

Anthony Walter Dayrell Brooke

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Anthony Walter Dayrell Brooke (10 December 1912 – 2 March 2011) was appointed the **Rajah Muda of Sarawak** (heir apparent; Malay: *Yang Amat Mulia Tuan Rajah Muda Sarawak*) on 25 August 1937, and succeeded to the title of Rajah in 1963 on the death of his uncle, Rajah Vyner of Sarawak the third and last of the ruling White Rajahs.

Brooke was the son of Bertram, Tuan Muda of Sarawak and Gladys Palmer, daughter of Sir Walter Palmer, and heiress to part of the Huntley & Palmers biscuit fortune.^[1]

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Background

Brooke grew up in England and was educated at Eton College, Trinity College, Cambridge and the School of African and Oriental Studies, University of London.^[2] Throughout the 1930s he served the Sarawak civil service in various sectors, including the Land and Registry Department, and as a magistrate.^[2]

He enlisted in the British Army as a private soldier in November 1941, during the Second World War, and from 1941 to 1944 served as a Lieutenant in the Intelligence Corps on the staff of the South East Asia Command at Kandy, Ceylon. He was Special Commissioner for Sarawak in the United Kingdom from 1944 to 1945.

Appointed as Heir Apparent with the title of *Rajah Muda of Sarawak* on 25 August 1937, Brooke was granted the personal style of *His Highness*. Having been responsible for administering Sarawak between 1939 and 1940, in the absence of the Rajah, he was deprived of his styles and titles on 17 January 1940, then dismissed and expelled from the state in September 1941, following a dispute with his uncle, Rajah Vyner, over his marriage to a commoner, Kathleen Hudden, sister of a Sarawak government official.^{[1][3]}

Anthony Brooke

H.H.Rajah Muda of Sarawak (titular)



The Rajah Muda of Sarawak whilst at Eton.

Spouse Kathleen Mary Hudden (div.1965)
Brigitte Keller (m.1982–2011)

Issue James Brooke
Angela Brooke
Celia Brooke

Father Bertram Brooke

Born 10 December 1912

Died 2 March 2011 (aged 98)
 Wanganui, New Zealand

Burial Brooke Family Graveyard, Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia (21 September 2013)

In 1944, Brooke was restored as *Rajah Muda*, after consultations between his uncle and his father. He was, however, deprived of his titles again on 12 October 1945.^[2]

In 1946 Rajah Vyner ceded Sarawak to the British Colonial Office, in exchange for a sizeable pension for him and his three daughters. Anthony Brooke, the designated heir, initially opposed the cession to the Crown, along with a majority of the native members of the Council Negri (Parliament). A five-year campaign in Sarawak followed, aimed at revoking the country's new colonial status, in part directed by Brooke from his house in Singapore.^[1] In 1948, after the second British Governor of Sarawak, Sir Duncan Stewart, was assassinated by the Malay Sarawakian nationalist Rosli Dhobie, Brooke came under scrutiny by MI5, the British intelligence agency, who wanted to "get wind of any other plots he and his associates might be hatching". No evidence was found that he had known of the assassination plot.^[1] In 2012, a declassified document from the British National Archive showed that Brooke had had no connection with the assassination of Stewart.^[4]

In 1951, Brooke renounced any claim to the title, although he remained, according to some loyalists, the pretender to the throne.

In 2013, the Acting British High Commissioner to Malaysia attended Brooke's reburial in Sarawak and offered an apology on behalf of Great Britain, clearing Anthony Brooke's name of any involvement.^[5]

Personal life

Brooke was married firstly, in Rangoon, Burma to Kathleen Mary Hudden (1907–1981),^[2] daughter of William Edward Cecil Hudden, of Backwell, Somerset, who became the *Ranee Muda of Sarawak*. They had three children:

- **James Bertram Lionel Brooke** (born 1940) is a Life Member of the Sarawak Association, Chairman of the Brooke Heritage Trust, and a Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society. He married firstly Victoria Holdsworth (born 1949), she would later marry Sir Paul Getty, married second Karen Mary Lappin (born 1955). He has two sons by his second wife and currently lives in Edinburgh:
 - **Laurence Nicholas Brooke** (born 1983 in London), was educated at Bruntsfield Primary School, Edinburgh, and The High School, Dublin.
 - **Jason Desmond Anthony Brooke** (born 1985 in London), was also educated at Bruntsfield and The High School, Dublin. Received a BA degree in English literature from University College Dublin and an MPhil in International Conflict Studies from Trinity College, Dublin. Was elected Captain of the Boats, University College Dublin Boat Club, for 2007/2008.
- **Angela Carole Brooke** (1942 – 1986)
- **Celia Margaret Brooke** (3 November 1944 – 17 December 2011), married first to David Ray Harper (grandson of Pir-o-Murshid Hazrat Inayat Khan),^[6] married secondly Marcel Captier of Rennes le Chateau. She had a daughter by her first husband:
 - Sura-un-Nissa Dorée des Anges Brooke Harper (born 1971), who has one son;
 - Leandro Brooke Harper (born 1992).^[2]

Anthony Brooke lived for various periods in London, Sussex and at Findhorn community in Scotland. In 1982 he married secondly a fellow peace activist; Brigitte (Gita) Keller (born in 1931 in Copenhagen to the Reverend Paul H. Lange) founded Operation Peace Through Unity (OPTU) in Sweden in 1975.^[2] From 1987 until Brooke's death in 2011 they lived together in Wanganui, New Zealand. Brooke was a traveller and lecturer, supporting various movements for peace and universal understanding.

