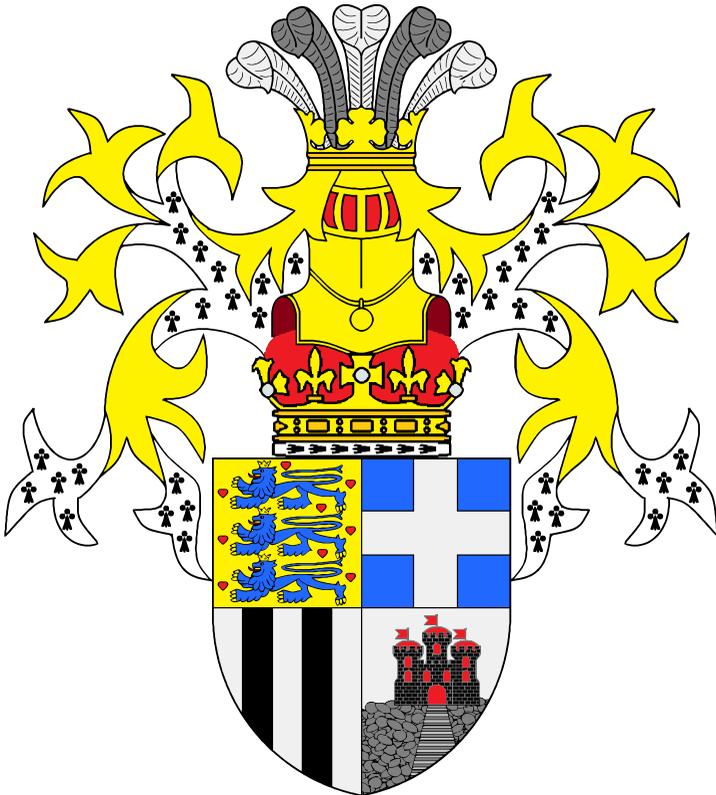


PETR NOHEL

Prince Philip

Duke of Edinburgh

(genealogical study)



Royal Institute of Political Science

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*I dedicate this book
to Her Majesty The Queen Elizabeth II
and all descendants
of His Royal Highness Prince Philip,
Duke of Edinburgh.*

Petr Nohel

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1 PERSONALITY OF PRINCE PHILIP

1.1 Basic biographical data

Prince Philip was born into the Greek royal family on the island of Corfu on 21st June 1921. He was the son of Prince Andrew of Greece and Denmark (1882-1944), the grandson of King George I of Greece (1845-1913) and the great-grandson of King Christian IX of Denmark (1818-1906). He had four older sisters. When he was only a year and a half old, his family was forced to leave Greece for political reasons.

Prince Philip attended The Elms School in Paris, then the Cheam School in England, later the Schule Schloss Salem in Baden, then Gordonstoun School in Scotland, and finally the British Royal Naval College in Dartmouth, England.

During World War II he served in the British Navy and took part in operations in the Indian Ocean, the Mediterranean, Ceylon, Crete, the invasion of Sicily, and in the Pacific. After the war he continued to work in the army as an instructor.

In 1946 he asked Princess Elizabeth for her hand in marriage, and on 20th November 1947 the couple was married at Westminster Abbey. He went on to spend more than seventy years with his wife.

Prince Philip fulfilled his royal duties, excelled with his distinctive sense of humour and actively participated in public life. For example, he was chancellor of several British universities and patron of several hundred beneficial organizations. During his life he was bestowed with almost one hundred orders or other honours and sixteen honorary doctorates.

1.2 Titles

Because Prince Philip was born into the Greek and Danish Royal families, he was entitled Prince of Greece and Prince of Denmark from birth. However, in July 1947 he renounced these titles shortly before the public announcement of his engagement to Princess Elizabeth. As a result, he lost his claim to the Greek and Danish thrones for himself and his descendants.

On 19th November 1947 (*the day before the wedding*) he was granted the right to be addressed "His Royal Highness" (*which otherwise belongs only to the princes of the royal family*) by King George VI.

On 20th November 1947 (*the morning of the wedding*) King George VI granted him three noble titles: Duke of Edinburgh, Earl of Merioneth and Baron Greenwich.

Then, on 22nd February 1957, Queen Elizabeth II granted her husband the title of British prince¹, which otherwise belongs only to selected persons born into the royal family.

Since then, Prince Philip's title has taken the following form:

His Royal Highness
Philip
Prince of Great Britain
Duke of Edinburgh
Earl of Merioneth
Baron Greenwich

In practice, however, the most abbreviated form was the one used: His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

¹ In full: Prince of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

1.3 Heraldry

As Prince of Greece and Denmark, Philip used the coat of arms that belonged to the entire Glücksburg branch of the Oldenburg family, which sat on the Greek throne. After renouncing his claims to both of these thrones he was awarded a special personal coat-of-arms, a unique one in British heraldry, in 1949.

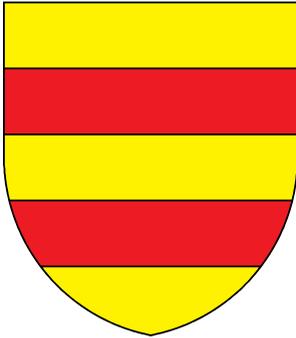
The shield is squared and contains in the first and second fields the emblem of the Danish and Greek kings respectively, reflecting Prince Philip's ancestry; however, the use of this fields after the Prince waived the relevant claims is not common.

