

Biscari



Description of Arms :

D'oro a quatro pali di rosso con la banda d'azzurro attraversante.

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Principal Title : Prince of Biscari.

Creation : Philip IV of Spain, 1633.

Subsidiary Titles : Baron of Imbaccari and of Mirabella (1747).

Family Name : Paternò Castello.

Family History : This is another branch of the great Paternò family.

This is an Italian family, though the name might sound Spanish. The explanation is that, in 1292, Guglielmo Raimondo Moncada moved from Catalonia to Sicily. He there remained, marrying the heiress to the Island of Malta. In Spain where traces go back to the X Century, the family had already distinguished itself, becoming military leaders and acquiring the fiefdom of Altona. In 1336, he was made Count of Aldernó ; and then, in the same year, Count of Augusta in exchange for the Island of Malta. This latter title was exchanged for that of Count of Caltanissetta in 1407.

In 1501, the family acquired the town of Paternò and divided into separate lines. The senior branch was made princes of Paternò, by Philip II in 1565. The second prince then inherited the dukedom of Bivona (created 1554) and other titles in 1568, as a result of a marriage into the Luna family. The third prince added the duchy of Montaldo as a result of his marriage. The Luna titles passed, on the extinction of this line, into the Spanish family of Alvarez de Toledo (also Neapolitan Princes of Montealbano).

The Paternò titles, at the same time, passed into the second branch of the Moncada family, which also inherited the duchy of San Giovanni. It acquired the rank of Grandee of Spain in 1672. One of this line's titles, that of Prince of Collereale, was sold to the Minutolo family in 1718.

The next branch of the Moncadas also possessed several important titles. These died out and have since been re-awarded to other families - Prince of Calvaruso to Antonino Trigona (a descendant through the female line) in 1912 and Prince de Larderia is now with the Platamone family.

The Moncada family also claims other titles which have never been officially recognised.

Biscari

Ist Line :
Line :
2nd Line :
3rd Line :
4th

XVIe S :
PATERNO CASTELLO

P. of Biscari
(1633)

Baron of Bicocca
(1676)

Duke of Carcari
(1724)

Marquis of San
Giuliano (1802)

GIUSEPPE Paterno Castello,
Prince of Biscari, Baron of Imbaccari and of Mirabella