

YVONNE LÉVÉQUE JORDAN

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Marriage and Early Posts 1919-1935

Language difficulty led to romance with US military officer in France
Enjoyed Haiti despite its poverty
Had to pay own official travel expenses when funds depleted
Problems of moving from one climate to another
Foreign Service Act of 1946 increased status and allowances
Ambassador Bullitt influenced President Roosevelt to pass legislation requiring Foreign Service Officers (FSOs) to resign and request permission to marry a non-American
Narrator forced to be more informed on American life. Now feels truly American
Transfer to Consular Corps. Preferred being independent and closer to the people

Pre-World War II and the War Years 1935-1942

Posted to Madras for seven years
Pearl Harbor bombing canceled transfer to Spain
Volunteer work with Red Cross and Ambulance Corps in India and Mexico
Her representational efforts led to recommendation for Consul Generalship for husband
Ill with malaria, she went on leave to Washington
Husband retired after disappointment over promised ambassadorship
Travel by ship was leisurely. Pace of Foreign Service unhurried

Protocol, Domestic Staffs and Personal Pursuits

Curtisied seven times at reception for Viceroy. Very formal life in India
Managing a staff of eleven servants a full time job
In Santa Barbara narrator on ten boards, including as consultant to the UN and the University of California
A scholarship established in her name for studies in France

Status of Foreign-born wives, Pursuits Abroad and Accomplishments in Retirement

Narrator receives Knight of the Palmes Academique medal for her contributions to French culture

Rogers Act combined Diplomatic and Consular Corps

Low Foreign Service salaries required supplemental family assistance
Foreign Service children experience difficulties in adapting to posts abroad and returning to U.S.
Some preferred consular work for less social life and closer contacts

The wife's role in a changing Foreign Service

Narrator cuts ties to France and is accepted as American

Serves as official hostess to chiefs of mission in Haiti and Finland
When allowances improved, those without means could accept ambassadorships
No training as a young Foreign Service wife
Rogers Act allowed FSO's rotating assignments abroad and at home
Foreign Service Act of 1946 made it a more egalitarian profession
Married in Paris in 1921 after husband took Foreign Service exam
State Department approved custom tailored consular uniform for J.C. White in Czarist Russia
Fine clothes ruined by climates in Haiti and India