In third field is placed the coat of arms of the Mountbatten (*originally Battenberg*) family, of which Prince Philip's mother Alice (1885-1969) was a member. The use of this field is unusual, because after renouncing his royal claims he adopted the mother's family name as his surname, but by this did not lead to him becoming part of his mother's house.

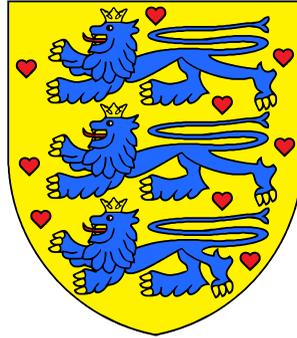
In the fourth field is the emblem of Edinburgh, i.e. the dignity granted to Prince Philip. However, within the Royal Family, it is unusual to use arms referring to titles awarded. Members usually differentiate the coats-of-arms of British kings by specific signs.

Another interesting fact is that the Prince's coat of arms does not include the Oldenburg family's own shield.

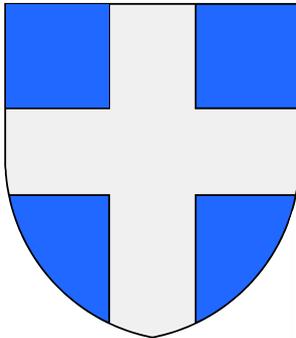
The entire coat-of-arms of Prince Philip may be surmounted by a ducal crown as worn by British princes of the Royal Family and a gold helmet with gold and ermine covers otherwise reserved solely to British rulers and their successors in a direct line to the throne. The shield bearers are taken from the Greek (*wild man*) and Battenberg (*golden lion*) coats-of-arms. The Prince's personal motto is God is my help.



