

Yes, the British royals did use drugs

by Mark Burdman

Over the past years, tens of thousands of articles have appeared in the international press characterizing Lyndon LaRouche as “the political extremist who says the Queen of England pushes drugs.” This line has been repeated by androids working for various U.S. government agencies, members or agents of the U.S.-based Anti-Defamation League, and countless others who have never read a sentence of anything LaRouche has written. Obviously, the mere fact that the same words have been obsessively repeated, like a Hare Krishna chant, would indicate that there has been a well-organized effort, probably abetted or instigated by the British Royal Family itself, to discredit and isolate LaRouche.

This operation may now blow up in the face of its architects. Over the past days, revelations have come from Britain which show that, earlier in this century, the Royal Family spent large sums of money on, and extensively used, such hard drugs as heroin, cocaine, and opium. The magazine *Leopard*, which is published in Scotland near Aberdeen, has discovered that the entourage of Queen Victoria and its hangers-on in the Churchill, Rothschild, and other clans “put in regular orders” with a local pharmacy “for opium, heroin, and cocaine.”

In LaRouche’s view, the leaking of this information now, and the high-profile coverage of it in the establishment daily press, is one prominent indication of the massive ferment and turbulence within the highest echelons of the British establishment.

Given the dismal worse-than-Munich-1938 appeasement policy of the British in Bosnia, the increasing attacks on “British geopolitics” from the European continent, the bankruptcy of political leadership in London, and numerous other factors, this turbulence is hardly surprising.

Queen Elizabeth is there

Emblematic of how the *Leopard* story was received was a front-page article in the Aug. 28 London *Times* headlined “Royals Kept High in the Highlands.” Before reviewing the *Leopard* findings, it stated: “Queen Victoria, the stern-faced monarch who was famously not amused, appears to have ordered enough cocaine and heroin for the royal household at Balmoral to keep an entire glen [valley] high in the Highlands.” The records unearthed by *Leopard* “show that the royals and their guests were regularly supplied with sizeable quantities of cocaine and heroin solutions.” In the course of

disclaimers that such drugs were not illegal at the time, the *Times* drew attention to the fact that “cocaine was used by Sigmund Freud in neurology and was used in dentistry in the days before anaesthetics were readily available. Rumor has it that Freud himself used to take cocaine.”

On the same day, the London *Guardian* ran the headline “Royal Drug Record Reveals Old Habits.” The article stated: “The Royal Family has endured many scandals, but none has involved the taking of large quantities of hard drugs. Until now.”

The Aug. 29 Italian daily *Corriere della Sera*, in a manner typical of the pleasure that the Italian press gets from sniping at the British royals, linked the *Leopard* story to the current array of scandals hitting the House of Windsor. The paper headlined its account “Drugs at the Palace, a Victorian Scandal,” with the kicker “Cocaine, heroin, and opium: Churchill, Rothschild, and English princesses.” The article was accompanied by a weird snapshot of Winston Churchill, looking like he is throwing a tantrum.

Corriere noted that the activity of the 1897-1914 period took place at Balmoral, the summer residence of the Royal Family: “The Royal Family is involved in gossip, which is now even affecting the myth of Queen Victoria, who ruled for more than half a century over the most powerful empire on earth.” The scandal reveals that “major doses of drugs were directed to Balmoral, which still hosts the ruling family during the summer. In fact, just in these days, Queen Elizabeth is there.” What is being revealed by the pharmaceutical reports from that period, is that Balmoral “anticipated Woodstock,” site of the rock festival of the late 1960s. Even if these substances were not illegal at the time, the Italian daily noted, it is not surprising that the story has made a “small scoop,” given the “situation around the Windsor House” today.

In a short item, citing a Reuters wire, the Spanish daily *El País* on Aug. 29 ran the headline “The Royal Family and Drugs.”

One Scottish source told *EIR* that he agreed with LaRouche that the appearance of such a scandal, and the widespread reportage of it in Scotland and other parts of the U.K., is an indication of great turmoil erupting within the higher echelons of the British establishment. Said the source: “It’s worse than a tempest in Britain, the whole thing is in great disarray, people are tearing themselves apart, there is ferocious rivalry at the highest levels. The elites in Britain have made some very serious blunders, they don’t know their left from their right.” He added that there is a growing perception in the U.K. that “this government is only out to loot the country. The old, normal tradition of patronage has turned into a form of national corruption that has become unbelievable. In fact, the feeling is growing that what we have here is not a government but a conspiracy. It almost confirms the famous Marxist injunction, that the elites only exist to enrich themselves.”

Documentation

The following are substantial excerpts from an article published by the northeast Scotland magazine Leopard, in its issue made available to the public on Aug. 27. The article documents how the British Royal Family and its immediate entourage was extensively involved in use of hard drugs like heroin, cocaine, and opium in the period from 1897 to 1914.

