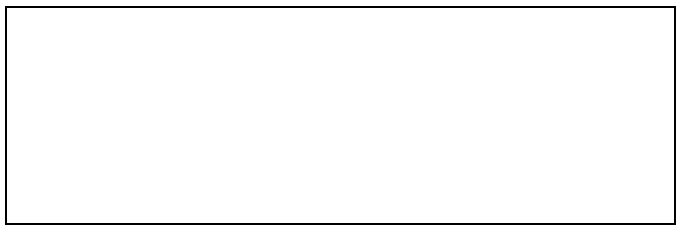


# **Chervachidze**

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*Description of Arms :*



**Principal Title :** H.S.H. Prince Chervachidze.

**Creation :** Abkhasia, 1465.

**Subsidiary Titles :** Prince in Russia, with prefix of Serene Highness.

**Family Name :** Chervachidze., Tcherchavidze

**Family History :** Abkhasia is a province of Georgia, a country whose name reoccurs in the annals of history. Abkhasia, itself, has recently come to the world's attention, following the collapse of the Communist Empire in Russia and has been the centre of rebellion against the Georgian central government. The turbulence, that has marked this region, since time immemorial, seems far from having settled down.

According to legend, this family goes back to the VII Century, when the dynasty ruled in Chirvan in Daghestan - which formed a semi-autonomous republic within Russia, but further to the North. There is no reason to doubt the truth of these old histories, even if there is seldom documentary proof available.

From 1465 to 1864, the family were sovereign princes of Abkhasia, finally being absorbed into the Russian Empire. In view of their previous position, they were recognised as princes in Russia and accorded the prefix of Serene Highness.

This latter style causes some confusion. It is commonly assumed that princes are addressed as "Highness", royal princes as "Royal Highness". Those who are, or have been actual rulers of countries were considered to merit some extra distinction and this, by common usage, is the addition of Serene. Mediatised rulers and such sovereigns as the Princes of Monaco and Liechtenstein are, therefore, accorded this honour.

Not welcome in Russia, after the arrival of the communists, the family once more took to the road but are, happily, now settled in the West; with representation in France.

# **Chervachidze**

Prince MICHEL CHERVACHIDZE