretary General and Secretary of Membership Affairs. I am pleased to announce that Walter Moore, with whom we are all so well acquainted, has accepted appointment to the office of Secretary General. I am currently searching for someone to fill the office of Secretary of Membership Affairs. This individual will be in charge of maintaining the membership list, submitting new members to Walter to be added to the email list, and any other duties he or she may desire to take on. If you are interested in this position, please email me at chairman@nashvilleroyalists.com.

In addition to the development of *Majestas Regalis* and the website, help is needed in drafting a constitution for the party. A constitution for the RPA need not be as elaborate as that of the GOP, Democrats, or Libertarians, but it needs to cover the basics so as to provide the party with needed structure. If you are interested please email me. 🏰

August Royal Birthdays

3 Prince Louis of Luxembourg - 18

4 Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother – (b. 1900) Requiescat in Pace

4 King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV of Tonga – 86

6 The 14th Dalai Lama – 69

8 Princess Beatrice of York – United Kingdom – 16

12 King George IV – United Kingdom – (b. 1762) Requiescat in Pace

12 Queen Ferekit, Queen Consort of Thailand – 72

15 Princess Anne, the Princess Royal – United Kingdom – 54

21 Princess Margaret, Countess Snowdon – (b. 1930) Requiescat in Pace

21 King Mohammed VI of Morocco - 41

23 King Louis XVI of France – (b. 1754) Requiescat in Pace

26 Prince Albert, the Prince Consort to Victoria I – (b. 1819) Requiescat in Pace

28 Prince Nikolai of Denmark - 5

30 Queen Anne-Marie of Greece - 58

Royal State in Focus – Kingdom of Tonga

By Eric L. Turner

Chairman of the Royalist Party of America

The Kingdom of Tonga's rich cultural heritage, idyllic landscape, and friendly people make it one of the most desirable places to live in its region of the globe. Tonga's history, as a nation, began about 3,500 years ago with the arrival of the Lepita people who would become the first Tongans. While it is unknown from whence these people came, it is known that these first settlers of Tonga also settled the neighboring islands of Samoa, American Samoa, and Fiji. The widespread distribution of the culture of Tonga to the surrounding islands is explained by the warlike nature of Tonga. Like the Vikings, Goths, Visigoths, and Vandals, the early Tongans were firm believers in looting and pillaging their neighbors to fill their basic needs. It was not until the mid 1600's that the greatest of all Tongan royal personages appeared taking the supreme title of 'Tu'i Kanokupolu'.

During the reign of the first Tu'i Kanokupolu, the people of Tonga had their first contact with Europeans. The first Europeans were represented by the Dutch who not only renamed the islands with Dutch names, but also decided to kill and enslave the first Tongans with whom they had come into contact. It would not be until 1822 that any particular group of Europeans would come to show any real interest in Tonga although the Dutch, French, Spanish, and English all had some form or another of contact with the Pacific kingdom.

In 1822 or thereabout, Wesleyan missionaries arrived and began the process of converting the Tongan people from their relatively violent, but typical native Polynesian religion. The church they established is today the state church to which the overwhelming majority of Tongans belong. The monarch is required to not only be a member of the state faith, but he is to be a minister within the same.

As a result of the conversion of Taufa'ahau, the leader of Ha'apai to the Wesleyan faith, Tongan civilization was forever changed. The islands were united under this converted leader in 1845 who took the throne as King George Tupou I. The kingdom ultimately adopted a western constitution in 1875 at the urging of the most prominent Wesleyan minister in the kingdom. In 1896, Tonga lost her independence as the king was forced to grant the British government protector status and with that control over foreign affairs and influence over domestic affairs. This relationship between the United Kingdom and Tonga did not change until 1976 when full independence was restored to the Kingdom of Tonga.

The current monarch is King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV and his reign began in 1965 with the death of his mother, Queen Salote I, a truly great lady and world renowned humanitarian. The present king, while much respected and revered, faces many challenges as the populace (which is over 95% literate) is demanding more of a say in the way the kingdom is governed. Outside political pressure and a seemingly out of touch aristocracy are creating a very tense political situation in the last of the Polynesian monarchies.

