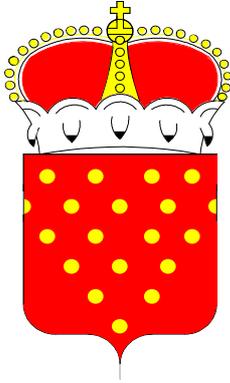


Bentheim und Steinfurt



Description of Arms :

De gueules à 19 besants d'or, 4, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1.

Principal Title : H.S.H Prince (Fürst) zu Bentheim, Prince (Fürst) zu Bentheim and Steinfurt.

Creation : Prussia, 1817.

Subsidiary Titles : Count of Tecklenburg and Limburg, Baron Rheda, Wevelinghoven, Hoya, Alpen and Helpenstein ; Hereditary Bailiff of Cologne.

Family Name : Götterswick.

Family History : Cousins of the Bentheim-Tecklenburgs, this branch of the family also received the dignity of prince, in 1817, from the King of Prussia.

Although this, like many other noble German families, split the patrimony between themselves it should not be inferred that they did to continue maintain close relationships with each other. The fact that both branches of this family received princely rank at the same time indicates that they were considered on the same basis. For another thing, the custom in Germany of marrying at one's own level slowly became almost an obsession. There only being a limited supply of prospective husbands and wives of the correct rank, meant that all the families concerned knew each other, visited one another at regular intervals and tended to exclude all others. The penalties of an "unequal" marriage could be severe. Many people have been barred from succeeding on this basis. The alternative was to remain unmarried for fear of being ostracised.

The German people also took the matter of heraldic achievement at least as seriously as anyone else. Many tried to build up the famous "sixty-four quarterings". Although the main coat-of-arms remained unchanged, for the most part, the right to add (or quarter) those of marriage partners existed in a very real sense. To have sixty-four of these quarterings meant - and still does - that all great-great-great-great-grand-parents and all the intervening generations had to possess the right to bear arms. This is obviously a remarkable feat, one that not even the Queen of England possesses.

The Princes of Bentheim und Steinfurt still live in a castle in Westphalia. All members of the family should be addressed as "Serene Highness".

Bentheim und Steinfurt

Hermann, 1st Count of Salm,
King of Germany (1081-1088)

|
Otto,
1st Count of Bentheim

⋮
Everwyn III (1536-1562), Count of Bentheim
= (1553) Anne (1532-1582), Countess of Tecklenburg

|
Arnould II (1554-1606), Count of Bentheim
= (1573) Magdalena (1548-1626), Countess of Neuenahr

|
Adolf (1577-1623),
Count of Tecklenburg-Rheda (1609)

|
Line I : Bentheim and
Tecklenburg

|
Arnold-Jobst (1580-1643),
Count of Bentheim-Bentheim

⋮
Ludwig (?-1718),
1st Prince of Bentheim zu Bentheim (1817)

|
Alexis (1781-1866), 2nd Prince of Bentheim zu Bentheim (1817)
= Princess Wilhelmine of Solms-Braunfels (1793-1865)

|
Ludwig (1812-1890), 3rd Prince (1817) Ferdinand

|
2 daughters

|
Alexis (1845-1951), 4th Prince, 1st Prince zu Bentheim and Steinfurt

(1895)

|
Eberwin (1882-1949), Viktor Adolf (1883-1961), 5th Prince Karl Georg (1884-1951) 3

daughters

|
Alexis (1922-1943) = (1950) Sylvia von Pückler (1930-)
CHRISTIAN (1923-), 6th Prince, 3rd Prince

|
REINHARD (1934-), FERDINAND (1938-), OTTO (1940-), OSKAR (1946-) 3

|
Caroline (1966-), Alexa (1968-), FERDINAND (1977-)