



From the Private Collection of Her Highness Princess Elisabeth to Denmark

Lot no. 973 – 978

Princess Elisabeth to Denmark (1935–2018) was the eldest child of Hereditary Prince Knud and Hereditary Princess Caroline-Mathilde of Denmark. Thus, she was King Christian X and Queen Alexandrine of Denmark's first granddaughter. Old photographs and films show just how close the royal couple and Princess Elisabeth were. Hereditary Prince Knud and Hereditary Princess Caroline-Mathilde later went on to have two sons, Count Ingolf of Rosenborg and Count Christian of Rosenborg.



Christian X of Denmark with his eldest grandchild, Princess Elisabeth, in the garden behind Christian VIII's Palace, Amalienborg. 1943.

Princess Elisabeth was born before the outbreak of World War II, at a time when royals still had a lot of names. The Princess' full name was Elisabeth Caroline-Mathilde Alexandrine Helena Olga Thyra Feodora Estrid Margarethe Désirée. She was not only named after her mother and her paternal and maternal grandmothers, but also her paternal grandfather's cousin (Grand Duchess Olga of Russia), her father's aunt (Princess Thyra of Denmark) and her own aunt (Princess Feodora of Denmark).

Princess Elisabeth grew up in "Damebygningen", a wing of the Sorgenfri Palace, and was a regular

visitor to the Palace itself, her grandparents' summer residence, and Christian VIII's Palace at Amalienborg, her grandparents' winter residence. Her parents, Hereditary Prince Knud and Hereditary Princess Caroline-Mathilde, later took over both Sorgenfri Palace and Christian VIII's Palace.

Princess Elisabeth completed her lower secondary school leaving examination in 1952, before spending a year at the Brillantmont boarding school in Lausanne. After that, she spent a year at Suhr's School of Home Economics before studying at the private fashion and design school Margrethe-Skolen (Scandinavian Academy of International Fashion & Design) as well as taking courses at the Tempo Type School in Copenhagen. From 1956–2001, she worked as an office clerk at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, which included time at the Danish embassies in Washington D.C. and Geneva. Thanks to her fashion training, she was adept at sewing her own ball gowns. When journalists asked where they were purchased, the Princess replied, for example, "From Désirée in Gl. Holte". In her own humorous way, she made it sound like a major fashion store from the city, where she lived, but in fact, the dress was presented under one of her own names, and she had made it herself. Princess Elisabeth was unmarried but lived with director Claus Hermansen for more than 20 years.

She resided in her magnificent villa in Gl. Holte for many years but moved back to "Damebygningen" at Sorgenfri Palace in 2015. Princess Elisabeth was wonderful at telling stories about the old days at the Danish court and she held a deep interest in her lineage. At the time of her death, she was twelfth in line to the Danish throne.