## Who was Rose Kennedy?

# **Documents and Photographs**

Life in England

### List of Documents and Photographs

#### Life in England

C1 Photograph of Ambassador Kennedy and Rose at embassy residence: 1938

C2 "Royal Hostess and her Guest", newspaper clip: March 18, 1938

C3 Draft letter to the Queen of England (2 pages): April, 1938

C4 "With the Kennedy Family in London Town" (2 pages): 1938

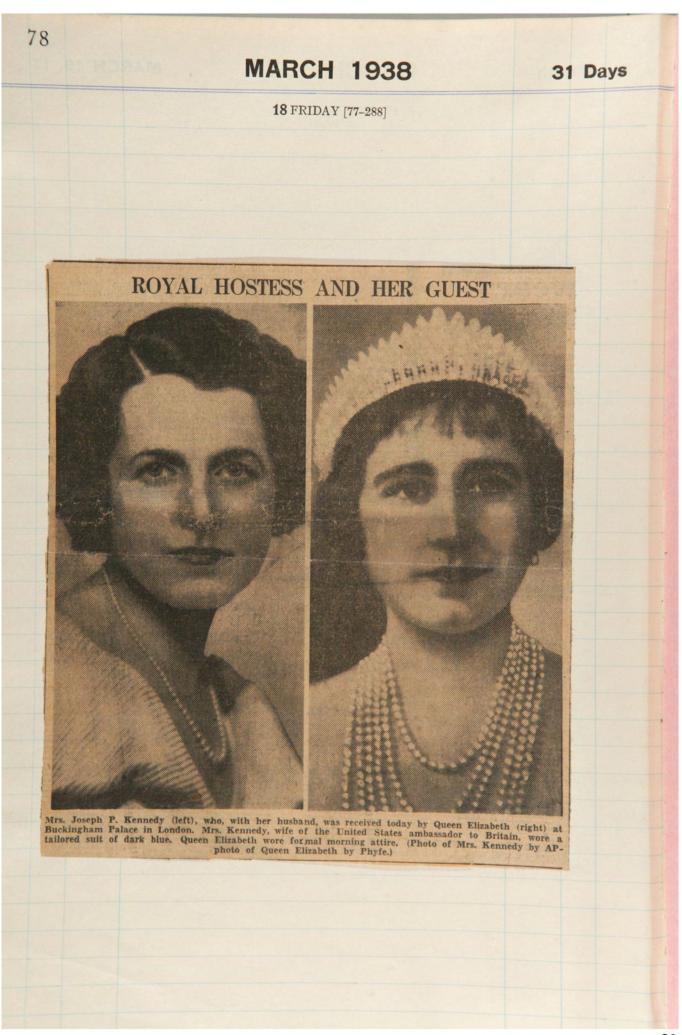
C5 Photograph of the Kennedy Family in London: 1939

Documents are from the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Personal Papers Collection, courtesy of the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation.

*Photo credits: "John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, Boston" unless otherwise noted.* 

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4th Month

## APRIL 1938

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12 TUESDAY [102-263]

London, April 12, 1938.

Madam:

My husband and I want to thank Your Majesties very much for the great honor you conferred upon us by inviting us to be your guests over the week-end. historical The associations connected with the Castle and its wonderful site and the beautiful country around were almost entirely new to us, and of course were tretown mendously interesting. But our greatest joy came from the fact that we had the pleasure of meeting Your Majesty and His Majesty the King so often during our visit. Then, too, we appreciated and seeing the children informally. As a mother, I can tell Your Majesty from my heart that your little daughters were most charming, most natural, and most solicitous. We both hope Your Majesties and all your family may have a most happy Easter.

4th Month

## APRIL 1938

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12 TUESDAY [102-263]

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I have the honor to remain, Madam, wat the

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LHELA CUSHMA

Fashion Editor of the Journal

T 14 PRINCES GATE, in London-the American em- ${
m A}$  bassy-a big American family is making itself at home. The eleven Kennedys-mother, father and nine childrenhave moved in, and since their arrival the six-story house facing Hyde Park has been something more than the official residence of the American ambassador. Outside, the red geraniums, white daisies and blue forget-me-nots in the window boxes make formal announcement of the fact in the colors of our flag. Inside are more lively witnesses. The house echoes with phonograph records, quick footsteps and young American voices. A family-group picture is in the study, along with the portrait of George Washington. The room is lighted with American lamps. There are schoolboys playing ball in the back yard, otherwise known as the gardens. A case of soft drinks is in the icebox. And Grandma and Grandpa-ex-mayor Fitzgerald, of Boston-have come to visit.

The Kennedys are a big family in the traditional early-American sense—a clan, bound together by the closest ties. They have their own dances, their own movies, and at Christmas reunions their family gifts alone add up to 110! It is an interesting thought that in these very modern times, when most families are limited to a very few children, many of the prominent families in the public eye are large ones. There is a big family in the White House today; another in England in the household of the American-born Lady Astor. Perhaps it's a coincidence. It may be a trend!

We went to London to see the Kennedys. We found them plunging into English life, taking to it like ducks to water. The children love the red-coated palace guards, the colorful flower carts on the streets. The younger daughters come down from the convent at Roehampton to see the Queen's Doll's House; the older ones go to Ascot. They feel at home at the embassy; but with the informality of any American family they "do find it a bit strange," according to Mrs. Kennedy, "to have to telephone to one another from the various floors to make a date to meet in a certain room," rather than calling out in their accustomed casual fashion.

ennedy family

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Mrs. Kennedy might be mistaken for one of her daughters. She is young, looks even younger, is slimmer than most of the girls, hasn't a gray hair, prefers running up and down stairs to taking the irongated lift, and is said to have the prettiest and best-dressed feet at Ascot. She is a comrade to her children, helps them with their homework, dances with them, makes a point of having at least one meal a day with them in spite of all the new demands upon her time. But for all her youthfulness, she holds undisputed authority, whether it's in telling Teddy he can have only one piece of candy or in advising her older daughters in the choice of their clothes.

If you're a mother of nine children, or even four or five, perhaps you'll like to know some of the very practical ideas that Mrs. Kennedy has about dressing her flock. She puts polo coats on all of them-boys and girls, from youngest to oldest-because they're always in fashion, can be used summer or winter, for school or vacation travel, and can be "handed down." She considers navy-blue suits and sweaters a sound principle because they're universally becoming and keep the accessory problem uncomplicated. Brown shoes are the rule, and only one hat a season, which they seldom wear except to church. Even in London they go bareheaded, except for state occasions. The girls live in sweaters and skirts, classic uniform of most Americans of their age. They all collect charm bracelets-a new charm for every birthday and Christmas. And they all love plaids. The daughters wear gay ones in skirts and capes, and Mrs. Kennedy herself chooses a soft gray-and-blue pattern in a trim little dressmaker suit.

When the children were young, she dressed them alike, and one of the most amusing and practical of their brotherand-sister acts was in their bathing suits. All suits and caps were the same color-bright blue, red or green-to make it easy for the nurse to keep a watchful (Continued on Page 82)

The Kennedy girls love plaids, bouffant ball dresses, turquoise blue in sweaters and vening dresses, and the flower carts that are a familiar sight in London streets the year round. The younger boys wearEnglish gray and maroon flannels.





