British Royal Wedding Protocol and Etiquette
Bachelor Thesis

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I declare that I have worked on this thesis independently, using only the primary and secondary sources listed in the bibliography.

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Introduction

The main aim of this Bachelor Thesis is to examine British royal protocol and etiquette regarding royal weddings. The meaning of royal protocol and etiquette evokes a set of rules which are required mainly at Court. It is known that the Royal Family in the United Kingdom still observes the protocol and etiquette. On the other hand, it is not clear how much the royal protocol and etiquette influence all the members of current Royal Family. British royal protocol, which should cover all the parts of its usage, has never been officially published. Many people hold the opinion that the royal protocol and etiquette are outdated in need of many changes in accordance with the current social situation. Due to this fact the thesis concentrates to the transformations which have taken place under the reign of Queen Elizabeth II.

The first part of the thesis focuses on an origin and the development of etiquette mainly in the United Kingdom. This part also provides a list of names of the most important people who are connected with history of court etiquette. Besides the historical importance, a perception of etiquette in the UK is discussed.

For the deeper understanding of the meaning of royal protocol, it is necessary to examine its historical purpose and significance. Even if people are aware of an existence of a current royal protocol in the United Kingdom, it is not clear why the manual is not available. Furthermore, the thesis deals with Royal events and formal occasions where the royal protocol is used. The work attempts to clarify the importance of protocol and observance by foreigner representatives. British Royal Family is also known for the opulent and traditional ceremonies provided by professionals which require an excellent preparation.
The most important part of the Bachelor Thesis discusses Royal weddings. A description of the protocol, etiquette and traditions which have been adapted for centuries. This chapter also examines the attitude of the Royal Family to the observance of protocol. Royal weddings are not only about good manners and proper behaviour but also about appropriate spouses who could govern the country. It means that the members of the Royal Family are obliged to respect laws in choosing a proper partner; however, some exceptions and transformations are to be found.

Wedding ceremonies became public occasions noticed over the world. We described some turning points and reasons which could cause the different perception of the British Monarchy. These occasions are organized in compliance with unique rules and manners which could be observed by all the participants. However, even if the Royal wedding protocol was sent to the wedding guests its whole content is unknown. Some parts of the royal wedding protocol are available. The thesis could be used as a manual as it collects the most interesting and relevant pieces of information which were released. The etiquette guide for guests, the protocol of royal wedding ceremony and the traditions connected with a royal wedding are all examined in this Bachelor Thesis. The first mention of this monarchy is dated back to the 11\textsuperscript{th} century which means that the traditions have developed for centuries. The thesis deals with the traditions which are still abided during wedding ceremony today.

Finally, the goal of the thesis is not only to provide the etiquette and protocol of the Royal Family in the UK, but also to analyse the changes that the protocol underwent and its importance in contemporary Britain. Given the limited scope of the thesis we shall only examine the protocol and etiquette concerning royal weddings. The most relevant source regarding British etiquette is called Debrett’s. The last edition, which is
called Debrett’s New Guide to Etiquette and Modern Manners: The Indispensable Handbook, and which was written by John Morgan in 1996 covers the rules and manners regarding royal wedding protocol and etiquette. Unfortunately, the book is out of print. Due to this fact, this Bachelor Thesis provides the most important pieces of advice which are indispensable at a royal wedding ceremony.
1 Meaning of etiquette

It is a universally acknowledged truth that the word etiquette stands for a collection of unwritten rules and manners of a good society. The official explanation asserts that etiquette means “the forms required by good breeding, social conventions, or prescribed by authority, to be observed in social or official life; the rules of decorum.” (Swartz 13) It means that the etiquette is a form of respect in a particular situations. The word etiquette is often related to the aristocracy. On the other hand, the etiquette is a part of our lives. Naturally, good manners should be required at court, business, medicine and in public transport. In simple terms, good manners represent our courtesy towards others. Even if a breach of etiquette will not be punished, it shows people’s attitude and thoughtfulness. Even though the rules are unwritten and their observance is diminishing, society still accentuates the importance of etiquette. It is not only about nice gloves and clothes but also about proper speech, manners, knowledge of other cultures and respect. (Post 3)

An etymological meaning of this word etiquette originated in France. The current word etiquette, old French estiquette, meant a list of ceremonial adherences of a court. (Stevenson 601) One of the first impulses to set up the code of behaviour was to keep the grandeur and dignity ceremonials. “The principle of politeness is the same among all nations, but the ceremonials which etiquette imposes differ according to the taste and habits of various countries. For instance, many of the minor rules of etiquette at Paris differ from those at London, and at New York they may differ from both Paris and London. But still the polite of every country have about the same manners.” (Martine 6) Basically, the aim of etiquette is the same for all the nationalities, but the
content is different and specific for each country. It is mostly influenced by the historical events and cultural development.

British royal etiquette which is still present in the United Kingdom does not have to be observed in other countries. The reason is that the monarchy has been the oldest form of government in the United Kingdom and the Royal Family still preserve the court etiquette as a part of everyday life. Owing to this fact, the Royal Family is trying to keep the proper code of behaviour in compliance with the respect of British Monarchy.

1.1 Origin of court etiquette

The current rules and manners, which our society uses every day, have been evolving for many years. The first references to etiquette are dated thousands of years ago. Many researches were done in order to discover the founders of etiquette.

“Research has shown that the first known etiquette scroll was written around 2500 BC by an Egyptian name Ptahhotep. This scroll is called the Instructions of Ptahhotep.” (Alfaro 11) In it, pieces of advice referring to human behaviour were given. In fact, he created the first etiquette guide which had mostly existed in oral form previously.

Later, in Europe, specifically in 13th century “etiquette books were common in Europe as the upper class needed to know how to behave in the royal court. Around 1530, Desiderius Erasmus wrote an etiquette book called On Civility in Children. This book became required reading for children throughout Europe for over two centuries.” (Alfaro 12)

The most turning point of court etiquette development was during the reign of the French king Louis XIV, who developed a strict version of etiquette at French Court. "During the 17th century, in France, manners became a political issue. King Louis XIV
and his predecessors [...] instituted a sort of school of manners at Versailles. At the palace, the courtiers lived under the despotic surveillance of the king, and upon their good behaviour, their deference, and their observance of etiquette their whole careers depended.” (Etiquipedia) His royal residence Versailles embodied power and luxury, which astonished foreigners and expressed the supremacy of the king Louis XIV. A single breach of etiquette ruined the chance to be received at Court. At the worst, a person could be banished from the high society.

At that period of time, French Court governed the behaviour of high society all over the Europe. These rules and manners became popular and almost all European courts adopted them. Many speculations exist about Louis XIV and his intention to develop such a severe and partly absurd etiquette at royal court in France. A French author, who deals with the life of the Sun King, declares without hesitation that Louis XIV loved precision and accuracy and so was looking for needs of the culture which was the purity of language, the clarity of expression, the logic of thinking and the power of demonstration. (Bély 175) The statement depicts the character of one of the most influential kings in the European history. Clearly, the Sun King was a perfectionist and he required proper manners at the French Court. Thanks to him the etiquette spread out to Europe and the monarchy could be respected for its usage of proper behaviour.

1.2 History of British etiquette

It is known that the word etiquette came from France and that French personalities set up most of the rules which were adopted in the United Kingdom as well. Some people from the British history achieved fame for the correct use of etiquette and they were considered to be etiquette experts. The first person who brought the word etiquette to the United Kingdom and developed this code of behaviour was Samuel
Pepys. Thanks to his diary, which was kept from 1660 to 1669, we know the manners of the period when the English Restoration and the great plague and fire affected London. (Blakeley, Collins 214)

But even though the most eventful town in the United Kingdom was London at the time, another city which was well known for its golden age was Bath. The famous name which is connected with this town is Beau Nash. He really influenced the social behaviour not only in Bath, but all over Britain. As Guides states, “among the arbiters of etiquette, none enjoyed greater prestige than Richard “Beau” Nash, an ex-army officer, ex-lawyer, dandy and gambler, who became Bath´s Master of Ceremonies in 1704, conducting public balls of an unprecedented splendour.” (Guides 412) Moreover, he disregarded the fact that pipe-smoking was a popular distraction and abolished smoking in Bath´s public rooms.

In the 1750s, Lord Chesterfield presented the word etiquette to the United Kingdom. The society was obsessed by good manners. Upper classes, which were bored by the general inaction, found a new meaning of life. Unfortunately, the purpose of the use of etiquette changed completely and people became slaves of the proper code of behaviour. After Lord Chesterfield’s statement that everyone should, “without hesitation kiss his (the Pope´s) slipper or whatever else the etiquette of that court requires.” (Sherk 167) people took into consideration the importance of proper social conduct.

Undoubtedly the prime of etiquette in the United Kingdom was in the Victorian era. It is said that the time during the reign of the Queen Victoria was a time of big changes and etiquette became a substantial part of everyday life. Unfortunately, the code of behaviour for men and women did not correspond to Victorian´s needs. For
example “both men and women had their own set of rules of etiquette. There was a rule of etiquette for almost everything you did in a day. There was also a correct title for almost every type of profession, social standing and rank.” Etiquette, especially for women, made their position in society even more difficult. In effect, they did not have neither right nor privilege. Their Victorian obligations were to be beautiful, quiet and to please their husbands and Victorian women were clamouring for gender equality.

