

Cannadine, "The Context, Performance and Meaning of Ritual:"

The essay begins with two 19th century critiques of British royal ceremony. Do they agree?

Is it true that Queen Elizabeth is surrounded by more ceremony than anyone else? If so, why? (102)

What does he think that elaborate ceremonial always seems traditional, whether it is or not? (102)

How does he think that historical and sociological analysis of ceremonial differs? (104)
What does he mean by "thick description"? (105)
Is it paradoxical that stasis can indicate change? (105)

What is the effect of enumeration 10 specific aspects of ritual? (106-7)

Do you agree with the suggestion that royal pomp and ceremony in Britain has varied inversely with royal power but directly with royal popularity?

Does Cannadine's argument about the popular press (111) contradict Colley's suggestion that even disrespectful publicity enhanced the stature of the monarchy?

Do you think his notion that power makes ceremony unnecessary can be applied equally in other places, for example, Russia or Germany? (116) Why does he think that ceremony was associated with royal weakness in Britain and royal strength in other places? (121) What about at different times (for example royal ceremony in 16th and 17th century Britain)? (121) Does he give sufficient weight to the difference between a constitutional monarch and one who exercised real political power? (133)

What is the meaning of the distinction he makes between the head of society and the head of the nation? (116)

What is the relation of Gladstone's criticism of Victoria's avoidance of ceremony to his notion of her functioning as Queen? (119-20)

Why does Cannadine think that royal ceremonial improved at the end of the 19th/beginning of the 20th century? (120)

Why does Cannadine think that the emergence of the Empire strengthened affection for royalty and also royal ceremonial? (122-2)

Why does Cannadine concentrate so much on music? (130ff)

How much of the rise and fall of royal ceremonial can be explained by the personality of the monarch, as opposed to external factors? (135)

Cannadine notes that ceremonial became a more prominent feature of many aspects of British and imperial society in the late 19th century. What influence does this have on his

argument about the significance of purely royal ceremony. Could it be explained as a consequence of currents running through society as a whole? (138)

On p. 140 he describes George V's formula for success as combining the grand and the domestic. This sounds like George III's formula, can you think of any reason for Cannadine to understate the popular appreciation of George III?

Why does he think that BBC coverage of the monarchy has been so important? (142)
Why does he compare the broadcast of George VI's funeral with the newspaper coverage of the death of George IV (153)? Is the comparison illuminating or fair?

What is the significance of his use of the word *Fairytales*? (142)?

How well has Cannadine's analysis of the public position of Elizabeth II held up? (155ff)

Look at the 5 statistical tables at the end (163-4). What information can you extract from them? How well chosen are they? Can you think of other information that would have been more illuminating?