

Monteleone

Description of Arms :

D'argento a quattro filetti posti in fascia, sostenenti : il 1°, un leone illeopardito, gli altri sei navicelle da incenso, poste 3, 2, 1 ; il tutto di rosso, col capo d'or carico di un'aquila bicipide di nero, coronata d'oro, linguata di rosso e sormontana, per il capo della Famiglia, dalla Basilica Pontificia.

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Principal Title : Prince of Monteleone.

Creation : Italy, 1932.

Subsidiary Titles :

Family Name : Odescalchi de Szerem.

Family History : As the name implies, this family does indeed originate from Italy, but one branch is now counted as Hungarian. The trace goes back to Como, in Lombardy, as early as 1290. It is from this family that the Church found Pope Innocent XI (1676-1689). His nephew, Livio Odeschalchi was Duke di Ceri (with the address of Ducal Highness) and possessed various other titles. He was raised to the rank of Holy Roman Empire prince in 1689 ; but ties with the homeland were already loosening because, only eight years later, the family was received in Hungary, with the award of the title of Prince of Szerém. The qualification of Highness followed a year later, in 1698.

But the holder had no immediate successors and so, in 1709, he was authorised to adopt his cousin, the Marquis Balthasar de Erba, as his heir. Balthasar, son of the Pope's sister, was confirmed as Prince of the Holy Roman Empire, in 1714, with the conjunction of the names. His benefactor died the following year. The title was confirmed some time afterwards, without allusion to the name of Erba. Then came hereditary membership of the Chamber of Magnates and accord to the address of Highness being extended to Austria.

The Erba family came from Como and goes back to 1360. By 1684, they possessed at least nine marquisates, awarded by Carlos III, of Spain, in his capacity of Duke of Milan. No popes, in the conjoined family, but a Cardinal Archbishop of Milan, three other cardinals and the princes of Monteleone (now extinct).

The title of Prince of the Holy Roman Empire applies to all members of the family, with the address of Serene Highness. They have also collected the titles of Prince di Bassano, Duke of Syrmia (with address of Ducal Highness), Duke di Bracciano and others.

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