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Editorial

The recent announcement by the New Zealand Government of the return of titular honours is to be applauded. The restoration of knighthoods was supported by a groundswell of public opinion, and was indeed overdue. Thankfully the Government recognised this, and has returned the Royal Honours system to its pre-2000 state.

The decision to remove titles, such as Dame or Sir, had denied the community a public and enduring opportunity to celebrate success. The Monarchist League encouraged the Government to restore titular honours to recognise the contribution of outstanding individuals, thereby conveying a greater visibility than do post-nominal letters alone. Happily, the

advocates for the restoration of knighthoods eventually prevailed.

Many people were disappointed with the announcement by the Government in 2000 that knighthoods and damehoods would no longer be conferred upon New Zealanders.

Prior to 2000 a man appointed to the two highest grades of the New Zealand Order of Merit was automatically knighted, and a woman became a Dame. Subsequently the Knights Grand Companion (and Dames Grand Companion) of the New Zealand Order of Merit were renamed Principal Companions, and Knights Companion (and Dames Companion) became Distinguished Companions. Such styles inherently lacked the impact and international recognition of knighthoods, and the length of the abbreviations in particular attracted criticism: PCNZM and DCNZM respectively.

The argument used by the Government to justify these changes in 2000 was that such titles did not reflect modern New Zealand society, as they were of British origin. This may however be categorised as a peculiarly narrow view of our history. The titular styles Sir and Dame were indeed inherited from the United Kingdom, along with many other aspects of our New Zealand culture. But there was nothing wrong with retaining an established part of our history, whether it is common or unique to New Zealand. Much effort is expended to preserve minority cultural identity. Perhaps more importantly, knighthoods have long been an accepted part of New Zealand culture.



It had also been suggested by some in the past that knighthoods were contrary to the supposedly

egalitarian New Zealand society. However if this argument were followed to its logical conclusion the whole honours system would have to be abolished, as indeed would any distinctions of rank, whether based on merit or otherwise.

In an article in the *New Zealand Herald* (“Does Comrade Clark want us all the same?” 12th April 2000 p A19) responding to the announcement of the ending of titular honours, I asked whether the style of Honourable, enjoyed by members of the Executive Council, by judges and by former ministers (with the approval of the Governor-General), was also threatened. Almost every country in the world allows its Government ministers some title, and this is frequently “the Honourable”.

I asked whether the Government wanted New Zealand to be uniquely austere, and suggested, in jest, that “[p]erhaps the Government wants to end all titles (whether they be Sir, Dame, Right Honourable, Honourable, or just plain Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) and simply call everyone ‘Comrade’”. This question was the origin of the *Herald’s* headline. It also led to a rigorous – but remarkably misinformed – response the very next day from the Prime Minister.

These debates are not of course unique to New Zealand. For politically-motivated reasons Canada stopped awarding knighthoods in 1935, and South Africa did so in 1924. Australia continued with knighthoods until 1986. New Zealand could however make up its own mind on this issue. In 1980 Barbados created a new royal honours system including Knights and Dames of St Andrew, entitled to the styles of “Sir” and “Dame” respectively. In 1996 New Zealand introduced the New Zealand Order of Merit, including knights and dames until 2000. All other realms of The Queen retain knighthoods. Canada and Australia are the exceptions, not the rule. New Zealand has now chosen to show its independence by restoring knighthoods.

The dignified and prestigious style and title of a knight is not confined to any one country. It is a universally recognised and respected mark of honour. Thankfully, we are now numbered among the enlightened countries that are not ashamed to publicly recognised eminent community and public service. The changes will be implemented in time for The Queen’s Birthday honours list in June.

Further changes are possible. One which would be appropriate would be to depoliticise the administration of the honours system. It would be

better to place this in the hands of Government House, from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. An equivalent change occurred recently in the United Kingdom, and it would be best for New Zealand if we followed suit.

Professor Noel Cox

News in Brief

Knighthoods restored

On 8th March it was announced by the Government that titular honours would be restored. This had retrospective effect, so that all those who received honours from the ending of knighthoods in 2000, until today, may choose to be re-designated KNZM in place of DCNZM and receive a knighthood.

There were 7 PCNZM and 78 DCNZM in this position, although two in each category already hold titles (Sir Patrick Goodman, the Right Honourable Sir Ivor Richardson, Dame Silvia Cartwright, and Dame Malvina Major). The Governor-General, Anand Satyanand, was automatically re-designated a knight.

