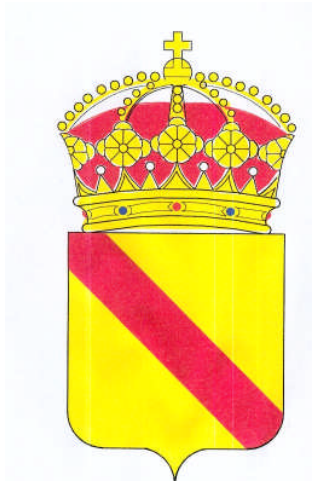


Baden



Description of Arms

Or, a bend gules.

The full coat of arms is, of course, more complicated.

Principal Title : H.R.H Margrave of Baden (formerly Grand Duke).

Creation : Margravate was established in 1112, Grand Duchy dates from 1806.

Family Name : None.

Family History : Herman II was the son (or grandson) of Berthold the Bearded, Duke of Carinthia and Count of Zähringen. He took the title of Margrave of Baden. The family, therefore, is one of great age and it is unusual to find one that has existed in male succession for around one thousand years.

Originally Baden was a relatively small state and it bordered both France and Switzerland. In characteristic German fashion, it soon split into several fractions, the main lines being those of Baden-Baden and Baden-Hachberg. The latter was further sub-divided and a branch called Röteins-Sausenberg was established. These all came together, in 1503, under the rule of Christopher I of Baden-Baden. The main line was then promptly divided again, with the branch of Baden-Durlach being commenced.

Then came the Religious Wars that were so destructive in central Europe. As happened with other dynasties, some members chose the new Protestant persuasion, while others remained faithful to Catholicism. So acrimonious did matters become that some solution was essential and peace between the various fractions was finally established in 1648.

The most important ruler was Carl-Frederick, who assumed control over the whole duchy in 1746. He greatly increased his holdings and his family's influence and was promoted to the rank of grand duke, during the great re-organisation that followed the turmoil of Napoleon's times.

The senior branch died out in 1771 and the territories were again re-united under the simple name of Baden. This state existed, as a sovereign entity, until the then Grand Duke abdicated in 1918. The title was maintained, until his death in 1928, upon which the head of the family reverted to the style of Margrave. Our tree, shown opposite, demonstrates the custom of these families to marry into others of equal rank. Fortunately, there was a sufficiently large reserve for the dangers of in-breeding to be avoided.

Baden.

Christopher I (1453-1527), Margrave of Baden
= Otilie of Katzenelnbogen (1451-1517)

