

# The Royal Family of Serbia



THE ROYAL PALACE  
11040 Belgrade, Serbia  
Tel: +381 11 306 4000 Fax: +381 11 306 4040  
office@royal.rs www.royal.rs



## The Royal House of Serbia and Yugoslavia



The Royal Family in the King's Office in The Royal Palace Belgrade

From left to right: Their Royal Highnesses Crown Princess Katherine, Prince Alexander, Crown Prince Alexander, Hereditary Prince Peter and Prince Philip

Followed by biographies of: HRH Crown Prince Alexander

HRH Crown Princess Katherine

HRH Hereditary Prince Peter

HRH Prince Philip

HRH Princess Danica

HRH Prince Alexander



## His Royal Highness Crown Prince Alexander



In April 1941 after Germany attacked and occupied Yugoslavia, the country's young King Peter II left in advance of the invading German forces for Athens with the Yugoslav government. The King and his compatriots were determined not to surrender to the invaders in the best tradition of the founder of the Dynasty Karadjordje ("Black George") Petrovic who led the heroic first uprising of the Serbs against the Ottoman Empire in 1804. From Athens HM King Peter and his government went to Jerusalem and then Cairo. Finally, King Peter II established the government in exile in London. In 1944, King Peter II in London married Princess Alexandra of Greece and Denmark, the daughter of HM King Alexander of the Hellenes and Aspasia Manos.

On 17 July 1945 while living in Claridge's Hotel, Queen Alexandra gave birth to a son – HRH Crown Prince Alexander of Yugoslavia. Crown Prince Alexander, the heir to the throne, was born on Yugoslav territory as the British Government under the orders of Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill declared suite 212 in Claridge's Hotel Yugoslav territory. His Holiness Patriarch Gavriilo of Serbia baptized the newborn Crown Prince in Westminster Abbey with Godparents King George VI and HRH Princess Elizabeth (now HM The Queen Elizabeth II).

After the war, King Peter II was illegally prevented from returning to his country by the communist regime, which had seized power in Belgrade. HM King Peter never abdicated. The King and Queen lived in exile in many countries (United States, France, Italy and England).

HRH Crown Prince Alexander was educated at Trinity School (New York City, United States), Marie-José (Switzerland), Le Rosey (Switzerland), Culver Military Academy (Indiana, United States), Gordonstoun School (Scotland) and Millfield (England). He subsequently went to the British Royal Military Academy and in 1966 was commissioned an officer in the British Army. Crown Prince Alexander served in the 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers rising to the rank of captain. His tours of duty included West Germany, Italy, Middle East and Northern Ireland. After leaving the army in 1972, Crown Prince Alexander II, who speaks several languages, pursued a career in international business.

Although King Peter II died in 1970, the Crown Prince, as the heir to the throne decided at the time not to use the title of King – which he felt would have had little meaning in exile. He made it very clear at that time that he was not renouncing his title, or the dynastic right to the throne.

In 1991 Crown Prince Alexander accompanied by Their Royal Highnesses Crown Princess Katherine, Hereditary Prince Peter, Prince Philip and Prince Alexander travelled to Belgrade where they were very enthusiastically received by hundreds of thousands of people who see the Crown Prince as the embodiment of all that is best for democracy and Constitutional Parliamentary Monarchy.



Before the 5 October 2000 revolution in Serbia, the Crown Prince visited Serbia in 1992, 1995 and 2000. The Crown Prince travelled to Montenegro and Kosovo in 1999 and Bosnia and Montenegro in 2000. The Crown Prince and his family have been living in The Royal Palace in Belgrade since 17 July 2001.

HRH Crown Prince Alexander has always been a very ardent defender of democracy and human rights. In 1989, he took a very active role in helping his people shake off the legacy of decades of dictatorship and the regime. During the next decade, the Crown Prince Alexander conducted numerous meetings and maintained constant contact with the democratic opposition and democrats throughout the former Yugoslavia. In November 1999, Crown Prince Alexander convened a large conference in Budapest for the representatives of the Democratic Opposition in Serbia.

Another symposium followed in Bosnia in January 2000 and in April 2000 the Crown Prince convened a large conference of key opposition leaders in Athens. Following the Athens conference the Crown Prince and leaders of the opposition went to a symposium at Harvard Kennedy School of Government. These meetings led to the successful election victory of Serbia's democratic opposition in September of that year. Crown Prince Alexander has been a tireless contributor in the process of co-operation and unity amongst the democratic political parties to make his homeland a great democracy for all citizens regardless of political belief, religion or ethnic origin.

During the previous decade Crown Prince travelled extensively, met with numerous world leaders, politicians, parliamentarians, world bodies and had many interviews to the media.

In 1972, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Alexander married Her Imperial and Royal Highness Princess Maria da Gloria of Orleans and Bragança of the Imperial Family of Brazil in Villamanrique de la Condesa, Spain. They had three children. The eldest son and heir HRH Prince Peter was born in 1980 in Chicago, Illinois; and fraternal twin sons HRH Prince Philip and HRH Prince Alexander were born in 1982 in Fairfax, Virginia. The marriage ended in 1983.

In 1985, Crown Prince Alexander married Katherine Batis of Athens. HM King Constantine of the Hellenes was the best man and HRH Prince Tomislav, the uncle of Crown Prince Alexander was the witness. The wedding took place in the Serbian Orthodox Cathedral in London.

On 15 May 2015 His Royal Highness Crown Prince Alexander received the highest French order, Legion d'Honneur Commander Rank, by a Decree of the President of Republic of France.

HRH Crown Prince Alexander enjoys skiing, sailing, water skiing, scuba diving and tennis. He was British Army Ski Champion in 1972. His other interests include music, theatre, information technology, and current affairs.



## Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Katherine



Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Katherine was born in Athens, Greece 13 November 1943. She is the daughter of Robert and Anna Batis. Princess Katherine was educated in Athens and Lausanne Switzerland. Crown Princess Katherine studied business at the University of Denver, Colorado, and the University of Dallas, Texas. Princess Katherine was in business for a few years in the United States. In 2007 Princess Katherine received an honorary degree in Doctor of Letters from the University of Sheffield in the United Kingdom.

Her Royal Highness was previously married and has two children David and Alison. David has a son, Alexander and Alison has four children: Amanda, Stephanie, Nicolas and Michael and they live in United States. Princess Katherine has travelled extensively and has lived in Australia, Africa and the United States.

Princess Katherine met HRH Crown Prince Alexander in Washington DC in 1984 and they were married in London 21 September 1985. Their best man was HM King Constantine of the Hellenes, and the witness was HRH Prince Tomislav, Crown Prince Alexander's uncle. Princess Katherine's charitable activities have been numerous, especially since the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. Her Royal Highness has brought much needed relief especially to children, the elderly and all those in need regardless of religion or ethnic origin. Princess Katherine is the Patron of several humanitarian organizations including Lifeline Humanitarian Organization with offices in Chicago, New York, Toronto, London and Athens.

At the beginning of August 2001, The Foundation of Her Royal Highnesses Crown Princess Katherine was established in Belgrade with the aim to continue and increase humanitarian activities.

In 1991 Crown Prince Alexander accompanied by Their Royal Highnesses Crown Princess Katherine, Hereditary Prince Peter, Prince Philip and Prince Alexander travelled to Belgrade, where they were very enthusiastically greeted by hundreds of thousands who see the Karadjordjevic Dynasty as the embodiment of all that is best for democracy and Constitutional Parliamentary Monarchy.

Before the 5 October 2000 revolution in Serbia the Crown Princess travelled to Serbia, Bosnia Montenegro and Kosovo. On 17 July 2001 Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Alexander, Crown Princess Katherine, Hereditary Prince Peter, Prince Philip and Prince Alexander took up residence in The Royal Palace in Belgrade.

Her Royal Highness speaks Greek, English, French and Serbian. Princess Katherine enjoys music, reading, and all the activities that regard children, cooking and the theatre.



## His Royal Highness Hereditary Prince Peter



Hereditary Prince Peter was born 5 February 1980 in Chicago, Illinois. He is the eldest son of HRH Crown Prince Alexander and HIRH Princess Maria da Gloria of Orleans and Bragança. Prince Peter is the grandson of HM King Peter II and HM Queen Alexandra. His Godfather is HRH Prince Alexander of Yugoslavia, son of HRH Prince Regent Paul of Yugoslavia.

Prince Peter lived in Chicago until the end of 1981, when he moved with his parents to Virginia. In 1983, he first attended morning pre-school in Tyson's Corner, Virginia, following this he went to day school. In 1988 at the age of eight, he attended one of London's top preparatory day schools.

