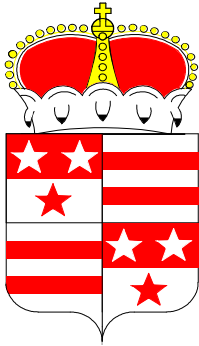
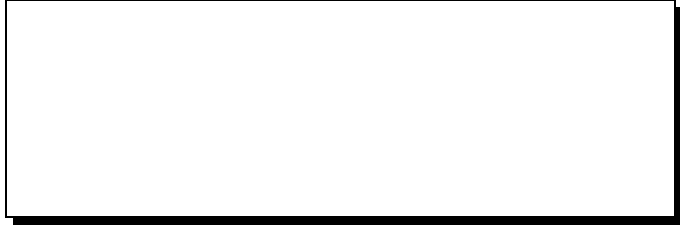


Erbach-Schönberg



Description of Arms :



Principal Title : H.S.H Prince (Fürst) and Count (Graf) zu Erbach-Schönberg.

Creation : Hesse, 1903.

Subsidiary Titles : Herr zu Breuberg and Wildenstein.

Family Name : Erbach.

Family History : This has always been a powerful family and, although counts, were sovereign in the own territories ; until, that is, the year 1806, when they were mediatised like many other German families.

The history goes back to Rhenish Franconia, and the year 1148, in the person of Eberhard of Erbach. In 1755, Erbach was raised to being a county of the Holy Roman Empire, with an adjustment to the family's coat of arms. The descendants of Count Geog-Albrecht II of Erbach-Fürstenau (he died in 1717) split into three branches. The first two remain at the level of counts - with the prefix of Illustrious Highness. It is with the third that we are concerned.

Georg-August (1691-1758) became count of Erbach-Schoenberg in 1748. By 1820, the basis of promogeniture was instituted. In 1903, the then count was made a member of the Upper Chamber of the Grand Duchy of Hesse ; he also received the title of prince with the qualification of *Durchlaucht*, Serene Highness. An interesting footnote into the way these matters are regulated in Germany is that this title applies to all members of the family that are the issue of an "equal" marriage. An equal means one to someone of the same rank. Any male member of the family, who is considered to have married beneath him, loses his privileges. Readers should be under no illusion that these rules are necessarily in the process of being relaxed. Many of the royal families of Germany have seen several members "demoted" on these grounds.

Erbach-Schönberg

Georg Albrecht II (?-1717),
Count of Erbach-Fürstenau