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Monarch of the Month – H.M. King Edward I of England

By Joseph Crisp II

Former Chairman of the Royalist Party of America



Although he has suffered a tarnished reputation at the hands of Hollywood recently, England's King Edward I has, for many years, been the focus of pride for the English Plantagenet dynasty. Rather than the reputation as a conqueror, he has earned in Scotland, his longest lasting historical legacy has been as a heroic leader and a great law giver, even earning the title of "The English Justinian" in reference to the famous Byzantine Emperor.

The son of Henry III, Edward I was named after the patron of England, King St. Edward the Confessor. He came to the throne in 1272 and early on came to be regarded, by the standards of

his time, as the ideal monarch. He certainly looked the part of the handsome warrior-king and instilled a sense of pride in his people through his many campaigns to expand the English empire.

In 1277, Edward started what would be a long but ultimately successful campaign to bring Wales under English control. Although the Welsh resisted until 1283, Edward succeeded and made his son the first Prince of Wales, starting the long tradition of English monarchs giving that title to their heirs. An impressive number of castles were built to fortify English control, but it was Scotland, rather than Wales, which was to prove the greatest focus of Edward's attention throughout his reign.

An important, but often overlooked fact about Edward's involvement in Scotland is that he was invited to take part by the Scots themselves, who were in a chaotic state of civil war as various factions battled for the crown of Scotland. It was, in fact, because of Edward's great reputation as a wise and just leader that the Scots looked to him to settle this dispute. His choice was John Baliol, but, as Edward saw himself as placing Baliol on the throne, he insisted that the Scottish king pay him homage in the traditional feudal ceremony. The Scots took a different view and were outraged by such a demand. A revolt rose up against the English, which Baliol himself joined in 1296. However, Edward I was

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Monarch of the Month

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at his best on the battlefield and soon defeated the Scots, forcing Baliol to surrender and even carrying the sacred Stone of Scone back to London.


King Edward I then personally assumed the position of King of Scotland, which was soon challenged by another rebellion led by the famous Sir William Wallace. Rather than “The English Justinian”, the Scots scathingly named the English monarch “Edward Longshanks” because of his height. Wallace won some stirring victories over the English garrisons, but in 1298 Edward I marched north himself and soundly defeated Wallace and the Scottish rebels. Yet, his enemies had been defeated, but not pacified and the dire circumstances did bring about Scottish unity under Robert Bruce, who was crowned King of Scotland in 1306.

Due to his vast military expenditures, Edward was in constant need of money, though France was probably a greater worry than Scotland. King Edward I became the first English monarch to summon a nation-wide parliament of representatives of the aristocracy, the Church and the common people of England. This was the formation of the system of parliamentary government still in wide-spread use around the world today. Edward I was a man who thought in national and international terms when many did not, and as such he was an enemy of the feudal system and tried to limit the power of both the Church and the nobility. Most importantly however, he accepted the idea that the king should not be able to collect taxes from the

people without the consent of their representatives.

In his personal life, King Edward I married Eleanor of Castile, and after

her death, married the sister of King Phillip IV of France, Princess Margaret. However, his son, whom he named Prince of Wales in 1301, was somewhat of a disappointment to him, and perhaps motivated him to keep going into his old age. When Scotland rose up again under Robert Bruce, King Edward I again took his troops northward, though by this time he was far from the imposing figure of his youth. Fortunately for Scotland, Edward did not live to meet the Scots in battle again; he died during March of 1307.

For the enemies he defeated, Edward was a bit of a bogeyman. For the English on the other hand, he was an inspiring leader whose courage and talent expanded their kingdom and who gave all Englishmen a place in the administration of their country. The United States also owes a similar debt to King Edward I, along with the rest of the English speaking world, for his role in the development of the parliamentary system and representative government. For Americans in particular, we can look back to “The English Justinian” as the man who first set the precedent of having “no taxation without representation.” For all of these reasons, King Edward I is fully deserving of being our Monarch of the Month for July. 

The Issue of UK Constitutional Reform

By Alan Goudman
Contributing Writer

Despite living in Canada these days, I will always remain an Englishman at heart. I feel very proud to have been born in a country that is seen as a cradle of modern civilization and, that has such a rich heritage. Even our system of government is famous, the Westminster model, which other countries have either copied such as Canada, or used as the basis of their own constitution, liked the United States.

