

Norway



Description of Arms :

Gules, a lion rampant crowned or, holding in his paws the long handled axe of St Olav blade argent, handle or.
ou
holding a long-handled Danish axe argent.

Principal Title : King of Norway.

Creation : Kingdom, 1905.

Family Name : Oldenburg.

Family History : Norway takes up quite a lot of space but it has a small population. So, for as long as it really matters, it has belonged to one or other of its more powerful neighbours, Sweden and Denmark - sometimes both. That does not mean, however, that the Norwegians were entirely happy with this state of affairs and their restlessness grew steadily during the XIX Century.

Things came to a head in 1905. The local parliament, the Storting, passed a bill but, when it came to be signed by King Oscar II, the latter rejected it. This provoked a crisis and the Swedes agreed to recognise their neighbour's independence, provided a referendum were held first. It was and it must have had one of the largest majorities ever heard of. To underline their new freedom, and in accordance with the custom of the time, Norway decided to establish a monarchy and offered the throne to Oscar's second son. The Swedish king turned this down, without even consulting the prince involved ; for which the young man never really forgave his father and he died soon afterwards.

Old habits die hard, so next to be offered the throne was the royal house of Denmark, in the person of King Frederick VIII's second son, Carl. This time the proposition was accepted. So, at the age of thirty-three, he went to Christiania (as Oslo was then known) and took the name of Haakon VII. With him went his British-born wife, Maud. A second poll confirmed the new monarchs, instead of a republic, by nearly four-fifths of the vote. Haakon had problems, though, with the Norwegian Labour Party, which rarely lost an opportunity of snubbing him.

However, at the opening of the Second War, the king escaped to London and established his government there. He returned home, in 1945, widely acclaimed. He went on as the father of his people, until he died at the age of eighty-five. His son, also a keen yachtsman (he won an Olympic gold medal), was extremely likable and widely popular. This country does not follow the increasing custom of treating daughters as being equal to sons. Fortunately, there is a son to take over.

Norway

Frederick V (1723-1766), King of Denmark (1746)

1st = (1743) Louise (1724-1751), d. of King of G. Britain and 2nd = (1752) Juliana (1729-1796), d. of Duke of Brunsw.-Wolfenbüttel