A full list of people who may elect to accept knighthoods and damehoods is as follows (excluding the above five):

PCNZM (to become GNZM):

Professor Paul Callaghan, Emeritus Professor Rev'd Lloyd Geering, and Professor Ngatata Love;

DCNZM (men, to become KNZM):

Honourable Noel Anderson, Professor Ronald Beaven, Right Honourable Peter Blanchard, Chief District Court Judge David Carruthers, Leonard Castle, Russell Coutts, Honourable Edward Durie, Eion Edgar, Air Marshal Bruce Ferguson, George Fistonich, Dr Alan Frampton, Harawira Gardiner, David Gascoigne, Right Honourable Thomas Gault, Professor Peter Gluckman, John Goulter, Honourable John Hansen, Right Honourable John Henry, Associate Professor Wita Ihimaera Smiler, Professor Vaughan Jones, Honourable Douglas Kidd, Judge Patrick Mahony, Peter Maire, Professor Alan Mark, Emeritus Professor Arthur

Marshall, Dr David Mauger, Honourable John McGrath, Dr Sidney Mead, Colin Meads, Sam Neill, Ralph Norris, Professor Vincent O'Sullivan, Noel Robinson, Peter Siddell, Professor David Skegg, Bruce Slane, Dr Peter Snell, Kenneth Stevens, Archie Tairaoa, Tumu Te Teuheu, Right Honourable Edmund Thomas, Stephen Tindell, Right Honourable Andrew Tipping, Peter Trapski, Henry van de Heyden, Dr Ranginui Walker, Murray Wells, Robin White, Tay Wilson, and Honourable William Young.

DCNZM (women, to become DNZM):

Heather Begg, Emeritus Professor Judith Binney, Dr Doreen Blumhardt, Professor Margaret Clark, Mrs Christine Cole Catley, Ms Cassia Cowley, Mrs Lynley Dodd, Dr Joy Drayton, Mrs Jocelyn Fish, Dr Patricia Grace, Mrs Patricia Harrison, Mrs Grace Hollander, Professor Linda Holloway, Sister Patricia Hook, Right Rev'd Dr Penelope Jamieson, Mrs Margaret Millard, Mrs Deidre Milne, Mrs Lois Muir, Sister Pauline O'Regan, Dr Claudia Orange, Mrs Alison Quentin-Baxter, Mrs Alison Roxburgh, Honourable Margaret Shields, Right Honourable Jenny Shipley, Dr Margaret Sparrow, Mrs Sukhinder Turner, Ms Gillian Whitehead, and Honourable Margaret Wilson.



Individuals are expected to indicate fairly quickly whether they will accept a title, although there is no legal requirement to do so, and a recipient of an honour could elect to be re-designated at any time in the future, subject to the Sovereign's approval.

Commonwealth Day Service

The 60th anniversary of Commonwealth Day was celebrated in Auckland's Holy Trinity Cathedral on Sunday 8th March.

A congregation of around 350 people attended this colourful event which was led by the Very Reverend Ross Bay, Dean of Auckland. Several Commonwealth consular officials were in attendance, including the Right Honourable Sir Don

McKinnon, recently retired Commonwealth Secretary-General, who read Her Majesty The Queen's Commonwealth Day Message.

Music was provided by Cathedral Organist Philip Smith, The Auckland Girls' Choir directed by Mrs. Leonie Lawson NZCM and the Royal New Zealand Navy Band directed by Lt. Commander Keith Anderson.

Dean Ross delivered a message from His Excellency the Honourable Anand Satyanand PCNZM, QSO, Governor-General of New Zealand. Mr Brett Cunningham, Vice-President of the Royal Commonwealth Society and Mr Alister Martin MBE, Consul-General of Papua New Guinea both read lessons.

Brett Cunningham and Leonie Lawson are members of the Monarchist League of New Zealand.

Meanwhile in Wellington the 60th Anniversary was marked with a display in Parliament of a vase presented to New Zealand to commemorate the 1953 Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The vase is symbolic of the Commonwealth containing the crests of the founding members of the Commonwealth.



Commonwealth vase gifted by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, which commemorates the Coronation in June of 1953.
Photo: Parliamentary Service Collection.

The Queen's Commonwealth Day Address

Annual Commonwealth Day Services were held at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Auckland, and the Wellington Cathedral of St Paul, on Sunday 8th March. The Queen's message was read, as is usual, throughout the Commonwealth. For the first time the Auckland Service was held in the afternoon, as part of the choral evensong.

