

No more to be said? Reactions to the Death of Frederick Lewis, Prince of Wales

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A void surrounds this Prince of Wales. There has been no scholarly biography. The account of Horace Walpole is extremely hostile. In reality, the royal family conducted itself with more propriety and show of grief than Walpole alleged. The widowed Princess of Wales placed herself in the King's hands. The Prince had a private funeral, unlike his mother Queen Caroline. There was "a sorry turn out" of peers since they were only given eight hours notice. Some poems commemorated the 'patriot prince' another called him 'a much loved British Prince'. He was an inspiration to his son George III. The Duke of Somerset was chief mourner at his funeral. There was nothing unusual about the absence of members of the Royal family. In the subsequent discussion Anna Keay, Curt Noel and Philip Mansel pointed out that in England, Spain and France respectively, members of the royal family never attended funerals.