Prince Peter graduated from The King's School Canterbury in England having obtained three "A" level's in Art, Spanish and French, and ten GCSE's (General Certificate of Secondary Education).

Prince Peter completed in London an art foundation course at Camberwell College of Arts (London Institute). He also completed a series of design and illustration programmes on the European continent mainly in Barcelona and Seville. After spending a year at Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) on the East Coast of the United States, he started working in the field of graphic design and art direction in London and New York, working with many international clients and brands. His passions include collaborating with other creatives outside of his direct area of expertise to achieve new and exciting visual concepts and ideas in a variety of media.



## His Royal Highness Prince Philip



His Royal Highness Prince Philip was born in Fairfax, Virginia on 15 January 1982. He is the fraternal twin of Prince Alexander and second in the line to the Throne after Hereditary Prince Peter. He is the son of HRH Crown Prince Alexander and HRH Princess Maria da Gloria of Orleans Bragança. Prince Philip is the grandson of HM King Peter II and HM Queen Alexandra. His Godparents are HM King Constantine of the Hellenes, HM the Queen of Spain and HRH the Duchess of Calabria.

Prince Philip lived in Virginia until 1984. Together with his twin brother, he attended kindergarten in Seville, Spain and then London. In 1990 at the age of eight, he attended one of London's top preparatory schools. In 2000, Prince Philip graduated from The King's School Canterbury in England having obtained three "A" levels and ten GCSE's.

Prince Philip graduated from University College London (UCL) with a Bachelor of Arts Honours in Humanities and following that he worked for Landsbanki in the City of London. Prince Philip finished École hôtelière de Lausanne (EHL) Switzerland and worked in the Ritz Hotel in London. Prince Philip worked for IKOS, a global systematic hedge fund, in Cyprus. He is now working with a renowned global asset manager in London. Prince Philip speaks English, Spanish and French, and is continuing his Serbian studies.

Prince Philip enjoys surfing, snowboarding, football, and exercising. He completed the 2010 Athens Marathon, the 2011 Belgrade Half-Marathon, and 2014 London Marathon. Prince Philip is also interested in fine arts, financial markets, music and meteorology. Before the 5 October 2000 revolution, he travelled to Serbia and Bosnia. On 17 July 2001 Prince Philip and The Royal Family took up residence in The Royal Palace in Belgrade.

His Royal Highness Prince Philip and Princess Danica were married at Saborna Church in Belgrade, and had a boy Stefan born in Belgrade 25 February, 2018.



## Her Royal Highness Princess Danica



Her Royal Highness Princess Danica married His Royal Highness Prince Philip in Belgrade 7 October 2017. Their Royal Highnesses Prince Philip and Princess Danica had a boy Stefan born in Belgrade 25 February, 2018.

The Princess was born in Belgrade in 1986 and lived in Paris since 1992. The Princess Danica's major part of her studies was completed in Paris where she graduated in Graphic Design at the Academy of Applied Arts and Slavic Studies at the Paris-Sorbonne University. In London, the Princess finished her MA in Graphic Design Communication at the Chelsea College of Art and Design - University of the Arts of London.

Well known under the artistic name Dana MAAR, besides the basic profession of graphic design, Princess Danica creatively expresses herself as a collagist. Her already recognizable style is manifested through the collages she creates and actively exhibits through solo and group exhibitions and art fairs, thus becoming part of the cultural milieu of both Belgrade and Paris.

Among numerous solo exhibitions in Belgrade Her Royal Highness had solo exhibitions in Parisian galleries: Galerie Origines and Galleries Artessepia within the Carré Rive Gauche event, Saint-Germain des Près, in 2007 and 2008. Her collages have also been exhibited in the Biennale of Contemporary Art in Paris in 2008, 2010 and 2014. The Princess is a member of the Association of Fine and Applied artists of Serbia (ULUPUDS) in the design section since 2010.

From many of her own projects within Her Royal Highnesses basic profession of graphic design and visual communications, her project: "Portraits of Architects- Retrospective exhibition of the members of the architectural section of ULUPUDS 1953-2010" was awarded the BINA (Belgrade International Week of Architecture) for the Architectural event of 2010, as well as the Award of the Salon of May of the Association of Fine and Applied Artists of Serbia (ULUPUDS) in 2011.

Princess Danica speaks Serbian, French, English and Spanish.



## His Royal Highness Prince Alexander



His Royal Highness was born in Fairfax Virginia 15 January 1982. He is the fraternal twin of Prince Philip and he is third in line to the Throne after his elder brothers Hereditary Prince Peter and Prince Philip. He is the son of HRH Crown Prince Alexander II and HIRH Princess Maria da Gloria of Orleans Bragança. Prince Alexander is the grandson of the HM King Peter II and HM Queen Alexandra His Godparents are HM the Queen of Spain, HM King Constantine of the Hellenes, and HRH the Duchess of Calabria.

Prince Alexander lived in Virginia until 1984. Together with his twin brother, he attended kindergarten in Seville, Spain and then London. In 1990 at the age of eight, Prince Alexander attended one of London's top preparatory schools.

In June 2000, Prince Alexander graduated from King's School Canterbury in England having obtained three "A" levels in Spanish, French, Government and Politics, and ten GCSE's (General Certificate of Secondary Education). He went to the University of San Francisco (USF) and graduated with a Communication Studies Degree with Emphasis on Public Relations and Journalism. Prince Alexander was at a graduate school at an American university completing a Master of Fine Arts Degree (MFA) in Advertising (Art Direction). Currently he is working in the internet electronic publishing area.

Prince Alexander enjoys Art, Photography, Music, French Cinema, Current Affairs, Surfing, Snowboarding, Scuba Diving, Museums, Cuisine, Literature, Tennis, Basketball and Football. He speaks English, Spanish and French and is continuing his Serbian studies.

Prior to the 5 October 2000 revolution, Prince Alexander travelled to Serbia and Bosnia. On 17 July 2001, Prince Alexander and The Royal Family took up residence in The Royal Palace in Belgrade. He has travelled throughout Europe, the United States, and has visited the Middle East, South East Asia, Central and South America.



## Order of the Line of Succession

**Order of the Line of Succession  
After HRH Crown Prince Alexander II  
(Son of HM King Peter II):**

**HRH Prince Peter, son of HRH Crown Prince Alexander II, 1980-**

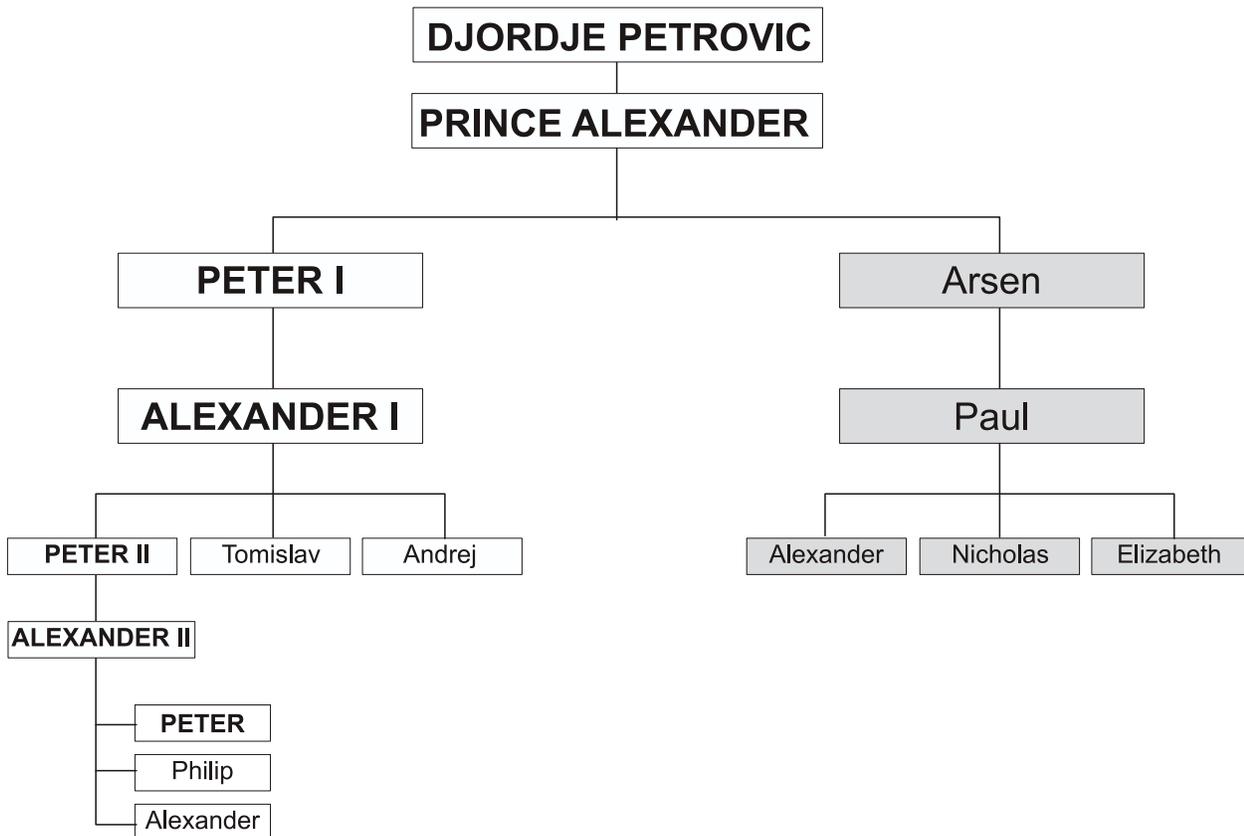
**HRH Prince Philip (twin), son of HRH Crown Prince Alexander II, 1982-**