Concerning female royals in the United Kingdom “even royal women had to ensure their manners were impeccable. Often Victorian Royal women were expected to set the standards for the whole country.” (Howell) Increasing numbers of rules and manners caused the necessity of publishing etiquette books or manuals, because there people could not memorize them all. One of the most famous and essential book was *Ladies Book of Etiquette, Fashion and Manual of Politeness*. Among others were: *The Habits of Good Society: a Handbook of Etiquette for Ladies and Gentlemen* or *The Essential Handbook of Victorian Etiquette* and *A Guide to the Manners, Etiquette, and Deportment of the Most Refined Society*.

In spite of the fact that Victorian society created many useless standards, some of them have been adopted from that period of time and are observed by contemporary society. Etiquette is not only about good manners, appropriate dress code but also about hygiene. Fortunately, Queen Victoria put emphasis on cleanliness and thereby improved the level of etiquette. It is said that at the beginning of her rein, there were no bathrooms at Buckingham palace. Moreover, having a bath was considered as a treatment for ill people, but she changed it and use a bath for private cleaning. A general view of Victorian period has been transformed by the use of hygienic habits. (Murdoch 123)
1.3 Importance of etiquette for current society in the United Kingdom

During the last decades, the development of etiquette has undergone many changes. Even if etiquette removed many useless and outdated rules, the code of behaviour is still required as a part of everyday life. Not only the Royal Family but also the whole society realize the importance of etiquette at any social event.

In modern society, there are many attitudes concerning the existence of etiquette. Some people try to ignore the rules and are convinced that etiquette does not make a part of their social life. On the other hand, nobody can ignore the existence of etiquette.

According the opinion of Judith Miss Manners Martin “You can deny all you want that there is etiquette, and a lot of people do in everyday life. But if you behave in a way that offends the people you’re trying to deal with, they will stop dealing with you. [...] Etiquette doesn’t have the great sanctions that the law has. But the main sanction we do have is in not dealing with these people and isolating them because their behaviour is unbearable.”(Yquotes) On the grounds of this statement, we understand the occurrence of etiquette. Basically, the old-fashioned rules are disappearing, but we cannot claim that etiquette faded away. If someone tries to deny it, why are there so many books concerning rules and manners for each social events?

Moreover, a new phenomenon called netiquette is worth mentioning, “which is a network etiquette, the do's and don'ts of online communication. Netiquette covers both common courtesy online and the informal "rules of the road" of cyberspace.” (Ross) This proves that etiquette is developing constantly in conformity with current needs and the development of technologies. The proper code of behaviour on the internet is discussed nearly every day and the netiquette is considered to be another form of respect.
2 Meaning and history of protocol in Europe

Various meanings and different utilizations are connected with the word protocol. The origin of the word protocol came from Greek. Thomas Brande explains that the word protocol comes “from the Latin protocollum: a word derived from the Greek, first, and glue, but the etymological signification attached to this derivation seems unknown. The word protocol, in the French language, signifies the formulae or technical words of legal instruments, in Germany, it has been borrowed by diplomacy, in which it signifies the original copy of any dispatch, treaty or other document.” (Brande, Thomas 1000) The protocol was mostly written and used differently. It could mean the pact between two states or a document, which had to be observed. On the one hand, each state perceived the meaning of the protocol a bit differently. On the other hand, speaking about protocol required certain rules.

The origin of the royal protocol in the United Kingdom can be traced hundreds of years back. “Ever since William the Conqueror obtained the crown of England, Monarchs have always been held in the highest regard and treated with the uttermost reverence and deference. That is, until now.” (Martin) William the Conqueror, who laid the foundations of royal protocol, influenced the future dynasties and this protocol has been held till nowadays. Thanks to him, subjects have respected the royal families by proper use of royal protocol.

In the past, the royal protocol was considered a privilege of royals, mainly in the medieval period. “Royal Protocol originates from the historical belief that Monarchs are chosen by God and therefore, should be treated with the up-most deference, as the closest thing on Earth they had to God. Royal protocol extends much further than common courtesy and even further than standard social etiquette, it is literally a law
unto itself.” (Martin) The observance was strongly required and all the members of the Royal Family could profit from this general attitude. Monarchs were perceived as almost supernatural people due to their effort to be seen like that. In fact, they were only superordinate thanks to the given power.

The biggest change of royal protocol took place in 19th century. At first it happened in France “the French term protocole diplomatique or protocole de la Chancellerie referred to the body of ceremonial rules to be observed in all written and personal official interaction between heads of different states or their ministers.” (Global Group 6) In other words, France went through a transformation after the French revolution in 1789. The death of Louis XIV and Marie Antoinette were a turning point which terminated the monarchy and established a new form of government a Republic. The revolution brought a new form of protocol. There was no need to deal with royal protocol and in order to avoid wars, the most important form of negotiation became a diplomatic protocol. According to a statement by Napoleon Bonaparte, “diplomacy is essential and inseparable from wars.” (Nester) It is clear that the diplomatic protocol played an essential role.

It is generally known that such huge changes have never happened in the United Kingdom. The monarchy has never disappeared and Elizabeth II is still in charge of the United Kingdom. As the official website of British Monarchy says, “The Queen is Head of State in the United Kingdom. As a constitutional monarch, Her Majesty does not ‘rule’ the country, but fulfils important ceremonial and formal roles with respect to Government. She is also Fount of Justice, Head of the Armed Forces and has important relationships with the established Churches of England and Scotland.” (The Official Website of the British Monarchy) Even if the Queen does not rule the state, her duty is
to represent the country. Naturally, the Queen is not the only person who represents the British Monarchy. Elizabeth II would not be able to properly represent the British Monarchy without other people. “The Queen is supported in her official duties by other working members of the Royal Family who carry out a wide range of public engagements.” (The Official Website of the British Monarchy) In simple terms, the current British Royal Family hold the post of representation and it is essential to behave in accordance with the proper code of conduct to keep the highest standards.

3 Current royal protocol in the United Kingdom

British royal protocol is still considered to be an indispensable set of rules not only for members of the Royal Family but also for all the people who come into contact with the British Royal Family. Speaking about royal issues, the protocol as a set of ceremonial rules is closely connected with etiquette. Nobody can imagine any public ceremonial without strict protocol and etiquette use. For example, many state visits organized in the United Kingdom are attended by observance of protocol. During these occasions, the utilization of protocol is essential for all the members of the British Royal Family and its use is recommended for the others. On the other hand, a manual, handbook or document regarding the content of British royal protocol has never been officially published. We can find some rules and manners which are connected with royal protocol, but the document as such does not exist. Thanks to a conversation with William Hanson, who is a leading expert in etiquette and royal protocol issues in the United Kingdom, we can confirm that British royal protocol is unpublished. William Hanson claims: “There isn’t really any work on British royal protocol – it is mostly unwritten.” (Hanson) Thanks to his answer, it is clear that there is no need to look for
the official version of British royal protocol. On the other hand, it provokes many questions. Why has the British royal protocol never been written down? Why is it taken into consideration even if the royal protocol officially does not exist? In the following part of the thesis, some opinions on the issue are discussed. The most remarkable parts of protocol and etiquette concerning British royal weddings are mentioned in later chapters.

The most relevant reason which could explain the non-existence of any written document regarding British royal protocol is that the current British monarchy wishes to observe the rules, but they do not insist on them. They use it to present British monarchy as different from other nations. Nowadays, royal protocol is not a law, it is a tool thanks to which the Royal Family is treated with respect. William Hanson explains: “Royal protocol can be viewed as an expression of respect for the Queen.” (Bell) If the society has respect for the members of the Royal Family, they accept the British monarchy and its culture. Moreover, the Head of State, Queen Elizabeth II, is such a highly regarded representative that thanks to her, the United Kingdom is a state with a favourable reputation. William Hanson explains that “it's because we (British) respect her (Elizabeth II) and what she stands for - she stands for all that is great in British society.” (Bell)

Furthermore, the British monarchy provides that “there are no obligatory codes of behaviour” (The official website of the British Monarchy). Although, there is a code of behaviour, it is not rigidly demanded. This world-famous monarchy does not want to be considered as an outdated and irrelevant and they try to keep up with the times to preserve this form of government.
3.1 **Formal occasions and the Queen**

Nearly every day of a member of Royal Family is scheduled. The number of state occasions is enormous. Their other obligation towards the United Kingdom is also to entertain. These occasions include “the well-known garden parties held each July, investitures, state banquets and receptions, the annual party for winners of the Queen’s Award for Industry as well as, from time to time, a range of informal lunches and cocktail parties.” (Morgan 122) Even if these events have a rather entertaining character, they are influenced by the royal protocol. In the following paragraphs, the most important rules which should be observed when meeting the Queen are discussed.

