

A ROYAL MARRIAGE OF WORLD-WIDE INTEREST



Old-World Customs Marked the Alexander of Jugo-Slavia and Princess Marie of Roumania

LIKE a vivid chapter from an old fairy-tale were the brilliant ceremonies which celebrated the marriage of King Alexander of Jugo-Slavia and Princess Marie, daughter of the King of Roumania. And when one recollects the exquisite beauty of the Roumanian princess—inherited from her royal mother, whose loveliness made such a deep impression during her visit to France—one is not surprised to hear that it is a true love-match which was the occasion for these magnificent wedding ceremonies.

From Tarnul-Severin, Princess Marie and the entire court travelled along the romantic Danube to Belgrade, where the King of Serbia, his dignitaries, the representatives of the people and the clergy, and a delegation of young Serbian girls appeared in a small fleet to greet their future queen and the Roumanian court. Together the royal launches steamed up to the port of Belgrade, where fêtes, receptions, and the unique wedding festivities were in preparation.

To go aboard the Serbian boat, young Princess Marie wore a crêpe frock of Marie Louise grey with a hat and cape to match. All her dresses were made in Roumania, for the same reason that the Queen Mother's trousseau was made there—in order to encourage home industries, and not, as so many people mistakenly aver, from an exaggerated sense of patriotism.

The bridal gown, which is sketched at the right, was created at the Maison Nouvelle, of which Madame Danheuer, a Frenchwoman, is the *directrice*. She has worked in Roumania for twenty years and has supplied the feminine members of the royal family with many charming frocks. The dignity of the wedding gown was enhanced by two court mantles; one was worn during the religious ceremony, and the other, which was lighter, had less embroidery than the first, and matched the dress, was worn during the ceremonies following the marriage service.

In accordance with an old Roumanian custom, the future queen wears in her bridal coiffure a web of gold, an ornament which symbolizes the many joyful hours spun for her by the Fates. Another tradition directs that on the eve of her wedding-day, she shall give to her young companions sprigs of green interwoven with orange-blossoms, in token of her great happiness. These customs exist only in Roumania and in Greece, and not, as one might expect, in Serbia, although the Serbs and the Russians are of the same religion.

Besides the web of gold, the coiffure is composed of a turban of golden threads interlaced with orange-blossoms; these threads hang below the turban and follow the line of the Alençon lace veil which covers the court mantle. At each side of the face are two little cascades of golden threads.

An event such as this royal marriage stirs the imagination, and one long remembers the triumphal procession of the young sovereigns beneath their flower-strewn canopy, surrounded by a huge throng in which the embroidered costumes of the peasants gleamed like great butterflies. What a brilliant cortège that was which

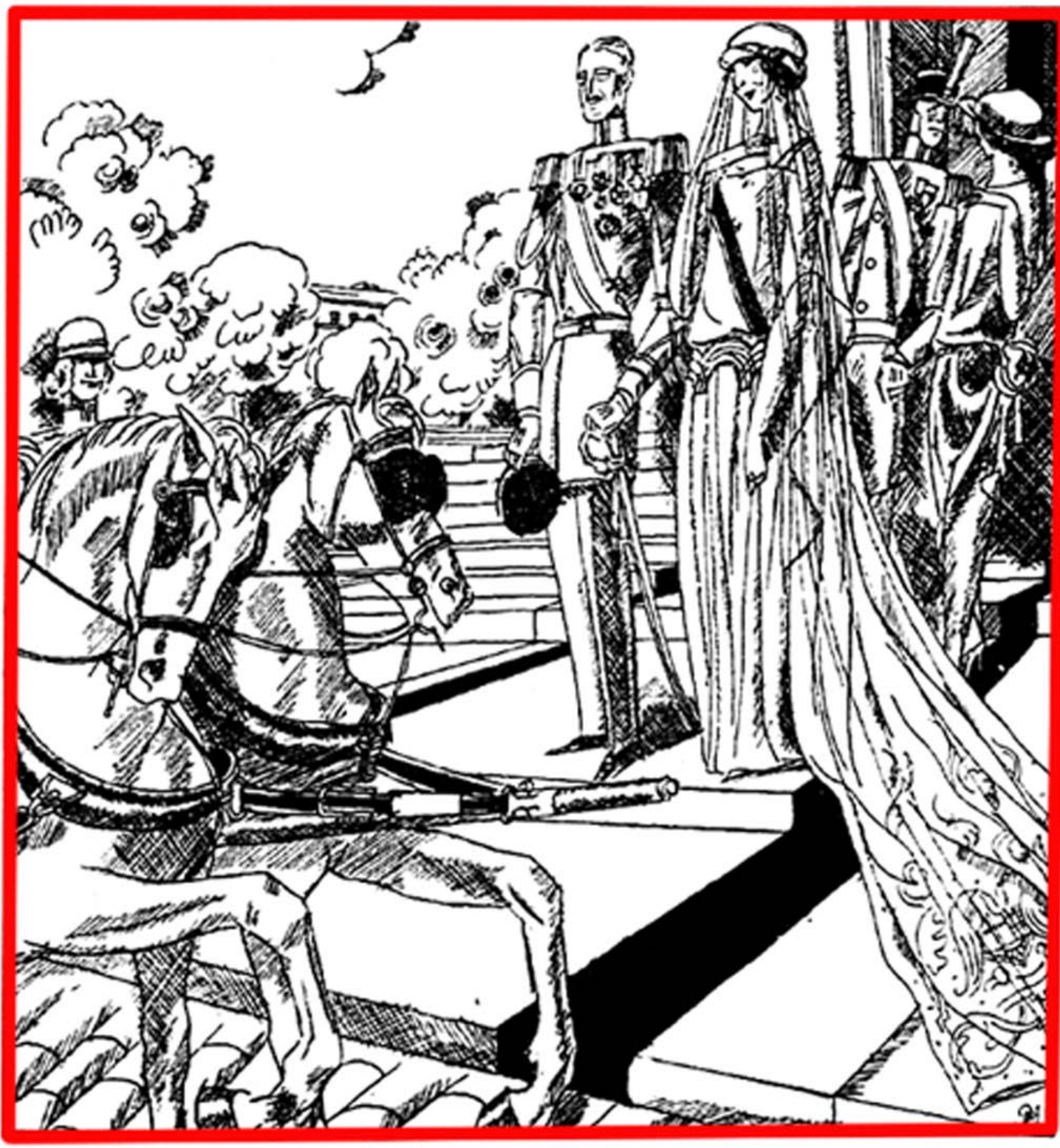


A distinguished party rode behind the gaily caparisoned horses: (above) the Princess of Roumania, Princess Helen of Greece, and Prince Paul of Greece. At the left are the royal couple driving through the city

Royal Marriage

included the picturesque figures of the Banat cavaliers with bright ribbons hung over the ears of their gaily caparisoned horses, the Montenegrin flag-bearer in national costume, and the bright uniforms of the royal escort. All these ceremonies took place beneath a sky of magic blue, which is a sign of happiness, they say—that happiness for the young couple which is the ardent wish of all who know the kindness and generosity of the royal family.

The sketch below shows the royal pair leaving the Cathedral at Belgrade and about to enter their carriage. The bride wore a gown of white georgette crêpe embroidered with pearls and strass. The court mantle of cloth of silver was embellished with motifs of silver and rhinestones. The superb cloak measured five yards in length.



The court mantle worn by the Princess was embroidered with the Serbian and Roumanian coats of arms. Here the royal pair are shown as they left the Cathedral