**HRH Prince Alexander (twin), son of HRH Crown Prince Alexander II, 1982-**

- 4. HRH Prince Nicolas, son of HRH Prince Tomislav, 1958-**
- 5. HRH Prince George, son of HRH Prince Tomislav, 1984-**
- 6. HRH Prince Michael, son of HRH Prince Tomislav, 1985-**
- 7. HRH Prince Vladimir, son of HRH Prince Andrej, 1964-**
- 8. HRH Prince Dimitri, son of HRH Prince Andrej, 1965-**



## The Royal Family Tree





## History of the Karadjordjevic Dynasty

The Karadjordjevic dynasty is over two centuries old. In 1804, a wealthy Serbian clan chief and leader George Petrovic - known to his followers as "Karadjordje" "Black George", after his dark looks) - led the Serbs in an uprising against the Ottoman Empire which controlled the Balkans at that time. This first revolt against the Ottoman occupation in the Balkans is known in Serbian history as "The First Serbian Uprising" (Prvi Srpski Ustanak).

The Serbian uprising was successful for a while. Karadjordje established a government in Belgrade and in 1811 was confirmed the lawful ruler of Serbia and the right of succession was then vested in the family.

In 1813, the Turkish forces recaptured Belgrade and Karadjordje went to Austria. His son Prince Alexander returned to rule Serbia in 1842 but was deposed in 1858.

### 20th Century

In 1903, the Parliament of the Kingdom of Serbia requested that Prince Peter Karadjordjevic, grandson of Black George ascend the throne as King Peter I of Serbia. The new King brought democracy and leadership to Serbia. It was King Peter I who had John Stuart Mills' essay "On Liberty" translated into Serbian.

While the Balkan Wars in 1912 and 1913 resulted in the expansion of Serbia, the annexation of Bosnia-Herzegovina, formerly under Ottoman rule, by Austria enraged both neighbouring Serbia and the people of Croatia. Nationalist aspirations among the Southern Slavs in the Austro-Hungarian Empire for independence finally led to the assassination of Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo in 1914 and within days the First World War had begun.

### Post First World War

In 1918, before the end of the First World War, representatives of three southern Slavic peoples proclaimed by mutual consent the "Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes" and the monarch was King Peter I. King Peter I, however, had been ailing since 1914 at which time his son HRH Crown Prince Alexander assumed the duties of Regent.

King Peter I died in 1921 and he was succeeded by his son King Alexander I. The young King Alexander I had earned national and international fame as a soldier and commander in the Balkan Wars and the First World War. In 1922, King Alexander married HRH Princess Maria of Romania. King Alexander and Queen Maria had three sons: Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Peter, Prince Tomislav and Prince Andrej.

The Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes faced many threats. Neighbouring states coveted much of the country's territories and internal rivalries between the Serbs and Croats increased tension even further. By 1929, it was clear the King had no option but to impose reluctantly a Royal dictatorship.



King Alexander I promised to restore democracy to the newly renamed Kingdom of Yugoslavia once unity had been achieved and bureaucratic corruption expunged. In 1934, he was assassinated in Marseilles while on a state visit to France by a Macedonian terrorist working with Croatian extremists, with Hungarian and Italian support. The French Foreign Minister Monsieur Louis Barthou was also killed in the attack.

King Alexander's son, Crown Prince Peter, was only 11 years old at the time of the death of his father when he became King Peter II. Since the King was under age, three Regents were appointed and one was King Peter's great uncle HRH Prince Paul Karadjordjevic.

### **The Second World War - The Illegal Communist Abolition of the Monarchy**

By March 1941, all but one of Yugoslavia's neighbours was under Nazi domination or influence. Despite Prince Paul's pro-British sentiments, to avoid bloodshed and military defeat he felt obliged to sign the unpopular pact with Germany and Italy to insure Yugoslavia's neutrality. Shortly afterwards on 27 March 1941 the Regency was deposed in a military-led coup and King Peter II was declared of age. Within a week, Germany along with its allies Bulgaria, Hungary and Italy invaded Yugoslavia and forced the government to surrender. The Royal Yugoslav Government made its way via Athens, Jerusalem and Cairo to London where King Peter II joined other monarchs and leaders of governments in exile from Nazi Germany occupied Europe.

The Axis occupied Yugoslavia, which was then dismembered and divided to satisfy Italian, Bulgarian, Hungarian and German demands. A puppet Croatian fascist state was proclaimed. Germany occupied Serbia, while Italy occupied Dalmatia and Montenegro. Despite the collapse of the Royal Yugoslav Army two rival resistance entities formed to confront the occupying forces. The first internationally recognised resistance began in 1941 with the Chetniks led by the Royal Yugoslav Army Colonel Dragoljub Mihailovic, later promoted to General Mihailovic, and then appointed Minister of Defence in the government of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. The other resistance body was that of the communist Partisans led by the communist party leader Josip Broz - later known to the world as Tito. During the occupation of the various parts of Yugoslavia by the Axis, a bitter civil war ensued between the two rival resistance entities.

The Allies, having initially supported the loyalist Chetniks led by General Mihailovic, later threw their support behind Tito. At the end of the war, the Partisans entered Belgrade in 1944 in the wake of Soviet tank brigades and established a totalitarian communist Government. Tito's communist government executed General Mihailovic and other loyalist officers in 1946 after an internationally condemned rump trial.

In November 1945, the monarchy was illegally abolished without a referendum and Yugoslavia remained a totalitarian single party state under the League of Communists for more than four decades. Their Majesties King Peter II, Queen Alexandra and their son Crown Prince Alexander (born 17 July 1945) were stripped of their citizenship and rights by the communist regime in 1947 and banned from returning to Yugoslavia. HM King Peter II never abdicated and remained in exile for the rest of his life.



## His Majesty King Peter II



His Majesty King Peter II of Yugoslavia was the firstborn son of [King Alexander I](#) and [Queen Maria of Yugoslavia](#). King Peter II was born in Belgrade 6 September 1923 his Godfather was [King George V](#). His education commenced at The Royal Palace Belgrade after which he went to Sandroyd School in England, which he left after his father's assassination in 1934. Since King Peter II was 11 years old and underage at the time of his father's assassination, a regency was formed consisting of three regents including his great uncle [Prince Paul Karadjordjevic](#).

In 1939 at the beginning of the Second World War, the Kingdom of Yugoslavia found itself surrounded by countries that had joined the Axis as allies of Nazi Germany. Prince Paul's decision in 1941 to sign a non-aggression pact with Nazi Germany resulted in severe protests in the country and this led

to a government crisis and a coup d'état by Yugoslav officers on 27 March 1941. As a result of the coup, King Peter II was proclaimed of age

The Yugoslav Army was unprepared to resist the ensuing invasion by Nazi Germany and Yugoslavia was occupied within eleven days. King Peter II was forced to leave the country along with the Yugoslav Government - initially to Greece, Palestine and then to Egypt. King Peter II joined other monarchs and leaders of German occupied Europe in London in June 1941. There King Peter was regarded by the people of Yugoslavia as the symbol of resistance against Nazism. King Peter II completed his education at Cambridge University and joined the Royal Air Force.

Despite the collapse of the Yugoslav army two rival resistance entities were formed. The first resistance entity was the loyalist one led by Yugoslav Army Colonel Dragoljub Mihailovic who was later promoted to General and made the Minister of Defence of the Yugoslav government in exile. The other resistance entity was that of the communist Partisans led by the communist party leader Josip Broz - later known to the world as Tito. A bitter civil war followed during the German occupation.

