

An intimate insightful biography of Frederick the Great

written by two members of the former ruling royal family, Sibylle Princess and Frederick William Prince of Prussia. Deemphasizing the King's political and military achievements while highlighting his personal relationships, interests, moods and even quirks, this book gives us Frederick II as full-blooded, highly sensitive and compassionate person rather than as Olympian monarch. His tortured relationship with his martinet father, the "Soldier King"; his extraordinary devotion to his dogs, his deep feelings for his elder sister Wilhelmine or for Count Rothenburg; his passion for reading and for the ideals of Enlightenment philosophy as guiding forces in government; the seemingly ceaseless tide of grief he had to endure over the rapid succession of deaths of those closest to him; even his less than fastidious table manners in cutting up bits of meat on the tablecloth for his nearby dogs—these and many other facets of a charismatic personality make this a volume that is for history buffs virtually "unputdownable."



Lost drawing made by the King in his own hand of the ground plan and the terrace complex of Sanssouci.



Even before beginning construction of the palace, the King had his gravesite laid out in the vineyard. The painting, by Johann Christoph Frisch (1780), in which Frederick the Great, accompanied by d'Argens, inspects the emerging gravesite in Sanssouci Park, was not made until after the death of the marquis, who was a great sponsor of the painter.

You'll find it odd that an old man like me could lose his heart to a little dog. For fourteen years Thisbe was my constant companion; she was loyal to me like that queen of Babylon whose name I gave her. Perhaps she was enchanted! On many an occasion I believed it! Whenever I couldn't sleep at night, she would lie next to me and look at me quite curiously – like a good soul!

– Frederick the Great in the year 1783 on the death of his beloved Italian greyhound Thisbe

*Sibylle Princess of Prussia
Frederick William Prince of Prussia*

The King's Love

*Frederick the Great
His Gentle Dogs
and Other Passions*

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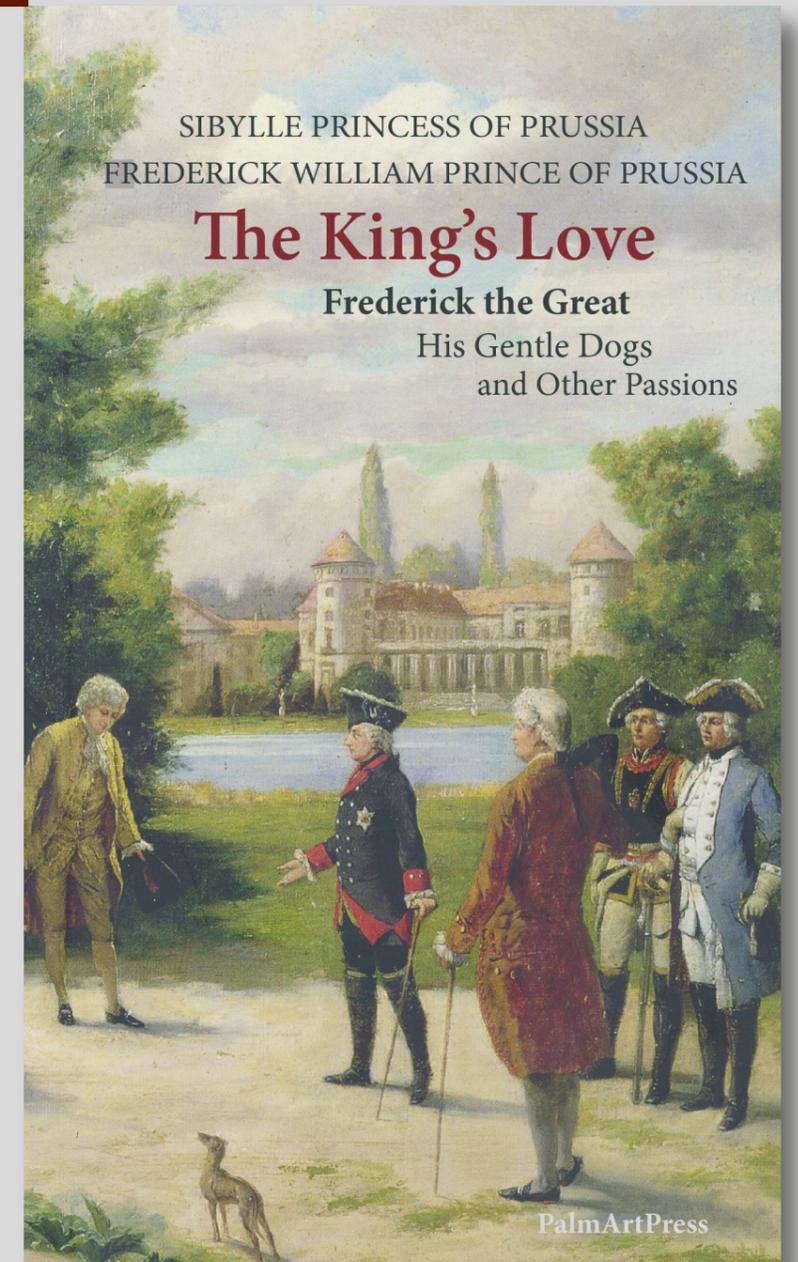
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Sibylle Princess of Prussia
Sibylle Prinzessin von Preußen