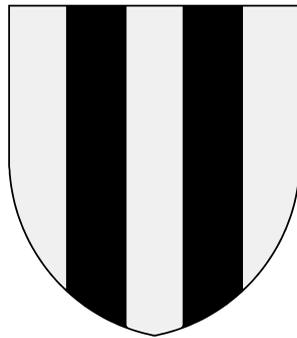
House of Oldenburg



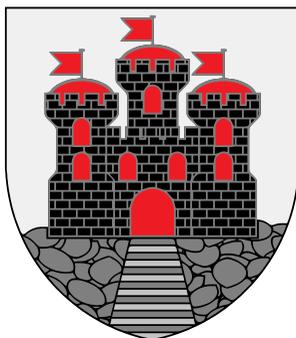
Kings of Denmark



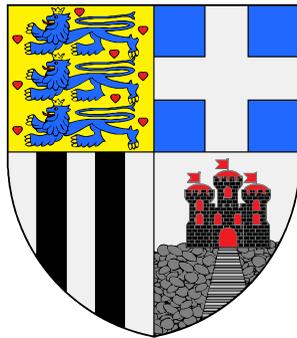
Kings of Greece



House of Battenberg



Edinburgh



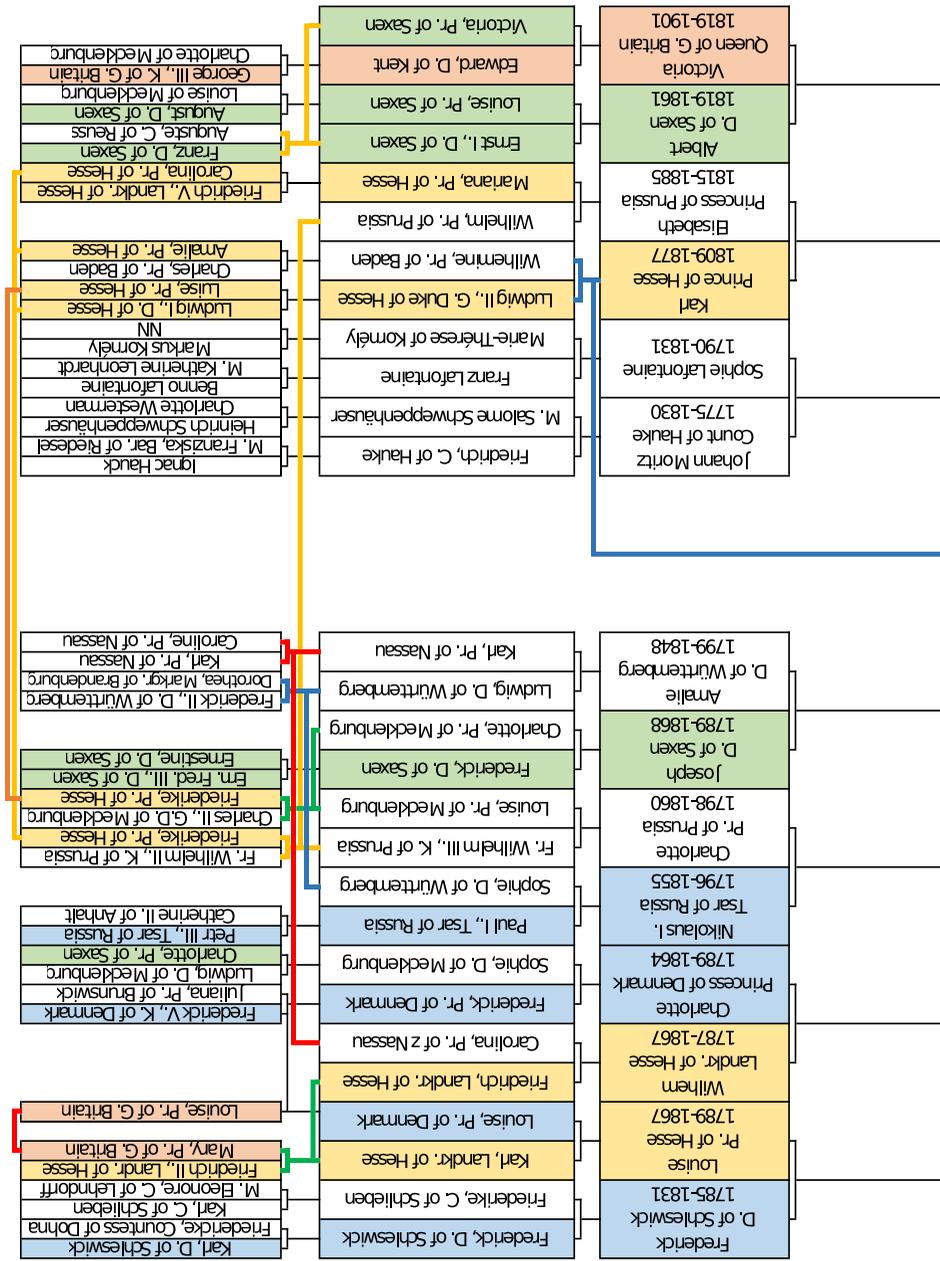
Prince Philip's coat-of-arms

1.4 Ancestors of Prince Philip

Prince Philip is descended from many royal dynasties. If we look at his ancestors up to the sixth generation, which is contained in the following family tree, we find interrelated people already within the first few generations, most often represented by persons from the dynasties of Oldenburg (*highlighted in blue in the following scheme*), Hesse (*orange*), Wettin (*green*) and Hannover (*red*). Members of the Battenberg family, which is a morganatic branch of the House of Hesse, are then marked in light orange.

Due to the ancestral kinship of Prince Philip, their number is reduced already in the fourth generation. Prince Philip thus has 2 parents, 4 grandparents and 8 great-grandparents, but only 14 ancestors in the 4th generation (*compared to the 16 in the model*), 28 ancestors in the 5th generation (*compared to the 32 in the model*) and 43 ancestors in the 6th generation (*compared to the 64 in the model*). But in this generation of ancestors, too, we can find members of recurring families or even several siblings (*sibling relations are marked with coloured bolts in the scheme*).

Diagram No. 1 – Ancestors' pedigree of Prince Philip



Christian IX King of Denmark 1818-1906	Louise Pr. of Hesse 1817-1898	Konstantin G. Pr. of Russia 1827-1892	Alexandra Pr. of Saxe 1830-1911	Alexander Prince of Hesse 1823-1888	Julie Countess of Hauke 1825-1895	Ludwig IV. G. Duke of Hesse 1837-1892	Alice Pr. of G. Britain 1843-1878
George I. King of Greece Prince of Denmark 1845-1913		Olga Grand Princes of Russia 1851-1926		Luis Marq. of Milford Haven 1854-1921		Victoria Princess of Hesse 1863-1950	
Andrew Prince of Greece, Prince of Denmark 1882-1944		Alice Mountbatten 1885-1969					
Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh 1921-2021							

2 The original family of Prince Philip

2.1 Father's family – Oldenburg dynasty

The first king of the Oldenburg family was Christian I (1425-1481), who ruled as King of Denmark, Norway and Sweden. Of the many branches of his descendants, the following three are important to us, which are also illustrated in the following Diagram No. 3.

The primogeniture of the family continued to rule in Denmark and Norway until 1863, when it died out. The second branch of the Oldenburg family are the Dukes of Schleswig-Holstein, who are still pretenders to their duchy. The younger line of this branch, starting with Christian XI (1818-1906), inherited a claim to the Danish throne after the death of King Frederick VII (1808-1863). This line was subsequently divided into the current three separate families ruling in Denmark (*Queen Margaret II*), Norway (*King Harald V*) and Greece (*former King Constantine II*). Prince Philip also descends from this Greek part of the family. The third important branch are Dukes of Holstein-Gottorp. Its first line, descending from Peter I (1728-1762), inherited the throne of the Russian Empire, which they ruled until 1918. Four other members of the younger line ruled as Kings of Sweden, and representatives of the current line of this branch ruled as Grand Dukes in Oldenburg, to which they are still pretenders.

Diagram No. 2 on the opposite page shows the monarchs or pretenders most closely related to Prince Philip. We can see that, in addition to the previously mentioned current rulers, Prince Philip was also closely related to King Philip VI of Spain or to the pretenders to the throne of Hanover (*Prince Ernest August*) and Baden (*Prince Maximilian*). Almost all of these persons are the great-grandchildren of Christian IX, as is Queen Elizabeth II too, meaning that Prince Philip was a distant uncle to them.