The Allies, having initially supported General Mihailovic later threw their support behind Tito. The Partisans entered Belgrade in 1944 in the wake of Soviet tank brigades and illegally established a communist Government. In November 1945, the monarchy was illegally abolished without a referendum and Yugoslavia remained a totalitarian single party state under the League of Communists for more than four decades.

King Peter II never abdicated. Initially King Peter II lived in exile in London with his wife (he married the Princess Alexandra of Greece and Denmark in 1944, she was the daughter of King Alexander of the Hellenes and Aspasia Manos) and his son Crown Prince Alexander was born in 1945.



King Peter II spent the last years of his life in America. After a long and grave illness, King Peter II died 3 November 1970 in Denver Hospital Colorado, and he was buried at the St. Sava Monastery Church in Libertyville Illinois. He is the only king buried in the United States. In 2013, the King's remains were transferred to the Karadjordjevic dynasty Mausoleum of St. George in Oplenac, Serbia where His Majesty joined other members of The Royal Family.



## His Majesty King Alexander I



King Alexander I of Yugoslavia was the second son of King Peter I and Princess Zorka, who was born in Cetinje Montenegro 16 December 1888. His Godfather was the Russian Tsar Alexander II. Young Prince Alexander spent his childhood in Montenegro and was educated in Geneva Switzerland. He continued his schooling at the Military School in St. Petersburg Russia and then in Belgrade. After the death of King Peter I he ascended the throne of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes.

Prince Alexander's future changed in 1909, when his elder brother Prince George renounced the throne. Alexander as the new Crown Prince of Serbia immediately began reorganizing the Serbian army, and preparing for the ultimate battle against the Ottomans who still occupied part of the Balkans.

In the first Balkan War of 1912, HRH Crown Prince Alexander was commander of Serbia's First Army, fought victorious battles in Kumanovo and Bitola, and later in 1913, during the second Balkan War he was victorious at the battle in Bregalnica. Crown Prince Alexander was the supreme commander of the Serbian army in World War I at the Cer and Kolubara battles in 1914, when the Serbian troops were victorious against the Austro-Hungarian army. Attacked by Austro-Hungary, Germany and Bulgaria, Serbia's Army suffered a series of defeats in 1915. To insure its survival and ability to fight another day the Serbian army with the aged King Peter I and Crown Prince Alexander made a strategic withdrawal through Albania to the island of Corfu and there the Serbian Army was refitted and reorganized.

HRH Crown Prince Alexander became on 11 June 1914 the Regent of Serbia when King Peter I partially transferred his duties owing to ill health. After the army was regrouped and reinforced, it had a glorious victory at the Thessalonica Front, at Kajmakalan. The Serbian army carried out the final operations of the Thessalonica breakthrough in the autumn of 1918, under the supreme command of the Regent Alexander, with superb commanding officers such as Field Marshals Zivojin Misic, Stepa Stepanovic and Petar Bojovic. Crown Prince Alexander's military success during the First World War was followed by his accomplishments as a statesman. After a decree of the National Assembly and the National Council in Zagreb, The Regent HRH Crown Prince Alexander proclaimed the unification of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes into a single nation 1 December 1918.



This act completed the dream of his father and grandfather - to unify Southern Slavs in one nation. When King Peter I died on 16 August 1921, the Regent HRH Crown Prince Alexander became the King of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes.

In 1922, he married HRH Princess Maria of Romania. They had three sons - Crown Prince Peter, Prince Tomislav and Prince Andrej.

The Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes faced continuing crisis caused by severe conflicts between different political parties and ethnic groups. Due to an assassination in the National Assembly and the chaotic situation in the country, King Alexander I suspended the Constitution in 1929, changed the name of the state, from the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes to the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. He also reorganized the state administration by establishing nine "banovinas" (provinces) named after major geographic features such as river valleys.

When the King estimated that the political turmoil in the country had calmed down, a new Constitution was proclaimed in 1931 (known as the "October Constitution"). The King firmly believed that the state crisis would be permanently resolved only when a Yugoslav nation was established, and King Alexander I tried to achieve that goal by implementing a policy "Yugoslav integralism", which eventually failed.

In foreign policy, the King worked intensively on making defensive alliances against the forces that aimed at the revision of the Versailles Peace Treaty. The King's first achievement was the "Small Entente" proclaimed in 1921 between the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, Romania and the Czech Republic. An alliance with France was established in 1927, and another one in 1934 included Yugoslavia, Romania, Turkey and Greece.

King Alexander I was assassinated in Marseilles 9 October 1934 along with the French Foreign Minister Monsieur Louis Barthou during a state visit to France. King Alexander had travelled to France with the aim to strengthen the defensive alliance against Nazi Germany. The King's death deeply moved the whole of Yugoslavia, and hundreds of thousands of people paid their last respects all along the funeral route through the country to the royal crypt in Oplenac. King Alexander I was buried in the Mausoleum of the Church of St. George built by King Peter I. In recognition of his greatest accomplishments the National Parliament and the Senate of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia proclaimed him King Alexander I The Unifier.



## His Majesty King Peter I



King Peter I Karadjordjevic was the fifth child of Prince Alexander and Princess Persida (the daughter of Duke Jevrem Nenadovic). He was born on St. Peter's Day 11 July 1844. He finished elementary and high school in Belgrade, and continued his education at the Venel - Olivier Institute in Geneva. After his graduation, Prince Peter went to College Saint Barb in 1861, and then in 1862 he enrolled in the famous French Military Academy of Saint-Cyr and graduated in 1864.

While he was in Paris he showed interest in photography and painting, and kept improving his military and political education. That broadened his views on liberalism, parliamentarianism, democracy and its institutions. In the beginning of 1868, when he was only 24 Prince Peter published his translation of John Stuart Mill's essay "On Liberty", with his preface, which later became his political programme.

After the assassination of Prince Mihailo Obrenovic in May 1868, political circles close to the Obrenovic dynasty included a paragraph in the new constitution, prohibiting the members of Karadjordjevic family from returning to Serbia and confiscated their property.

Prince Peter joined the Foreign Legion in 1870 and fought in the war between France and Prussia during which he was decorated with the Legion of Honour. In 1875, he took part in the Bosnian-Herzegovina uprising as a volunteer under the assumed name of Peter Mrkonjic. After the failure of the Topola rebellion in 1877 he continued his political activities.

In the summer of 1883 he married Princess Ljubica-Zorka, the eldest daughter of the Montenegrin Prince Nikola in Cetinje, Montenegro. They had five children: two daughters Jelena and Milena and three sons George (who renounced his right to the throne in 1909), Alexander and Andrija (he died as a child). After a short time in Paris, the Karadjordjevic family moved to Cetinje, where they lived for ten years. Due to his poor financial situation, Prince Peter sold his residence in Paris in 1894 and settled with his family in Geneva Switzerland. His contacts with people from Serbia continued, above all with Nikola Pasic, the leader of the Radical Party.

During 1897 Prince Peter left for Russia and was received by Tsar Nikola II. Three years later, he tried to reach an agreement with Serbia's King Alexander Obrenovic regarding the recognition of the title Prince and the return of Karadjordjevic family confiscated property, but



without success. Prince Peter reinforced his political activity for his return to Serbia. In 1901, he intensified his efforts to get closer to Austro-Hungary, offering his political programme.

On 28 May 1903, a group of Serbian army officers assassinated King Alexander and Queen Draga Obrenovic. The Serbian army organized a coup d'état and proclaimed Prince Peter Karadjordjevic, then living in Switzerland, as King of Serbia. The National Parliament confirmed this on 15 June 1903. After 45 years the Karadjordjevic family regained the leadership of Serbia, starting a new era in its development. "I want to be a true constitutional King of Serbia" - said King Peter I in his declaration on the day of taking his oath.

From the beginning of his reign, King Peter I faced serious obstacles. Interior political fights disrupted the country and Austro-Hungary, benevolent towards the new Serbian King at first, soon became an open enemy of Serbia, particularly after the crisis caused by the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austria-Hungary in 1908.

The first Balkan War against Turkey in 1912 and the second - against Bulgaria in 1913, ended in the triumph of the Serbian Army under the supreme command of King Peter I. Serbian victories in these wars resulted in the liberation of the Raska District, Kosovo, Metohija and Macedonia, and their uniting with Serbia.

