

## DIARIST, ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHER

# Art Director Cecil Beaton Dies at 76

LONDON (AP)—Sir Cecil Beaton, photographer of Britain's royal family for decades and designer of the original costumes and sets for "My Fair Lady," died today at his home in Broadchalke, in southwest England. He was 76 last Monday.

Beaton, who recently suffered a stroke and had been ill for some time, was credited in his lifetime with elevating photography from a trade to a respectable art. His portraits of the upper crust made him one of the world's most sought-after photographers.

He won two Oscars for his designs in the Hollywood movies "Gigi" and "My Fair Lady."

Beaton reached the peak of acclaim for the memorable costumes and sets he designed for both the stage play and the movie, "My Fair Lady." He gave the world the theatrical term "Beaton-like" sets.

His many books included collections of photographs and reminiscence, and most recently, his selected diaries from 1926 to 1974 published last September under the title "Self Portrait With Friends."

Last November, Sotheby's, the London auctioneers, held the last of four sales of material from Beaton's studio, which produced \$211,770.

Beaton had retired in 1977 after a brilliant career as writer, painter and photographer for more than a half century.

Many believed that had it not been for Beaton, Princess Margaret of England might have been socially ostracized for marrying Anthony Armstrong-Jones, himself a photographer from outside royalty.

Although he was renowned for his portraits of the famous—and for his fees, which ran up to \$3,000—Beaton himself never seemed impressed.

"I feel so dishonest when I get a whopping fee for taking someone's picture," he once confessed. "I invariably have an interesting time doing it and my subjects are usually quite cooperative."

Beaton's published diaries, studded with well-known names, were best sellers. They caused a sensation by revealing that he once had a two-year romance with actress Greta Garbo which ended in 1948.

His name dotted the gossip columns of newspapers throughout the world, and was linked so often with the royal family that many foreigners thought he was a relative of Queen Elizabeth II.

There were those who sniggered at Beaton's seeming foppishness and penchant for lavish Edwardian garb.

Satirist Evelyn Waugh, who feuded with Beaton all his life, remembered going to school with him: "He was an extremely pretty little boy. The spectacle of his long eyelashes, wet with tears, was one to provoke the sadism of youth."

Beaton retorted that Waugh was "a bully."

Noel Coward, before he became a close friend of Beaton's, wrote a couplet expressing his dismay at Beaton's genre:

"Though Waterloo was won upon the playing field of Eton,

"The next war will be photographed—and lost—by Cecil Beaton."



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**SIR CECIL**—Beaton, who won Oscar for "My Fair Lady," in photo-portrait by Lord Lichfield.

During World War II, Beaton toured the Middle East and Far East as official cameraman for the British Information Ministry.

Beaton, son of a London timber merchant, was educated at Harrow and Cambridge, but then chose to work as a free-lance photographer. At the age of 26 he joined Vogue magazine, and began his career as a photographer of VIPs.

In 1957, at the age of 53, he was honored with a CBE, Commander of the British Empire, and 15 years later Queen Elizabeth knighted him.