As we have already stated, the observance of the rules is not required but highly recommended. A use of the royal protocol should be indispensable during all the royal events. Even if many of us will never meet Queen Elizabeth II, it is interesting to know some facts regarding the first contact with Her Majesty and other members of British Royal Family.

First of all, you should never touch the Queen or any member of Royal Family as it is not in compliance with the royal protocol. Other rules are connected with addressing the Queen. Debrett’s, which focuses on social skills in the United Kingdom, recommends: “Upon being introduced to The Queen, and on leaving, a bow or curtsy is made. The bow is an inclination of the head, not from the waist. The curtsy should be a discreet but dignified bob. In conversation, address The Queen as 'Your Majesty', and subsequently 'Ma'am' (to rhyme with Pam). When conversing with The Queen, substitute 'Your Majesty' for 'you'. When introducing another person to The Queen, simply state the name of the person to be introduced: 'May I present Mr John Smith, Your
Majesty?" (Debrett’s) The conversation could take about 2 minutes, but the unpreparedness could ruin a reputation.

The royal protocol is complicated, but it is less complex than it seems to be. The royal protocol for British differs from the royal protocol for non-British people. “If you're not British, you're not expected to curtsy, as the queen is not your Head of State. And the situation in general has relaxed considerably since the Queen first came to the throne in 1952.” (Brech) Many people hesitate in proper use of British royal protocol and they are sometimes confused. It is necessary to use different rules when meeting a member of Royal Family, but the essential rules are written in Debrett’s.

Concerning the Royal invitations, there are also many interesting facts which are worth mentioning. If the Sovereign invites you, you are obliged to accept this invitation. “Invitations from The Queen are not like other invitations. They are commands. They are not declined unless there is a very good reason, such as illness, or a long-standing family commitment, such as a wedding, or a business arrangement that would gravely let others down. They should be replied to the member of the Royal Household who sent the invitations.” (Morgan 122) It is inadmissible to decline the invitation for an irrelevant reason. Meeting a member of the Royal Family is an exceptional occasion which requires a very polite behaviour.

3.2 State visits and breaches of protocol

British Monarchy invites many foreign representatives, who should consider the usage of royal protocol in the United Kingdom. Even if they are not the Queen’s subjects, they are advised to use royal protocol in order to avoid embarrassment. Concerning the royal protocol and history of state visits, it is necessary to explain that
“state visits are formal visits to the UK by Heads of State from overseas. They are an important part of international diplomacy.” (Royal Insight)

Looking for the explanation of the first impulse of State visits, we should return to the past. Disagreements between France and the United Kingdom were often repeated. However, both countries were aware of their power and a co-operation could be the best solution. The history of state visits goes back several hundred years, to the reign of King Henry VII, the King of England and King Francis I of France. The two Monarchs wished to improve relations and bring about an alliance against other foreign powers. The purpose of each visit was simply to impress, and to show how magnificent the royal ceremonials at both courts were. (Betteridge, Lipscomb 48) This attitude has changed and the purpose of state visits today is to preserve the good relations.

The current state visits in the United Kingdom happen at least twice a year.

“There are usually two incoming State visits each year. Invitations are sent on the advice of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Visits normally begin with a ceremonial welcome attended by The Queen and other senior members of the Royal Family. If the guest is staying at Buckingham Palace, the welcome takes place on Horse Guards Parade. (The Official Website of the British Monarchy) This is a special occasion full of splendour not only for the participants but also for the others who can enjoy such a rare spectacle.

However, the foreigners should read the protocol carefully, as quite a few of them are still not familiar with its utilization. On the basis of previous references to the form of royal protocol and the Queen, there are some well-known breaches. State visits are public occasions which means that the press is present. British journalists are waiting for the mistakes and they publish them with zest. The most typical faux pas is
connected with touching the Queen. Many famous people, who touched the Queen or other members are considered as people who do not know the proper code of behaviour at British Court. An infamous breach of the royal protocol was done by Michelle Obama during an official visit in the United Kingdom. “In 2009, Michelle Obama caused an uproar by giving the Queen a hug.” (Sopher) Even if the first Lady of the United States is not a subject of the Queen, she should conform to the rules. Her reputation was not helped by the fact that she touched the Queen. In general, Michelle Obama and other famous people could not help themselves and touched some members of British Royal Family. The basketball player LeBron put an arm around the Duchess of Cambridge and the Duke of Cambridge was also defiled by the touch of commoners. (Thornhill) Catherine Middleton, was not shocked by the fact that the basketball player put his arm on her. Moreover, she used to be a commoner before the wedding with Prince William which means that the Duchess of Cambridge did not grow up in such a high society. On the other hand, the reputation of the basketball player was blemished and he was regarded as ignorant of the royal protocol. Nowadays, the new generation of Royal Family is more indulgent but still British society criticises the people for breaking the protocol, while the rest of the world finds the protocol outdated.

Another breach of protocol was done again by an American, specifically by the President of the United States Barak Obama, who did not behave in compliance with the British royal protocol. The royal protocol demands that “if the Queen is standing, you too should be standing (unless she’s giving a speech). Wait until she is seated and then take your place.” (Sopher) The President of the US broke the protocol by giving a speech to the Queen while the anthem God Save the Queen was playing. Keeping with the royal protocol, Barack Obama should have stopped giving the speech after the toast.
This awkward moment was analysed in the press repeatedly and the president embarrassed himself.

It could be assumed that people from the United States ignore the royal protocol and they forget to behave properly due to cultural differences and unwillingness to put up with the British code of behaviour. It is their nature to be more warm-hearted and cordial than the British are. William Hanson claims that “Americans are much more tactile than we Brits and this is another example of an American being too touchy feelly with British royalty.” (National Post Staff)

Breaches of protocol are mostly done by foreigners but it is almost impossible to find breaches of the proper code of behaviour caused by a member of this well-known monarchy. Different reasons for this fact could be given. Firstly, members of the Royal Family are experts in protocol so they never did any breach, but they are fallible humans like the others. The second reason, which is more probable, could be their relationship with the British press. In general, British media are interwoven with Royal Family. Even if their relations were not positive all the time, they have respect for the Queen and other members of the royalty. It is said that “the great majority of the British press, while having its moments of criticism of individual members of the royal household nevertheless tends to rally round the institution.” (Long, Palmer 8) It could be the most likely explanation that the press does not want to publish any breach of protocol caused by the Royal Family.
4 British Royal Household

The organization of state visits, royal events and ceremonies requires excellent work of supervisors. It is clear that the Royal Family is not able to control the preparation of each ceremony. All the members of British Royal Family follow pieces of advice, which are given by people who constitute a part of the Royal Household.

The cooperation between the Royal Household and the members of Royal Family is unique. According the official website of the British Monarchy, it is claimed that the Royal Household “aims to provide exceptional support and advice to The Queen, enabling her to serve the nation and its people. It employs approximately 1,200 staff, of whom approximately 450 are funded by the taxpayer. The staff work across a wide range of professions, including catering, housekeeping, accountancy, secretarial, media relations, human resources, art curatorship and strategic planning.” (The Official Website of the British Monarchy) Basically, The Royal Family is surrounded by the professional staff, who is loyal to The Queen. Furthermore, they support The British Monarchy in every respect.

The Royal Household is divided into five departments: the Private Secretary’s Office, the Master of the Household’s Department, the Privy Purse and Treasurer’s Office, the Lord Chamberlain’s Office, and the Royal Collection Department. Although the majority of the departments is situated at Buckingham Palace, the rest of the staff work at St. James’ Palace, Windsor Castle, the Palace of Hollyroundhouse and the Royal Mews. The Household, responsible for supporting The Queen in fulfilling her official duties, also travel with The Queen on overseas visits. (The Official Website of British Monarchy) The most important posts are inherited. It is difficult to get hired as a staff member of the Royal Household. You have to meet many requirements and “all
employees are expected to attain and demonstrate the high standards expected of an organisation which serves The Queen.” (The official website of the British Monarchy) These high standards include devotion and loyalty not only to the Royal Family, but also to the British Monarchy.

