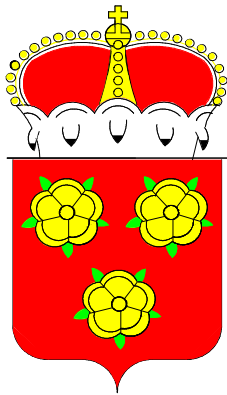


Arenberg



Description of Arms :

De gueules à trois roses d'or 2 et 1. In the full achievement, the mantling is surmounted by the crown of a sovereign duke.

N.b. Other members of the family use the shield shown for Arenberg (France).

Principal Title : H.S.H Duke of Arenberg.

Creation : Imperial Prince, 1576. .

Subsidiary Titles : Duke of Aerschot, Duke of Meppen (1802), Prince of Recklinghausen (1803), Count von der Marck, ... Only the Head of the Family is known as the Duke, the rest as H.S.H Prince or Princess

Family Name : Arenberg.

Family History : Arenberg was one of the previously sovereign estates to which Napoleon turned his attention, in his self-appointed role as heir to the Holy Roman Emperors. The family was descended from the Counts von der Marck, who acquired the territory, by marriage, in 1299. From then, it passed on to the House of Ligne in 1547. In that year, Jean de Ligne-Barbançon married Marguerite, heiress to the County of Arenberg. Some thirty years later, all members of the family were raised to the rank of Princes of the Holy Roman Empire, with the right to sit and vote in the College of Princes. Then, in 1612, Charles d'Arenberg married Anne de Croy-Chimay ; this led to the inheritance of the Aerschot titles. Henri IV of France granted the duchy of Croy in 1598. The Emperor Ferdinand III elevated the Principality of Arenberg to the rank of duchy of the H.R.E. in 1644 - a rare event..

Mainly over the winter of 1810, Napoleon invaded and annexed the state, part going to France and the rest to the Grand Duchy of Berg. At this point the Arenbergs were "mediatised" ; that is to say that they lost their sovereign rights but kept the various styles and titles. It was considered that the small territories were simply not large enough to be viable and so were attached to larger entities.

Mediatised princes are addressed as Serene Highness, sometimes, as in this case, extending to all members of the family (mediatised counts as Illustrious Highness, an indication as to how important some of the latter had become).

The family, which is spread over much of the world, is considered now to be more Belgian and French than anything else.

Arenberg

Hartrmann d'Arenberg (?-1099),
Burgrave of Cologne (1st House Arenberg)

Mechtilde, daughter of Jean, Last Burgrave of Cologne
= (1298) Engelbert II, Count of Marck (2nd House Arenberg)

Jean de Ligne
(?-1442)

Robert III, Last Count of Arenberg
of the House of Marck

Marguerite (1527-1596), = (1547) Jean de Ligne-Barbaçon
Countess of Arenberg (1547) (1523-1568)

Charles (1550-1616), Prince of Arenberg (3rd House Arenberg)
= (1587) Anne de Croÿ-Chimay, Princess of Croÿ

Louis-Engelbert (1750-1820), 6th Duke of Arenberg
= (1773) Louise-Pauline de Brancas (1755-1812)

others

1st Line : Prosper-Louis (1785-1861), 7th Duke
Arenberg

2nd Line : Pierre (1790-1877),

Ernest, P. & D. of

1st Branch : Engelbert-Auguste (1824-1875), 8th Duke (1861)
= (1868) Eleonore (1845-1919), P. & D. of Arenberg *

see Arenberg
(France)

2nd Branch :
P. & D. Antoine (1826-1910)

Engelbert-Marie (1872-1949), 9th Duke
= (1897) P. Hedwige de Ligne (1877-1938)

Charles Prosper
(1875-1948)

Sophie
(1871-1961)

= (1889)

Jean-Baptiste
(1850-1914)

E. Charles (1899-1974),
10 th Duke

Erik E. (1901-1992),
11 th Duke

P. & D. Evrard-E. (1892-1969) 2
= (1920) C. Anne-Louise de Merode (1894-1969)

JEAN-ENGELBERT (1921-), 12th Duke, ...
= (1955) P. Sophie of Baviara (1935-)

Antoine-Guillaume
(1923-)

Etienne-Evrard
(1925-1985)

Marie-Elisabeth
(1929-1996)

LEOPOLD-ENGELBERT (1956-)

CHARLES-LOUIS (1957-)

Marie-Gabrielle

HENRI

ETIENNE

Natasha
(1996-)

Anne-Helene
(1989-)

EVARD-GUILLAUME
(1996-)

This family raises several interesting points concerning titles in France. On the 5th November 1827, Letters-Patent were issued, creating the duchy and peerage of Arenberg. However, a further decree, issued on the 28th May 1828, stipulated that a *majorat* be instituted, without which the title would not be considered as hereditary. Until the French Revolution, all titles were based on land; it was the land that was raised to a county etc and thus the holder obtained the right to bear the equivalent title. This was largely discontinued after 1789; Instead the majorats were demanded by the king. This was, in effect, a land holding sufficiently important to support the hold of the title in a suitable fashion.. Theoretically at least, if the majorat were disposed of the title became void.

In the case of the Arenbergs, the majorat was never constituted because of the revolution of 1830. Thus, under the Restoration, the dukedom was considered to be "unachieved".

On the other hand, the fact that the family also received the honour of being Princes of the Holy Roman Empire was recognised, in France, in 1827. This award dates back to 1576.

It has long been a subject of debate, therefore, as to whether the duchy really exists - although the intention was clearly there.

By common consent, however, the head of the family is always referred to as the Duke of Arenberg.