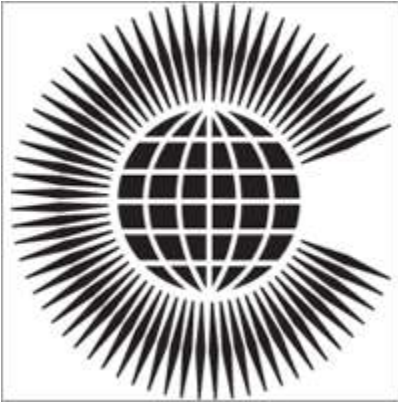
The following is The Queen's Commonwealth Day address for 2009:

This year the Commonwealth commemorates its foundation sixty years ago. The London Declaration of 1949 was the start of a new era in which our member countries committed themselves to work together, in partnership and as equals, towards a shared future.

We can rightly celebrate the fact that the founding members' vision of the future has become a reality. The Commonwealth has evolved out of all recognition from its beginning. It has helped give birth to modern nations, and the eight original countries have become fifty-three. We are now home to nearly two billion people, a third of the world's population. Across continents and oceans, we have come to represent all the rich diversity of humankind.

Yet despite its size and scale, the Commonwealth to me has been sustained during all this change by the continuity of our mutual values and goals. Our beliefs in freedom, democracy and human rights; development and prosperity mean as much today as they did more than half a century ago.

These values come from a common responsibility exercised by our governments and peoples. It is this which makes the Commonwealth a family of nations and peoples, at ease with being together. As a result, I believe we are inspired to do our best to meet people's most pressing needs, and to develop a truly global perspective. That is why the modern Commonwealth has stood the test of time.



But as we reflect upon our long association, we should recognize the challenges that lie ahead. Nearly one billion people of today's Commonwealth are under

25 years of age. These are the people that this association must continue to serve in the future. It is they who can help shape the Commonwealth of today, and whose children will inherit the Commonwealth of tomorrow.

To help them make the best of their opportunities, our young men and women therefore need the opportunity to become active and responsible members of the communities in which they live. I am pleased that the Commonwealth recognizes this, and is determined to continue to put young people at its centre.

The call that brought the Commonwealth together in 1949 remains the same today. Then we joined together in a collective spirit – built on lasting principles, wisdom, energy and creativity – to meet the great tasks of our times. As the Commonwealth celebrates its sixtieth birthday, its governments, communities and we as individuals should welcome that achievement. Together, we should continue to work hard to deal with today's challenges so that the young people of today's Commonwealth can realize their aspirations. In that way, we can look to the future with confidence.

Elizabeth R

The Right Honourable Don McKinnon, ONZ, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth 2000-2008, and a former New Zealand Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, was made a Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order (GCVO), by Her Majesty The Queen, on Commonwealth Day, 9th March. His predecessors in office, Chief Emeka Anyaoku, GCVO (1990-2000) was also a recipient of a personal honour from The Queen.



The Queen delivering her Christmas Day message in 1953 from Wellington

League News

Annual General Meeting

The 2009 Annual General Meeting of The Monarchist League of New Zealand Inc. will be held at 2 pm on Sunday 21st June 2009, at the Selwyn Library, St Stephens Avenue, Parnell, Auckland (across the road from Holy Trinity Cathedral). This will be followed by afternoon tea.

Candidates are now being sought for election to the Council and for office holders. Nominations, which are to be in writing, signed by the nominee and another member of the League, should be received by an officer at least three working days prior to the Annual General Meeting.



The Secretary can arrange for nominations to be signed where a member does not have ready contact with another member. Nominations will also be sought from the floor.

Queen's Birthday Service

The Vicar of the Parish of Takapuna, the Rev'd Richard Hancock, in conjunction with the Monarchist League, will hold the annual Queen's Birthday Service at St Peter's Church, Killarney Street, Takapuna, on Sunday 31st May.

The Service, which commences at 10 am, will be followed by refreshments in the adjoining St Peter's Church hall.

Local members of the League are encouraged to attend the Service, and join in marking this annual royal occasion. Members living outside the North Shore are again reminded that they should encourage their local churches to mark The Queen's official birthday.

Royal News

Lord Frederick Windsor to marry

Lord Frederick Windsor, son of Prince Michael of Kent, and a cousin of The Queen, became engaged 14th February 2009 to Miss Sophie Winkleman, an actress. The couple are to marry in September.



