

Lodi



Description of Arms :

Trinciato d'oro e di rosso : il 1° all'aquila di nero, coronata del campo, posta in sbarra.

Index

Principal Title : Duke of Lodi.

Creation : French Empire, 1807.

Subsidiary Titles : See text.

Family Name : Melzi d'Eril or Melzi d'Eryl.

Family History : This family was registered, first of all, as Milanese patricians. In 1468, they were raised to the rank of counts palatine, by the Emperor Frederick III. In 1619, came the title of Count di Magenta, from Philip III, King of Spain and Duke of Milan. In 1676, came the title of Marquis di Torricella, this time from the Duke of Savoy. Shortly afterwards, came the rank of count of the Holy Roman Empire, with an augmentation to the family's coat of arms. Then there was the Neapolitan title of Prince di Melzi, 1726.

In 1750, Gaspare Melzi married the heiress of the Eril family and with her came the following titles : Grandee of Spain, Count d'Eril, Marquis di Fonte Sacrata, Baron d'Oscar, etc... The marquis, now known as Melzi d'Eril then rendered services to Napoleon I and, from him, received the title of Duke de Lodi, on the basis of male promogeniture. This was given Austrian recognition, in 1829, together with the title of Duke Lodi for the eldest son, provided the family retained the estates that went with the style. Finally, the dukedom was recognised in Italy, in 1890 and reconfirmed in 1913. There is also right to be addressed as *don* and *donna*.

There can be few other families to have been honoured by so many different rulers.

Lodi

Count Gaspare Melzi

= (1750) heiress of county of Eril, marquisat of Fonte Sacrata, barony of Oscar,

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LODOVICO MELZI D'ERIL,

Duke of Lodi