

Holland The Netherlands



Description of Arms :

Azure, billey a lion rampant crowned or, armed and langued gules, holding in the dexter forepaw a sword and in the sinister, a shief of arrows ppr.

Azure, semé of billets, a lion rampant crowned or, holding in its dexter paw a naked sword, and in the sinister a bundle of arrows proper.

Principal Title : H.M. Queen of the Netherlands.

Creation : As kingdom, 1815.

Family Name : Orange-Nassau.

Family History : Holland, or the Netherlands (Low Countries) has had a history almost as tormented as that of Poland - and for much the same reasons. Apart from the sea, it has no easily identifiable boundaries and, as the name implies, it is flat. That means it is easy to invade.

The country has continually seen its borders change, following the fortunes of two families, the Habsburgs and the House of Orange-Nassau. In 1544, William , the son of the Count of Nassau, succeeded to the Principality of Orange. This came through his cousin, who had inherited it from his mother. William's father, realising he could not raise his child in an appropriate manner, sent him to the court of Charles Quint.

When Charles died, the Dutch people rose up against his son Phillip II (which did not break any hearts in England) and chose William - usually known as the Silent. - as their leader. The young man, according to Alexandre Dumas, watched the Spanish-appointed *Stadholders* torn to pieces by the crowd and then took over. However, continual wars frequently altered the territories under his control.

William's son married Mary, the daughter of Charles I of England and Scotland, and the son of that union - William III - married another Mary, this time daughter of James II. He was born eight days after the death of his father but went on to rule Great Britain, jointly with his wife. They had no children.

The office of *Stadhouder* now started a long and tortuous descent, often through women. And it was not until 1815 that the House of Orange was recognised as Kings of the Netherlands. Wilhelmina was Queen, during the Second World War. She set up court in

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William the Silent (1533-1584), Stadhouder of Holland (1559), Prince of Orange (1545)
4th = (1583) Louisa Coligny (1555-1620)

Henry Casimir II (1657-1696), Stadhouder of Friesland
= (1683) Amalia of Anhalt-Dessau (1666-1726)

William III (1650-1702)
= (1641) Mary (1162-1694), joint sovereigns of Great

John WM. Friso (1687-1711), Prince of Nassau-Dietz, Prince of Orange (1702), Stadhouder of Friesland (1696-1711)
= Marie-Louise of Hesse-Cassel (1688-1765) 2 daughters

Charlotte Amalia (1710-1777)
= (1727) Prince Frederick of Baden-Durlach

William IV (1711-1751), Prince of Orange, Stadholder (1747)
= (1734) Anne (1709-1759), daughter of George II, King of Great

Caroline (1743-1787)
= (1760) Charles Christian (1735-1788), P. of Nassau-Weilburg

William V (1748-1806), Prince of Orange, Stadholder (1751-95)
= (1767) Wilhelmina of Prussia (1751-1820)

Grand-Dukes
of Luxemburg

William (VI) I (1772-1848), King of the Netherlands (1815-1840)
1st = (1791) Wilhelmina of Prussia (1774-1837)

1 daughter
and 1 son

William II (1792-1849), King of the Netherlands (1840-1849)
= (1816) Anna of Russia (1795-1865)

Frederick
(1797-1881)

Marianne
(1810-1883)

William III (1817-1890), King of the Netherlands (1849-1890)
(1824-1897)

Alexander (1818-1848)

Henry (1820-1879)

Sophia

William (1840-1879) Maurice (1843-1850) Alexander (1851-1884)

Wilhelmina (1180-1962), Queen (1890), abdicated (1948)
= (1901) Henry of Mecklenburg-Schwerin (1876-1934), Prince of Netherlands

JULIANA (1909-), Queen (1948), abdicated (1980)
= (1937) Bernhard (1911-), Prince of Lippe-Biesterfeld, Prince of Netherlands

BEATRIX (1938-), Queen since 1980

Irene

Margaret

Mary

Christina

WILLEM-ALEXANDER (1967-), P. of Orange
Floris

JOHN FRISO

CONSTANINE (1969-)

Maurits

Bernhard

Pieter

London. At first her people thought she had abandoned them; they soon found otherwise. She was succeeded by Juliana, often described as the richest world's richest woman. She survived her own "Rasputin", a fortune-teller called Greet Hofman who seemed to exert excessive influence over her sovereign. Despite a strong republican tradition, there is no movement to replace the monarchy. And none seems likely.