Diagram No. 3 – Oldenburgs on the thrones of Europe

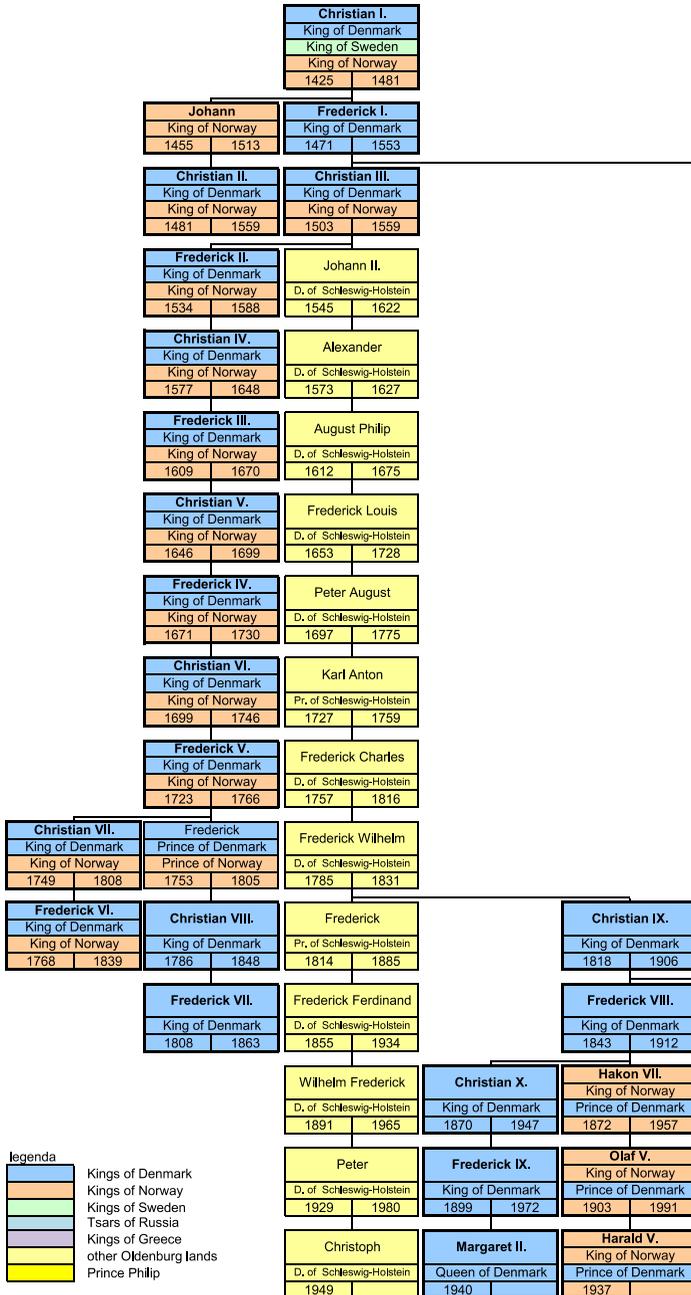
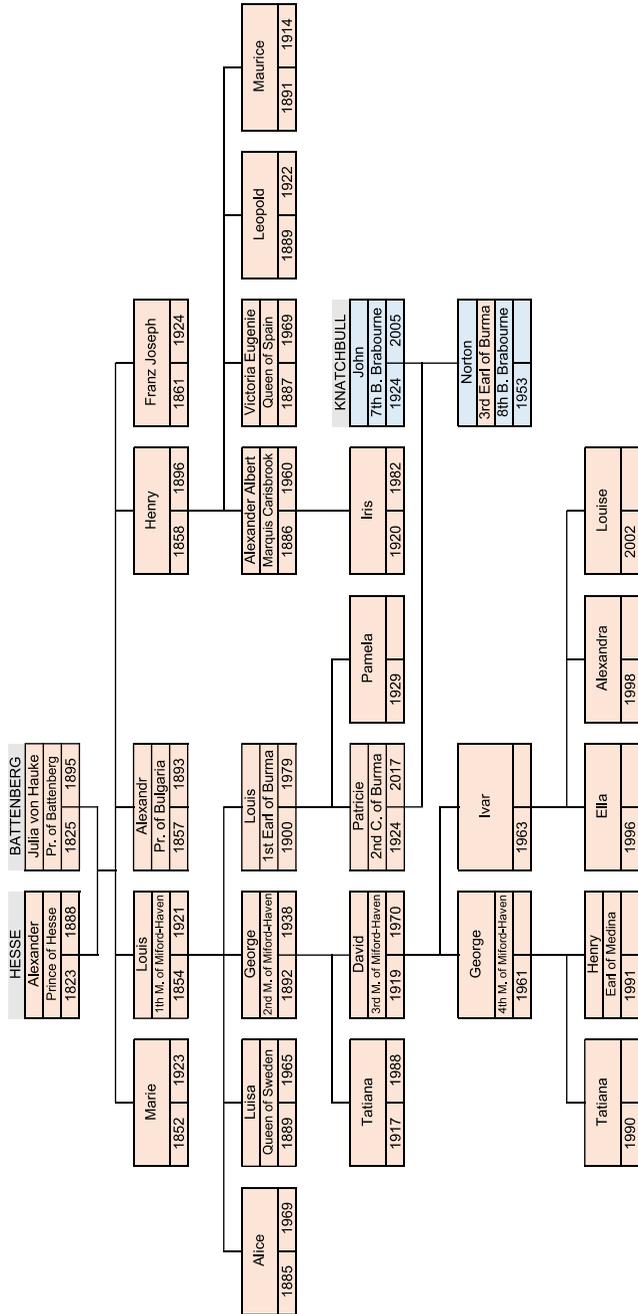


