

Albuféra

Description of Arms :

Parti : de 3 traits ; au 1, d'or à 4 pals de gueules à 3 fers de pique d'argent brochants ; au 2, d'argent à la tour sommée de 3 tourelles de sable ; au 3, contre écartelé de gueules à la tour donjonée de 3 tourelles crenelées de sable et d'or au pin arraché de sinople ; au 4, d'argent à 3 pals ondés d'azur ; au 5, d'azur à la galère d'argent de 6 rames surmontées des lettres SAG et accompagnées en pointe d'un dauphin et d'une coquille d'argent ; au 6, d'or à 4 vergettes de gueules, sur lesquelles broche un lis d'argent ; au 7, d'azur à la tour sommée de 3 tourelles de sable (à enquerre), sur une terrasse de sinople ; au 8, d'or à 5 étoiles d'azur ; sur le tout de gueules, au lion léopardé d'or, passant sur un pont de bois du même, et portant de la patte dextre un rameau d'olivier d'argent ; au chef des écartelures, de gueules semé d'étoiles d'argent.

Principal Title : Duke of Albuféra.

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Creation : French Empire, 1813.

Subsidiary Titles : Count, 1808.

Family Name : Suchet.

Family History : Louis-Gabriel Suchet was made a count of the Empire in 1808. Three years later, he was a *maréchal de France*.

In 1812, he received the territory and duchy of Albufera in Spain, where he had distinguished himself during the Peninsular Wars. Perhaps surprisingly, he was then honoured by Louis XVIII, on his restoration in 1814, with the rank of peer of France. This honour was maintained by Napoleon, during the Hundred Days, and the rank was then annulled by Louis XVIII, when he was restored for the second time (August 1815).

However, he became a peer, once more, in 1819 and a Duke-Peer in 1824, with the requirement of establishing a *majorat* being dispensed with. This was confirmed, in 1827, on the promise of a *majorat* being established in favour of the eldest son, Louis-Napoléon, who was further admitted to a seat in the House of Peers as soon as he achieved the required age. To have remained loyal to Napoleon, when he escaped from Elba, and then to have been accepted (for the second time) by the Bourbons, when they came back to the throne of France, says something of this family's diplomatic skill, if nothing else.

It is also worth mentioning that the fourth duke married into the family of another of the Corsican's marshals, in the person of Anne Masséna d'Essling de Rivoli - *Maréchal* Masséna having become Duke de Rivoli and Prince d'Essling. Since then the Suchet family have made alliances with some of the oldest families in France.

While the Masséna family is on the point of extinction, the continuation of this family is apparently secure for the foreseeable future.

Albuféra

jean-Pierre Suchet

= Anne Marie Jacquier

Louis-Gabriel Suchet (1770-1826), Count of Empire (1808), 1st Duke d'Albuféra (1813)
= (1808) Honorine Anthoine de St-Joseph

Gabriel-Catherine
chevalier de l'Empire (1808)

Louis-Napoléon (1813-1877), 2nd Duke
= (1844) Eleonore-Isabelle Malvina Schichler

Aimé-Gabriel-Edouard
= Eleonore-Anaïs de Joly

Raoul (?-1925), 3rd Duke
= (1874) Zénaïde-Napoléone-Lucienne de Cambacérés

I
daughter

Eugène

Louis-Joseph (1877-1953), 4th Duke
= Anne Masséna d'Essling de Rivoli (1884-1967), daughter of 5th Prince of Essling, 4th Duke of Rivoli

LOUIS (1905-?), 5th Duke
= (1931) Simone de Chevigné

Paule
(1910-)

NAPOLÉON (1912-), 6th Duke
= (1943) Claude de Ladoucette

6
daughters

EMMANUEL (1944-), Marquis of Albufera
= Elisabeth de Fontages

Philippe
(?-?)

Anna
(1953-)

Pauline
(1974-)

ARMAND
(1976-)

GUILLAUME
(1979-)

Marie-Zénaïde
(1985-)