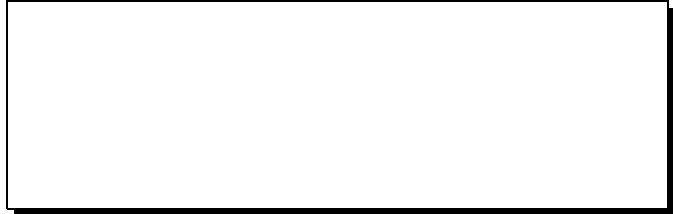


Mavrocordato

Description of Arms :



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Principal Title : Prince Mavrocordato.

Creation : By tradition, recognised in Russia in 1787.

Subsidiary Titles :

Family Name : Mavrocordato.

Family History : This family has a romantic and interesting story. Originally from the Island of Chio, they could be described as being Greek. But the island is within sight of Turkey and it is there that they sought their fortunes. Alexander Mavrocordato entered the service of the Sublime Porte in 1674 and, for the next thirty-five years, he served as Exaporite and Grand Dragoman. A dragoman was a guide-interpreter for travellers in the Middle East but the grand variety were more likely to operate at Court and therefore to be close to the monarch.

He married the Sultana Hrisoscoléo, who was descended, through her mother, from the old princes of Moldavia and the dynasty of Musat.

The family went on to provide for dragomans to the Sublime Port and then four reigning voïvodes in Moldavia and Valachia ; this was in the XVIII Century. The Sublime Porte was the name by which the Ottoman government liked to be known ; a voïvode was a senior military or civil functionary. Moldavia and Valachia are really the basis of modern-day Rumania, part of Moldavia still being in Russia. It is here that they came to the attention of the Tsar and, in 1787, were officially recognised as being of princely rank. This was confirmed in 1852 and, again, in 1875.

This then is one of the very few examples of Greeks with a senior title. Unfortunately, the truly Greek branch has now died out but other lines still exist.

Mavrocordato

Dimitri, Prince Mavrocordato

= Emanuelle Gradisteanu

|

Princess Maria-Despina (1917-)

= (1938) Prince Peter Sayn-Wittenstein-Sayn (1902-1980)