The constant physical demands of the Balkan Wars resulted in King Peter's deteriorating health and on 24 June 1914 he transferred his royal prerogatives to his son Crown Prince Alexander. A month later Austro-Hungary declared war on Serbia, which sparked the First World War. After the victories of the battles of Cer and Kolubara in 1914, Germany and Bulgaria entered the war in 1915 and the Serbian Army was forced to withdraw and leave the country. The Albanian Golgotha, a winter retreat of the Serbian Army through the mountains of Albania to the island of Corfu, furthermore affected the health of the aging King. However, he lived on to witness Serbia's victory at the end of the First World War and the liberation of Serbia along with the establishment of the new country, the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes of which he was proclaimed the first King.

King Peter I died 16 August 1921 in Belgrade and was buried in the Mausoleum of St. George in Oplenac. Owing to his accomplishments in the Balkan Wars and the First World War, he was declared King Peter I, The Liberator.





## His Serene Highness Prince Alexander



The youngest son of Karadjordje and Jelena was born in Topola 11 October 1806. Alexander Karadjordjevic was educated in Hotin, Bessarabia (Russia), under the patronage of the Russian Tsar. In 1830, he married Persida, daughter of Vojvoda (Duke) Jevrem Nenadovic. They had ten children: four daughters Poleksija, Kleopatra, Jelena and Jelisaveta and six sons Aleksij, Svetozar, (both of them died young), George, Andrej, Petar and Arsen.

After the Ottoman Sultan's decree acknowledging the title of Prince for Mihailo Obrenovic at the end of 1839, the Karadjordjevic family returned to Serbia. Once in Serbia Alexander joined the Headquarters of the Serbian Army, and was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and appointed as adjutant to Prince Mihailo.

After internal political conflicts in Serbia caused by popular disrespect for the so-called "Turkish constitution", and Milos's and then Mihailo Obrenovic's abdications, the National Assembly in Vracar elected Alexander Karadjordjevic as the Prince of Serbia in September 1842. Having had his title acknowledged by Russia and Turkey, Prince Alexander started a number of reforms and founded several new institutions in order to improve the progress of the Serbian state. He implemented the code of civil rights, introduced the regular Army, built a canon foundry, improved the existing schools and founded new ones, and established the National Library and the National Museum.

During the Hungarian revolution against the Austrian government in 1848, Prince Alexander Karadjordjevic sent Serbian volunteers under the command of Stevan Knicanin to the Austrian province of the "Vojvodina of Serbia" to help the Serbs' struggle for autonomy. As a follow-up of the national-political movement in 1848, a pan-Slavic idea of a Southern Slav "Yugo-Slav" Monarchy emerged with the "Nacertanije" (the "Draft") document, written as a Serbian political programme by Ilija Garasanin four years earlier; its objective was to liberate all Southern Slavs from Austrian and Turkish domination.

In internal affairs Prince Alexander came into conflict with the members of the Council, which culminated in the convocation of the National Assembly on St. Andrew's Day in December 1858, which forced him to abdicate.

After his abdication, Prince Alexander withdrew to his property near Timisoara (Romania). His peaceful life was agitated by a false accusation of providing weapons and funds for the conspiracy in Prince Mihailo's assassination. He was deeply hurt by the verdict for a deed he never committed. Dynastic struggles became more severe and it was only then that Prince



Alexander took part in them. He detested the thought of the hideous deed that was imputed to him by his opponents and fought with all his strength to bring another Karadjordjevic to the throne. Prince Alexander died in Timisoara 3 May 1885. He was buried in Vienna, and his remains were moved in 1912 to the Mausoleum of St. George built by King Peter I in Oplenac.



## Supreme Leader Karadjordje



The founder of the Karadjordjevic dynasty Djordje (George) Petrovic, called "Karadjordje" (Black George), was born on 15 November 1752, in the village of Visnjevac in Lepenica district during the Ottoman occupation of Serbia and the Balkans. The Serbs at this time used "patronymics" rather than family surnames. Karadjordje's parents were Peter and Marica Zivkovic. In 1786, Karadjordje married Jelena Jovanovic from the village of Maslosevo. The marriage produced seven children - four daughters Sava, Sara, Poleksija and Stamenka, and three sons: Siam (died after birth), Aleksa (died when he was 29 in Kisinjev, Russia) and Alexander.

Soon after starting a family, Karadjordje went to Syrmia, where he took part in the Austro-Turkish war 1787-1791, as a member of the Austrian "Freikorps" under the command of Radic Petrovic. During that war, he was awarded a gold medal for courage and became a non-commissioned officer.

Upon returning to Serbia, Karadjordje joined Serb resistance groups to the Ottoman occupation. These popular "Robin Hoods" were known as "hajduks." He was at first a member of the Hajduk bands of Lazar Dobric and Stanoje Glavas. Later he became a leader of one of these bands of rebels. The establishment of limited autonomy in the Belgrade administrative region ("Pashaluk") of Ottoman occupied Serbia enabled Karadjordje to go back to farming and trade and to settle in his estate in Topola in the Serbian district of Sumadija (the "Sylvania").

The fragile peace in Serbia ended in 1801 with a reign of terror by the local Ottoman administrators, the Janissary. During this period, the Serbian people were reduced to slavery and suffering. At this time, the Serbs experienced humiliation and torment unprecedented since the fall of Serbia to the Ottomans hundreds of years earlier. The Janissary repression culminated in the terrible slaughter of prominent Serb leaders. History records this episode in Serbia as the "hacking of the headmen".

In response to these developments the surviving Serbian leaders met at a rally in the village of Orasac on 15 February 1804. At that meeting the rebel leaders chose "Karadjordje" Petrovic to lead an uprising against the Janissary chieftains - known as the "Dahis". From that moment Karadjordje's life became inseparably connected with the destiny of the First Serbian Uprising (in Serbian "Prvi Srpski Ustanak"). As the elected Supreme Leader, he became the central figure and driving force of the national liberation movement of the Serbian people. From that moment on he would be the Supreme Leader, Lord of the Serbs, state builder, commander in chief and diplomat. After successfully removing and executing the Dahis, the Serb rebels found



themselves opposing the Ottoman Sultan's army sent to quell the rebellion. Serbian victories followed one after the other in the battles of Ivankovac (1805), Misar and Deligrad (1806). By the end of 1806 the Serb army had liberated Belgrade. In 1807 there were no Ottoman controlled fortifications in Serbia.

The Serb victories under Karadjordje took place at the beginning of the Russian-Turkish War towards the end of 1806. This situation forced Turkey to negotiate with the victorious Serbs. According to the ensuing, so-called "Ickov's peace," Serbia should have become a vassal Turkish principality. However, Karadjordje's ambitions were for full independence and liberation of all Serbs under Ottoman rule. After establishing an alliance with Russia in the spring of 1807, Serbia's war against the Ottoman's continued.

Southern Serbia was liberated and Serbian troops entered into the Raska region and established a connection with Montenegro. After their defeat in Cegar, the Serbs withdrew to the Morava, continuing to fight the Ottomans in the regions of Timok and Podrinje. The Serbian state and Karadjordje's position as the Supreme Leader were strengthened alongside the liberation of additional territories. Within the independent Serbia an Executive Council, courts, post offices and a regular army were established, as well as the "Great School" (the future University) of Belgrade. Elementary schools were founded in all towns in Serbia. Karadjordje's laws and constitutional reforms turned Serbia into a country ruled by law. At the end of 1808, Karadjordje Petrovic was proclaimed the hereditary Supreme Leader of the Serbs. Under the constitutional reform of 1811, Karadjordje strengthened his position as the leader of the Uprising and the country, but peace was not to last. Under pressure from Napoleon's Army, Serbia's ally Russia signed a peace treaty with Turkey in 1812 and this left Serbia alone to face the Ottoman army. Subsequently, Serbia did not sign the Bucharest peace treaty and its negotiations with Turkey failed. In response, the Ottomans launched a military campaign against Serbia in 1813. Almost a decade of warfare had weakened the Serbian army, and the First Serbian Uprising was crushed in bloody repression.

Karadjordje with his family and the most prominent Serbian chieftains left the country, initially for Austria and later for Bessarabia (Russia). After attempts to persuade the Russian Tsar to go to war against Turkey failed, Karadjordje made contacts with the Greek organization "Heteria", whose aim was the allied uprising of the Greeks, Serbs and Bulgarians and the establishment of a great Balkan state. With the intention to start the struggle anew Karadjordje secretly came to Serbia. Under orders of the Turkish vizier and rival Serbian chieftain Milos Obrenovic, Karadjordje was assassinated in Radovanjski Lug near the city of Smederevo, on the night 24 July 1817. His body was later buried in the Mausoleum of St. George in Oplenac, built by King Peter I.

