



## Grandmama of Europe: The Crowned Descendants of Queen Victoria

*Theo Aronson*

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## **Grandmama of Europe: The Crowned Descendants of Queen Victoria** Theo Aronson

'It is excellent news that Theo Aronson's lively panorama of European royalties is to be republished. Skilfully interwoven with each other, Theo Aronson's accounts of these reigns, abdications and exiles capture the scope and variety of what Victoria used to call the Royal Mob.'

Elizabeth Longford

Ever since the instant success of his first book *The Golden Bees: The Story of the Bonapartes*, Theo Aronson has steadily built up his reputation as an historical biographer specializing in the Royal Houses of Europe. Among his many widely read books are *Napoleon and Josephine: A Love Story*, *Crowns in Conflict: The Triumph and the Tragedy of European Monarchy 1910-1918* and *The King in Love: Edward VII's Mistresses*.

His books have been published in Britain, the United States, France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Holland and Belgium; in paperback, in book club editions and in serialization.

### THE KING IN LOVE: King Edward VII's Mistresses

'I found it totally absorbing... a thoroughly enjoyable book from start to finish.'

Auberon Waugh, *The Independent*

'Mr Aronson is scrupulously fair . . . his book is entertaining and lively.'

Brian Masters, *The Standard*

### NAPOLEON AND JOSEPHINE: A Love Story

'He tells their story superbly well . . . Aronson has a wonderful eye for significant detail as well as a shrewd appreciation of character. Above all his book is wonderfully readable.'

Patrick Taylor-Martin, *Sunday Times*

'Mr Aronson, an exceptional authority on the world's crowned or once crowned heads, makes Josephine irresistible . . . absorbing and scholarly.'

Alastair Forbes, *Sunday Telegraph*

## **Grandmama of Europe: The Crowned Descendants of Queen Victoria Details**

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Victoria Theo Aronson**

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## **From Reader Review Grandmama of Europe: The Crowned Descendants of Queen Victoria for online ebook**

**Holly says**

**Grandmama of Eurooe**

It is not light reading, however for anyone who enjoys history in any form it is interesting. It can be difficult to follow as it bounces around in sections; nonetheless an enjoyable read.

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**Gina Basham says**

**A very good read**

If you enjoy reading about the Victorian era you will love Mr Aronson's books. Very thoroughly researched and includes many anecdotes. His sources include private and public letters, news accounts and some documentation not published often. His access to information is prolific. If you have read other books by him you'll find some repetition. I would highly recommend. Gbash

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**David A. Devine says**

**Review**

Nice addition to the other works of Dr. Aronson. Enjoyed the detail on both the Balkan and Scandanavian royal houses.

Written awhile ago, so it reads a bit dated about the current royal houses...

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**Carolyn Harris says**

A royal history classic! Theo Aronson examines the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Queen Victoria who married into Europe's royal houses. The book was first published in the 1970s and there are some sections of the book, especially the chapters concerning the Russian Imperial family, which are rather dated, but Aronson provides an excellent account of how princesses with British upbringings experienced the courts of Russia, Romania, Greece, Spain, Denmark, Sweden and Norway. His favourite one of Queen Victoria's descendants is clearly Queen Marie of Romania, who is described in glowing terms throughout the book. Aronson argues that the the connections between Europe's royal houses were of limited political importance as the frequent family gatherings of the early 20th century did not prevent the First World War but these marriages still had a profound cultural influence as British customs and conceptions of royal duties spread across the continent. Well worth reading.

## **Judi Rogers says**

### **Great book on Victoria and her descendants !**

This is a very interesting book on all the monarchies that had descendants of Queen Victoria. Great if you love history, politics, Britons, and so much more.

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## **Ashraks says**

While very informative on the subject of Queen Victoria and her descendants, I felt that Aronson could've kept some of the chapters a bit brief. There were a few of Victoria's descendants whose story was rambling while others were given a few pages at the most. Loved reading this piece of non-fic!

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## **Shawn Thrasher says**

Theo Aronson was a chronicler of royalty, and if you like reading about Queens and Kings of (almost) modern times, then you won't be disappointed by this book. Aronson does not make you feel as if you are sitting down to tea with Queen Maud or Queen Marie or Queen Sophie, which is disappointing at times; it's more like you are peering through a very clear window pane at them having tea or sitting with Grandmama learning how to be very English. Honestly, the book has some tedious points -- and the time line back and forth between kings and queens doesn't always make sense (those Danes and Swedes feel VERY tacked on) - - but overall, it's great fun. Royalty lovers won't be disappointed.

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## **Alayne says**

I enjoyed this book greatly. The writing was excellent (although as always with a Kindle edition there were a number of typos), and I learnt a lot that I didn't know before about the countries of Europe before and after the First World War. For example I had always thought that Yugoslavia was a construct of the Second WW aftermath, but no, it was made after 1918. The author has used many many letters from Queen Victoria to her children and grandchildren and theirs to her, so there is a lot of primary source material. Recommended.

