

Ghika

Description of Arms :



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Principal Title : Prince Ghika.

Creation : By tradition.

Subsidiary Titles :

Family Name : Ghika, Ghyka or Ghica.

Family History : In the XVII Century, there was an important trader in the Greek quarter of Constantinople. He was called Ghika and he was of Albanian origin. From there, he went to Moldavia, where he became a boyard and then ruling voivode from 1638-1660. His son, Gregory Ghika, then ruled from 1660-1674 and his descendants divided into three branches.

The first, the "dynastic" branch, provided five ruling phanariot voivodes, between 1727 and 1777. From this sprang a line that became established in the Hungarian Banat, around 1770, received adomaine from the Emperor Leopold II and was enobled. This line died out in 1960.

The second, the Valachian branch, provided this principality with two voivodes (1822-1828 and 1834-1842) as well as other officials.

The third branch, the Moldavian line, come down from the *hetman* Souldjaroglou, who lived around 1760. A hetman is the elected chief of certain Cossack tribes and he had married into the Ghika family. Their son took his mother's name and established himself in Moldavia. There, his family flourished and married into several local families, to which they added their names : Tirtesti, Comanesti and Deleni. They also provided a ruling prince for Moldavia, 1849-1856.

Following this, the Sultan created the title of "perpetual prince" for the phanariot branch, 1769, and for the Valachian branch in 1835 ; the latter also providing a Prince of Samos 1853-1856.

The Valachian line is believed to be existing, to this day, in Roumania - which was created from Valachia and Moldavia. The Moldavian branch is represented by a member living in Paris.

Ghika

Georges Ghica,
voïvode (1658-1660)

Gregoire Ghica,
voïvode (1660-1669) and (1672-1674)

XVIII

Branch of
Valachie

extinct
in 1960

Branch of
Moldavie

Prince ALEXANDRE GHICA