Diagram No. 4 – Family tree of the Battenberg/Mountbatten family



2.2 Mother's family – Battenberg/Mountbatten family

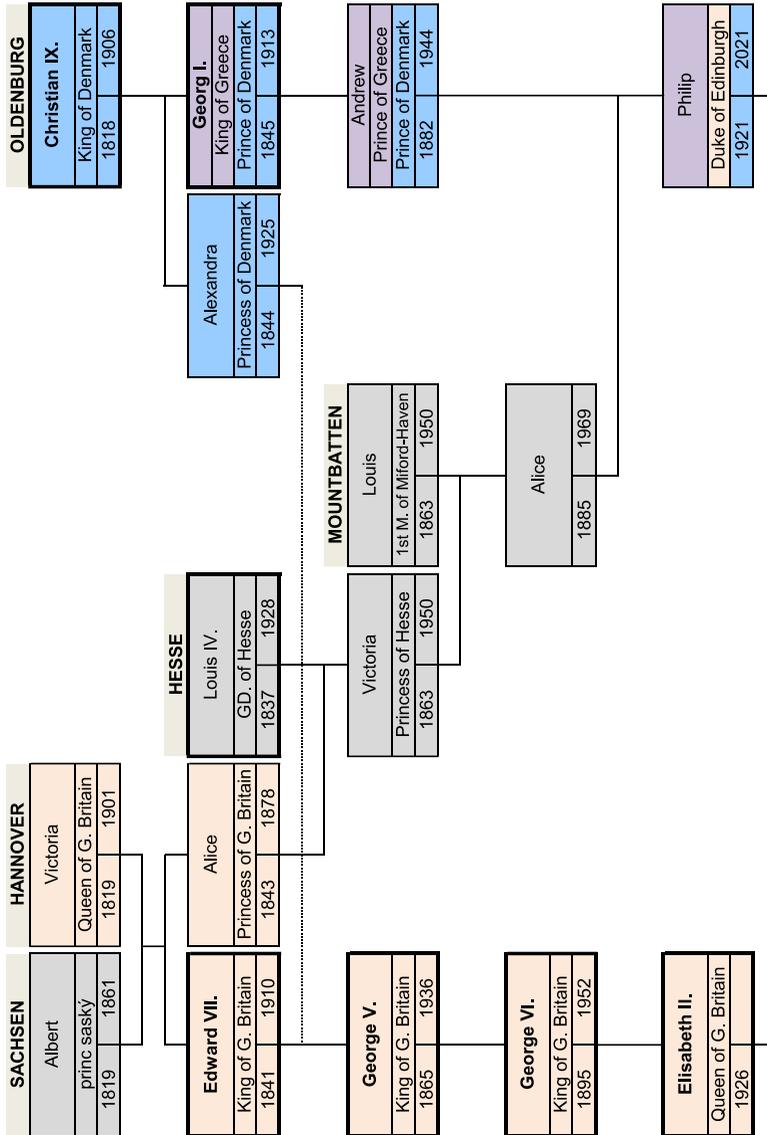
The family of Battenberg is a morganatic branch of the dynasty of the Grand Dukes of Hesse. It was created by the marriage of Prince Alexander (1823-1888) to Julia, Countess Hauke (1825-1895), who was first created Countess and then, in 1858, Princess of Battenberg (with the dignity Prince/Princess of Battenberg given to her descendants). The family later settled in Great Britain and anglicized its name, translating Battenberg to Mountbatten, and at the same time also giving up their German noble titles.

Their eldest son Louis (1854-1921) was created Marquis of Milford Haven, Earl of Medina and Viscount Alderney in 1917. The current head of the family is his great-grandson George (*1961). The younger son Louis, of the same name, (1900-1979) was created Viscount of Burma in 1946. A year later he was promoted to Earl of Burma, with the subsidiary title Baron Romsey. These titles are also hereditary in the absence of male heirs, so Louis's eldest daughter Patricia (1924-2017), who was married to John Knatchbull, 7th Baron Brabourne, became the second countess. Both titles merged in their son Norton (*1953) who is not only the 3rd Earl of Burma, but also the 8th Baron Brabourne. Another member of the family, Alexander Albert (1886-1960), was created Marquis Carisbrook, Earl Berkhamsted and Viscount Launceston, but did not have any male descendants. Other interesting members of the family included Alexander, Prince of Bulgaria (1857-1893) and his nieces, Queen Luisa of Sweden (1889-1965) and Queen Victoria Eugenie of Spain (1887-1969). Prince Philip was the son of Alice (1885-1969), and thus the grandson of the 1st Marquis of Milford Haven.

We can recognize three families using the name Mountbatten.

- 1) The original family, titled Mountbatten of Milford Haven.
- 2) The Knatchbull family, using the title Mountbatten of Burma.
- 3) The British Royal Family, where the name is used as surname by selected members.

Diagram No. 5 – Prince Philip and Queen Elizabeth II as descendants of British kings and of the Oldenburgs



3 Other kinship of Prince Philip

3.1 Prince Philip and Queen Elizabeth II

As in other ruling families, the marriage between Prince Philip and Queen Elizabeth II was one between relatives. Both of them had a number of common ancestors. Both are descendants of great figures of European history such as the founder of the restored medieval Roman Empire Emperor Charlemagne (747/8-814), the founder of the French Capetian dynasty, King Hugo Capet (939/41-996), or the King of England, William the Conqueror (ca. 1028-1087).

Thanks to familial connections both are also descendants of several saints, such as: St. Louis IX, King of France (1214-1270), St. David I, King of Scotland (1085-1153), St. Margaret, Princess of England (1050-1093), St. Olga, Princess of Kiev (890-969), St. Vladimir I, Grand Duke of Kiev (968-1015), St. Elizabeth, Princess of Hungary (1207-1231), St. Jolanda, Princess of Hungary (1244-1298), St. Olaf II, King of Norway (980-1030), St. Arnulf, Bishop of Metz (580-641), St. Warinus, Bishop of Paris († 677) and St. Liévin, Archbishop of Trier (660-722). Their holy ancestors also include the Czech national saints St. Ludmila, Princess of Bohemia (approx. 860-921) and St. Zdislava of Lemberk, née of Křižanov (1220-1252).

