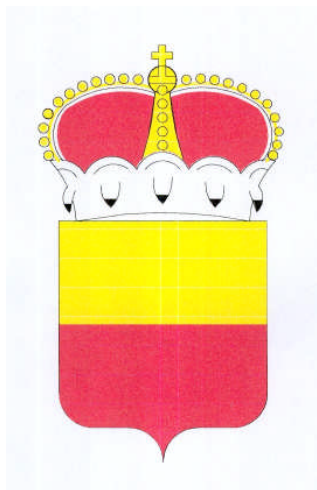


Liechtenstein



Description of Arms :

Quartely : 1) Or, an eagle displayed sable, beaked and membered of the first, charged with a crescent trefoiled at the extremities, and crowned or (Silesia) ; 2) barry of eight or and sable a crown of rue arched in bend vert (Kuering) ; 3) per pale, gules and argent (Troppau) ; 4) Or, a harpy sable, crowned or, visage argent and armed of the field (Schellenberg) ; enté en pointe : azure, a bugle-horn stringed or (Jägensorf) ; over all an escutcheon of pretence : Per fess or and gules (Liechtenstein).

Principal Title : His Serene Highness, the Prince of Liechtenstein.

Creation : County dates from XII Century ; title of Prince from 1608.

Subsidiary Titles : Duke of Troppau (1613), Duke of Jägensdorf (1623), Count of Rietberg, Grandee of Spain, etc ...

Family Name : Liechtenstein, country takes its name from the family.

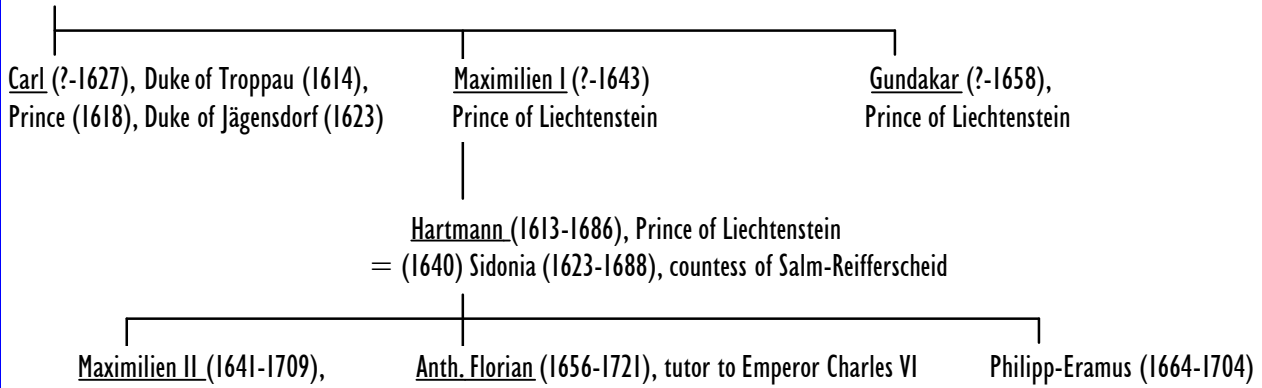
Family History : Liechtenstein, like Monaco, is an excellent example of the need to have territory. It gives a base, a sense of identity and a means of generating income. Members of the family are very well connected, they call the Habsburgs "cousin" when they meet, they marry into the most discriminating lines and are welcomed anywhere. They are also extremely rich and possess one of the world's most important art collections. They matter - despite the minuscule area of their realm.

It began in the XII Century, when Count Hugo moved into the Castle of Liechtenstein, outside Vienna. The family now had a name. In the Middle Ages, they were important soldiers, in the service of the Emperor, and accumulated honours and estates. In 1614, Count Carl was created Duke of Troppau and promptly exercised his newly-acquired coinage right, with the issue of some talers. The title of prince was added in 1618 and that of Duke of Jägensdorf in 1628.