Brooke died at his home in Wanganui on 2 March 2011, at the age of 98.^[7] His death coincided with the anniversary of the deaths of two of the four members of the Sarawak Anti-Cession Movement, Rosli Dhoby and Awang Ramli Amit, who were hanged at Kuching Central Prison on 2 March 1950, while the two others, Bujang Sunotong and Morshidi Sidek, were hanged on 27 March. On 31 August 2013, *The Borneo Post* reported that according to a statement released by the Brooke Heritage Trust, Brooke's ashes would be buried, according to his last wish, at the Brooke Family Graveyard, near Astana in Sarawak, on 21 September 2013.^[8] On that date, in a private ceremony attended by Brooke's wife Gita, his grandson Jason Brooke, the British Deputy High Commissioner, Ray Kyles, and the New Zealand High Commissioner, David Pine, Brooke's ashes were buried at Astana as planned.^[9]

Titles from birth

- *Anthony Brooke, Esq.* (10 December 1912 – 24 August 1937)
- *H.H. The Rajah Muda of Sarawak* (25 August 1937 – 16 January 1940)
- *Anthony Brooke, Esq.* (17 January 1940 – November 1941)
- *Private Anthony Brooke* (November 1941 – 16 January 1944)
- *H.H. The Rajah Muda of Sarawak* (17 January 1944 – 1944)
- *Lieutenant H.H. The Rajah Muda of Sarawak* (1944 – 12 October 1945)
- *Lieutenant Anthony Brooke, titular Rajah Muda of Sarawak* (12 October 1945 – February 1951)
Renounced claim as heir apparent, 1951

References

1. "Obituary: Anthony Brooke" (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/obituaries/politics-obituaries/8365045/Anthony-Brooke.html>). The Daily Telegraph. March 6, 2011. Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20110309215120/http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/obituaries/politics-obituaries/8365045/Anthony-Brooke.html>) from the original on 9 March 2011. Retrieved March 7, 2011.
2. Sarawak genealogy (<http://www.4dw.net/royalark/Malaysia/sarawak.htm>)
3. "End of Absolutism" - Time Magazine, 6 October 1941 (<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,790265,00.html?iid=chix-sphere>)
4. "The stabbed governor of Sarawak" - BBC News, 12 April 2012 (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-17299633>)
5. "Farewell to the Crown Prince – BorneoPost Online | Borneo , Malaysia, Sarawak Daily News | Largest English Daily In Borneo" (<http://www.theborneopost.com/2013/09/22/farewell-to-the-crown-prince>). Theborneopost.com. Retrieved 2014-02-04.
6. David Ray Harper is the son of Khairunisa Inayat Khan (a.k.a. Claire Ray Harper), youngest child of Inayat Khan.[1] (http://remembrance.sufipaths.net/?page_id=822) Claire Ray Harper and David Ray Harper authored *We Rubies Four*, about the four children of Inayat Khan [2] (<http://store.omegapub.com/servlet/-strse-52/We-Rubies-Four-scln--The/Detail>)
7. "Wanganui home gifted to peace group" (<http://www.wanganuichronicle.co.nz/news/wanganui-home-gifted-to-peace-group/1057124/>), Merania Karauria, May 31, 2011
8. Rajah Muda to be buried in Sarawak (<http://www.theborneopost.com/2013/08/31/last-rajah-muda-to-be-buried-in-sarawak/Last>), The Borneo Post, August 31, 2013
9. "Farewell to the Crown Prince" (<http://www.theborneopost.com/2013/09/22/farewell-to-the-crown-prince/>), *The Borneo Post*, September 22, 2013

Anthony Walter Dayrell Brooke Brooke family Born: 10 December 1912 Died: 2 March 2011		
Preceded by Bertram Brooke	Heir to the Sarawakian throne 25 August 1937 – 9 May 1963	Succeeded by James Brooke
Titles in pretence		
Preceded by Vyner Brooke	— TITULAR — <i>titular white Rajah of Sarawak</i> <i>(claim renounced)</i> 9 May 1963 – 2 March 2011 Reason for succession failure: Title abolished in 1946	Succeeded by James Brooke

External links

- Home Page of Anthony Brooke (<http://www.angelfire.com/journal/brooke2000/>)
- Sarawak genealogy (<http://www.4dw.net/royalark/Malaysia/sarawak.htm>)
- Operation Peace Through Unity Website (<http://www.peacethroughunity.info/peaceDay.html>)
- Anthony Walter Brooke Obituary by New Zealand Herald (<http://notices.nzherald.co.nz/obituaries/nzherald-nz/obituary.aspx?n=anthony-walter-brooke&pid=149040738>)

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| People educated at Eton College | Alumni of Trinity College, Cambridge | Sarawak royalty
| British Army personnel of World War II | Intelligence Corps officers
| Alumni of SOAS, University of London | Pretenders

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