

Beaufort-Spontin

Description of Arms :

Ecartelé; aux 1 et 4 d'or à la bande coticée de gueules (Beaufort); aux 2 et 3, burelé d'or et de gueules (Looz); sur le tout d'argent à la bande coticée de gueules, chargée de 3 coquilles d'or (Spontin).

Principal Title : Duke von Beaufort-Spontin.

Creation : Various.

Subsidiary Titles : See text. The duke is addressed as Serene Highness, junior members of the family take the address Count or Countess von Beaufort-Spontin.

Family Name : Beaufort-Spontin.

Family History : This is a feudal family which traces its origins to Lower Lorraine and one Vautier d'Ardenne. He is recorded as having been Governor of the Town and County of Huy, near Namur, in the year 1005 and who took Beaufort as his surname.

The family then became Counts of Beaufort, a castle on the River Meuse and that of Spontin. The latter title passed out of the family, when the seigneurie came into the House of Glymes, by succession.

In 1746 in Vienna, came the recognition of the ranks of count and marquis of Beaufort-Spontin for the Low Countries and the Hereditary States; more important, there also came the award of the rank and arms of prince. The following year, the family regained possession of the seigneurie of Spontin, together with the marquisate of Florennes, near Namur, and that of Courcelles, in Artois. This came about as the result of a marriage between Charles-Albert, Marquis of Beaufort-Spontin, with Marie-Marguerite, who was the daughter and heiress of the last Count of Glymes, etc ...

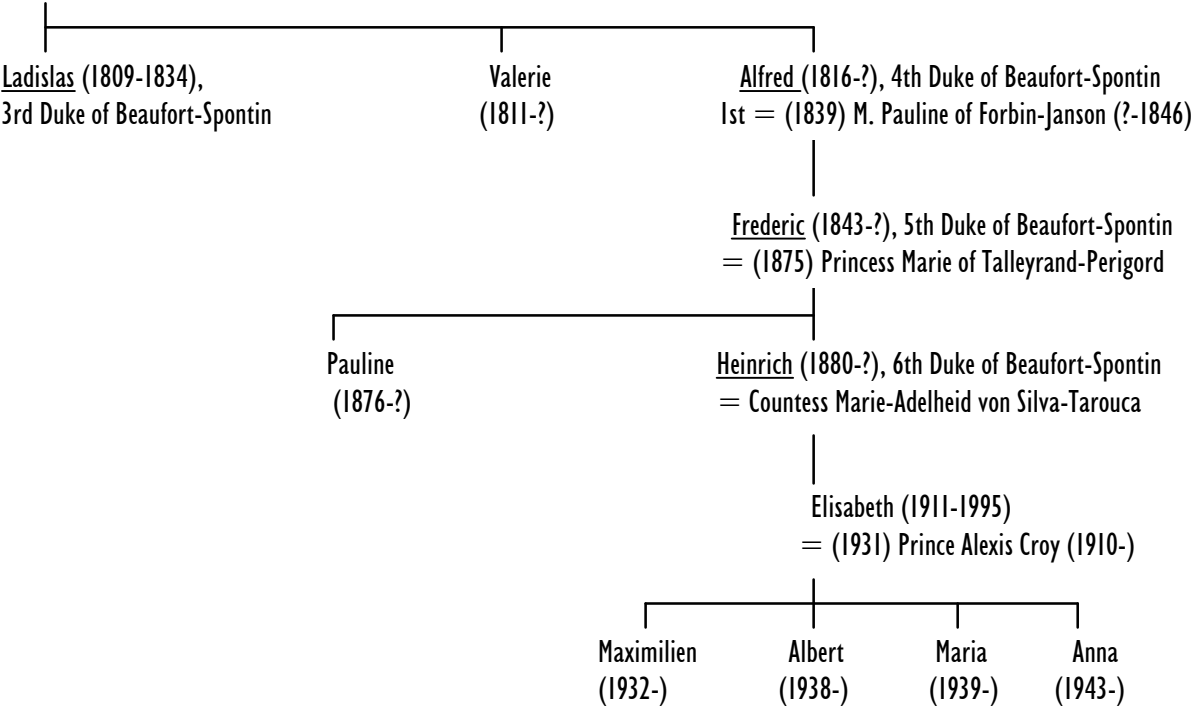
In 1775, came the title of duke, on the basis of primogeniture, in the Low Countries and the Hereditary States.

Various other honours followed including that, in 1876, of the joint styles of duke and prince for the head of the family. Finally, in 1878, came the much-prized honour of being addressed as Serene Highness. This applies only to the head of the family, cadets being known as Count or Countess von Beaufort-Spontin.

In view of this history, it is not easy to say, with any great certainty, precisely to which country the family really belongs. It is usually listed, however, as being Belgian.

Beaufort-Spontin

Frederic (?-1817),
2nd Duke of Beaufort-Spontin



FREDERIC, Duke and Prince of Beaufort-Spontin, Duke of Beaufort-Spontin,
Marquis of Spontin and of Florennes, Count of Beauraing