Another interesting fact is that both are descendants of both of their paternal families. On the one hand they are both great-great-grandchildren of Queen Victoria (1819-1901) of the United Kingdom and her husband, Prince Albert of Saxony (1819-1861), so they are cousins and third cousins, and on the other hand they are both descendants of the King Christian IX of Denmark. Here, however, Prince Philip is in the third generation of his descendants, while Queen Elizabeth is in the fourth, as shown in Diagram no. 5.

3.2 Descendants of Prince Philip

Prince Philip has four children, eight grandchildren and, currently, eleven great-grandchildren. Among them are princes and princesses, as well as people with other aristocratic titles, but also people without aristocratic titles. Prince Philip renounced his own birth titles and claims before the wedding, and his wife is sovereign ruler, so all his children are, in theory, followers of Her Majesty the Queen's dignity.

Prince Philip's eldest son is Prince Charles (*1948), who is the heir to the British throne. As the heir apparent to the former Kingdom of England, he automatically holds the titles of Duke of Cornwall and Earl of Chester. As the heir apparent to the former Kingdom of Scotland, he automatically holds the titles of Duke of Rothesay, Earl of Carrick, Baron of Renfrew, as well as the Prince of Scotland, Lord of the Isles and Lord High Steward of Scotland. Although the title of Prince of Wales is awarded exclusively to the heirs to the British throne, its holder does not acquire it automatically, but must be granted to him by sovereign. Prince Charles was created Prince of Wales by Her Majesty the Queen in 1969. He also inherited the titles Duke of Edinburgh, Earl Merioneth and Baron Greenwich after the death of Prince Philip. Prince Charles' wife (the mother of his sons) was Diana Frances, née Spencer (1961-1997), and his second wife is Camilla Rosemary, née Shand (*1947). Both wives, and also Prince Charles, are related, as they are all descendants of the kings of England and Scotland.

The eldest son of Prince Charles is Prince William (*1982), to whom the titles of Duke of Cambridge, Earl of Strathearn and Baron Carrickfergus were awarded prior to his marriage to Catherine, née Middleton (*1982). The couple are also related, as Duchess Catherine is a descendant of the kings of England and Scotland. All of their children are princes and princesses.

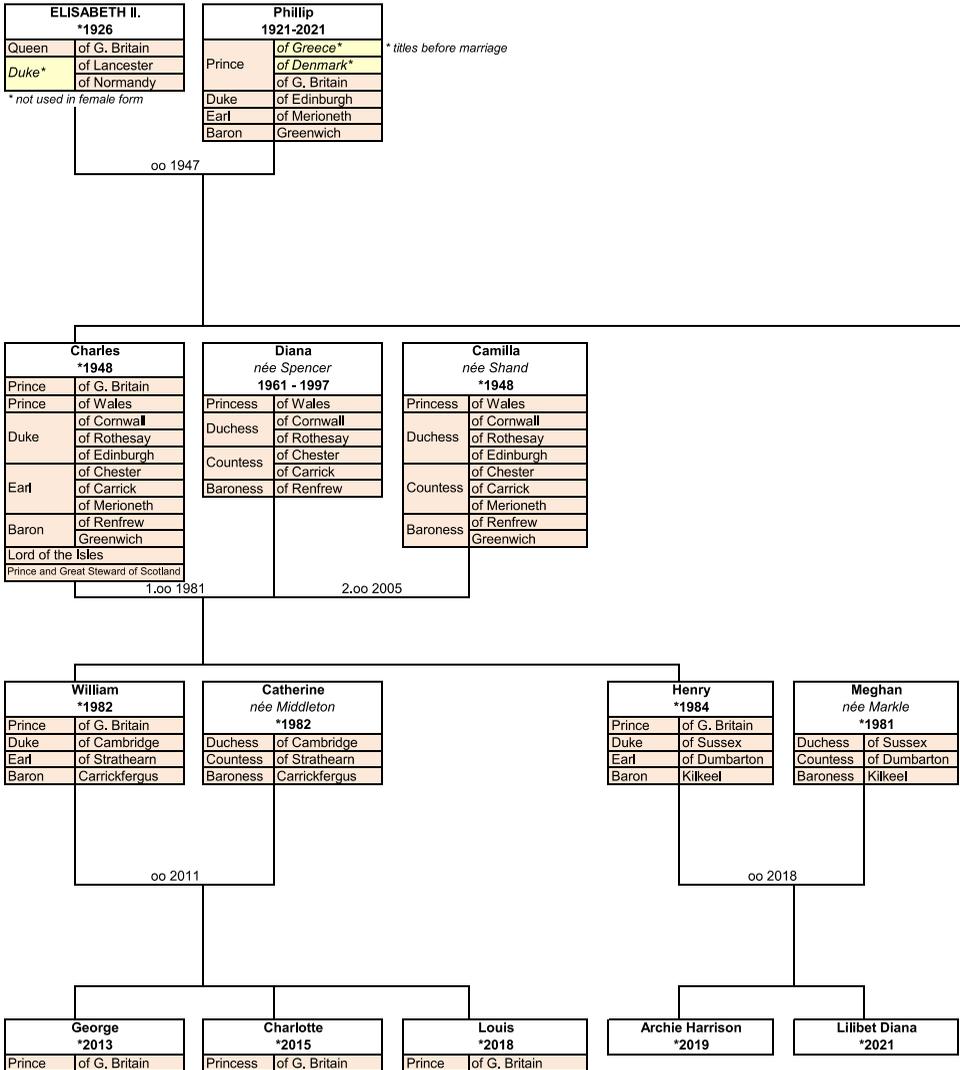
The younger son of Prince Charles is Prince Henry (*1984), to whom the titles of Duke of Sussex, Earl of Dumbarton and Baron Kilkeel were awarded prior to his marriage to Rachel Meghan, née Markle (*1981.) The couple are also related, as Duchess Meghan is also a descendant of the kings of England and Scotland. Their only descendant, Archie Harrison, has no title, because the descendants of British princes do not use the second titles of their fathers, which is otherwise common in the British nobility, but at the same time he himself is not styled prince.

