

## An Old House, a New Fete

(by Maggie DuBois, Staff Social Columnist)

The newest addition to the Maryland social whirl, the Count and Countess Von Blucher, are celebrating their arrival in the United States with an elaborate housewarming party.

We're still learning the history of Maryland's own nobility--the Count's title originates from somewhere in Moravia, but he's somewhat tight-lipped about his claim to that rank. He had a fairy-tale romance with the Countess: He met her in France when he visited Mme DeVil's--described as a "dance academy"--presumably to learn the latest dance styles. She was an instructor at that institute, although her new title seems to have affected her performance: This reporter has observed her dancing...not very well.

The Countess is the last heir to Hilltop House, the Maryland landmark which has lain dormant for nearly 70 years. The Von Bluchers have returned from the Continent to reopen the house and to introduce themselves into American high society. They have embarked upon an ambitious reconstruction project for the house, thus earning the friendship of several local creditors.



Hilltop House

The Count's legendary skills of persuasion have already been put to good use: He has managed to hire servants to work in what the locals still call "The Devil's House."

To celebrate their newest acquisition, the Von Bluchers have invited the cream of local society to a lavish dinner party. The guest list includes:

Josephine Butcher - Entertainer  
 James Calhoun - Developer  
 Gabrielle ("Yoo-Hoo") Chanel - Fashion Designer  
 Master Aleister Crowley - Mystic  
 Salvador Doily - Artist  
 Ruth Edding - Entertainer  
 Dr. Sigmund Fraud - Psychologist  
 Gen. Odysseus T. Grant - U.S. General  
 Margaret Honeywine - Anthropologist  
 Madame Celestine LaVeau - Mystic  
 Thaddeus Q. Lynch - Financier  
 Clarence Marrow - Lawyer  
 Joe Pescado - Business Manager  
 Emily Pillar - Writer

Two other guests, Howard Wheeler (the famous archaeologist who recently discovered King Phunki Tut's tomb), and Margaret Singer (writer, activist, and one of this reporter's heroes) have yet to RSVP.

I will be there as well, having been invited to cover the party first-hand.

Are the rumors that the Von Bluchers' arrival has less to do with their inheritance than their desire to flee Europe true? Will the guests--some with definite reputations of their own--provide a memorable party? I'll have the whole story...after the ball is over.

*Maggie*