

PATHFINDER

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Windsors: Awkward Visit

On the last day of their German tour last week, as the Duke and Duchess of Windsor finished a rapid visit to the House of German Art, gallery of approved Nazi paintings at Munich, they were asked to sign the golden guest register. Amiably the Duke signed, but the Duchess smiled and refused. Edward looked surprised. On the way out, a reporter heard him ask, "Why?" To which the Duchess returned the completely feminine lack of explanation: "No!"

Most things that Edward did last week, however, the Duchess did too. She appeared with him on balconies in response to the German chant: "Dear Duke, dear Duchess, please be so nice as to come to the window." She was the only woman present at stag banquets given by Nazi notables, and at a two-hour tea with Hitler at his Alpine home in Berchtesgaden. Wallis apparently made a hit with the Chancellor, who took her hand in both of his when he said an effusive *auf wiedersehen*.

The Duchess was along also at the most awkward moment of the Windsors' German tour. It happened in Stuttgart when Edward, passing near the old royal palace, remembered that in 1913 he had stopped there to visit his cousin, King Otto of Wuerttemberg. He asked to go in. Unable to refuse the request with tact, embarrassed Nazis stood in corners as the ex-King walked through a "Colonial Demand and Foreign Germanism Exposition" to which the palace is now devoted. With a fixed smile, he saw placards demanding the return of Germany's former colonies and redistribution of the world's wealth. Neon lights on wall maps depicted Britain as a colonial Croesus, compared with impoverished Germany. Back in his hotel, the Duke had his equerry tell the press: "His Royal Highness had not the least idea of the purpose to which the former palace had been put."

From Germany, the Windsors went to Paris in preparation for their trip to the United States this month. According to persistent reports, Edward will come to this country as a sort of salesman for the time-clock efficiency system invented by his multi-millionaire American friend, Charles Bedaux.

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