Despite this rich heritage, the cancer of republicanism has not left my native land unscathed. Within my own lifetime I have seen the British monarchy descend from a revered institution, to one that is now increasingly questioned, while republican groups seem to be gaining ever more influence. This in itself was bad enough, but ever since the Labour government came into power, I cannot help feeling that they too would secretly like to convert the nation into a republic, as well. They seem to be hell bent on gradually destroying a constitution, which has remained more or less the same for around 800 years; one which has served my nation remarkably well in that time.

The then opposition fired their first warning shots at the constitution during the election that propelled them into power in 1997, when they pledged to “reform” the House of Lords. True to his threat, Tony Blair had all but 100 of the hereditary peers removed in 1999, while appointing record numbers of life peers into the chamber who will rubber stamp his final assault on the House. He

also intends to strip the chamber of its power as the highest court in the land, giving it instead to a newly set up “Supreme Court”.

The Prime Minister has gone much further than I would have ever imagined, he has now set into motion the abolition of the office of Lord Chancellor, one of the oldest offices in the land which goes back almost a thousand years, to the days of the Norman conqueror King William I. Within the past year, he has also contemplated dropping the word “crown“, from the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), the government department responsible for bringing criminals to justice in the name of the sovereign, because it is regarded irrelevant in the modern age. Now the Labour government wants to “overhaul” the country’s honours system, which like the monarchy itself, goes back into the mists of time.

So why does a young person like me even care about all this? After all, most of my generation doesn’t give it a moment’s thought; however, I think they should. For one thing, the House of Lords has worked perfectly well for centuries. While its members are not elected and until recently the majority inherited their seats, they have served as a remarkable protector of the nation’s liberties. Although designed as a rich man’s chamber, its members know that they are there only by the grace of their political party or through an accident of birth.

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UK Reform

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Since they hold their seats for the rest of their lives, they don't need to curry favour from politicians and become their puppets. Instead, they are able to vote as their conscience permits making corruption less likely. An example includes resisting the government's proposal to lower the age of consent for anal sex from 18 to 16, making young people vulnerable to sexual predators while also increasing the risk of disease by inadvertently encouraging promiscuous attitudes. Another case in point is the skepticism the Lords have shown towards cloning technologies, rightly questioning the benefits of tampering with the ecosystem, the effects of which are still not fully understood. True the chamber's powers are rightly curtailed in order to prevent rivalry between itself and the elected House of Commons. However, it still acts as a useful revision layer in parliament, as the government can at times be all too hasty in rushing through laws without considering the consequences.

Another feature of the House which sets it apart from all other second chambers is its role as the nation's highest court of appeal. A small number of Lords with much experience and knowledge of the legal system, form a committee of judges known as the Law Lords. This group of people hear cases that have been referred from the lower Court of Appeal, normally rendering final judgement but occasionally allowing some to reach the now even higher, European Court of Human Rights. Having served many years in the independent judiciary, their rulings are

as good as the many supreme courts around the world. Therefore as England already has an effective de facto supreme court, combined with many centuries of existing tradition which has done the country no harm, I see no reason why Tony Blair's government needs to spend vast amounts of money, as well as, generating much turmoil in tampering with a perfectly good system.

As for the honours system itself, this has been an effective way of rewarding people, who perform a great service on behalf of the nation, for successive generations. What sort of republican awards system can ever hope to match the pomp & ceremony, of receiving an award from the monarch in spectacular surroundings, while also having the privilege of being able to converse with the person who is the living embodiment of the country! Whether a person receives a medal or a title, they receive an honour under the royal system that is far grander and more dignified than any republican equivalent. This is the real meaning behind the rank and class distinctions in the system, despite claims to the contrary by opponents who claim it serves to elevate the powerful above the weak. Removing such well known privileges as Knighthoods, along with medals like the Order of the British Empire may seem like a good idea, but it diminishes the prestige of the monarchy while also severing special links with the past, that such a recipient would normally enjoy.

