

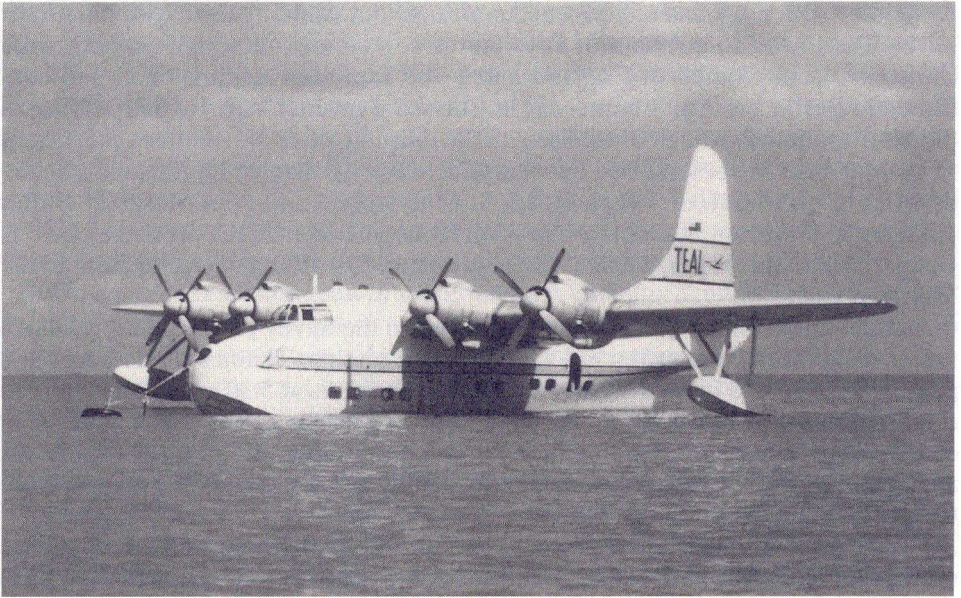
As neither Ann nor I had any parents to arrange our wedding for us, we did it ourselves. There was no question of any Church ceremonies, although we both were Christians, Ann Church of England and I was Lutheran as christened and confirmed in Berlin. As Ann's home was in Chelsea we went to the Registry Office in the Metropolitan Borough of Chelsea on the morning of 12 November 1946, where "This Marriage was solemnised between Kurt Otto Michaelis, 30, Bachelor, Scientist (Board of Trade), of 7 Park Road, St Marylebone and Ann Margaret Butler Aikman, 21, Spinster, Student, of 12 Astell House, Chelsea in the presence of us, G. Cooper Willis and Walter Wallich." So reads Entry 179 of Marriage, Pursuant to the Marriage Acts.

A small lunch followed, and then we moved to the Savoy Hotel where we had a rather magnificent room reserved with a view across the Thames for 24 hours at a price of £ 5. We had invited about 150 friends for drinks at 5.30 in the afternoon to come to the Savoy to celebrate our happiness with us. Sir Andrew McFadyean, an old friend of my father's, made a short speech and proposed our happiness. It was all very informal, very properly done and certainly gave Ann and me great pleasure to have so many good friends rejoice with us.

For the more intimate friends, we had reserved a private room, and if I remember correctly, there were 24 for dinner and for dancing afterwards. It carried on until the early hours of the morning. Ann and I retired to our lovely room, not a suite, when we were tired and went to bed. It was an ideal arrangement that our guests could continue dancing and drinking until they were tired, and everyone could suit himself or herself.

These happy events were only possible because Ann had received her inheritance on reaching the age of 21. The bill at the Savoy Hotel was her first major expenditure, and I think the total was below £ 500. It was not Ann's only major use of her new riches. She gave me as a wedding present a most magnificent car, a 1935 Lagonda, with a 4.5 litre engine, open touring body, painted silver. We called it 'Diana' and kept it in our true affection in England and then in Australia, as long as our marriage lasted.

We had a splendid holiday tour through the French Pyrenees in the early summer of 1948, when Ann was three-months pregnant with our first daughter. We saw a good French doctor in Paris before setting out on our Grand Tour and he told us that at the same stage of pregnancy he and his wife had made a similar journey through the Pyrenees. "And what became the profession of your son?" asked Ann. "Oh well" the doctor answered somewhat reluctantly "he became an excellent racing-car driver".



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The Short Brothers '**Empire Flying Boat**' which took my wife and me on our honeymoon to Australia, New Zealand and back. We enjoyed luxurious comfort and endured a few hours of acute danger over the Tasman Sea. After BOAC ended their service, some aircraft such as this one survived, for the Tasman Empire Airways Limited from 1949 to 1960. This flying boat is now in the Auckland Transport Museum. *Courtesy TEAL.*