

El Rey Juan Carlos I is nominated Honorary Member of La Peña Taurina Los Suecos, in Stockholm, Oct 18th, 1979. The background is the following.

I had met with members of La Peña in Sevilla April 1978, became a member myself in the fall, was elected Vice President during the Annual Assembly 1978. In January 1979, it became known in Sweden that Juan Carlos was to make his first official State Visit to our country in October the same year, his first visit since his coronation in 1975, 2 months after Franco's death.

In writing, the peña asked for audience to the King's Hand Secretary, a lieutenant in the Spanish Air Force. In July, after SF, we received a gilded, numbered, hand written, missive that audience had been granted. So, on Oct. 18th, in snowy weather, temperature like -4 Celsius, Lars, the Pres of la peña, and yours truly, the Vice Pres, were lining up in the garden of the Spanish Embassy of Sweden, together with HUNDREDS of members of the Spanish colony in Sweden, who also had been granted audience. Until we got into the Embassy, we almost had frozen our balls off. Inside we were served by servants in white gloves, who took care of our furcoats and showed us to the BAR! Viva España! That's how it should be done.

The King and Queen of Spain were placed in the ballroom of the Embassy, where the King received the people who audienced him including us. Lars was unbelievably nervous and repeated and repeated the little speech he was to give and I held the 'placa', the token of his future honorary membership. When, FINALLY, it was our turn, huge gates were opened into the ballroom and Lars and I

STRIDED up to the Royal Couple in the centre of the room. Lars blushed and initiated his speech: "Majestad: Para nosotros, los de la Junta Directiva de La Peña Taurina Los Suecos", here he made a sign at me, "es un gran honor de ..." Lars was interrupted.

Don Juan Carlos Alfonso Víctor María de Borbón y Borbón-Dos Sicilias, Juan Carlos I, Rey de España, took a step forward, took Lars by the arm, smiled at me, and said: "Cut it, brother, let's talk toros!" whereupon he led Lars and me to a corner of the huge ballroom, thus leaving the Queen ABANDONED on the floor. She looked like she was about to die! This took place in front of The World's journalists and Television Teams, of course. And we talked toros for maybe 5 minutes. It was great!

Ever since, our peña have received a gilded Christmas Card, signed by the King in person ...

Please, make one line out of that! (*Tim: Sorry, impossible to do a one liner on that one - you'll have to make do with a one-pager! "Cut it brother, let's talk toros...." I LOVE that!*)