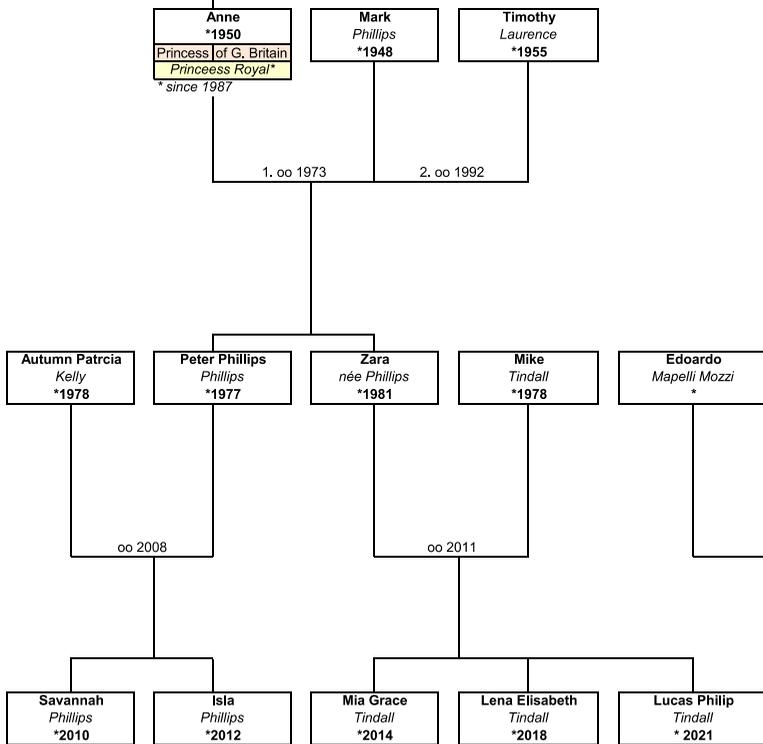
The only daughter of Prince Philip is Princess Anna (*1950), who has been married twice: first, in 1973, to the father of her children, and also distant relative, Mark Phillips (*1948); and then, in 1992, to Timothy Laurence (*1955). Her descendants do not hold any titles, as aristocratic titles are primarily inherited from male lines and no titles have been granted to her children either.

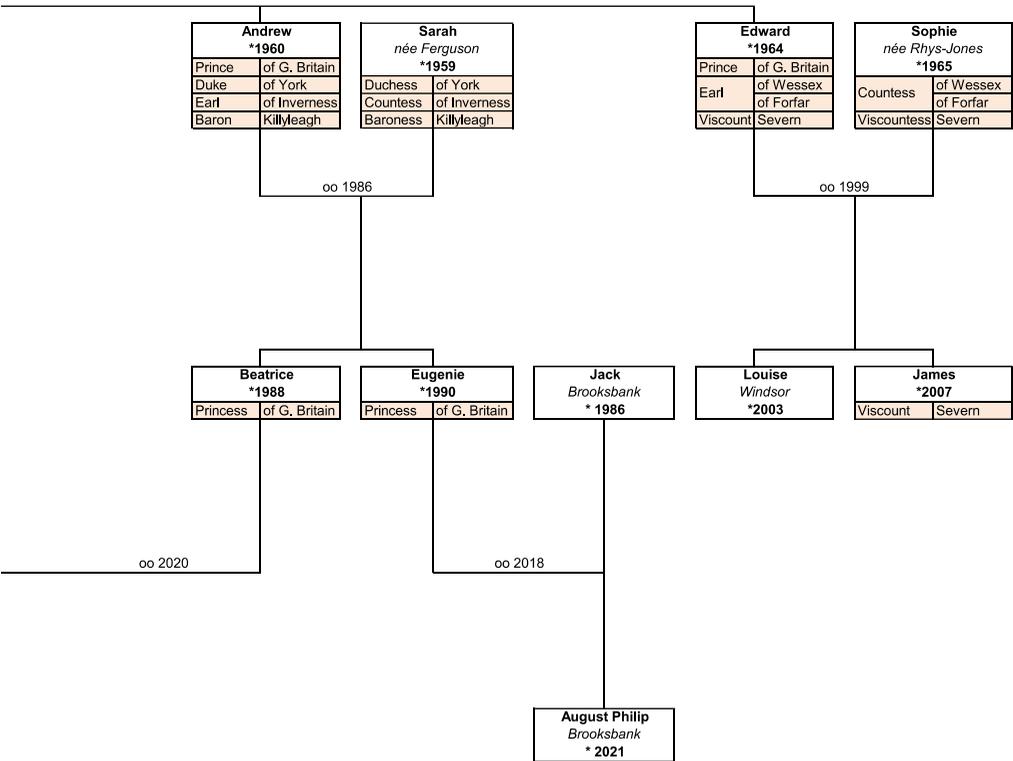
Prince Philip's second son is Prince Andrew (*1960), who was awarded the titles of Duke of York, Earl of Inverness and Baron Killyleagh prior to his wedding. The prince's wife was Sarah Margaret, née Ferguson (*1959), again a distant relative, with whom he has two daughters, Princess Beatrice (*1988) and Princess Eugenie (*1990), both of whom also married descendants of kings of England.

