

## Béarn & Chalais



### *Description of Arms :*

Parti : au 1, de gueules aux chaînes d'or passées en orle, en croix et en sautoir, se rattachant au centre à une émeraude de sinople et la crotte d'argent brochant sur le tout ; au 2, d'or à deux vaches de gueules passant l'une sur l'autre, colletées et clarinées d'azur.

**Principal Title :** Prince of Béarn and of Chalais.

**Creation :** France (1869), Spain (1904).

**Subsidiary Titles :** Duke of Cantabria, Count of Brassac (1609), Marquis of Exideuil, Marquis of Terraube (1683), Grandee of Spain (1904).

**Family Name :** Galard-Béarn or de Galard de Brassac de Béarn.

**Family History :** The title may be comparatively recent in origin, the family most certainly is not. So old is it, in fact, that it forms part of the legends of South-West France. Way back around the year 1000 AD, there lived a Garsie-Arnaud de Gascogne, baron de Goalard. From him, descend the two branches of the family; the Galard-Terraube and the Galard-Béarn. It is with the second that we are concerned.

In the Middle Ages, the most famous member was the Lion of the Pyrenees, usually known as Gaston-Phébus. In 1481, François-Phébus, a descendent of Gaston's uncle was crowned King of Navarre ( adjacent to Béarn ). His sister carried the rights to Jean d'Albret, who transmitted them to Antoine de Bourbon, father of Henri IV of France ( or Henri of Navarre ).

From then on, the family contracted marriages with some of the most eminent families of France. Such quasi-royal families ( another was the House of Lorraine ) were much sought after, since they represented a good alliance without representing, at the same time, much of a threat to the throne. Napoléon made another descendant chamberlain in 1810. His wife became governess to the royal children at the time of the Restoration. She kept the confidence of the Court, through a friendship with the Empress Eugénie. The latter considered it inappropriate that descendants of a royal family should not have a suitable title so, in 1869, they were raised to the ranks of Princes of Béarn. A marriage to Cécile de Talleyrand-Périgord brought in the titles of Prince of Chalais and Viana. The former was confirmed by Alphonso XIII, the latter was not.

At the last, disastrous battle the French fought in Vietnam, there was one woman present. Often called the Angel of Dien Bien Phu, she was Geneviève de Galard-Terraube.

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Géraud de Galard (?-1302), Lord of Terraube

= (1278) Eléonore d'Armagnac, heiress of Lords of Brassac

