

## ROYAL SCOUTS - 5 -

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### DENMARK

The well known and very popular Chief Scout of Sweden, Crown Prince Gustaf Adolf (1906-1947) (See ROYAL SCOUTS -4-. Sweden.) had a sister Princess Ingrid. (1910-2000). She joined the Guides. As her brother she worked herself up through the ranks, Brownie, Guide, Ranger and Leader.



In 1935 she married the Crown Prince Frederik (1899-1972) of Denmark. As Crown Princess she continued her Guiding. (Photo on the left 1937) In 1939 she was chosen to be the President of the Pigespejdernes Fællesråd Danmark, the Danish National Guides Council, the umbrella organisation of the various Danish Guide Movements. When in 1947 the Crown Princely couple mounted the Danish Throne, he as King Frederik IX and she as Queen Ingrid, she continued her national and international work for Guiding.

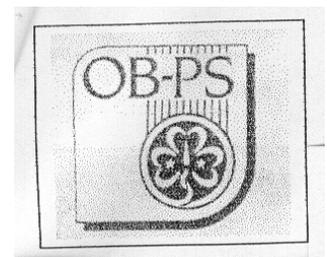
The couple had three daughters Princess Margarethe, born in 1940, presently Queen of Denmark, Benedikte, born in 1944 and Anne-Marie, born in 1946, later to become Queen of Greece. In 1959, Benedikte made the Guide Promise as a member of a special Guide Company consisting of members of Det Danske Pigesjerkorps (the Danish Guides Corps) and de KFUK-Spejderne i Danmark (the YWCA Guides in Denmark) the latter also known as the Grønne (Greens) as they are wearing green shirts. She took it very seriously. As she stated later: *"Basic skills like pioneer works, first aid, food cooked on a campfire etc. were interesting as well as fun. I even completed the first class badge. Though what I*



*found most interesting was the large, international family of WAGGGS."*

WAGGGS requested Denmark to organise van de 18<sup>e</sup> WAGGGS World Conference, 1963. The city of Nyborg was chosen as the place of venue. Of course Queen Ingrid was very much involved but she fell ill in such a way that she was unable to open the Conference. So she requested her daughter Benedikte (Photo on the right) to deputise for her. This was the young Princess' first appearance on Guiding's international scene. She did well and amongst her audience were also her father King Frederik IX and her sister Princess Anne-Marie. In 1965 Queen Ingrid vacated the Pigespejdernes Fællesråd Danmark President's chair. Her daughter Benedikte was elected to be her successor. Queen Ingrid did not lose her interest in Guiding and Scouting until she passed on in 2000. She was, as her daughter Benedikte, an Honorary Member of the St Georges Gilden i Danmark, a member organisation of the IFSG, the International Fellowship of Scouts and Guides (for Adults).

In 1984, WAGGGS founded the Olave Baden-Powell Society (OB-PS). Its task is similar to that of WOSM's World Scout Foundation. Members are influential, mainly well-to-do ladies (the membership fee is considerable) who are/were active Guiders or Guides. Their task is to find sponsors and thus they provide an important financial tribute to the World Movement. Queen Ingrid and Princess Benedikte were requested to become its Patrons. They accepted because it that Queen Ingrid [1] stated that: *"I shall not be able to come to meetings around the world but my daughter will"*.



And so the latter did because as usual she did not consider her task to be an honourable one but she dedicated herself to the OB-PS as a hard working member of the Board. She feels very much at home in WAGGGS international fields.

She also takes very seriously her task as President of the Pigespejdernes Fællesråd Danmark. She visits (in all weathers) the national camps and other events organised by the Danish Guides and Scouts and many in other countries. As to so many, having the privilege of serving the World Organisations in an international capacity, the international aspects appealed to her. [2].

She remained loyal to her various tasks also when in 1968 she married Prince Richard von Sayn-Wittgenstein-Berleburg an ancient German princely family. The couple lives in the Berleburg Castle in Nord Rhein Westphalen, east of Cologne. They have three children. Travelling back and forth between Berleburg and Denmark was never a drawback, neither were the trips to sometimes very far away places for the attending of conferences and camps.

In 1993 – after thirty years - WAGGGS requested the Pigespejdernes Fællesråd Danmark to – for the second time – organise the 28<sup>th</sup> WAGGGS World Conference. Once again, the city of Nyborg was chosen as the place of venue. Princess Benedikte, as the National Council's President was very much involved in the preparations and the organising. She held the opening speech addressing the delegates in English, French and Italian. Present were her sisters Queen Margrethe, Queen Anne-Marie and their mother Queen Ingrid. During the Conference Queen Ingrid and Princess Benedikte – gave a reception for all delegates and staff members at Nyborg Castle. Most of the participants were much impressed and not only by their hosts – who listened to everybody that approached them - but also by the abundance of tasteful Danish bites to eat. [3].



[1] She was 74 years old and in 1972 her husband King Frederik IX has passed on and her eldest daughter, as Queen Margarethe the Second had succeeded him.

[2] The international were not strange to her as she once said: *“The many ramifications of our large family made international understanding a fascinating idea. Our uncles, aunts and cousins come for 8 – 10 different nations. We do not meet very often, but when we do the feeling of belonging together is immediate”*. And she did not mention the acquaintances and friends in other similar families. .

[3] Queen Ingrid passed on in 2000.

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