The title of the piece is "On Royal Deeside: 'Menthol and Cocaine Lozenges—To Be Sucked Occasionally.'" The blurb reads: "Cocaine supplied to Winston Churchill. Heroin sold to members of the Royal Family. Deadly poisons available on demand. Cannabis issued to young women. Abortion-inducing potions on sale. These sound like a good week for headline-writers on The Sun [British tabloid], but are simply part and parcel of everyday trading for a Braemar retail chemist between 1897 and 1914. Ian Sutherland reports."

Pharmacist A.R. Clark trained with Aberdeen firm Davidson and Kay. In 1893, he joined a firm in Brighton. Both of his employers held Royal Warrants. In 1897, Clark set up shop on Royal Deeside—a venture which coincided with the so-called "Golden Age" of late-Victorian and Edwardian Britain, when the Empire basked in that sun which would never set.

Clark obtained a warrant to supply medicines to members of the Royal Family who came to stay in the area. Many of his customers were well-heeled London notables who flocked to Deeside, hoping to rub shoulders with the nation's First Family.

Most of Deeside's native inhabitants were too poor to afford medicines. Their access to such care only came with the introduction of National Insurance, shortly before World War I.

Four of Clark's record books have survived, covering the years between 1897 and 1914. All human life is there, along with recipes for "Mrs. Menzie's horse," "Phil. Rhei Co"—essence of rhubarb—eased life's passage of "The Nurse, Rowan Cottage." And mornings after nights before brought brisk business for the Braemar emporium. Copious quantities of bismuth and sodium bicarbonate revived the spirits of "Charlie, Waiter, Fife Arms," "Lady Churchill's Butler," "Telegraphist, age 15 yrs," "Sister Rosalie" and "The Cook, Invercauld Arms." . . .

But Clark had more serious items for sale. A century ago, narcotics and stimulants were uncontrolled by law. Anti-drugs legislation didn't come in until the 1920s. Victorians and Edwardians did not "demonize" drugs. So, fractious children were quieted by opium—and Sherlock Holmes indulged freely in the use of cocaine. Tonics, cough medicines and headache cures were based on alcohol mixed with everything from heroin to chloroform. Clark offered "Menthol and

Cocaine Lozenges—to be sucked occasionally."

And wealthy clients—with home addresses in fashionable London streets such as Grosvenor Square, Curzon Street and Hyde Park Corner—put in regular orders for cocaine, heroin and opium. When the renowned Rothschild family arrived for the Glorious Twelfth, the Braemar pharmacy sent cocaine to their temporary abode. Ditto with continental aristocrats ensconced at Braemar Castle. The Countess of Londesborough, also at Braemar Castle, was supplied with a mixture containing heroin.

And between 1901 and 1914, female members of the Royal Family—in residence at Mar Lodge—received large quantities of sleeping pills, bromides, chloroform, heroin, cocaine and adrenalin. In August 1906, the Princess Royal was supplied with cocaine in solution. In September that year, she called for "Cocaine Ointment."

H.R.H. [Her Royal Highness] was scarcely alone. The Master of Peterhouse availed himself of "Belladonna and Chloroform Linament." A Mrs. Lilywhite (though we have no reason to suppose she was of the well-known sporting-goods family) regularly purchased Veronal—an early sleeping tablet. A Miss Kelly, address unknown, took bismuth, powdered acacia and morphine, in a mixture. Clark's ledger records: "Taken as a snuff, the *Lancet* says it causes disappearance of symptoms." A Miss Rothnie, of Aberdeen, sought strychnine and quinine.

Events later in this century give some limited support for the suspicion that Clark's records reveal disturbing evidence of drug abuse at the very summit of society. During World War II, Nazi propagandists claimed repeatedly that Winston Churchill was a drug addict. Of course the Allies said the same of Adolf Hitler. Both men could stay on their feet when ordinary mortals collapsed from sheer exhaustion.

But Clark's books state that, in September 1912, the Rt. Hon. Winston Churchill MP was supplied with a cocaine solution, while staying at Invercauld House.

There could be an innocent medical explanation. But did the Nazis know something denied to the British public?

By 1913, legislation allowed poor people to obtain medicines from the Braemar pharmacy. On 1 April that year, John Mitchell of Glen Eye was given digitalis and became the first entry in the register to have "insurance" written beside it. But there is scant evidence that the large numbers of Inverey residents (previously too poverty stricken to contemplate anything other than folk remedies) who came for medication used "medicines" such as Veronal, heroin or cocaine. That apparent omission can only fuel the feeling that addiction—and not illness—brought the rich to Clark's door.

But sensationalism is best avoided. A.R. Clark was not an evil drugs-pusher but a man of his time. If they could afford them, all classes of society used opiates in various forms. Narcotics brought easy oblivion, whether from grim social conditions or from illnesses for which there were no cures. . . .