

Castries



Description of Arms :

D'azur à une croix d'or.

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Principal Title : Duke of Castries.

Creation : France, 1784.

Subsidiary Titles : Marquis (1645).

Family Name : de La Croix de Castries.

Family History : This family is an old example of the *noblesse de robe*. In 1487, Guillaume de la Croix was ennobled by the President of the *Cour des Aydes* of Montpellier. Within ten years Guillaume had bought the barony of Castries. His descendant, Jacques, died in 1578, leaving two daughters who founded two separate branches. Of these, Jean de la Croix's line achieved the rank of Marquis in 1645. The other, in the person of Arnaud-Charles was created duke by brevet, in 1784. He was the son of the *maréchal* de Castrie. The dukedom was made into an hereditary peerage (with the rank of duke) in 1817. However, this died with his grandson, Edmond-Charles, who had been born in 1838 and lived for fifty-eight years.

Another branch then took the ducal title, in the person of René de la Croix. He was born in 1842 and died in 1913. He spent most of his life trying to persuade the Royal Family to recognise his style but without success. The dukedom, in this line, therefore, has never been regularised.

This has led them into several difficulties, since the rank of duke, in France, is very carefully supervised. And there are some who dispute their right to so address themselves. Despite this, they went before a tribunal, when General de Gaulle was President of the Republic - and some say with his tacit support - and the judges found in their favour.

Whatever the rights or wrongs of the case, there is no doubting that the la Croix family has served its country with great distinction. Apart from providing a marshal, they have also been found amongst the Immortals as members of the *Académie Française*. Therefore, as time goes on, fewer people are found who are not prepared to accord them this mark of respect.

Castries

Guillaume de La Croix,
Baron of Castries (1495)

Jacques de La Croix
(?-1578)

Jean de La Croix
(?-1592)

younger branch of
Meyrargues

Charles Eugene Gabriel de La Croix (1727-1801),
sergeant of Castries

Arnaud-Charles de La Croix de Castries (1756-1842),
1st Duke of Castries (1784)

Edmond-Charles de La Croix (1838-1886),
3rd Duke of Castries

René de La Croix (1842-1913),
Count, 4th Duke of Castries (1907)

RENE DE LA CROIX (1908-?), Count, 5th Duke of Castries
= (1934) Monique de Cassagne de Saint-Jean de Libron

Nicole
= Baron de Vitrolles

JEAN-FRANCOIS, Count, M. de La Croix (1938-), 6th Duke
1st = (1962) Laure de Saint-Seine (1936-) & 2nd = France Brulon

Claude
= Baron Georges de

Henry
(1963-1964)

Diane
(1964-)

Alexandra
(1971-)

NICOLAS