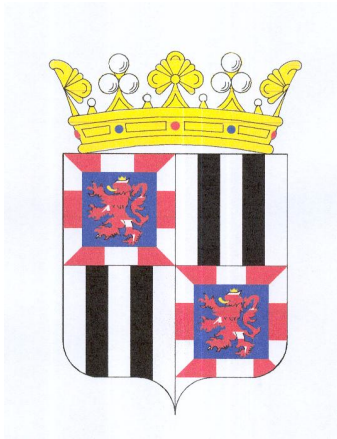


Battenberg Mountbatten



Description of Arms :

Quarterly : 1 & 4, Azure, a lion rampant double queued barry of ten gules and argent crowned, and holding in the right paw a sword proper (Hesse) within a bordure goboné of sixteen pieces argent and gules ; 2 & 3, Argent, two pales sable (Battenberg).

Family Name : Battenberg. English form is Mountbatten.

Creation : Hesse.

Family History : This family raises many interesting questions. Julia von Hauck married Alexander, the younger son of the Grand Duke of Hesse. Her family was not considered "equal" to his and the marriage was "morganatic", that is she was debarred from using any of his styles or titles and the children from any succession ; although the marriage was considered as perfectly legal. In due course, however, she was created Princess von Battenberg, in her own right, with succession to her children.

The eldest of these was Louis, who lived in England and rose to the rank of First Sea Lord. At a time when Great Britain was at war with Germany, many considered it somewhat strange to have a German prince directing the Royal Navy. In 1917, therefore, at the King's request, Louis discontinued the use of his title of prince, with the style of Serene Highness, for himself and his heirs. In exchange, he was made a United Kingdom marquess (Milford Haven). The word *discontinued* is intriguing, since it raises the question as to whether a title can be dispensed with, particularly if one continues to use the name.

The most illustrious member of the next generation was Lord Louis Mountbatten, who became an Admiral of the Fleet and the last Vice-Roy of India. Having only two daughters, "special remainder" was granted, when he was created Earl Mountbatten of Burma, for succession to pass through them. He was killed by the IRA in 1979.

The sister of Lord Louis, Princess Alice, married into the Greek royal family and produced a son, Prince Philip. When this latter wished to marry Princess Elizabeth of England, he was asked by the King to renounce all his foreign titles. There was one problem ; the Greek royal family is a branch of that of Denmark and both are so old that they, quite simply, have no surname. So Philip took that of his mother and became, for twenty-four hours, Lt Philip Mountbatten, citizen of the United Kingdom. He was then created Duke of Edinburgh, etc and a prince of the United Kingdom, a style reserved exclusively to members of the British royal family - and only those close to the throne. Earl Mountbatten persuaded the House of Windsor to adopt the name of Mountbatten-Windsor after the second generation.

Battenberg Mountbatten

Louis II (1777-1848),
Grand Duke of Hesse and the Rhine

John Maurice of Battenberg,
Count of Hauke