Miss Sophie Winkleman was born 5th August 1981 in London. Her father, Barry Winkleman, is a publisher (a former publisher of *The Times Atlas Of The World*) and her mother Cynthia Black is a children's author. She is the half-sister of TV presenter Claudia Winkleman. She lives in Chelsea.

Sophie, who is 5' 10" tall, was educated at the City of London School for Girls, and Trinity Hall at the University of Cambridge (where she studied English



Literature, and was in the Footlights Comedy Club). After university she entered the acting profession, making use of her various skills: she is a soprano and rides horses, and speaks French. She is in the National Youth Theatre (of which the Earl of Wessex has been Patron since 1987).

Her numerous roles whilst at Cambridge include the Bride in Lorca's "Blood Wedding", which toured the amphitheatres of Greece, Abigail in Arthur Miller's "The Crucible", Dockdaisy in Bertolt Brecht's "The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui" and Kate in Alan Ayckbourne's "Confusions."



The future Lady Frederick Windsor (as an untitled lady she will take the name and style of her husband) appeared in on television in Company Pictures' eight-part television series "The Palace" (ITV 2008, as Princess Eleanor), "Ruddy Hell! It's Harry and Paul" (2007-8) and "Peep Show" (Channel 4, 2005-2008). In August 2008 she filmed the leading guest role in the first episode of "Kingdom"'s third series, due to be broadcast in 2009.

She appeared as the young Susan in the movie "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe", in 2005.

Sophie continues with her stage career. She had a spell at the Royal Shakespeare Company where she played Veronique in Laurence Boswell's adaptation of "Beauty and the Beast" and a summer in Bath with the Peter Hall Company playing a variety of roles including Archangela in "Galileo's Daughter", a new play by Timberlake Wertenbeker, Violet in George Bernard Shaw's "Man and Superman" and Charlotte in "Don Juan" directed by Thea Sharrock.

Miss Winkleman is the first person of Jewish ancestry to marry a member of the Royal Family, though hers will not be the first Jewish blood to flow in blue veins.

Queen Mother memorial unveiled

The Queen unveiled a memorial statue to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother on the Mall in central London on 24th February. Members of the Royal Family, including The Duke of Edinburgh, The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall and Prince William and Prince Harry, attended the ceremony.



The decision to create a national memorial for Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother was announced by the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, during his 2005 Budget speech.

The intention was to commemorate the life of a well known and popular public figure, and add an attractive, durable feature to the public space of central London.

Designers, architects and artists from throughout the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth and the world were invited to submit their expressions of interest for this memorial at the start of 2006. Submissions were shortlisted from the 70 entries, with selected entrants being asked to provide detailed designs.

The selection of the winning design was made by a selection committee chaired by The Prince of Wales, grandson of Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

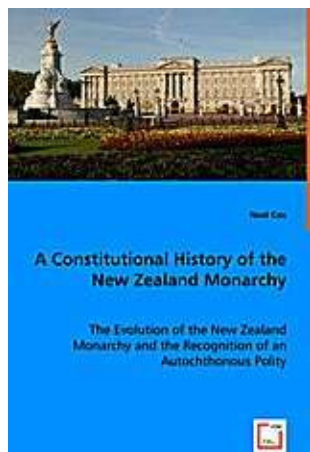
The Queen Mother is portrayed at between 45 and 50 years of age and is dressed in her Garter robes. The 2.9m (9 ft 6 inches) high bronze statue forms the centrepiece of the United Kingdom's principal national memorial to Queen Elizabeth. It is the work of sculptor Philip Jackson.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Royal Household worked in partnership to ensure that the project was well managed at every stage and did not exceed its budget.

A special £5 coin produced by the Royal Mint to celebrate The Queen's 80th birthday was sold to raise funds for the national memorial to The Queen Mother.

A Constitutional History of the New Zealand Monarchy

Noel Cox, *A Constitutional History of the New Zealand Monarchy* (V.D.M. Verlag Dr. Müller Aktiengesellschaft & Co. K.G., Saarbrücken, 2008) 332 pages ISBN: 978-3-639-00877-7 RRP €80.92



This book began its gestation over a decade ago as a doctoral thesis, at a time when the serious academic study of the Crown was relatively novel. Indeed even today, despite the Australian republican referendum of 1999, and sporadic debate about the future of the monarchy in this country, it is not an aspect of our

constitution which is widely studied. We are not alone in this comparative neglect. The monarchy, at least in its manifestation outside of the United Kingdom, is rarely considered academically other than as a relic of imperial constitutional history. But that is to risk undervaluing the significance of the Crown. This would be a disservice to the Crown and an omission of substance in the understanding of the constitution.