was Lecturer and Artistic Director of Video Project (University of the Arts in Berlin) and resides today in Berlin as a freelance artist.

Frederick William Prince of Prussia
Friedrich Wilhelm Prinz von Preußen

was the most immediate descendant of Frederick the Great. In his publications the doctoral historian dealt with the history of the House of Brandenburg-Prussia.



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Translation:

Dennis McCort, Professor Emeritus from Syracuse University, where he taught German language and literature over a long career. He has authored scholarly books on Swiss writer C.F. Meyer and on the influence of Zen on such Western writers as J.D. Salinger, R.M. Rilke and Thomas Merton.

An intimate insightful biography of Frederick the Great written by two of his royal descendants, Princess Sibylle and Prince Frederick William of Prussia. Deemphasizing the King’s political and military achievements while highlighting his personal relationships, interests, moods and even quirks, this book gives us Frederick II as full-blooded, highly sensitive and compassionate Mensch rather than an Olympian monarch. His tortured relationship with his martinet father, the “Soldier King”; his extraordinary devotion to his dogs, his deep feelings for his elder sister Wilhelmine or for Count Rothenburg.; his passion for reading and for the ideals of Enlightenment philosophy as guiding forces in government; the seemingly ceaseless tide of grief he had to endure over the rapid succession of deaths of those closest to him; even his less than fastidious table manners in cutting up bits of meat on the tablecloth for his nearby dogs—these and many other facets of a charismatic personality make this a volume that is for history buffs virtually “unputdownable.”

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PRINCESS AND PRINCE OF PRUSSIA

