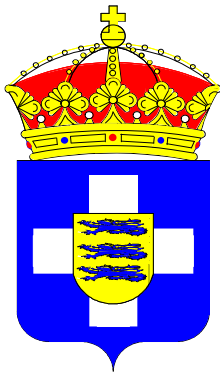


Greece



Description of Arms :

Azur, a cross couped argent and over all an escutcheon of pretence, or, semée of hearts gules, 3 lions passant azure crowned or (Denmark).

Principal Title : King of Greece, King of the Hellenes (1863).

Creation : Conference de London, 1830.

Subsidiary Titles :

Family Name : Oldenburg.

Family History : Greek history is too well known to merit further discussion. However, the modern era can be said to have opened in 1830, when the Ottoman Empire was in decline.

At a conference, held in London in that year, it was decided to establish a kingdom with the monarch to be a member of one of the ruling European Families of Europe. The first to be invited, was Leopold of Saxe-Coburg, who was later King of the Bulgarians. Leopold turned down the offer.

Next on the list was the son of the King of Bavaria. Although a minor, he was installed as Otto, King of the Hellenes, with the support of the Great Powers. This state of affairs lasted for 10 years, when the people revolted. The English then took a hand and insisted that a son of the King of Denmark be installed - which he was, in 1863, under the name of George I

Since that time, the dynasty was established but it still had its problems. Various exiles and inter-regnums ensued but the royal house kept coming back.

By 1973, when the 'Colonels' took power, the monarchy once again seemed doomed. A republic was declared, confirmed by a plebiscite the following year, and so it has remained ever since. Fashions may change, though, and King Constantine may still be invited to return.

Meanwhile, members of the family bear the style of Princes of Greece and Denmark, with the qualification of Royal Highness. It is from this house that the Duke of Edinburgh comes.

Greece

Christian IX (1818-1906), King of Denmark

= (1842) Louise (1817-1898), daughter of William, Lgv. of Hesse-Cassel