4.1 Great Officers of State

The Great Officers of State play an important function concerning ceremonial roles and have a great responsibility. The Great Officers are a crucial part of The Royal Household and their function has a long-term tradition. The history and purpose of this post is described thus: “During the Norman period, the highest-ranking official was the justiciar. He stood just below the king but above all departments of government while the king was in England. […] Below the justicia, the so-called Great Officers of State were in fact officers of the king’s household. These included the steward (responsible for the service of meals), the constable (who maintained order at court), the marshal (placed in charge of the king’s horses), the chamberlain and the butler. Some of these ceremonial offices still exist today, but the men appointed to them now serve only at the time of a coronation.” (Lehmberg 68)

The historical meaning of this function has completely changed. There are three officers who are the most important: “The Great Lord Chamberlain is responsible for the conduct of royal affairs in the Palace of Westminster. On ceremonial occasions, such as the State Opening of Parliament, he wears the gold key of his office.” (Debrett’s) The second official is The Earl Marshall who is responsible for “organisation of coronations and other State ceremonies.” (The Official Website of the British Monarchy) After the death of the Sovereign, he is responsible for arrangements of the funeral and the accession and coronation of the new monarch. The Lord Steward
is “in attendance at Buckingham Palace on important ceremonial occasions such as State visits and in particular at State banquets, where he presents guests to The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh and their visitors.” (Halme 19)

4.2 Lord Chamberlain

Lord Chamberlain is crucial to the purposes of this Bachelor Thesis. Sometimes, his office is mixed up with the Great Lord Chamberlain, whose position is explained in previous paragraph. The position of Lord Chamberlain in the Royal Household is essential as he is “the senior official of the Royal Household. He oversees all aspects of Household administration, liaises with the other senior officers of the Household, undertakes ceremonial duties and recommends to The Queen candidates to fill senior appointments within the Household.” (The Official Website of British Monarchy) The current Lord Chamberlain is The Earl Peel GCVO, who assumed this position in 2006. The preparation of British royal weddings is his responsibility, as well as many other royal occasions. His department is led by the Comptroller, who is responsible for organising big royal occasions for example royal weddings and funerals, garden parties, investitures, state visits, and the Garter and Thistle services and others. (The Official Website of the British Monarchy)

He sends the invitation cards for royal events and there are again many rules, which should be in agreement with royal protocol. “Invitations, or rather commands, are sent on the Queen’s behalf by the Lord Chamberlain, together with an admission card and details about parking. Those who can’t attend must return their cards, with the reason for not complying with a royal command. Again, only a good excuse for declining is acceptable.” (Morgan 130) Concerning royal weddings, the Lord
Chamberlain is also responsible for the invitations. In supplement, we provide a picture of official invitation to the wedding of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip.

The Lord Chamberlain has held the post of an official for centuries and his position has been immensely important. Many royal household departments were located out of the palace. However, the Lord Chamberlain and the Lord Steward office was placed directly in the Royal palace also during the reign of Queen Victoria. “Both the Lord Chamberlain and the Lord Steward ruled “inside” the royal residences dealing with the members of the Royal Family in their official and ceremonial capacity.” (Gill 417) The royals need the support all the time and the Lord Chamberlain and the Lord Steward have been responsible and devoted to the Sovereign.

4.3 British royal ceremonies

The British Monarchy is one of the best organizers of events where predominate gracefulness, pomp and precision. Royal events and ceremonies have been developed by different dynasties for centuries. “The evolution of the British Monarchy is evolution of the Royal Families [...] The British Monarchy forms an unbroken chain of Kings and Queens from the Norman Conquest in 1066 to the 21th Century.” (Halme 19) This monarchy should be proud of its long-time existence which dates many centuries back. It is evident that the ceremonies are held with respect to royal traditions.

The aim of royal ceremonies has been to show power and opulence. In the past, during these occasions, there was no place for poverty, disobedience and impoliteness. These reasons have endured till nowadays, because the ceremonials are held in high standard. “Pomp, pageantry and public ceremony have persisted as central features of the royal court, often at once celebrating and consolidating the power of the monarch at
its heart.” (Brand 5) In simple terms, owing to ceremonies, the British Monarchy can impress not only the subjects but also foreigners, who arrive to the United Kingdom.

The most popular British ceremonies have been coronations and royal weddings. Nevertheless, all the royal ceremonies and events are important for positive perception of British Monarchy. “The official occasions are full of symbolism, tradition and meaning, and an integral part of The Queen’s role as Head of State.” (The Official Website of British Monarchy) Those two ceremonies are considered as the most important thanks to their character. They symbolize the power and unity of the nation. Furthermore, coronations and royal weddings are the most opulent occasions, which require the longest preparation. A coronation has been seen for centuries as the grandest ceremony since the era of William the Conqueror. But the first official British coronation happened in 1603, which follows the ceremony of the Church of England. (Range 2) Certainly, all the royal occasions were of great importance, but they were mostly private so the subjects could not enjoy them.

Nowadays, people from all over the world desire to take part in royal ceremonies and they enjoy watching them from the cheering crowds. The British nation demands the opulence occasions and they really enjoy them in a very particular way. Thanks to Queen Elizabeth II, who is a great representative of the British Monarchy, the people are proud of being a part of such a nation like the United Kingdom. Furthermore, the British ceremonials are now so exquisitely made for observers that they really appreciate it. (Hobsbawn, Ranger 102) Even though the most crucial occasion of the state should be a coronation, this event does not occurred frequently. So the people take a liking to the royal weddings as a substitution. Nowadays, their significance could be comparable to the coronation.
5 British royal weddings

Very popular and hoped-for royal occasions are weddings. This British social event is noticed all over the world. People are curious about everything connected to a royal wedding. Royal Family attaches big importance to the royal wedding and they respect the law, royal protocol, etiquette and traditions which have been observed for decades.

Nowadays, this occasion is a celebration of new members of the Royal Family. In general, a wedding symbolizes a new beginning and the couple’s love. Thanks to the royal wedding, ordinary people can take a look at the life of the Royal Family and for a while they can feel like members of aristocracy. During royal wedding, everybody stops for a while and enjoys the time of happiness. This occasion is considered to be an explosion of popularity. The souvenirs of a royal couple flood the market. It is clear that people really love this spectacle and they are pleased to be a part of such a lucky occasion. Royal weddings “integrate societies in a collective heartbeat and evoke a renewal of loyalty to the society and its legitimate authority.” (Olechnowicz 32)

Nowadays, it is simpler to watch the whole wedding ceremony even if we are not invited. Modern technologies such as television, internet or radio make it possible. Owing to the modern inventions, a royal wedding ceremony could be broadcast live to each household.

On the other hand, not all the people are completely satisfied with this expensive occasion. Some people are complaining about the huge amounts of money which Royal Family spends for a wedding. They would rather put the money into something more needed. However, people like this pageantry because they “gladly finance their monarchy, but in return they demand a good show.” (Brand 9)
People are curious about the royals’ spouses who become members of Royal Family. They are watched attentively and people express their opinion about them. Even if British society could refuse or accept newcomers in compliance with their taste, there is a stricter observance of rules.

5.1 **Appropriate spouses for successors to the Crown**

A member of the Royal Family who could be the Sovereign of the United Kingdom has to obey different rules concerning his or hers spouse. Naturally, the society is changing and so many outdated rules have disappeared or were adjusted for contemporary requirements.

The Royal Family still follows the law which was set in 18th century. Nevertheless, the law which is called Royal Marriages Act has been modified. The original version declared that “all members of the British Royal Family as well as potential heirs in the line of succession were required to obtain the sovereign’s consent before contracting a marriage. Although the King, as sovereign, was obliged to follow the dictates of the Act of Settlement, he was himself exempt from the provisions of the Royal Marriages Act.” (King 193) The original version was modified by Queen Elizabeth II. The current official version is that “a person who is one of the 6 persons next in the line of succession to the Crown must obtain the consent of Her Majesty before marrying.” (Legislation) These words came from the new law called Succession to the Crown Act 2013.

Religion still plays an important role in partner’s choice. It is known that the religion professed by British Royal Family is The Church of England, which was set up in protest against The Pope. The history states that the King Henry VIII wanted to get divorced in order to marry Anne Boleyn. The Pope was in disagreement with the King
of England so Henry VIII established a new religion and made himself the Head of Church. (Kuiper 223) Naturally, the Church of England insists on its rules and disagree with marrying divorced people and papists. It has to be observed also by the members of the Royal Family. Concerning divorced people, there happened some changes. The Queen has the power to give consent to the wedding. For example, Prince Charles married Camilla Parker Bowles, who is a divorcée, thanks to the Queen. (Marr 362)

In the history of Britain, a marriage to the commoners is not considered as something uncommon. It is true that members of the Royal Family have often been married to the aristocracy or peerage people. On the other hand, the last royal wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton attracted people’s attention thanks to the fact that a commoner married the future King. Moreover, she became the first commoner who married the future King of the United Kingdom since the 17th century. (Joseph 12) This is a new attitude of British society and of course of the Royal Family.

There is another rule which is no more indispensable. In the past, the bride was a virgin. Obviously, there were no tests of fatherhood and no contraception. Without these modern conveniences, it was necessary to rely on the bride’s virginity. Nowadays, the question of virginity is outdated. It does not play an important role in choosing the future royal wife. Neither contemporary society nor the Royal Family see any importance in the bride being a virgin. It is not required any more. The circumstances are different and the question of virginity seems to be non-essential and a bit rude.

On the basis of these rules, it can be observed that the Queen of the United Kingdom is willing to make changes and exceptions. Moreover, she is able to adapt to the current needs. It is clear that the short list of successors to the Crown have to use more strict rules in choosing their proper spouses. But in the 21st century some rules,
such as virginity of the bride or banning of marriage with divorced people, seem to be irrelevant. On the other hand, the Royal Family still observes some laws, which were established centuries ago, but they were adapted due to the needs of the current situation.

The reason for royal marriage has changed dramatically. In the past, even if the royals wanted to live their lives with someone who they really loved, this act was not allowed. They were obliged to do their duties and there was no place for love, the only option being extramarital relationships. “The politics that simmered beneath the request for a hand in matrimony were usually the primary, if not the only, reason for marriage.” (Brand 6) The strategy of royal weddings influenced the matches.

