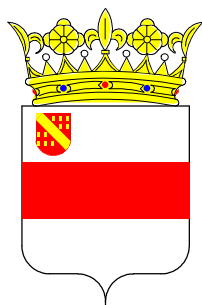


Béthune-Hesdigneul



Description of Arms :

D'argent à une fasce de gueules qui est de Béhune, le canton dextre du chef chargé d'un écusson de gueules à la bande d'or accompagnée de dix billettes du même.

Principal Title : Prince of Béthune Hesdigneul.

Creation : Belgium, 1781.

Subsidiary Titles : Count (1816).

Family Name : Béthune Hesdigneul

Family History : This is a somewhat confusing family. Béthune was one of the titles of the great Duke de Sully and, since his line is now extinct, it is often reported that the titles no longer exist. This is not quite the case.

The family comes from Northern France and from Belgium and that, in itself, has not helped to clarify the position. In 1614, the Archduke Albert accorded the title of *chevalier*. This was confirmed in 1632.

In 1781, the style of Prince of Béthune Hesdigneul was awarded on the basis of male primogeniture. This was recognised in France the same year and the situation was confirmed in 1818.

Meanwhile, another branch had been given permission, in 1816, to alter its name to Béthune-Sully. This was followed up, in 1855, with the rank of baron (again male primogeniture). In 1871, this was extended to all members of the family. The main branch had received the title of count, also in 1816.

It should be recalled that, at this time, there was considerable upheaval in Europe and, particularly, in the region of the Low Countries. There seems, also, to have been some reserve as to whether the title of prince still subsisted. This was not helped by the fact that not all members of the family wanted to use the style.

This doubt was finally removed in 1932, when the rank was confirmed.

The family is now firmly established in Belgium, though there are still some connections with France.

Béthune-Hesdigneul

Michael des Planques
(?-1550)

Maximilien of Bethune (1560-1641),
Duke of Sully and Baron of Rosny

Eugene of Bethune Hesdigneul,
Prince (1781)

Emile Eugene
of Bethune

Branch of Bethune-Sully
(1816-1932)

Charles de Bethune-Sully
(1874-1932)

Hector (1832-1914), Count of Bethune Hesdigneul
= (1867) Marquise Caroline de Maillen (1849-1930)

Auguste (1868-1933), 7th Prince of Bethune Hesdigneul (1932), = (1891) baronne Anne d'Overschie (1871-1908) and 2nd = (1909) Marguerite de Neufchâtel (1880-1945) Adolphe (1871-1951), = (1905) Marie-Louise of Geillinck d'Elseghem

Eleonore (1892-1978) Robert (1900-1943), 8th Prince

Eliane (1910-1977)

Maximilien (1913-1976), 9th Prince
= (1955) Genevieve Husquin (1914-)

Ghislaine (1906-)

Eugene (1910-1965)

Albert

Axel
(1956-1974)

1st = (1935) Claude d'Ursel (1911-1938) and
2nd = (1940) Genevieve D'Anglejean (1919-)

Françoise (1938-1973)

Claude (1941-)

Sabine (1942-)

HENRY (1945-), 10th Prince
= (1971) Agnes van der Straeten (1948-)

Thierry (1947-1961)

BERNARD
(1955-)

Mahaut (1951-)

sabelle (1952-)

PHILIPPE
(1959-)

Catherine
(1971-)

Eleonore
(1973-)

AUGUSTIN-DIEUDONNE
(1984-)