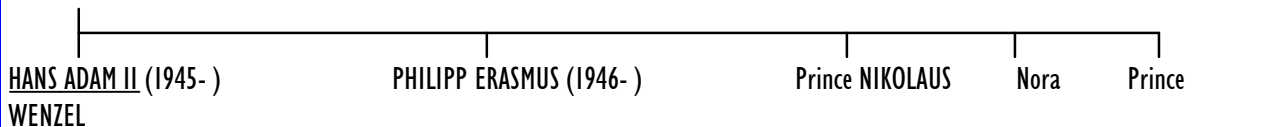
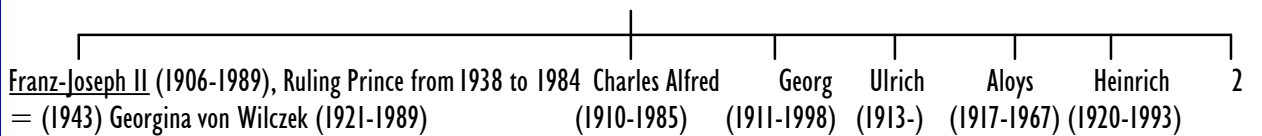
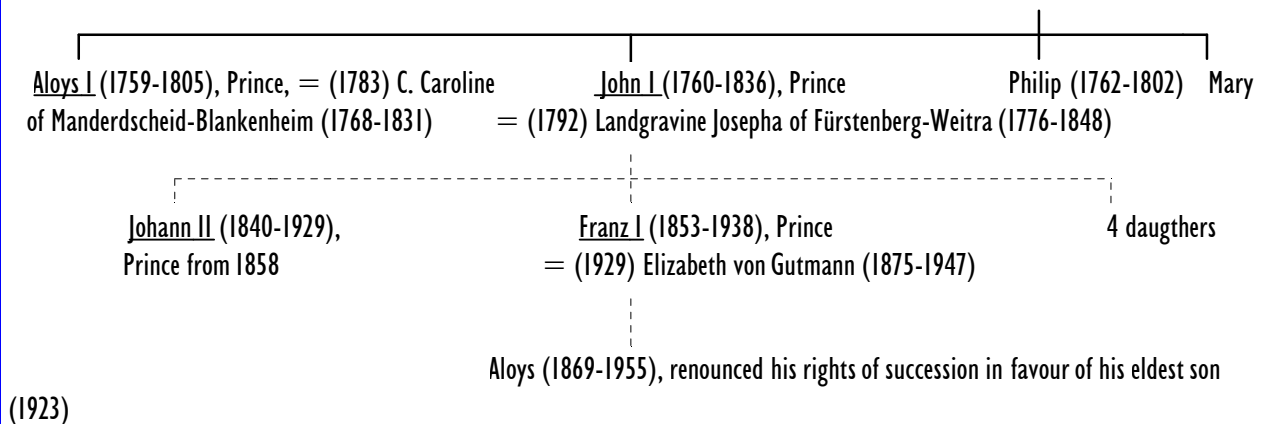
The next step up the ladder was to become sovereign rulers. So, in 1699, Prince Johann Adam bought the lordship of Schellenberg from its financially challenged owner and added Vaduz in 1712. The new territories then passed to another branch, in the person of Anton Florian, before the dream could be realised. This prince was the tutor to one of the Austrian archdukes, who later became Emperor Charles VI and rewarded his mentor's help and loyalty by recognising Schellenberg-Vaduz as a sovereign state of the Empire, now named after the family. By a subtle mixture of charm and determination, the line managed to avoid mediatisation by Napoleon, incorporation into either Switzerland or Austria and so has remained a separate sovereign country.

Liechtenstein

Hartmann II (?-1585),
Prince of Feldsberg



Prince



But it was not until two centuries after their acquisition that the first prince, Aloys II, actually set foot in the place. As other lands, in Austria and Bohemia, were threatened by the upheavals of the XXth Century, the family is glad to have such a secure little haven.