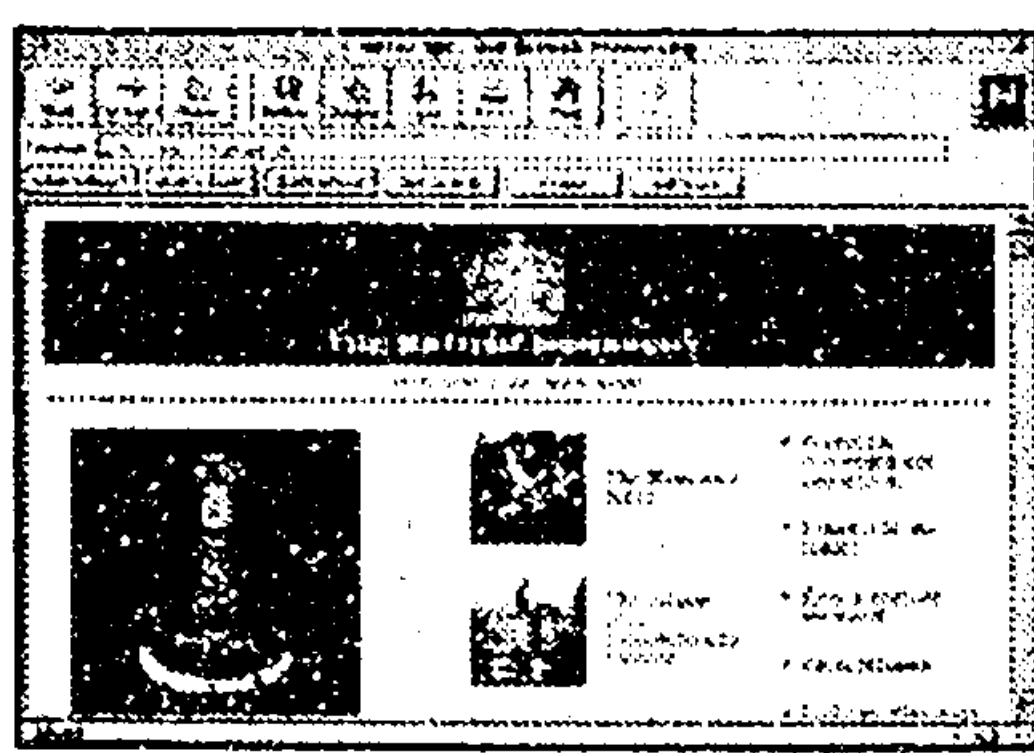


THE DIGITAL REVOLUTION

THE great thing about the Internet is that anyone can be a part of it. It's a truly equal-opportunity society, where all it takes is a few dollars and some initiative to carve out your own space in cyberspace.

As a result, ordinary folk are achieving a touch of fame with World Wide Web pages. And the very powerful also are taking advantage of the new technology. Among their ranks is a noble soul indeed: Queen Elizabeth II.



Elizabeth has launched the royal family's first Web site in an attempt, a spokesperson said, to "make the monarchy more accessible." Goodness knows the Windsors need good PR these days, what with divorce, scandal and financial controversy swirling around the crown. And while the new site may not alleviate the royals' major problems, it does give the public on both sides of the ocean some insight on what it's like to be queen.

The page (<http://www.royal.gov.uk>) delivers a basic course on British royalty. It includes articles on the conditions of succession to the throne, along with current press releases from Her Majesty's office. There also are looks into the royals' official residences, and a rare photo of the Crown Jewels themselves.

A family tree, beginning with Queen Victoria, is available, along with biographies of current royals. (For the record, Diana is there, Fergie is not.) There are descriptions of major members of Elizabeth's "royal household"; for anyone who ever wanted to know what the Lord Chamberlain or Grand Equerry do, this is the place to go. Web surfers also can read about the Royal Collection, the mass of antiques the monarchy has accumulated during the centuries. There's even a Frequently Asked Questions page with tons of royal trivia. For example, you can learn who gets knighted and how.

What you won't get here is sordid royal gossip. Then again, that's what *People* magazine is for.

— D.B.W.

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St. Albans Daily Messenger, 26 Mar. 1997, p. 20. NewsBank: America's Historical Newspapers, https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/openurl?ctx_ver=z39.88-2004&rft_id=info%3Aid/infoweb.newsbank.com&svc_dat=EANX-K12&req_dat=0D98AE9666FC8F8A&rft_val_format=info%3Aofi/ftm%3Akey%3Actx&rft_dat=document_id%3Aimage%252Fv2%253A111ACD379A036C80%2540EANX-K12-11928B3351181940%25402450534-1190D9F61C712C78%254019-11929164E0734FE0. Accessed 12 Apr. 2023.

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