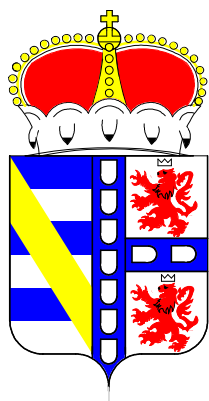


Massimo



Description of Arms :

Partito : nel 1°, fasciato d'azzurro e d'argento alla banda d'oro attraversante ; nel 2°, d'argento al palo fasciato d'azzurro, uscente dall partizione, carico sul palo di sette scudetti del campo, sulla fascia di altri da due leoni di rosso, coronati d'argento.

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Principal Title : Prince Massimo.

Creation : See text.

Subsidiary Titles : See text.

Family Name : Massimo.

Family History : This Roman family is considered to be the oldest in Europe. According to legend, it traces back to the dictator Fabius Maximus Conctator, who defeated Hannibal, before Jesus Christ was born. This helps explain the family motto, " Cunctando resitiuit ".

From their ranks came St Philip Neri, who founded the Oratory order and forecast, wrongly as it turned out, the end of the world. He life spanned almost the whole of the XVI Century. The Massimo family certainly gave the Church two cardinals, who died in 1677 and 1846, respectively. They may also have produced the popes Anastasius I and Pascal I. Anastasius reigned, briefly, from 399 to 401; Pascal wore the triple tiara from 817 to 824. Apart from these dates, most of the other details about them are lost in the mists of time.

They also possessed a large number of fiefs, including San Vito, Ciciliano, Genzano, Montefortino and many others. These names may not mean much to us but, in their time, they were important and well-endowed. They gave the family considerable power.

Some four hundred years ago, the family split into two branches. The main line collected the following titles: Prince d'Arsoli, in 1826 from the hands of Pope Leon XII ; prince (male primogeniture) in 1854 ; Prince di Roviano and Duke d'Anticoli in 1872. The Brancaccio family further ceded to them the title of Prince of Roviano, in 1904.

They are also entitled to the appellation of *don* and *donna*. Despite all these titles, the head of the family prefers to be known as Prince Massimo and, with a name and a history like his, it is not really very surprising

The other branch of this family took the name of Lancellotti (q.v.) some time ago.

Massimo