Karadjordje's popularity grew in time into a legend and spread beyond Serbia's borders. Balkan Christians saw God's messenger in him, the Serbs from Austria thought of him as their emperor who would free them from the oppressors, and the Archbishop of Montenegro called him the Unifier of the Serbian people. For the contemporary generation of the Serbs, the name Karadjordje was a synonym for the people's leader, an idol and inspiration to all.



## The Royal Palaces

The Royal Family of Yugoslavia and Serbia have official and private residences in Belgrade and in the provinces. In Belgrade, the Royal Family resided in the City Palaces (Old and New Palace) and in the Palaces of Dedinje (Royal Palace and White Palace).

### The Palaces of Dedinje

#### The Royal Palace



The Royal Palace was built between 1924 and 1929 with the private funds of His Majesty King Alexander I (the grandfather of HRH Crown Prince Alexander). The Royal Palace was the home of King Alexander I and King Peter II (the father of Crown Prince Alexander). Today The Royal Palace is the home Crown Prince Alexander and his family. The Architects were Zivojin Nikolic and Nikolay Krassnoff of the Royal Academy. It is a Palace built in the Serbian-Byzantine style. Its facade consists of white marble from the island of Brac (Croatia), which was also used for the stone colonnade that connects the main building with the Royal Chapel. The decoration of the pillars, windows and doors, both outside and inside, is in the low relief of animals and plants ornaments.

Attached to The Royal Palace there is the Royal Chapel dedicated to Saint Apostle Andrew The First-Called, the Patron Saint of The Royal Family. The Chapel was built reflecting the Royal Church of the Serbian medieval King Milutin in Studenica, and the monastery Church of Saint Andrew on the River Treska in Macedonia where the Holy Place of the medieval Serbian King Vukashin is located. The interior of the Church is covered with frescoes painted by Russian painters. The Royal Palace is surrounded with pergolas, park terraces, swimming pools, pavilions and concert platforms. There are



**The Dining Room**



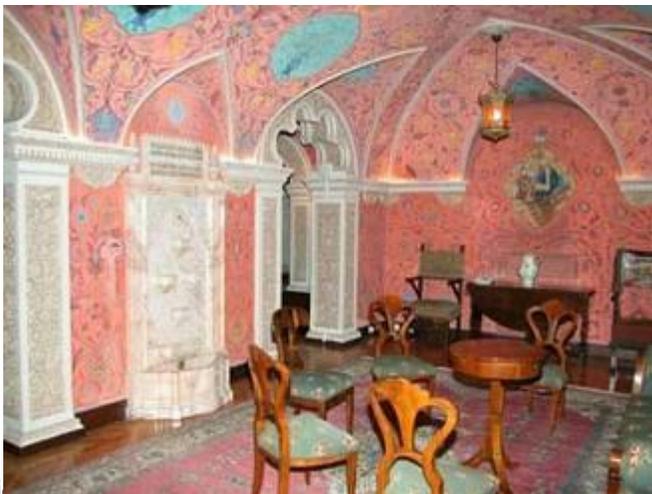
magnificent views from the palace towards the ridge of Dedinje Hill, Koshutnjak Forest, Topchider and Avala Mountain.

The ground floor rooms are very beautifully appointed. The Formal Entrance Hall is paved with stone and decorated with copies of medieval frescoes from the Monasteries of Dechani and Sopochani. The Blue Drawing Room is decorated in the Baroque style; the Golden Drawing Room (Palma il Vecchio) and Dining Room are in the Renaissance style with impressive wood carved ceilings and bronze chandeliers. These rooms are ornately decorated with paintings of old masters and Renaissance painted Florentine Cassoni from the Royal collections. The Library and King's Cabinet are decorated in the same manner.



**The Blue saloon of  
The Royal Palace**

The private living quarters are located on the first floor and this is where Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Alexander, Crown Princess Katherine, Hereditary Prince Peter, Prince Philip and Prince Alexander live. Grouped around a Central Hall these apartments are decorated in various styles, most notably Louis XVI, Empire, Napoleon III and Biedermeier. The Attic contains smaller guest apartments and ancillary rooms. The Basement is decorated in the style of the Moscow Kremlin Terem Palace, the vaults and walls are painted in the theme of the Fire-Bird Legend, as well as the motives from Serbian national epics. That is why the largest of these drawing rooms is named the Room of Miracles. The Billiard room and a cinema are also located here.



The Room of Miracles

The park was arranged according to the design of Eduard Andre. A decorative fence with stone guardhouses surrounds the Palace Complex. There are buildings in The Palace Complex such as garages, servants' quarters, stables and a heating plant. Within the park there is also a thatched house, a kitchen and swimming pools.



### The White Palace (Beli Dvor)



The White Palace (Beli Dvor) is located within the same complex as The Royal Palace and His Majesty King Alexander I commissioned it. The White Palace also was built with the private funds of King Alexander I as the residence for his three sons HRH Crown Prince Peter (the future King Peter II and father of HRH Crown Prince Alexander), Prince Tomislav and Prince Andrej. King Alexander I envisaged that his three sons would require their own private accommodation when they would become of age. The assassination of HM King Alexander I in 1934 in Marseille separated the King from his family, causing the destiny of his sons to take a different turn. The young King Peter II became the new master of the Dedinje Complex.

The construction of The White Palace was started 1934 when King Alexander I was still alive and King Peter II great uncle HRH Prince Regent Paul supervised the completion of the palace. The White Palace took almost four years to finish (1934-1936) and it became the official residence on loan to the Prince Regent and his family in the waiting for King Peter II majority.



**The Hall and the Gallery of The White Palace**

The White Palace architect was Alexander Djordjevic. The ground floor of this classicistic palace houses a large hall and a number of drawing rooms furnished in the style of Louis XV and Louis XVI with large Venetian chandeliers. There is also a library and a formal Chippendale dining room. Stairs and a Gallery overlooking the Hall reach the first floor apartments. The attic has further rooms and another library.

The Royal Dedinje Compound covers an area of over 100 hectares, of which 27 hectares surround The Royal Palace and another 12 hectares The White Palace. The service buildings include kitchens, garages, Palace Guard buildings, the administration of the Office of the Marshall of the Royal Court, etc. The Dedinje Palaces contain many important statues by the famous Croatian sculptor Ivan Mestrovic, many valuable paintings by world famous artists such as Rembrandt, Nicolas Poussin, Breughel and others, as well as valuable furniture and ornaments.

### Temporary Royal Palaces



**Krsmanovic House in Belgrade's Terazije Place**

Owing to the tremendous destruction of Belgrade during War I the city palaces could not be and repair took several years. locations had to be used as temporary Royal Palaces. A location that was used was the Krsmanovic House near Belgrade's Terazije Place and this became the residence of Prince Regent Alexander (later HM King Alexander I) in 1918 and 1919. It in Krsmanovic House where the proclamation of the Union of the Southern Slavs into the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes took place. Another small suburban villa at the foot of the Topcider Hill was used as the temporary residence of King Peter I and this is where he died in 1921.



**The Villa on Topcider Hill**

World used Other

was



## City Palaces

The City Palaces are located in the centre of Belgrade. At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century the palaces consisted of the Old Konak and at that time The New Palace, known today as The Old Palace. Eventually the Old Konak building was removed and it was substituted with the New Palace. In between the Old Palace and the New Palace there stood another structure between the First World War and Second World War containing the offices of the Marshal of the Royal Court, Aides-de-Camps, Guards and Duty Officers, as well as garages and the Royal Mews. An iron fence and stone guard posts surrounded the park. Today the park still has some interesting botanical specimens.



## The Old Palace



**The Old Royal Palace as seen from King Milan Street prior to 1941. Today the Palace is the City Assembly of Belgrade.**

The Old Palace in Belgrade was erected by King Milan Obrenovic during the period 1881-1884 (it is today Belgrade City Hall) and was the residence of King Peter I Karadjordjevic (1903-1921) and King Alexander I (1921-1922). This Palace was built in the academic style with renaissance decoration of the façades. The architect was Alexander Bugarski. The Palace was a representative building originally embellished with two cupolas topped with large gilded Royal Crowns. Since the Palace was heavily damaged in both World Wars in the last century, the cupolas are missing today and the entire appearance of The Old Palace has somewhat changed. Some parts of the Palace are demolished (for example the palace chapel), other parts have dramatically changed appearance and

are today unrecognizable (the grand staircase, the throne room, etc.).

The Old Palace was the official Royal residence, but it was temporarily put to other use in 1919 and 1920 by the Parliament of the Kingdom. The Old Palace was also used for official receptions and other state functions.



