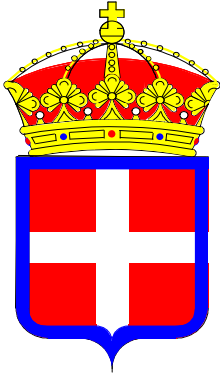


Aosta



Description of Arms :

Gules, a cross argent, bordered azure.

Principal Title : His Royal Highness, the Duke of Aosta.

Creation : Italy.

Subsidiary Titles : Duke of Spoleto, Duke of Apulia.

Family Name : Savoy-Aosta.

Family History : Some royal families, and indeed some non-royal ones, possess subsidiary titles, which are awarded to junior members, either for the bearer's life or in perpetuity. The Austrians do not follow this practice, the British and Italian Royal Families do. However, there comes a time, when a branch must be considered to have become a separate line in its own right. Such is the case with the Aosta branch of the House of Savoy. It has now reached the fifth generation; although it is entirely possible that, one day, if the main line dies out, this junior line would become pretenders to the throne of Italy.

The first Duke of Aosta became King of Spain, for a brief period, when Isabella II went into exile (without renouncing her rights). More intriguing, perhaps, is the fate of his grandson. As second brother, he was known as the Duke of Spoleto, and was at that time a vice-admiral in the Italian navy. When, in 1941, the kingdom of Yugoslavia was dismembered by the Axis powers. Aymone of Spoleto was invited to become King of Croatia, Prince of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Voivode of Dalmatia. He made one secret and unofficial visit to his realm and quickly decided to renounce the honour - particularly since it had been offered by such a doubtful source. He had married Irene of Greece and Denmark not long before and this, also, must have weighed in his thoughts. Their reign lasted barely three months. However, with the present turmoil afflicting that country, the offer may be re-extended.

The Aostas, following good heraldic practice, have differenced their arms, from those of the senior branch. Other former ruling families still employ the closed, eight-support crown of a king - even when they have lost their thrones. Less illustrious families also tend to use the coronet of the head of the clan, though their titles (usually of a courtesy nature) are of lesser degree.

Aosta

Umberto I Biancamano (?-1042/1051),
Count of Savoy

Amadeus VI (?-1383),
the Green Count

Amadeus VIII (1383-1451), Count of Savoy,
1st Duke of Savoy (1391-1440), Pope Felix V (1439-1449)

Victor Amadeus II (1743-1780), Prince of Savoy-Carignan
(1790)

Leopold II (1747-1792), GD. of Tuscany (1765), Roman Emp.

Charles Emanuel (1770-1800), Prince of Savoy-Carignan
= (1797) Mary of Saxony (1779-1851)

Ferdinand III (1769-1824), GD. of Tuscany (1790),
= (1790) Louise of Naples (1773-1802)

Charles-Albert (1798-1849), King of Sardinia (1831-1849)
= (1817) Teresa (1801-1855), Archduchess of Austria-Tuscany

Victor-Emmanuel II (1820-1878), K. of Sardinia (1849), King of Italy (1861)
(1848)

Ferdinand (1822-1855), D. of Genoa, K. of Sicily

Umberto I (1844-1900), King of Italy (1878)
= (1868) Margaret of Savoy-Genoa (1851-1926) *

Amadeus I (1845-1890), 1st D. of Aosta, King of Spain (1870)
1st = (1867) Maria Victoria dal'Pozzo (1847-1876)

1 son and
2

see
Savoy

Emanuel-Philibert (1869-1931), 2nd Duke of Aosta
= (1895) Helen (1871-1951), daughter of Louis Philip, Count of Paris

3
sons

Amadeus II (1898-1942), 3rd Duke
= (1927) Anne (1906-1986), d. of John, Duke of Guise

Aymone (1900-1948), Duke of Spoleto, "King of Croatia" (1941-1943)
= (1939) Irene (1904-1974) d. of Constantine I, King of Hellenes

Margaret (1930-), = (1953) Maria Christina (1933-)
Robert, (1915-), AD of Austria-Este = (1967) Casimir (1938-), P. of Two-Sicilies

AMADEUS III (1943-), 5th Duke
= Claudia (1943-), d. of Henry, Count of

Bianca
(1966-)

AYMONE (1967-),
Duke of Apulia

Mafalda
(1969-)