Fortunately, from the 19th century, this phenomena disappeared and the royals have entered into marriages mostly for love. The best example is Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. On the basis of this statement: “Today, as far as the public is concerned, nothing less than a love match will do” (Brand 53), we are persuaded that affection is crucial.

The wedding ceremonies are more and more grandiose. Unfortunately, many royal weddings end in divorce. The exception is the long marriage of the Queen and Prince Philip. “While the marriage of Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh boasts being the longest of any reigning British monarch, many of those closest to them have not enjoyed such matrimonial harmony.” (Brand 47) On the contrary, the opulence of the wedding ceremonies, for example Lady Diana and Prince Charles or Sarah Ferguson and Prince Andrew, was accompanied by break ups. In simple terms, the ostentatiousness of royal weddings does not guarantee a satisfactory and never-ending marriage.
It is essential to mention the importance of royal protocol in choice of a wife-to-be or husband-to-be. Even if love matches are considered to be the only reason for marriage, the royal protocol still exists and cannot be omitted. One Sovereign was so hopeless that he considered his abdication as the only solution. In his abdication speech, King Edward VIII talked about his decision and love towards Wallis Simpson, a twice-divorced American. “But you must believe me when I tell you that I have found it impossible to carry the heavy burden of responsibility and to discharge my duties as King as I would wish to do without the help and support of the woman I love.” (Copeland 732) She probably could be his mistress, but that was not the life which Edward VIII wanted to live. The way of life which was so typical in the previous centuries.

This presumption is confirmed by McCutcheon, who writes that “for centuries, our Royal Family has married into other royal families for many reasons – economic, social, political or even just to preserve the royal blood line. It is more important to have a happy, loving marriage.” (McCutcheon 2) The times have changed and love becomes the most important motivation for marriage.

5.2 **Contrasting nature of wedding ceremonies**

In the past, British royal weddings used to have a private character. There were some speculations about the reasons, but nowadays it is simple to assert that the monarchy did not want to spend much money for public ceremony. "From the Middle Ages to the nineteenth century, the ceremonies themselves were largely private, and unnecessary expense was avoided. If money was to be spent, it was more likely to fund a celebratory feast than a long or lavish service.” Besides, the royal marriages lifted up expectations and political and general welfare. “It was expected that a man might enjoy
his mistresses, being allowed that he might marry for heirs but seek personal satisfaction elsewhere.” (McCutcheon 2) Consequently, the Kings could be satisfied with their private lives.

“With the exception of the grand ceremonial of Arthur and Catherine, royal weddings from the eleventh to the sixteenth century remained a predominantly private affair.” (Brand 19) During the reign of the Normans up to the Tudors, people were not interested in future brides. Being devoted to the King, people expressed the deepest admiration to him. He was considered a national hero. “The ideal medieval monarch was a hero on the battlefield and a stallion in the bedchamber, a model of masculine chivalry to provide his country with strong heirs.” (McCutcheon 11) Basically, the women did not gain any recognition and they had to be satisfied with the role of an unexceptional wife. These conditions continued also from 17th to 18th century, the character of royal wedding seemed to be unchanged. “The royal habit of celebrating weddings privately continued unchallenged, at once avoiding prying eyes and unnecessary expenditure.” (Brand 21)

The turning point of public perception of royal weddings came during the World Wars. People stopped ignoring the private life of British Royal Family and they have become interested in royal affairs. “In a far cry from the relative apathy and even ignorance of the medieval era, and as a direct result of the changes to royal protocol introduced in 1917, modern subjects seem to claim an entitlement to act as witnesses to the ceremony.” (Brand 53) During that period of time, the monarchy abandoned the usage of the German title. Besides, thanks to the royal weddings, people could experience happy times and feel the support of Royal Family in hard times. (Pennell
Through royal wedding ceremony, they could improve their public image and make the crowd cheerful.

Another huge change came with the introduction of television or media in general. Thanks to the new technologies, people could watch the ceremonies of royal weddings. Coming back to the most recent royal wedding ceremony of Catherine Middleton and Prince William, we cannot omit the presence of media. Nowadays, the British Royal Family makes an effort to impress the world and to improve their public image. The intention of the British royal wedding ceremony has changed and the monarchy needs their supporters. It is understandable that media are the most useful tool how to show the grandeur of the United Kingdom. The ceremony was broadcast all around the world and this worldwide occasion involved almost every country. (Long, Palmer 223) Comparing the first purpose of wedding ceremony, we should realise that the Sovereigns did not need the audience. They were satisfied with a small group of the peerage. They entered into marriages due to some political reasons and public

The role of royal protocol and etiquette during wedding ceremony could be also seen as an effective tool, because observed rules and manners depict stability and order. They are followed to make a good impression. It is known that many European monarchies have disappeared in centuries. The British Royal Family, owing to public ceremonies, is able to defend the sense of monarchy successfully. Thanks to the royal weddings ceremony, British nation is united and proud of being a part of such a refined state.
5.3 Shocking weddings ceremonies in British history

This part of the Bachelor Thesis focuses on some unbelievable facts of medieval marriages and on facts which have changed the history of the United Kingdom. First of all, the medieval era was full of peculiar acts but a few of them are truly appalling. Naturally, they would not be accepted by the current society. On the contrary, in this period strange marriages were approved due to political needs.

The first royal wedding is connected with the age of a bride. “The King (Richard II), aged twenty-nine, accepted the six-year-old Isabella of Valois as part of negotiations with France. They wed on 31 October 1396. To medieval eyes, in less than ten years she would be ready to bear his children.” (Brand 13) People did not find this marriage repugnant. The twisted society during the Middle Age was celebrating this wedding and they were looking forward to the heirs. The society did not realise that Isabelle of Valois was still a child and Richard II was the King who was able to do everything to keep the throne.

Concerning the number of wives, the most experienced king was Henry VIII who “stood as bridegroom six times. He also personally selected four of his six wives from his own court, an indulgence that would not be seen again until the twentieth century.” (Brand 16) To be a wife of Henry VIII was not a triumph as four of his wives were decapitated.

The most powerful woman on the British throne during the Middle Ages was Elizabeth I. She reigned without the consort. The child of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn, Elizabeth I was more patient to get to the altar. She memorably announced that she is married to the country. (Brand 18) It is assumed that she pronounced these words in order to avoid the speculations and incessant questions about her marriage.
It is also worth mentioning the wedding ceremony of Charles I and Henrietta Maria. “Although marrying by proxy was not unique, this ceremony was most remarkable for the fact that the lavish service was staged at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, and the groom was not even present.” (Brand 16) It seems to be clear that the presence of both, a groom and a bride, is indispensable. Unfortunately, in the past, this fact used to be omitted.

In the 20th century, the biggest turmoil was caused by the potential wedding of a divorced woman Wallis Simpson to Edward VIII. It happened before the Second World War. They fell in love with each other, but the King’s chosen was not considered as an appropriate wife and a future Queen. Definitely, this situation changed the history. According to the Church of England, the King cannot get married to a divorcée. Moreover, the government did not give consent to him. Some people were wondering at the situation of Henry VIII, who was divorced many times and their beloved king Edward VIII who could not marry the divorced Wallis Simpson. But the situation is clearly explained by the fact that “Henry never divorced any of his wives. Upon forming the Church of England, he had four of his marriages annulled – declared invalid, as if they never happened.” (Vovk 439) Due to the abdication of Edward VIII, his brother George VI became the Sovereign of the United Kingdom. (Taylor 401) Owing to this historical turn the reigning Queen Elizabeth II is a Head of State in the United Kingdom. Without his abdication, the history of British Monarchy could be completely different.

Another situation which created a stir in the United Kingdom was the wedding of Prince Charles and his long-time mistress Camilla Parker Bowles. There were two serious problems, which made their marriage more difficult. The gravest problem was
that Camilla Parker Bowles was again divorced. The second one was that Prince
Charles’s first wife, Princess Diana, was seen as the best royal representative and her
sudden death affected people. Furthermore, their divorce was most likely caused by
Charles’s secret relationship with Camilla Parker Bowles. In spite of these facts, the
Queen approved this wedding and the public has to accept their future Queen. (Cova
Bernard 58)

6 Protocol of Royal wedding ceremony

The stricter part of a wedding ceremony is the wedding service. The Royal
Family respects the long traditions, rules and manners in compliance with the Church of
England. The official website of the British Monarchy describes the most crucial parts
of royal wedding. Some facts are mentioned connected with entering into a marriage.

