NOBILITY, RANK, & THE CROWN

Upton Abbey: An Improvised Comedy of English Manors

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**RANK**

**DUKE**
- The highest rank and title in the British peerage
- First introduced by Edward III in 1337
  - created the Black Prince the first English duke
- Derived from the Latin word ‘dux’, meaning leader
- Known to be the “Most Noble”
- Titled as “My Lord Duke” and “Your Grace”
- All his younger sons are “Lords” and all his daughters “Ladies”

**MARQUESS**
- The second order of the British peerage
- Derived from the French word ‘Marquis’ referring to those that ruled the border countries of England, Scotland and Wales
- Introduced in 1387 by Richard II
- “Most Honorable”
- Titled as “My Lord Marquess”
- All his younger sons are “Lords” and his daughters “Ladies”
- His eldest sons bears his father’s “second title”

**EARL**
- The third degree of rank and dignity in the British peerage
- “Right Honorable”
- Titled as “My Lord”
- The eldest son bears his father's “second title,” generally that of Viscount
• His other sons are “Honorable” but all his daughters are “Ladies”
• This is the oldest title, as it was adopted and used before the term ‘Duke’ and ‘Marquess’
• The term is pulled from two different sources:
  ○ Anglo-Saxon term, Eorl meaning a military leader
  ○ Jarl, taken from the Nords

**VISCONTI**

• The fourth degree of rank and dignity in the British peerage
• Introduced by Henry VI in 1440 simply meaning a vice-count
• “Right Honorable”
• Titled as “My Lord”
• All his sons and daughters are “Honorable”

**BARON**

• The lowest rank in the British peerage
• Derived from the Latin term, Baro, meaning servant or soldier
• “Right Honorable”
• Styled “My Lord”
• All children of a Baron are “Honorable”

**BARONET**

• A hereditary rank, lower than the peerage
• Instituted in 1612 by James I, who fixed the precedence of baronets before all Knights, (except for those in the Order of the Garter)

**THE CROWN AND OTHER NOTABLES**

**KING GEORGE V**

• Born June 3rd, 1865 to Edward VII
• Second son, but due to the death of his older brother (influenza), inherited the throne
• Ruled from 1910-1936
• Won the loyalty of the middle class
• Known for his steadfast dedication to his country
• Married his German cousin and his dead brother’s fiancée in 1889
VICTORIA MARY OF TECK
- Queen of England
- Instituted food rationing at the palace
- Often visited wounded servicemen
- Very materialistic
- She would covet what trinkets her friends' might have; she was known for stealing these objects if they were not gifted to her
- She and George had 6 children together

KING EDWARD VII
- Father of King George V
- Ruled from 1902-1910
- The Edwardian Era regarded as the golden age for the upper class in Britain
- Died in 1910 of multiple heart attacks

DAVID LLOYD GEORGE
- In office from 1916-1922
- Served as the Minister of Munitions from 1915-1916
- The last liberal to serve as Prime Minister
- The only British Prime Minister to have been Welsh and to have English as a second language

KAISER WILHELM II
- The last German Emperor
- Formed an alliance with Austria-Hungary
- Was distrusted by Germany’s military leaders
- Fled to Netherlands after the war
LILLIE LANGTRY

- In 1881, Langtry became the first society woman to hit the stage
- First appearing in the Haymarket Theatre as Kate Hardcastle in *She Stoops to Conquer.*
- Converted the old Aquarium Theatre in London into the Imperial Theatre and managed it herself
- Considered one of the most beautiful women of her time
- Admired by many, including King Edward VII
- Died Feb 12, 1929

DAISY GREVILLE, COUNTESS OF WARWICK

- British socialite who married Francis Greville, the 5th Earl of Warwick
- She was a long-time mistress to Albert Edward, the Prince of Wales
- She later became a sort of courtesan for powerful men
- After Edward VII died, she carried a lot of debt
- She tried to blackmail King George V in 1916 with written proof of the late King Edward's affair with her.

VENETIA STANLEY

- British aristocrat and socialite, renowned for her beauty
- Known for the letters she wrote back and forth with Prime Minister H. H. Asquith
- Asquith would seek Venetia’s advice on how to deal with his political colleagues. He would also question her on military strategy to help with WWI
- Began corresponding with her in 1910 and their writing continued until their affairs ended in 1915 when she married Edwin Montagu
REFERENCES