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## **Mary Catelli says**

Adventures, anecdotes, stories -- this is not the history of Europe through its kings and queens but the family history of the kings and queens themselves. Lovely stuff.

It's divided into three parts: during her lifetime, between her death and World War I, and from World War I to the 1960's. There is a certain tendency of certain kinds of stories to congregate at a time.

Queen Victoria's insistence on not considering political matches against the young people's will. Her haughty

contempt when her German relatives objected to her descendants marrying, of all things, offspring of a morgantic marriage. What the queen of England thought good enough for them was indeed good enough.

How Queen Victoria asked her daughter whether she used chloroform and when the abashed daughter admitted it, talked of how she had used it for her last and would surely have used it for them all if only it had been invented soon enough.

The Tsar rising out of his sickbed -- soon to be his deathbed -- to don his uniform to welcome Alexandra to Russia, because as soon as she marries his son, she will be the Tsarita, a fact that none of his court except him seems to remember.

King Edward paying a state visit to Paris and succeeding in charming the French, making the Entente workable with his new popularity.

The theatricality of Queen Marie of Romania.

Queen Sophie and King Constantine, with their own subjects in revolt, facing the French bombardment. King George objected strenuously -- Greece was neutral and they were attacking them for their loyalty -- but was unable to stop it. They had to flee. After the war, they were brought back by a plebiscite, an overwhelming one. Sophie thought it too exuberant to last. Wise, they were out on their ears again soon enough. Greece tried to go to their sons, but ended up a republic.

Spain, where the republicans lost the election and so set out to overthrow the monarchy by force. At least, they called themselves republicans. Methinks they missed the point somewhere.

Prince Carol of Romania swearing away his claim to the throne -- and then coming back after his father's death. His son Michael, on hearing his father called king, immediately asked, "How can Papa be King when I am king?"

A queen showing her guest her vineyard when there's an explosion and placidly wondering whether it was a bomb or the dynamite for her new vineyard. An aide comes rushing up to say it was the dynamite but too much was used -- what a pity, she observed, since it's now much too steep for the vineyard.

How Maud ended up Queen of Norway: by marrying into the Danish royal family. When the Swedish king dissolved the government and could not form another, Norway said it showed he was no longer king and went looking for another. Royalty were quite annoyed at the dismissal, but were reassured that they did, after all, want a king, and naturally they went looking in royal houses. Greece, after all, had gotten Scandinavian kings because royal blood was more important than the country's.

Lady Louise Mountbatten (the name translated from Battenberg during World War I) and how the Swedish royal family (despite their recent rise) needed proof she really was royal.

There were seven monarchies in Europe at the time this book was written. Five monarchs were descended from Queen Victoria, and two were closely related to her.

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## **Kristen says**

An interesting survey of the main royal houses led by descendants of Queen Victoria. The book includes long sections on the British, Romanian, Greek, and Russian families, along with short reports on Queen

Louise of Sweden and Queen Ingrid of Denmark. A re-release of a book originally published in 1973, the coverage ends before the reigns of Juan Carlos of Spain or Carl Gustav of Sweden.

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### **Danna Merritt says**

Reading this book (very slowly) was interesting and kept me absorbed and wanting to return to it every night. I must admit, it was difficult trying to keep track of all the whose who, and how they were all connected ..... there are so many! And, wow, the "incestuousness" of it all! But, not to freak out.... they all thought marrying within the genetic lines was totally appropriate and expected! Hence, it was never boring! I must say, there is no question about their resilience, commitment to their roles, or their determination to do their duty!

It was truly a good read! I recommend it to anyone who is interested in learning more about the history of royalty in the world.

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### **Beth A. Smith says**

This is a very comprehensive (and long) look at Queen Victoria and her descendants. She had 9 children, and the ones that survived to marry and reproduce also had a lot of children, so present day Europe must be lugging her genes around everywhere. This is not a scholarly work, it's a popular history, so it's gossipy, entertaining, and fun to read.

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### **Andrew Nimmo! Zzy Buy,zad says**

#### **A great book to understand the web of Victoria Queen of England and Empress of India**

It easy to read in follows the known fact, I always feel Empress Alexander's role is never understood but this book is just the correct limits.

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### **Mary says**

Writing with flair and an engaging style, no less academically vigorous though, this was very enjoyable. I should have started 5/6th of the way in though as this book was clearly the inspiration for others I've read on the crowned descendants of Victoria. It was so engaging though that it didn't really matter that it was repetitious for me. Despite being 40 plus years out of date, there wasn't much difference between it and more recent books.

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### **Lauren Albert says**

This was an excellent look at the human side of the royals descended from Queen Victoria. It really is amazing how many European thrones had descendents upon them. Aronson does a very good job of

explaining how, despite their relationships, they ended up at war with each other. He shows happy monarchies and unhappy monarchies and why they were... He also shows both good and bad royal marriages and childhoods. He lets you see just how "English" were some of these monarchs raised and ruling in other countries--Victoria's influence lived on.

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