The shortcomings of this common attitude are seen reflected in the words of the Honourable. Michael McHugh, former Justice of the High Court of Australia, writing in the forward to Anne Twomey's, *The Chameleon Crown: The Queen and Her Australian Governors* (2006): "the Crown has been a chameleon-like institution that has protected itself by remaining in the background and adapting its nature to the changes in the political landscape." The result was inevitably a degree of misunderstanding of the nature of the Crown. This was shared by scholars and politicians alike, as well as by the wider community. Though these arguments are specific to Australia, they are indicative of the difficulties faced by those seeking to understand the Crown in the other realms.

In some respects the continued imperial link in Australia echoed the Canadian constitutional journey, which ended with the "patriation" of the British North America Act in 1982. There were some major differences, however. The key distinctions

were that the Canadian situation concerned legislative rather than executive limitations, and was also public knowledge. In Australia it concerned the right to advise the Crown (though this had a legislative basis), and was obscured and disguised, deliberately, in part because of embarrassment that this imperial obligation should survive, and in part because of a desire to protect the person of the Sovereign herself from direct political controversy.

Although New Zealand's constitutional heritage, and structure, differs significantly from that of Australia's – and indeed Canada's – there are many common elements and features, not least being the institution of the Crown. The aims of this book were to determine to what extent the Crown remains important as a source of legitimacy for the constitutional order and as a focus of sovereignty; to show how the Crown has developed as a distinct institution; and to assess the prospects of the adoption of a republican form of government in New Zealand. The first aim may be seen as primarily a study in constitutional law, the last a constitutional and political prediction, and the middle aim is largely one concerned with constitutional history. It need scarcely be added that the study of the development of the constitution requires consideration of the related but distinct disciplines of law, politics and history.



It is perhaps not surprising that the Crown has not been subject to serious academic scrutiny in the Commonwealth outside the United Kingdom, given

that its history is focussed upon that country. But it is an institution which has been transplanted to other countries, including New Zealand. Any process of transplantation is bound to have an impact upon the nature of the institution, both at home and abroad, even if the form of that impact remains unknown or uncertain.

Despite the legal, constitutional and political importance of the institution, the nature of the changes which it has undergone in this process of spreading across the globe have been poorly mapped and understood. Perhaps this is not remarkable, given that such a study requires consideration of constitutional and political theories – something uncomfortable in countries with a tradition of pragmatic government. But it is important nonetheless, and especially so as a prelude to considering any changes, whether these be reform, abolition or otherwise.

The imperial Crown has evolved into the New Zealand Crown, yet the implications of this change are as yet only slowly being understood. Largely this is because that evolution came about as a result of gradual political development, as part of an extended process of independence, rather than by a deliberate and conscious decision. This distinction may be a crucial one, and help to explain the retention of the Crown in some realms, and its abolition in others.

The continuing evolution of political independence does not necessarily mean that New Zealand will become a republic in the short-to-medium term, though one cannot rule this out in the longer term. Several reasons may be given for this survival. Generally the concept of the Crown has often been, in New Zealand, of greater importance than the person of the Sovereign, or that of the Governor-General. The existence of the Crown has also contributed to, rather than impeded, the independence of New Zealand, through the division of imperial prerogative powers. This has been made easier by the absence of a federal system, and the consequent comparative unity of the institution.

Of particular importance is that, while the future constitutional status of the Treaty of Waitangi remains uncertain, the Crown appears to have acquired greater legitimacy through being a party to the Treaty. The expression of national identity does not necessarily require the removal of the Crown; it may even be strengthened by it. But this also has consequences for the nature of the Crown, including long-term consequences which are inherently uncertain.

The very physical absence of the Sovereign, and the all-pervading nature of the legal concept of the Crown, has also contributed to that institution's development as a truly national organ of government. The concept of the Crown has now, to a large extent, been separated from its historical, British, roots. This has been encouraged by conceptual confusion over the symbolism and identity of the Crown. But this merely illustrates the extent to which the Crown has become an autochthonous polity, grounded in our own unique settlement and evolution since, and indeed prior to, 1840.

Whether that conceptual strength is sufficient to counterbalance symbolic and other challenges to it in the twenty-first century remains uncertain. But it is certain that the Crown has had a profound affect upon the style and structure of government in New Zealand. The nature of the Crown cannot be ascertained solely, or even primarily, by looking at the conceptual and structural aspects of the institution.