The most important person during the wedding and the one who declares the
marriage is the Archbishop of Canterbury. He has proclaimed the marriages since the
11th century. “It has long been traditional for the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Church
of England’s most senior bishop, to officiate at the weddings of England’s monarchs
and future monarchs.” (Grace 5) Even the wedding service of Prince William and
Catherine Middleton was traditional. “The service was traditional, conforming to the
Church of England’s 1966 Book of Common Prayer. The Lord Bishop of London, the
Right Reverend and Right Honourable Dr Richard Chartres, a clergyman who has
known.” (Bullen 20)

It is essential to mention the exceptions which is connected with British Royal
Family. The seating plan of royal wedding observed strict rules which has been held for
centuries. “During a Royal wedding, the Royal Family traditionally sits on the right-
hand side of the church, with the guests of the bridegroom, if he is not a member of the Royal Family, on the left.” (The Official Website of the British Monarchy)

6.1 **Traditional wedding location**

It is known that the preparation of a wedding ceremony is demanding. British Royal Family is particular in their observance of British royal protocol and centuries-old traditions.

First of all, it is necessary to choose a location. The future royal couple can make their own choice. Naturally, the most popular town where royal wedding ceremonies have been held is the capital of the United Kingdom. “Various venues have been used for Royal weddings over the last century. Since 1904, most members of the Royal Family have chosen to be married in London.” (Etiquipedia) The location of royal wedding ceremonies depends on many factors. From the 17th till 19th century, royal couples took a great liking to St. James Palace was the Chapel Royal at St. James Palace. “The most traditional site for a royal ceremony is the Chapel Royal at St. James Palace. (The Official Website of the British Monarchy)

Some members of Royal Family chose other important locations where the wedding ceremonies were held. The second well-known site is Westminster Abbey. This place has played an important role during coronation. Moreover, “The Duke of York and Lady Elizabeth Bowes Lyon were married at Westminster Abbey on 26 April 1923. The Abbey had recently been the venue for the weddings of Princess Patricia of Connaught and of the groom’s sister, Princess Mary.” (Roberts 85) This is a remarkable fact because the Abbey was chosen for the royal wedding for the first time in 605 years. Besides, the latest royal wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton took place at Westminster Abbey. (The Official Website of the British Monarchy)
Another spectacular wedding took place in a non-traditional site. The wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana was set at St. Paul’s Cathedral in 1981. They preferred the cathedral to Westminster Abbey because of its excellent acoustics. Moreover, the instrumental music sounded better. It was interesting that this royal couple was the first after four centuries who chose St. Paul’s Cathedral as a wedding location. (Fryer 78) One of the most important factor which could influence the location of a royal wedding has been the capacity. The Royal Chapel, which was a frequent site of royal wedding in 19th century, was only for 100 people. On the contrary, Westminster Abbey could seat more than 2,000 people. (Hall 143) The difference is huge. It proves that the wedding ceremony in the past used to have a private nature. Naturally, there are some exceptions which emphasise the significance of these royal weddings.

6.2 Perception of woman and wedding vows

The vows are an inseparable part of a wedding service. “The oldest traditional wedding vows can be traced back to the middle ages to the Book of Common Prayer, published in 1549. Upon agreement to marry, the Church of England usually offered couples a choice. They could both promise each other to love and cherish or alternatively, the groom promises to love, cherish and worship while the bride to love, cherish and obey.” (McCuen) It is incredible that one verb “obey” can depict the change of the position of women in British society. In the past, woman had nearly no rights and she was obliged to obey her husband. Naturally, it was one of the most crucial parts of a wedding vow. The husband was pleased and the wife was aware of her devoted position.

The first change could have been noticed during the reign of Queen Victoria. Being the Queen of the United Kingdom, the Archbishop of Canterbury suggested to
omit the word obey from her wedding vow. She refused it. She probably did not feel the superiority of her husband. Furthermore, she felt in love with Prince Albert and Queen Victoria wanted to obey him like a person she loves. No change was noticed till 20th century. “Hundreds of years later, on September 12, 1922, (no doubt due to protest) the Episcopal Church voted to remove the word "obey" from the bride's section of wedding vows. Today, love, honour and cherish have largely replaced the historical vow for the wife to honour and obey.” (McCuen) Two brides, who got married to the future Sovereign changed the vow. “It was reported that Catherine chose to break with royal protocol like Diana, Princess of Wales, did and that she and William decided that she would not vow to obey him.” (Brian 9) In the 21st century, the position of women changed completely. A woman does not have to be a feminist to claim that she should be respect by the society and her husband mainly.

6.3 Royal taste in music

Another factor which completes the atmosphere is music. No one can imagine a wedding ceremony without music. In general, the music has been regarded as a top of each ceremony. British royals prefer choral and instrumental music which made the ceremonial more magnificent. According to Mr. Range “music is the art which adds most grandeur of the ceremony and it helped to make the great solemnity impressive.” (Range 1) Even if no special rules are prescribed, the couple’s taste should be in compliance with the dignity of the ceremonial. Westminster Abbey or St. Paul Cathedral are not the right place for rock music. On the other hand, the couple has the right to choose the music. A music is played before the service and during the service and procession.
There are three processions; the first is for the Sovereign, the second for the groom and the third for the bride. (Roberts 112) From the wedding of the queen Victoria and Prince Albert in 1840 to the wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton in 2011, the most popular composers have been Johann Sebastian Bach, Sir Charles Hubert Hastings Parry, Edward Elgar and Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy. The last composer is famous for his Wedding March which is a symbol of the ceremony. In the past, royal weddings observed the royal tradition and the wedding music consisted of works of English composers.

The composers are chosen in accordance with spouses’ taste. “There have been no radical changes in the musical pattern of the service, but there have been inevitable changes in taste and selection. The influence of radio and television has done much to mould public taste.” (Arbor 53) The wedding music chosen by Prince William and Catherine Middleton was a blend of traditional and new songs such as Edward Elgar, Ralph Vaughan Williams, William Walton and Benjamin Britten. The national anthem of the United Kingdom “God Save The Queen” was also an inseparable part of the wedding service. (Wise)

6.4 Royal bride as a fashion idol

In general, people are most curious about the bride’s wedding dress. Since the royal wedding ceremony has become a public celebration, people became interested in royal wedding dress. The bride was attended impatiently by those who wanted to get a look of her dress. It is all about the fashion and inspiration. “The dresses worn by royal brides have inevitably reflected the changes in contemporary fashion.” (Roberts 5)

Not only during the last decades, but also during the previous centuries, people put emphasis on the wedding gown. The royal wedding of Charles II and Catherine of
Braganza on 2 Many 1662 was considered a fashion disaster. The not very rich bride appeared in a wedding gown which had been unfashionable for decades. Furthermore, neither the groom nor the rest of peerage was satisfied with this choice. This breach of etiquette caused her unpopularity at British royal Court. (Brand 22) It proves that people were interested in fashion and they put emphasis on perfect appearance.

A break of traditional colour of wedding dress was done by Queen Victoria. “The white wedding gown was an innovation that swept the English-speaking world only after Queen Victoria chose it over the traditional royal fur and brocade for her wedding in 1840 to Prince Albert.” (Caldwell 98) This tradition has been kept for centuries and a bride in white is a symbol of purity.

Another interesting fact concerning wedding gown is connected with the wedding of Queen Elizabeth II. It is not necessary to describe every detail of the wedding gown, but it is necessary to mention that the wedding gown was bought in a special way due to the Second World War. “Although rationing was still in effect, the Princess was allotted on hundred extra clothing coupons towards the creation of her wedding gown, and so the dress did not visibly reflect any post-war dreariness.” (Bell 16)

Naturally, all of the wedding gowns were designed in order to show pomp and splendour, but each occasion was led by different circumstances. Other important parts of bride’s appearance are jewels and mainly tiara. Thanks to it, the bride’s appearance is more princess-like. It is said that the longest veil was worn by Princess Diana and it was more than 7 metres long. Her son’s wife was much more modest with a 3 metres long veil. Definitely, royal brides are considered to be fashion idols. If they wear a wedding gown which is covered by lace, it is certain that it will come into fashion.
Unfortunately, the wedding gown of Princess Diana met the fashion requirements of nearly nineties. Huge sleeves, extremely long veil and several layers of textile had caused that Princess Diana could not move. Catherine Middleton chose beauty in simplicity and everybody appreciated her timeless look.

On the contrary, a groom’s wedding dress code is much simpler. People know what to expect. During the wedding ceremony, the groom who is a member of Royal Family wears a traditional ceremonial uniform. Moreover, the rest of male royals are wearing uniforms as well. (Morgan 131) Basically, people are interested in bride’s look also because women are more occupied by fashion. Women find inspiration in the royal weddings.

6.5 Symbol of British royal wedding bouquet and wedding ring

Royal wedding bouquet is used as a significant tradition for British Monarchy. The importance of the bouquet was started by Queen Victoria who set up the tradition, now appreciated for centuries. “All British royal brides descended from Queen Victoria have included among their wedding flowers a sprig of myrtle from the bush growing in Queen Victoria’s garden on the Isle of Wight.” (MacDonald 73) The pure love of Queen Victoria to her husband Prince Albert was also demonstrated in her wedding bouquet. Queen’s Victoria myrtle represented love and peace which were present during her reign. Her devotion to Prince Albert even after his death was incredible. Furthermore, the peace and harmony are connected to her personality.