**The City Palaces before the bombing of 1941: left, The Old Royal Palace, right, The New Royal Palace, in the middle Offices of the Marshal of the Royal Court and Guards premises.**



## The New Palace



**The original appearance of the New Royal Palace  
(It is now the Office of the President of the  
Republic of Serbia)**

The New Palace is adjacent to the Old Palace it was built during the Balkan Wars and World War I. The architect was Stojan Titelbac. The unfinished Palace was heavily damaged during the Austrian bombing of Belgrade so that reconstruction had to take place before the court officially moved in. The New Palace was put to regular use from 1922 until the completion of The Royal Palace of Dedinje in 1929 and it was the official home of King Alexander I and Queen Maria. The New Palace was the living quarters of the Royal Couple and King's Cabinet and it was here that the King and Queen

entertained their private guests. After the assassination of King Alexander I in Marseilles in 1934 The New Palace was used as temporary location for the Museum of Prince Paul.



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### 1. Is the Serbian Throne vacant?

When King Peter II passed away, his only son, Crown Prince Alexander, became the new King. The transition of the Kingship was immediate, it was without any conditions and irrevocable. As long as the King is alive, his only heir is the Crown Prince, regardless of whether he is of age or not. At the moment of the death of the Crown Prince Alexander's father King Peter II, the Crown Prince Alexander became the King and head of the Royal Family.

The Head of the Royal Family and the personality of the King and his function are united in the same person. HRH Crown Prince Alexander II does not officially use at this time the title of King, but this has absolutely no bearings on his status and rights. The position and the right pertaining to the King can only be renounced through an official act of abdication, in which case the Crown Prince automatically becomes the new King.

### 2. How does one succeed to the Throne in Serbia?

The inheritance is passed on according to primogeniture, the principle of the first-born male, from the father to the eldest son, as long as the direct line of inheritance exists. In case that the direct line becomes extinct, the principle of primogeniture is to be re-established according to the order of birth among the brothers of the last Monarch. This means that the order of birth among the children of the Monarch controls the order of their right to the Throne. In that sense, there is no freedom of election or free will as such. In case of a formal abdication by any member of The Royal Family (regarding his position in the order of succession), that position is automatically transferred to the member of the Royal Family next in line according to the order of birth. Extraordinarily, this procedure can be rearranged by the decision of the Monarch who has no immediate heirs.

As of October 2009, the situation regarding the order of inheritance within The Royal Family of Serbia is the following:

Monarch (Alexander II) (17 July, 1945)

1. HRH Crown Prince Peter (5 February, 1980)
2. HRH Prince Philip (15 January, 1982)
3. HRH Prince Alexander (15 January 1982)
4. HRH Prince Nicolas
5. HRH Prince George
6. HRH Prince Michael
7. HRH Prince Vladimir
8. HRH Prince Dimitri

### 3. What is the present situation regarding the Royal Family of Serbia?



The Royal Family of Karadjordjevic has its senior line, which comes directly from Karadjordje, via his son Prince (Knjaz) Alexander, grandson King Peter I, great-grandson King Alexander I, great-great-grandson King Peter II and great-great-great-grandson - the current Head of the Royal Family Crown Prince Alexander II. This senior line also includes all direct descendants of any of the Kings from the Royal Family of Karadjordje, which presently refers to direct descendants of the King Alexander I and King Peter II. The senior line of the Royal Family branches is threefold. HRH Crown Prince Alexander II represents the late King Peter II branch, which is the ruling one, today, his sons (Princes - Kraljevici) Prince Peter, Prince Philip and Prince Alexander and his wife Crown Princess Katherine.

The late Prince (Kraljevic) Tomislav's branch is represented by his sons Prince Nicolas with his wife Princess Ljiljana and daughter Princess Maria, Prince George and Prince Michael, daughter Princess Katarina (Lady Desmond de Silva) and the Princess-Dowager Linda.

The late Prince (Kraljevic) Andrej's branch is represented by his sons Prince Vladimir with his wife Princess Brigitta and brother Prince Dimitri, and daughters Princesses Tatjana and Lavinia, and also his wife Princess-Dowager Eva Maria.

The Head of the late Prince Tomislav's branch is HRH Prince Nicolas.

The Head of the late Prince Andrej's branch is HRH Prince Vladimir.

The junior line, which has no dynastic rights, of the Karadjordjevic Royal Family originates from Karadjordje, and it is inherited via his son Prince (Knez) Alexander, his son Prince (Knez) Arsen and grandson Prince (Knez) Paul, up to the great-grandson Prince (Knez) Alexander. The junior line today is represented by HRH Prince (Knez) Alexander with his wife Princess Barbara, his sons Princes Dimitri, Michel, Serge, Dusan, his daughter Helen as well as his sister Princess (Kneginja) Elizabeth (Mrs. Manuel Ulloa).

#### **4. What are the obligations of the Head of the Royal Family towards the members, and what are the obligations of the members of the Royal Family towards the Head?**

The Head of the Royal Family Crown Prince Alexander has indisputable authority over all Royal Family members, and their overall status of the Royal Family results from his will.

The Head of the Royal Family Crown Prince Alexander has the duty to protect the members of the Family and members are obliged to respect his position and his decisions.

The relationships among the members of the Royal Family are regulated by the Family Rules ("Pravilnik") for the members of the Family as prescribed by the Monarch.

The honour of the Head of the Family is the honour of the whole Royal Family, the Throne and the Crown. The violation of the honour of the Head of the Royal Family is equal to the violation of the Royal Family, the Throne and the Crown. In case of serious violation of the honour of the Royal Family, the Head may take the decision to suspend titles and ranks of the Royal Family members, including the act of expulsion from the Royal Family, and such a decision obliges the



whole Royal Family until the procedure according to the "Pravilnik" is finalized. The validity and the ways of implementation of the "Pravilnik" procedures is independent of the factual power of the King.

The Head of the Royal Family is Crown Prince Alexander; he is the source of legalization of all the Family members; without the Head there is no Royal Family, nor could its members have the privilege of rank and the title by themselves.

## **5. Who has the right to a title and a rank?**

Any Royal Family member can have a title and a rank. The "title" includes such qualifications as "Royal Highness" that, according to the current practice, can be ascribed to every member of the Royal Family. The "rank" is given to some members of the family by the decision of the Head and according to the "Pravilnik" procedures, based on their birth right or the will of the Head of the Royal Family. According to the "Pravilnik", all sons of the Monarch are "Kraljevici" (Princes Royal) and the other Royal Family members are "Knezevi" (Princes) and "Kneginje" (Princesses). However, since the latest version of the "Pravilnik" dates from 1930, when the number of Royal Family members was significantly smaller, the current practice on this issue, as implemented by the Crown, is somewhat different. Therefore, the sons of the Head are referred to as "Kraljevici", the heir to the Crown is the Prince-Heir (or "Kraljevic-naslednik"), and all the members of the senior line of the Royal Family have the rank of "Princ" or "Princeza".

The members of the junior line have the right to the rank of "Knez" and "Kneginja". (Note: "Knez" is similar to German "Furst", while Trine" is "Prince".)

The Female descendants of the Royal Family have the right to a title and a rank based on their membership in the Royal Family only until their marriage. Afterwards, it is current practice that the Head of the Royal Family allows usage of personal title and rank to female members of the Royal Family, but without the right to transfer it to spouses or issue.

## **6. Are Serbian Monarchs crowned?**

The practice so far on this issue has been different. The Serbian Monarchs have so far, as a rule, always been anointed (the only exception was Knjaz Milan Obrenovic II, who was ill when he succeeded to the Throne), but King Peter I was the only one crowned and anointed.

King Alexander I and King Peter II were neither crowned nor anointed.

The act of anointment is the Holy Sacrament while the act of crowning is a ritual. The Royal insignia were prepared for the crowning of King Peter I in 1904 and are presently kept at the Historical Museum of Serbia in Belgrade. The insignia include the Royal Crown, Sceptre, Orb and the Coronation Mantle (a robe lined with ermine).

## **7. Does the existence of a Regent automatically mean that there is no King?**

Regents rule the country only in the name of the King, but not instead of the King. The privileges pertaining to a King cannot be transferred to a Regent nor can it be done with the prerogatives



of the Crown. The special privileges of a Regent do not, in any way, violate nor substitute the privileges of the King. Accordingly, the existence of the regency does not mean the vacancy of the Throne.

## **8. Did King Peter II abdicate?**

King Peter II did not abdicate. The act of abdication is an official act and it must be submitted in a written form, properly witnessed and verified. At the moment of the official submitting of the act of abdication of a King, as a rule, the Crown Prince immediately takes over the function and the authority of the King.

