

Abrantès



Description of Arms :

Ecartelé : 1, de sable à 3 corbeaux d'argent posés 1 & 2, et 3 étoiles du mesme posées 2 & 1 ; 2, d'azur à un palmier d'or soutenu d'un croissant d'argent ; 3, d'azur à un vaisseau d'or voruant sur une mer d'argent ; 4, de sable au lion d'or tenant une épée haute d'argent posée en pal au chef des ducs d'Empire, brochant sur le tout, qui est Junot.

Principal Title : Duke of Abrantès.

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Creation : First French Empire, 1808. Transferred from the Junot family to that of Le Ray by imperial decree in 1869/1970, followed by letters-patent the following year.

Subsidiary Titles :

Family Name : Le Ray d'Abrantès.

Family History : Andoche Junot, a general of France, was aide de camp to Napoleon Bonaparte during the first Italian Campaign. He took part also in the expedition in Egypt and finally conquered Lisbon, during the French expansion into the Peninsular. For this, he was rewarded with a dukedom, when his commander became emperor. He died, in 1813, during a fit of madness. The title is the same as that held in Spain, though the spelling is slightly different.

Andoche had two sons, who succeeded, each in his turn. The title then became extinct, with the second, Alfred-Adolphe; he was the third duke, and he died in 1859. His daughter, Jeanne, married Maurice le Ray in 1869 and a substitution of the duchy was made in his favour, the same year. He became the fourth duke.

The succession then followed a difficult path and has now, finally, died out. Only the widow of the last duke remains.

It is feature of many of the numerous titles awarded during the XIX Century that so few have lasted until our days and many became extinct with one or two generations. Of all the *maréchaux*, given high honours during the First Empire, almost all have disappeared. As have so many of the titles given during the monarchies that followed and the Empire of Napoleon III.

Abrantès

Jean-Andoche Junot (1771-1813), Marshal of France, Duke d'Abrantès (1809)
 = (1800) Laure St Martin de Permon (1784-1838)