Another interesting tradition which is connected with a wedding bouquet was set up due to the First World War by the Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon. The reason and content of this tradition is described thus: “Before her wedding ceremony in April 1923, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth (the Queen Mother) placed her bouquet on the Tomb at
Westminster Abbey. Her brother Fergus was killed in the Great War and had no known grave.” (Grandfield 17) The world wars influenced not only new traditions but the whole preparation of royal weddings. A prime example is the wedding of Queen Elizabeth who had to save coupons for her wedding gown. In general, the wars taught the members of the Royal Family moderation and their standard of life changed in conformity with the post-war era.

Even if royal wedding jewels do not seem to have the same importance like they had in the past, they are still an indispensable part of a wedding ceremony. We mentioned tiaras and jewels in general. Another jewel, which does not have only an ostentatious character, is a wedding ring. Its appearance is simpler in comparison to the engagement ring. It embodies a symbol of love. The British Monarchy has adopted a tradition which specify the material from which is a wedding ring made. This tradition was laid down by the Queen Mother, Elizabeth Bowes Lyon, during her royal wedding in 1923. She chose a material from which royal wedding rings are made. It was a Welsh gold. It is interesting that she selected a material which is rare. In compliance with royal tradition, it will be necessary to find another nugget to create another wedding ring. (McCutcheon 7) Primarily, the rings are exchanged as material means supporting the claim of the wedding vow. Moreover, the material from which royal wedding rings are made is connected with a Welsh legend. In the past, the ring made from Welsh could be worn only by Queens of North Wales. (Watkins 272) This material symbolized an eternity of marriage. Naturally, the Queen Mother was inspired by the symbolism and the tradition has been kept for decades.
6.6 **Wedding Breakfast with French influence**

The name of this tradition seems to be a bit unusual. The closest and most important wedding guests are invited to the reception which is called Wedding Breakfast. Rationally, the Wedding Breakfast should be served in the morning, but the British Monarchy took over the name, which has completely different meaning. This is a celebration which takes place after the wedding service and is usually served in the early afternoon. "The Invitations, menu cards, even remains of wedding cakes and cake decorations, have survived from all of the weddings featured here” (Roberts 6)

It is known that the best chefs have been mostly from France. French gastronomy is well-known all over the world and British Monarchy has been influenced by their cuisine. Due to this fact, the menu of a Wedding Breakfast is written in French. The first reference dates back to the times when the royal court had only French people in the kitchen. They did not speak English and due to this fact, the menu has not been translated into English. Current Royal Family respects this tradition and the menu of Wedding Breakfast in written in French language. (Lane 47)

As we have shown in the first part of the thesis, the prime of court protocol and etiquette happened in France. There the Court etiquette which was adopted to other European Courts was improved and developed. Owing to this fact the current British Royal Family still accepts the French origin.

6.7 **Traditions in compliance with modern times**

In spite of the fact that the Royal Family in the United Kingdom tries to observe the traditions connected with wedding ceremony, they realize the influence of modern times. Speaking about a tradition of wedding presents, it is necessary to mention that they have been dated from Early Modern English. During that period of time, the groom
was supposed to give a present to his wife-to-be and vice versa. “The exchange of gifts, principally from the groom to the bride, was the most significant feature of betrothals. By tradition, the groom was expected to present elaborate gifts, especially jewellery, to his new spouse.” (Warnicke 107) This tradition has been preserved. The wedding of Prince Albert and Queen Victoria followed this tradition. They exchanged the gifts and the Queen obtained an orange flower brooch, which was originally designed by Prince Albert. Queen Victoria wore this brooch on her wedding day with enthusiasm. (Roberts 16)

The exchange of wedding gifts still exists. On the other hand, the most interesting is the purpose of gifts which the wedding guests sent to the couple. In the past, presents had to be extravagant and lavish. It had been kept till the wedding of the Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip which heavily influenced the Second World War. In spite of the fact that they obtained many jewels, their wedding presents were more practical. Among the more practical gifts were a Hoover vacuum-cleaner and an automatic potato peeler, also, an Angle poise lamp.” (Roberts 102) The biggest change was done by Prince William and Catherine Middleton. “The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge set up a charitable gift fund for well-wishers to donate to instead of buying wedding presents, personally choosing 26 charities.” (Mail Online) This royal couple is the first who renounced wedding gifts in exchange for donations for charity. Charitable work is more and more popular and widespread. Thanks to this act, the new couple proved that they are able to help other people who need it.

Another tradition which has been kept for centuries is related to the bride’s transport to the wedding location. This part of royal wedding is well-liked by all the people, because they are looking forward to catch a sight of a bride. Carriages are
connected with two important royal occasions. “The Irish State Coach, used for the State Opening of Parliament, and the Glass Coach, which has been chosen for almost every Royal Wedding since it was acquired in 1911.” (Paget 72) Each royal bride used the Glass Coach as her wedding transport. The exception made the Duchess of Cambridge. She did not arrive at Westminster Abbey by traditional way which is a Glass Carriage but by a car, Rolls-Royce Phantom VI. (Grace 8) Even if cars could have been used as a wedding transport for decades, only Catherine Middleton chose this way. However, she disappointed many people and was blamed for not following the traditions, she could incidentally set up a new tradition. Even if she did not arrive before the church in Glass Coach, she looked stunning when she was getting off the Rolls-Royce and thereby fulfilled all the expectations. In general, you have to break a rule to set up a tradition. Moreover, living in the 21st century, not all the royal brides want to be seen as a princess coming in the Coach.

6.8 Royal wedding etiquette and protocol for guests

A royal wedding is a great occasion which requires punctuality. The Royal Family, the peerage and all the guests are recommended to follow the royal wedding guide. Such a show like the royal wedding should be untarnished. Due to the private nature of the royal wedding, it was not necessary to send an etiquette and protocol guide. The aristocracy knew the protocol by heart. In the present time, it is different. The royal wedding guests come from different cultures and social classes. Nowadays, we know the group of people who were invited to the last royal wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton. The official guest list of the wedding is published. It is remarkable that a list of people who cancelled or were not invited to the royal wedding is published as well. Among the royal guests was the Royal Family and their
relatives, Spencer family, Middleton family and relatives, members of foreign royal families, Governors-general, Politicians and Diplomats, Maid of Honour and Bridesmaids, Best man and Page Boys. The most notable people who were not even invited to the royal wedding were Sarah Ferguson, William’s divorced aunt, ex-prime minister Tony Blair, American President Barack Obama and his wife and French ex-president Nicolas Sarkozy and Carla Bruni. (Grace 53) The official reason of preferences is not known because the Queen has not expressed herself. It seems to be unusual that David and Victoria Beckham were on the guests list and the Head of the United States had to be satisfied with a state visit in the United Kingdom in 2009.

Naturally, there have to be some united rules and manners, which should be respected. The organizers of the very last royal wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton insisted on the proper usage of royal protocol. The royal wedding guests were given the etiquette guide to avoid embarrassment during the royal wedding ceremony. Unfortunately, this 22 page list is not available as a whole, but the most important pieces of advice are known. The National questioned the royal etiquette expert William Hanson who provided the most important parts of the etiquette guide.

Rules regarding meeting with the Queen were mentioned before. The wedding guests should do the honour to the Queen by not being late. It means that the Queen should be the very last person who arrives before the bride. It is recommended to arrive at church at least twenty minutes in advance. Needless to say no touching, no shaking, no taking photos and no speaking to the Queen or a member of Royal Family are recommended unless they speak to you first. Moreover, it is recommended that a guest should not stand too close to the members of the Royal Family. The etiquette guide does not prescribe the distance so guests should guess the suitable distance. The Queen
invited about 600 people to the Wedding Breakfast at Buckingham Palace so the guests
should behave in accordance with the royal standard. It means that, the guests did not
drink too much or eat too much. Moreover, they are required to watch the Queen’s
actions. The people should do what the Queen does. When she finishes her meal, they
do the same. When she stands up, they stand up. (National Post Staff) In general, a
wedding is a day of the groom and the bride. On the other hand, it is important to
remember that the Queen is a Head of State.

A code of proper conduct also includes an appropriate dress-code. Although it
seems to be uncomplicated, the opposite is true. It is recommended that a woman wears
a dress neither too short nor too striking. Moreover, they should cover their shoulders
and use an appropriate hat at church. In the following statement, the proper combination
of hat is explained: “A grey hat is worn with a grey coat, and a black with black,
although it is acceptable to wear a grey hat with a black coat and even vice versa.”
(Morgan 129) It seems to be quite odd that the etiquette require special colour
combinations. In this case, the aesthetic plays the essential role. Probably, an
inappropriate colour of a hat holding at wedding ceremony could ruin the atmosphere of
such an opulent occasion. Obviously, men should meet the requirements and wear a
uniform if they are in the Armed Forces. Male civilians should wear a lounge or
morning suit with a hat which should be taken off in church. Many couples are invited
to the royal wedding which means that they should match up the colours and proper
dress-code together. No one wants to be a witness of a fashion disaster. (Etiquipedia)

Evidently, the church where is placed a royal wedding is not a catwalk. The
guests should be dressed moderately. The Royal Family retain the traditional code of
behaviour. It does not matter from which country a wedding guest comes from. The
United Kingdom observes the same rules for everybody. The wedding guests should find the etiquette guide useful. Nowadays, a royal wedding is broadcast and any breach of protocol or etiquette will be recorded forever.
Conclusion

Even though the role of monarchs in the United Kingdom has dramatically changed over the last centuries and the British Monarchy is considered to be one of the longest reigns in Europe, its position is still unstable. The members of the Royal Family hold the position of political and cultural representatives which requires proper behaviour and good manners. As a consequence, the current Royal Family keeps the conventions in order to protect the royal standards and the status of British Monarchy.

