

# Das Lied

Newsletter of the Adelaider Liedertafel 1858

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*As they used to say in the old Monty Python shows, "and now for something completely different". Herr Correspondent Tamm is on holiday. Apparently he is in Germany for the World Cup, the lucky bugger. This issue will therefore be the sole creation of your unworthy editor.*

*A reminder – on the 1<sup>st</sup> of next month, all memberships (except Life Members, of course) become due and payable. I'm happy to report that all those members who regularly attend practice are up to date. And I'm even happier to report that a couple of blokes have already paid up for 06/07 in full (and no, I'm not one of them). The fee for 06/07 is \$100, and members can choose to pay \$50 in June and \$50 in January. If you have difficulty in meeting the fees please see me in my capacity as Assistant Treasurer.*

BvdW

## Celebrations

Birthdays:

13<sup>th</sup>: Tony Horwath (83)

19<sup>th</sup>: Peter Tamm (66)

If you have forthcoming personal events and celebrations let Bill or Peter T know and we will publish them here.

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

**This is an excerpt from "Wikipedia", a web-based public encyclopedia, about Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, the husband of Queen Victoria.**

Albert and his elder brother, Ernst, spent their youth in a close companionship scarred by their parents' turbulent marriage and eventual separation. Their adored mother, exiled from court and barred from seeing her children again due to a sexually active and private affair with a German baron, died young, at age 31, of cancer. The brothers received a good education, attending like many other princes the University of Bonn. There

Albert studied natural science, political economy, and philosophy. His teachers included Fichte and Schlegel. He also studied music and painting and excelled in gymnastics, especially in fencing.

The idea of a marriage between Albert and his cousin Victoria had always been cherished by their uncle, King Leopold I of Belgium, as well as Victoria's mother (Leopold's sister), the Duchess of Kent, and in May 1836 the Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha and his two sons paid a visit to Kensington Palace, where Princess Victoria of Kent (as she then was titled) lived, for the purpose of meeting her.

The visit did not by any means suit Victoria's uncle, King William IV, who disapproved of the match with his heir, and favored Prince Alexander, second son of William II of the Netherlands. But Princess Victoria knew of Leopold's plan, and William's objections went for naught.

Princess Victoria, writing to her uncle Leopold, said that Albert was "extremely handsome" and thanked him for the "prospect of great happiness you have contributed to give me in the person of dear Albert. He possesses every quality that could be desired to render me perfectly happy." The parties undertook no formal engagement, but privately understood the situation as one which would naturally develop in time.

After Victoria came to the throne on 20 June 1837, her letters show her interest in Albert's being educated for the part he would have to play. In the winter of 1838–1839 the prince traveled in Italy, accompanied by the Queen's confidential adviser, Baron Stockmar.

In October 1839 he and Ernst went again to England to visit the Queen, with the object of finally settling the marriage. Mutual inclination and affection at once brought about the desired result. They became definitely engaged on 15 October 1839 and the Queen made a formal declaration of her intention to marry to the Privy Council on November 23. The couple married on 10 February 1840 at the Chapel Royal, St. James's Palace. Four

days before the wedding, his future wife granted Prince Albert the style of *Royal Highness* and made him a member of the Privy Council. However, the British Prime Minister at the time, Lord Melbourne, advised the Queen against granting her husband the title of "King Consort".

Apparently Prince Albert did not wish to become a British peer, unlike Prince George of Denmark, the husband of Queen Anne, who was created Duke of Cumberland by King William III in April 1689. Albert wrote, "It would almost be step downwards, for as a Duke of Saxony, I feel myself much higher than as a Duke of York or Kent." Although he was formally titled "HRH Prince Albert", he was popularly known as "HRH the Prince Consort" for the next seventeen years. On

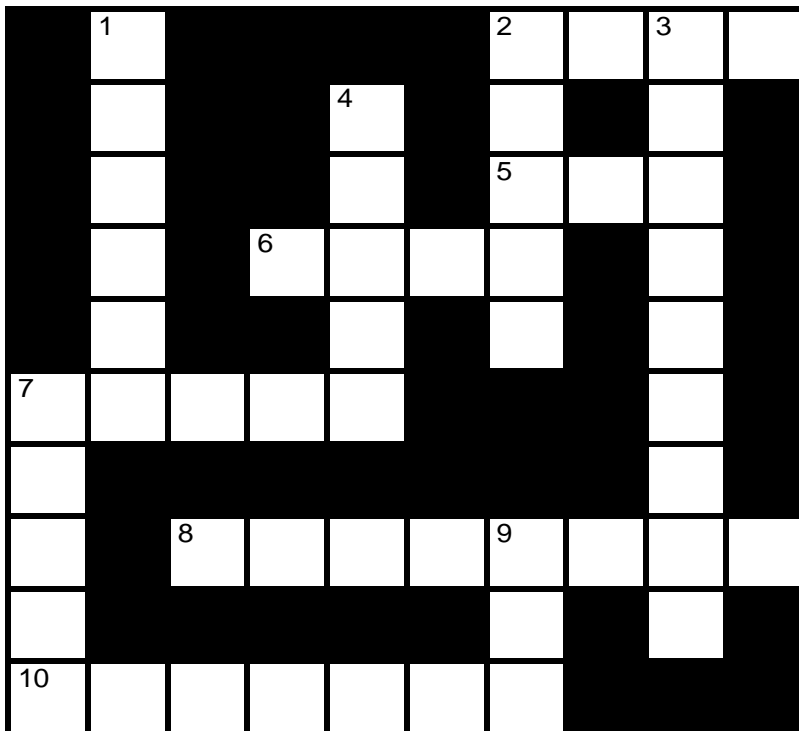
25 June 1857, Queen Victoria formally granted him the title Prince Consort.

The position in which the prince was placed by his marriage, while one of distinguished honor, also offered considerable difficulties; and during his lifetime the tactful way in which he filled it was inadequately appreciated. The public life of the Prince Consort cannot be separated from that of the Queen, so most of what he accomplished was tied to her accomplishments.

Nonetheless, he was thought to have undue influence in politics, and the prejudice against him never fully dissipated until after his death.

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Here's something different – if you can't work this out in five minutes you should be ashamed!  
Solution next month.



**ACROSS:**

- 2. What we all try to do
- 5. Our initials
- 6. Song
- 7. One of our colours
- 8. Street name
- 10. City

**DOWN:**

- 1. In music, an eighth note
- 2. Club
- 3. Committee position
- 4. Choir
- 7. Someone we all look up to
- 9. Animal

The Last Word:

"Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog, it's too dark to read."  
- Groucho Marx