## **9. Are there any living direct descendants of other national royal families in Serbia?**

There are no living direct descendants of other national royal families in Serbia. HRH Crown Prince Alexander II is, in many ways, a direct descendant from pre-Nemanjic Serbian rulers as well as from early Nemanjic's (from Stefan Nemanja to King Dragutin) and the early Kotromanic's of Bosnia. The Montenegrin Royal family of Petrovic-Njegos is directly present in the person of Prince Nikola Petrovic-Njegos and his children Prince Boris and Princess Altinaj, and, in the female line, in the existing generations of the Karadjordjevic family.

## **10. What are the advisory bodies of the Crown?**

According to the Act of Foundation dated 15 February 1992, the advisory bodies of the Crown are: The Privy Council, the Crown Council and the Crown Cabinet (formed later). The Privy Council is a Council inner body, with up to 10 members (not counting the members of the Royal Family appointed by the Crown), who are nominated by the Crown for an indefinite period of time. The Privy Council deals in everyday duties of the Crown.

The Crown Council is a larger body, with up to 30 members, who are appointed by the Crown to a life-long mandate. This body deals with strategic matters of paramount importance for the people, state and the Crown. The members of the Council are appointed by the Crown from the list of candidates prepared by the Council members themselves. The Crown can, if need be, make the appointment "in pectore", meaning that the appointment is to be made in discretion and is known to only the Crown and the person appointed in that way. Exceptionally, the Crown can call for a conference of all its counselling bodies, which are then transformed into the Crown Assembly.

The Crown presides over all the Crown bodies, names the Chancellor for coordination purposes or delegates the duties of a Chancellor to a Privy Council member. The power of the Crown is manifested in the person of the Head of the Royal Family.

Members of the Privy Council are HRH Hereditary Prince Peter, HRH Prince Philip, HRH Prince Alexander, Arch. Dragomir Acovic, Mr. Djurdje Ninkovic, The Hon. Branko Terzic, and Mr. Dusan Babac.

Members of the Crown Council are Mr. Matija Beckovic, Prof. Dr Miroslav Gasic, Dr Dragoljub Kavran, Mr. Dusan Kovacevic, Mr. Predrag Markovic, Prof. Dr Nikola Moravcevic, Prof.



Emeritus Dr Pavle Nikolic, Dr Milan Parivodic, Prof. Emeritus Dr Slobodan Perovic, Prof. Dr Bogoljub Sijakovic, Emeritus Milosav Tesic, Prof Dr Kosta Cavoški, Prof. Slobodan Markovic, Prof. Cedomir Antic, Mr. Djordje Djuric, Prof. Mr. Vladan Vukosavljevic, Zoran Zivanovic, Emir Kusturica, Darko Spasic, Bojan Sudjic, Mr. Vladan Zivulovic.

Members of the Crown Cabinet are Mr. Ljubodrag Grujic, Mr. Mirko Petrovic, Mr. Vladimir Gajic and Mr. Dragoslav Micic.

**11. Did the Crown confer after 1970 any title of nobility or rank?**

No. After the death of the late King Peter II, no title or rank was conferred to anyone.

Only the three sons (Prince Peter, Prince Philip and Prince Alexander) of HRH Crown Prince Alexander II were born into titles and rank.

Furthermore, the Crown accepted that female members of The Royal Family who were born Princesses of the Blood could continue to use their titles and rank even after their marriage was consummated, and in case they divorced as well. Their favour is personal and non-transferable either to their consorts or to their posterity.

Since the Crown is the only source of all honours within The Royal Family, no title or rank is valid unless granted or confirmed by the Head of the Royal Family.

**12. Are the contents of The Royal Palaces within Dedinje Complex free to be removed or disposed of?**

The contents of The Royal Palaces within the Dedinje Complex are fully protected by the existing laws of Serbia, and they cannot be removed without the mutual consent of the Government of Serbia and HRH Crown Prince Alexander II.

Prior to the moving of HRH Crown Prince Alexander II into his ancestral home, a complete inventory of The Royal Palaces was made and signed by empowered representatives of the Federal Government and of the Crown. Everything was recorded by video camera and photography, and all the records deposited in three examples with 1) the Government, 2) Crown and 3) one national institution of highest renown.

**13. Will any of the artworks in The Royal Palaces within the Dedinje Complex be restored?**

The project of the restoration and conservation is being defined in close cooperation with the Serbian Ministry of Culture, the National Museum, the National Library and the Museum of Applied Arts, and is being implemented in a manner and form that these highest and the most authoritative professional institutions of our Nation propose.

**14. Why is the grave of Tito's mistress still in the grounds of The Royal Palace Complex?**



Ms Davorjanka Paunovic (1921-1946) was buried nearby The White Palace in 1946. Her destiny was tragic and the Crown sees her as a testimony of long passed times and only unless her family requests removal of her remains to some other location, they will remain right where they are.

## **15. Who built the Royal Palaces at Dedinje?**

The Royal Palace of Dedinje was built by HM King Alexander I, the Grandfather of the HRH Crown Prince Alexander II. It served as his Family Home, and The Royal Couple, with their eldest son (the future King Peter II), Prince Tomislav and Prince Andrej moved into it from The New Palace of Belgrade, which until then served as The Royal Private Residence of the King. In 1933, HM King Alexander decreed that the New Palace of Belgrade (presently used as the Official Residence of the President of Serbia) would in future serve as the National Museum, and the Palace was accordingly remodelled.

In 1934, HM King Alexander I started construction of a new structure known later as The White Palace (Beli Dvor), which was intended by HM King Alexander I to serve as the private residence for his three sons Crown Prince Peter, Prince Tomislav and Prince Andrej. Following the assassination of King Alexander I in Marseilles, construction continued and the White Palace was finished in 1936.

The White Palace once finished was used on temporary loan from 1936 until 1941 by HRH Prince Paul and his family. Prince Paul was the senior among the three Regents of the Realm, during HM King Peter II minority.

The New Palace of Belgrade, at that time already home of the National Museum, was from 1936 given a new name: Prince Paul's Museum.

## **16. What is the property status of the Royal Palaces of Dedinje Complex?**

The property status of The Royal Palace (Kraljevski Dvor) and The White Palace (Beli Dvor) in Belgrade (Dedinje) and compound following the death of His Majesty King Alexander I during the Regency administration of HRH Prince Paul, Dr. Radenko Stankovic and Dr. Ivo Perovic, the City of Belgrade District Court, competent for the inheritance of the deceased King Alexander I, issued on the 27 October 1938 Decree No. 0.428/34, determining the outcome of the real estate and movable property of King Alexander I, which is specified in more detail in the above mentioned Decree of the District Court for the City of Belgrade.

The Decree lists in clauses 1 to 7 all the real estate at Dedinje stating the parcel numbers from the Real Estate Register, including the Palace (Old Palace) with surrounding terrain, yard and forest, as well as the building "Beli Dvor (White Palace)" with the appertaining houses. The aforementioned Decree of the City of the Belgrade District Court pronounced as the heirs of the entire private real estate and movable property of the deceased King Alexander I the Unifier, his underage sons: HM King Peter II, HRH Prince Tomislav and HRH Prince Andrej, in equal parts. This Decree became official law on 4 March 1939.



All properties of The Royal Family were confiscated on the basis of the Edict of the Presidency Presidium of the People's Assembly of the Federal Peoples Republic of Yugoslavia (FPRY) Pov. No. 1433 of 2 August 1947 which, in clause 6, under paragraph a., states that the "Palaces Dedinje and Beli Dvor" - "are registered in Real Estate Municipality Belgrade 7 in the names of Peter, Tomislav and Andrej Karadjordjevic, real estate excerpt 82, 86 and 89 on 9 parcels". The aforementioned Decree was abolished in 2001 by the Law on the Abolishment of the Edict of Confiscation of Citizenship and Property from the Karadjordjevic Family. This law determined that the conditions for the return of the confiscated property would be regulated by a special law. The above status remains unchanged up to the present.

**17. What is the truth about some members of The Royal Family belonging to secret societies?**

Since this question and the controversy usually relate to the issue of Freemasonry and the Order of the Temple, it is important to know that HRH Crown Prince Alexander II is not, and has never been, a member of any obedience of Freemasons, or of any of the many organizations and sects claiming the succession of the historical Order of the Temple of Solomon.

It is difficult to say if and who among the various members of The Royal Family might belong (or did belong) to any of the hundreds of secret societies. According to the spirit of The Family Rules any such membership should require sanction from the Head of the Royal Family, but such requests were never received or approved.