One of the most fundamental changes connected with the royal protocol and etiquette is that the perception of the Royal Family in UK differs from the previous centuries. In the past, people believed that the Royals were chosen by God and due to this fact they had to be held in the highest respect. Moreover, the members of the Royal Family did not need the support of their subjects and the public opinion did not influence the existence of the monarchy. This attitude towards them has completely transformed. The Royal Family today are dependent on the support of the British in order to keep the monarchy.

The royal protocol has transformed with the growing public interest in Royal Family. In the past, the proper code of behaviour was crucial only for the aristocracy and ordinary people were not informed about its proper usage as there was no likelihood of them meeting the Sovereign or other member of the Royal Family. Nowadays, due to the representative function of all the members of the Royal Family, it is more probable that the people will come into contact with the Royals at royal ceremonies such as royal weddings which are examined in this Bachelor Thesis. A list of wedding guests from 2011 proves that the people invited to this occasion came from different social classes and commoners are also seen as appropriate spouses today. In simple terms, the Royal
Family is in contact with or can include people from lower classes which means that the protocol has to be modified in compliance with current needs.

Regarding the observance of a proper code of behaviour, the Bachelor Thesis clarifies that the royal protocol is not required but highly recommended. Despite the statement found on the Official Website of the British Monarchy that “there are obligatory codes of behaviour” it is evident that the current Royal Family does not require its usage. Although we know that a single breach of protocol at French Court of Louis XIV or in Victorian society, where a proper conduct became an obsession, ruined a reputation forever, this does not happen in contemporary society in the UK. According to William Hanson, a royal etiquette and protocol expert, its usage is considered to show respect and honour towards the Queen and the members of the Royal Family. He also claims that the royal protocol should be used in order to avoid embarrassment. One of the other reasons is that the majority of the British society considers the protocol to be indispensable. However, the Royal Family keeps the proper conduct and never omit its importance.

All the royal events and mainly royal weddings are organized in accordance with conventions and historical traditions. Royal weddings are an example of traditional occasions where protocol and etiquette seem to be essential. Its organisation is demanding and Royal Family needs the support of the Royal Household. As our discussion of the people who are connected with ceremonial preparation has shown, concerning royal weddings, the Lord Chamberlain plays the most important role from sending a wedding invitation cards to the support of members of the Royal Family.

The whole nature of royal weddings has changed from private to public, which proves the fact that current weddings take place in Westminster Abbey or St Paul
Cathedral with huge capacity. In the past, royal weddings were held in small chapels such as the Royal Chapel in St James’s Palace. The turning point in public interest in royal ceremonies came after the First World War and the Second World War when the British Monarchy suffered the most. The country and its public image were completely devastated. But thanks to the opulence and pomp of royal weddings people could enjoy the happiness of such an occasion. Furthermore, a wedding of any member of the Royal Family expressed a new and happier beginning which was so desperately needed in that period of time. Besides, some traditions such as putting a royal wedding bouquet on a tomb of unknown soldiers to honour the sacrifice for their country are preserved until today.

Another turning point in terms of the perception of royal ceremonies happened with the growth of media. The media has spread the public interest not only in the UK but also all over the world. People became more curious and thanks to the broadcasting everybody could feel like a participant of such an event. The media are considered to be an efficient tool by which the current Royal Family attempt to improve their image.

The traditions connected with royal weddings are still kept by the members of the Royal Family. Wedding ring made from Welsh gold, white wedding gown or a spring of myrtles set up by Queen Victoria were respected at the latest royal wedding ceremony of Prince William and Catherine Middleton.

The role of woman at a wedding ceremony and in the society as a whole has undergone some changes. The traditional royal wedding ceremony contained the vows which required women to obey their husbands for centuries. As a consequence of ongoing social changes and gradual emancipation of women in today’s society, the brides enforced an omission of the word “obey” and it was replaced by the phrase love,
cherish and worship which shows that the current British Royal Family holds the view of the equality of sexes. Nowadays, the role of the bride at royal wedding ceremonies is more significant than in the past. As the Bachelor Thesis shows, the royal bride is a fashion icon and she practically sets fashion trends. Her appearance is often the peak of each wedding ceremony.

The thesis also examined appropriate choice of royal spouses. The rules and laws of royal protocol undoubtedly influenced the selection of the future members of the Royal Family. In the 21st century, this famous family still observes the laws declared in the 18th century, however, some changes was done in order to moderate an effect of all members of the Royal Family. Today, only the first six successors to the Crown are obliged to get a marriage approval from the Queen or the Government. There are many other transformations which are connected to the choice of an appropriate spouse. For example, some new precedents have taken place and today a divorced woman, such as Camilla Parker-Bowes, could become a new member of the Royal Family, even though King Edward had to abdicate due to the disapproval of his wedding when he wanted to marry a divorced woman. At the same time, the Royal Family still respects the Church of England, so there is no place for papists. Nowadays, Royals enter the marriage for love which it is in contrast with previous centuries where political reasons were the only motivation.

Finally, the British Royal Family is keen on conventions, however, exceptions and transformations of the British royal protocol and etiquette are abundant today. Royal occasions such as royal weddings is highly respected by the proper use of royal protocol and etiquette which is proved by the fact that the etiquette manual was sent to the guests of the Prince William and Catherine Middleton’s wedding. Owing to the
modern attitude of Queen Elizabeth II, who is able to keep in the highest standard a proper code of behaviour and also to make compromises in order to maintain a positive image of the Royal Family, the British society respect the royal protocol and etiquette which means that they respect the British Monarchy.
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Appendices

Michelle Obama hugs the Queen
Source: Daily Mail

Royal wedding invitation
Source: MLive Media Group
Wedding photo of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip
Source: Huffington Post

Catherine Middleton wedding dress
Course: Popsugar

Wedding dress of Lady Diana
Source: Daily Mail
The Chapel Royal at St James’s Palace
Source: Daily Mail

A choir procession in Westminster Abbey of wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton
Source: New York Times
The glass coach which carried Lady Diana on her wedding day
Source: Telegraph

Arrival of Catherine Middleton to Westminster Abbey in Rolls Royce
Source: Stuff
Royal Wedding Fashion: Hats
Source: Brides

All pictures in the Appendices come from Google Images, with concrete sites quoted below each image
Summary

The British Royal Family still keeps the observance of royal protocol and etiquette. Even if it claims that there are no obligatory codes of behaviour, the proper conduct is highly recommended in order to avoid embarrassment. Moreover, the etiquette guide which was sent to the wedding guests is a proof that a code of proper conduct is in being at Court. In the past Royals were considered to be chosen by God and a use of royal protocol was a duty. Nowadays, the British society considers a proper use of royal protocol and etiquette as a token of respect and honour towards the Queen and the members of the Royal Family rather than obligation.

The British royal wedding protocol requires a proper conduct in compliance with dignity of a ceremony. Traditions which are kept at wedding ceremonies such as location, music, myrtle wedding bouquet, welsh gold rings or white wedding gown have long-standing origin. Nowadays the royal wedding protocol is used as a tool by which the Royal Family could improve the image. The lavishness and precision maintain the current standards of British Monarchy. The nature of royal weddings has changed. The private ceremonies were replaced by public spectacles which are broadcast all over the world. This change happened after the World Wars and the media influence. In the past, the only intention to enter into a marriage was a political reason, however, nowadays the sincerest motivation is love. Owing to the modern attitude of Queen Elizabeth II, who is able to maintain the highest standard of proper codes of behaviour and also to make compromises in order to maintain the positive image of British Royal Family, the British society respects the Monarchy which means that it respects the royal protocol and etiquette.
Resumé

Britská královská Rodina stále dodržuje dvorní protokol a etiketu. Aby se lidé vyhnuly trapným momentům je doporučeno nastudovat správná pravidla chování a to i presto, že je královská Rodina nevyžaduje. Co se týče královských svateb, zde byli Svatebčané obeznámeni s jeho existencí a obsahem. Tímto je dokázáno, že protokol a etiketa je stále vyžadována převážně na britském královském dvoře. V minulosti si lidé mysleli, že členové královské rodiny byli vybráni z Boží vůle a tudíž správné užití královského protokolu bylo povinné. V současné době je správné používání královského protokolu a etikety chápáno jako projev respektu a úcty ke královně a ostatním členům královské rodiny.


Britská společnost respektuje královský protokol a etiketu tudíž respektuje i monarchii a to díky modernímu přístupu královny Alžběty II., která je schopna si udržet nejvyšší
standart chování a také je schopna provádět kompromisy pro zachování pozitivního obrazu královské rodiny.