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UK Reform

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Regarding the role of the Lord Chancellor, I'm afraid my knowledge is less complete; nevertheless I know it combines the role of the nation's highest judge, speaker of the House of Lords, and membership of the cabinet. While the Prime Minister appoints the Lord Chancellor, this person must act independently of the government, in a manner similar to those appointed onto the US Supreme Court by the president. Therefore, if the rulings of such people are considered fair and just, why does the UK government, along with its supporters, question the credibility of the Lord Chancellor's office, when it has functioned perfectly well down the centuries?

As you can see, I am proud of the immense heritage which my nation enjoys. It is not often people can claim to come from a nation that has played such a pivotal role in world events, with a system of government rightly regarded as the mother of all parliaments, which also happens to include our monarchy.

While a certain amount of reform is occasionally needed, it must always work in harmony with the traditions of the people.

Up till now, Britain has weathered the republican/communist storms that have raged across the globe ever since 1914, but I fear the present Labour government will change all that by opening a Pandora's Box that will ultimately destroy not only the monarchy we all love, but also rob my nation of its great traditions and culture. I just hope that my countrymen see the danger in time, before we suffer the same fate as Sweden which seems to be on the verge of losing its monarchy in a similar way. The fate of former monarchist countries like Brazil, Russia, and Vietnam must not be repeated. 👑

Alan Goudman is a Friend of the RPA. He resides in Canada with his wife, Karen. They are expecting their first child in September of this year.

Tonga

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Although the islands of the kingdom are relatively cooler than those of other Pacific islands, the climate of Tonga is still very pleasant with temperatures ranging from 62°F - 71°F during the winter months and 77°F - 91°F during the summer. The flora and fauna of the island are quite diverse; however, one point of interest concerning the islands is that the number of bird species is quite low which is very unusual considering the diversity of bird life on the other island nations of this region.

One would be remiss to fail to mention the islands' nickname and source thereof. The Kingdom of Tonga is also known as the 'Friendly Islands' so named by Captain James Cook due to his misperception of the kindness of the local inhabitants during his visit. Captain Cook believed that the kindness shown him and his crew by the Tongans was due to their admiration and reverence from such a 'godlike' people as his own rather than

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themselves. Despite this very disappointing history for the nickname, the people of the true purpose being their very human desire to snatch a few interesting baubles for Tonga are today world renowned for their hospitality and exceedingly generous nature; both traits sadly lacking in our very rushed and materialistic world. 🏰

For further information, please visit the following websites:

http://www.tongatapu.net.to/tonga/homeland/default_h.htm,

<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/tn.html>,

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/destinations/pacific/tonga/history.htm>.

Member Contributions

In future publications, member contributions shall be an integral part of Majestas Regalis. Member contributions can be anything that members and friends of the Party desire to submit whether it be an article independent of the regular columns or something to be considered for the regular columns such as Royal World History, Royal American History, Royal State in Focus, as well as, statements/responses to the Letters to the Editor Section. Thus far, the newsletter is not receiving enough contributions to keep it viable. If it is desirable to you to keep this newsletter going, please help us out with an occasional offering of your own! 🏰

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Announcements

Help Wanted

FILLED! Royalist Part of America

Party Secretary – This position, like all others in the Party, is on a volunteer basis. Responsibilities include assisting in responding to email, maintaining Party minutes, assisting with the newsletter, et cetera. If interested, contact the Party at vicechairman@nashvilleroyalists.com.

Columnists for the Party Newsletter – columnists will be responsible for writing at least one article per month to be submitted one week prior to publication (one week before the last day of the month). If interested, contact the Party at chairman@nashvilleroyalists.com.

Guest Columnists for the Party

Newsletter – In spite of a good response thus far, many more guest columnists are needed. Guest columnists do not have to contribute every month so, why not send in something twice a year or even once a year? Guest Columnist responsibilities are the same as those for regular columnists. If interested, contact the Party at chairman@nashvilleroyalists.com.

Volunteers for Drafting the Party

Constitution – The party has one individual on the drafting board thus far; however, we are still in need of individuals to help in the drafting of a constitution for our party. If interested please contact the Party at chairman@nashvilleroyalists.com

Graphic Design Artist – The RPA needs artistic donations for party logos, advertisements, et cetera. Anyone with the know-how and desire to donate their talent should email the chairman at chairman@nashvilleroyalists.com. *All submissions will be given due credit.*