The King’s Love

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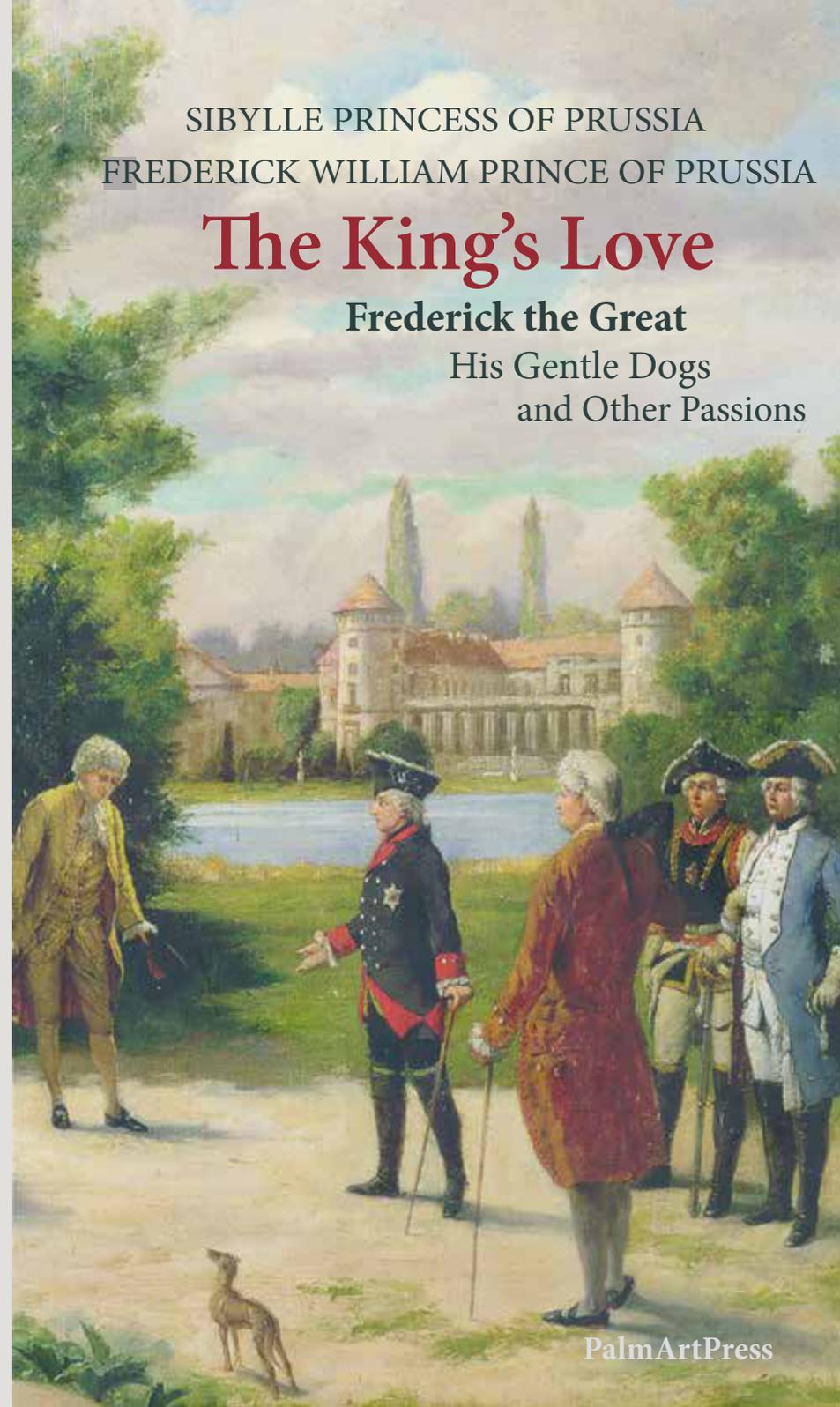
SIBYLLE PRINCESS OF PRUSSIA
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In the early morning of August 17, 1786, Frederick the Great lay on his deathbed. As tradition has it, the objects of his final regard were his beloved little dogs, the Italian greyhounds. Upon seeing that his favorite dog, “Superbe,” was on watch next to him and freezing, he whispered, scarcely still audible, “Cover him with a pillow” – these are said to have been his last conscious words. So it seems that Frederick was able to show himself to be warmhearted and astonishingly sensitive – yet this side of a king usually portrayed as extremely severe has been heretofore hidden from us.

The historian Frederick William, Prince of Prussia, Ph.D., and his wife, Princess Sibylle of Prussia, sketch in their book a—for many—perplexing picture of the great King. Frederick II was long considered to be calculating, militaristic and misanthropic. Few are aware of his deep friendships and his close affinity to animals, particularly dogs.

The authors, themselves descendants of the Prussian King, recount numerous amusing anecdotes, but also tragic scenes from the private life of the great King. At the same time, they offer an authentic biography, one that addresses itself to the latest research findings.

Umschlagbild: „Friedrich der Große in Rheinsberg“ von Fedor Poppe