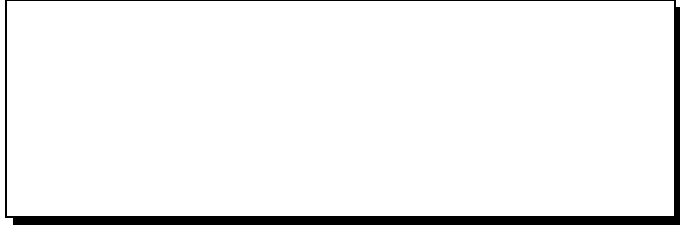


Dadeschkeliani

Description of Arms :



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Principal Title : Prince Dadeschkeliani.

Creation : Georgia, X Century.

Family Name : Dadeschkeliani Djambakour Orbeliani.

Family History : The history of this family could easily be one of Scheherazade's stories. It starts in earnest in the X Century, when a leader of the Chamkal tribe of Tarku took the name of Dadeschkeliani (the killer of bears). In 1360, King Bagrat of Georgia (see Bagratian Moukhransky) nominated the family as hereditary rulers of a minute territory, right up against the Russian border. This was Svanethia, mountainous and beautiful

By 1449, the Dadeschkelianis gained independence and ruled for some four hundred years. In 1857, the temptation to invade became too much for the giant empire next door and the Russians invaded and annexed the territory. Sixty years later, it was the turn of the Tsars to feel the cold winds of change and the Russian monarchy fell. Georgia was given some degree of autonomy and Svanethia was re-attached to it. The Dadeschkeliani family retained many of their rights - in the same manner as the Mediatised princes in the West. It was from Georgia that Stalin came.

The present prince, Nicolas-Tenguiz, inherited an even richer history from his mother. She was descended from the Djambakour-Orbeliani family, which goes back to the VIII Century *before* Christ. A Chinese prince gave issue to the Mammikomides. These, in turn, gave us Basilides emperors of Byzantium, a Roman emperor and the Wisigoth King Ervige, who ruled part of Spain in the VII Century A.D.

The Orbelianis, long the rivals of the Bagratians, finally patched things up in the XII Century and were recognised as the second-ranking family in Georgia.

Georgia, for all its relatively small size has always been full of romance. Like its next-door neighbour, Armenia, it was one of the first to convert to Christianity. It therefore seemed a natural haven for the Byzantine rulers, when Constantinople finally fell. It is also on the cross-roads between Russia and the Islamic countries to the South.

The last Prince Orbeliani fought in France in the 1914-18 war, as a general in the Russian Division. His nephew, heir to all this history, still makes that country his home.

Dadeschkeliani

PRINCE NICOLAS ALEXANDRE TANGUIZ WAKHTANGOVIRCH DADECHKELIANI (1949-)