As Bagehot observed almost one hundred and fifty years ago, the strength of the Crown lay in it being comprised of a family, and being the dignified rather than the efficient part of government. But this can also be its weakness, especially outside the United Kingdom, as the association of the Crown with a particular person, and therefore with the homeland of that person, can weaken the position of the Crown

abroad, as other ties between realms decline. Conversely, it can also help to maintain those other ties, and thus provide some cement for the bonds of inter-realm relations.

This book looks at the peculiar situation of the Crown in New Zealand. As already observed, this country has certain similarities with other realms and certain differences. Compared with the major realms of Canada and Australia, and indeed with the United Kingdom, New Zealand is distinct in having a unitary system of government. This has certain implications for the Crown. But we also differ in having a colonial-era treaty between a settler Government and the indigenous population, which has ongoing constitutional relevance for the Crown. Canada has a similar system of treaties, but they are many in number, and therefore their symbolic importance, if not their practical significance, is different, if not less. The royal proclamation of 1763 has a similar role to the Treaty, but is not as influential.

The year 2007 was the 100th anniversary of New Zealand acquiring dominion status. It also marked 155 years since the passage of the New Zealand Constitution Act 1852 and the advent of responsible government in this country. It is appropriate at this time to review one aspect – albeit an important one – of the constitutional development of New Zealand. This element, the Crown, is also both the longest existing and also, in some respects, the most flexible and dynamic of these institutions, and well merits careful examination.

The book is available from Amazon and other internet book sellers.

Royal Residences past and present

Eltham Palace

Eltham Palace, Court Yard, Eltham, Kent, is unusual among former royal residences in surviving as a stately home, and was most recently also used as army offices. It has also been an episcopal palace, and one of the few examples of an art deco country house.

The palace was built in 1305 by the Bishop of Durham, as a suburban residence near London. It

was not destined however to long remain an episcopal palace, as it was bequeathed to King Edward II by Bishop Antony Bek in 1311. Bek was bishop 1284-1310, and was also titular Patriarch of Jerusalem from 1306 to 1311, the only Englishman ever to hold this post.



The Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem was a merely honorific title after the city of Acre was lost to the advancing Muslim hordes in 1291. It was however restored as an residential office in 1847, and the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem is now the diocesan bishop of Latin Catholics in the Holy Land, including Jordan and Cyprus.

The Bishop of Durham was unusual in being a Prince Bishop, head of the County Palatine of Durham, the origins of which dated from the time of King Ecgfrith of Northumbria, and whose peculiar jurisdiction was only finally abolished in 1836.



It remained as a royal residence until 1649. Over the next three hundred years the palace fell into ruins. It was not, however, demolished, and indeed

underwent a remarkable resurgence in the twentieth century.

The ruins of the palace were leased to the textile magnates Sir Stephen Courtauld in 1931. Stephen was the younger brother of industrialist and art collector Samuel Courtauld, founder of the Courtauld Institute of Art, one of the world's leading centres for the study of the history and conservation of art and architecture. Based at Somerset House, The Courtauld is an independent college of the University of London.



The palace was comprehensively restored in the early 1930s, and a new house, in a modern but sympathetically style, was built to the east in 1936. This was decorated in art deco style, and the combined structure was one of the most important stately homes built in the inter-war years in the United Kingdom.

The Courtaulds remained at Eltham until 1944 (during which time the roof of the Great Hall was badly damaged by a wartime bomb). In 1944 they moved to Scotland, giving the palace to the Royal Army Educational Corps in March 1945. The corps remained there until 1992.



In 1995 English Heritage assumed management of the palace, and in 1999 completed major repairs and restorations of the interiors and gardens.

Eltham Palace has a hammerbeamed Great Hall, built by King Edward IV 1479-82. It measures 100 feet by 36 feet. Henry VIII spent much of his childhood there. The exterior of the 1930s house was built in sympathy with the older building, using a red brick design inspired by Hampton Court Palace. But the interior was (and remains) a showpiece of 1930s design, an eclectic mix of French-influenced Art Deco, ultra-smart ocean-liner style and cutting-edge Swedish design.

Most of the ruins are not accessible to the public. However the 19 acres of gardens surrounding the palace include both 20th century and mediæval elements. These include a rock garden sloping down to the moat, a mediæval bridge, herbaceous borders inspired by modern designer Isabelle Van Groeningen, a sunken rose garden and a number of picnic areas for the convenience of the modern visitor.



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