

The tragic story of Princess Diana, the former wife of Charles, the Prince of Wales and heir to the English throne, has mesmerized the world throughout the 1990s. Yet her story just continues a tragic theme within the Royal Families of Europe which has run for a thousand years, and more. Marriages arranged to forge political alliances, to gain more territory and influence, and NOT for love, almost always had horrendous, tragic personal consequences for all those involved. Such alliances, in a political power sense, were so successful that they led to the formation of the borders of modern day Europe. Sadly, the immense personal tragedies within the Royal Families were never allowed to get in the way, as each family made its way along the road to glory and wealth beyond imagination. This book explains what happened during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries in Northern Germany, within the families that came to rule the two most powerful countries in Europe, Great Britain and Germany.

The topics covered include:

- Princess Amalie and Baron Frederick von der Trenck:
A tragic love affair, though smashed up by Frederick the Great, which lasted until the end of their lives. And their biographies.
- George I of England-Hanover's Family (1650-1730):
Ancestors of the Prussian and English Royal Families.
- Sophie Dorothea—the Uncrowned Queen of England—and Count Königsmark:
A tragic affair.
- Frederick the Great's Family (1620-1787):
Rulers of Prussia. Forebears of the German Kaisers. Their personal tragedies, even insanity.
- Frederick the Great (1712-86):
An absolute monarch. The Seven Years' War (1756-63).
- Baron Franz von der Trenck:
A ferocious Austrian Pandour leader.

Dust jacket Illustrations, from left to right.

1. King Frederick II, known as the Great. Anton Graff, around 1781, Charlottenburg Palace, Berlin.
2. Princess Amalie. A copper engraving after a portrait by Antoine Pesne, around 1743. Photograph AKG London.
3. Frederick von der Trenck in Fort Berge, Magdeburg. A copper engraving by J.E. Mansfeld which appeared in Trenck's 1787 autobiography.