

Audiffret-Pasquier



Description of Arms :

D'or au chevron d'azur chargé de 5 étoiles du champ, et accompagné en pointe d'un mont de 3 coupeaux de sable, sommé d'un faucon du mesme, la tête contournée, la patte dextre levée; à la bordure crenelée de sable de 28 pièces.

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Principal Title : Duke d'Audiffret-Pasquier.

Creation : France, 1844.

Subsidiary Titles :

Family Name : Audiffret.

Family History : This family traces its line back to 1390. At one time Marquises de Gréoux, a title given in 1702 for a branch that has died out. However, its present eminence came about as follows. In 1845, Louis-Philippe rewarded his Chancellor, Denis-Etienne Pasquier with the rank of Duke de Pasquier. The chancellor was already an hereditary Baron-Peer, since 1808, and had been Prefect of Police - but he had no-one in the male line to succeed him. In this case, permission was given for the dukedom to pass to a great-nephew and adopted son, Gaston d'Audiffret, otherwise a junior member of the family. Gaston was, in fact, the son of Denis-Etienne's niece and her husband, Florimond-Louis Count d'Audiffret.

The second was established with the use of both surnames, a situation recognised by letters-patent in 1862, on the death of the founder of the line.

Another member of the family, worth mentioning, is Jean-François-Hugues (1708-1784), who came to note when he formed the regiment of guards for King Stanislas of Poland, when he became Duke of Lorraine. He also sold his silver so as to feed and care for the wounded after the Battle of the Exiles in 1747.

It is often said that this is really quite a recent family and is sometimes a little scorned as a result. This is not at all true. It is, in fact, of ancient origin and many members have played an important part in the history of France.

The eldest son carries the title of Marquis d'Audiffret-Pasquier, though the succession does give some cause for concern, coming down to Xavier, the sole heir, born in 1988.

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