The youngest son of Prince Philip is Prince Andrew (*1964), who also married a distant relative, Sophie Helen, née Rhys-Jones (*1965) in 1999. The prince was granted the titles of Earl of Wessex, Earl of Forfar and Viscount Severn. The couple has a daughter, Louise (*2003) and a son, James (*2007), who, exceptionally, bears his father's subsidiary title Viscount Severn.

Diagram no. 6 – Descendants of Prince Philip







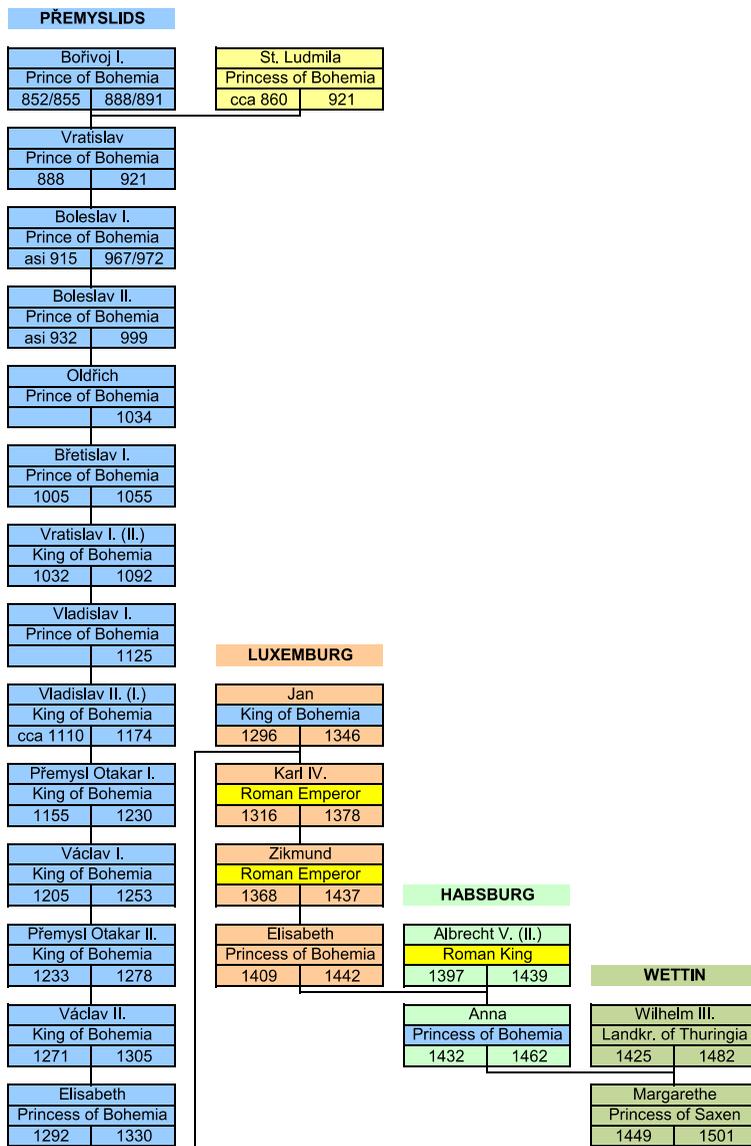
3.3 Selected genealogical notes

Of course, Prince Philip was not only a descendant of the kings of Greece and Denmark, but of many other European dynasties, including the rulers of Russia, Hesse, Baden, Saxony, Portugal, Spain, France and many others. We must not forget that he was also a multiple descendant of the rulers of Bohemia. For example, we can find him in the 33rd generation of the descendants of Bořivoj I. and St. Ludmila – the first ruling couple of Bohemia.

Diagram no. 7 shows the following line of descent: Prince Philip was a descendant of King Christian III of Denmark (1503-1559), whose ancestors in the maternal line go as far back as the Luxembourgs on the Bohemian throne, as Christian's mother Anna Brandenburg (1487-1514) was the daughter of Margaret of Saxony (1449-1501), and thus the granddaughter of the Bohemian princess Anna of Habsburg (1432-1462), great-granddaughter of Emperor Charles IV (1316-1378).

Prince Philip, however, was related to all ruling families. As shown in Diagram no. 8, all current European rulers (*marked blue*), as well as many other heads of formerly ruling houses (*orange*), are descendants of his own paternal dynasty of Oldenburg (*red*).

Diagram no. 7 – Prince Philip as a descendant of the Přemyslids



OLDENBURG

Fredrick I.	
King of Denmark	
1471	1533

Christian III.	
King of Denmark	
1503	1559

Frederick II.	
King of Denmark	
1534	1588

Christian IV.	
King of Denmark	
1577	1648

Frederick III.	
King of Denmark	
1609	1670

Christian V.	
King of Denmark	
1646	1699

Frederick IV.	
King of Denmark	
1671	1730

Christian VI.	
King of Denmark	
1699	1746

Frederick V.	
King of Denmark	
1723	1766

Louise	
Princess of Denmark	
1750	1831

HESSE

Karl	
Landkr. of Hesse	
1744	1836

OLDENBURG

Louise	
Pr. of Hesse	
1789	1867

Fredrick	
D. of Schleswick	
1785	1831

Christian IX.	
King of Denmark	
1818	1906

George I.	
King of Greece	
1845	1913

Andrew	
Prince of Greece	
1882	1944

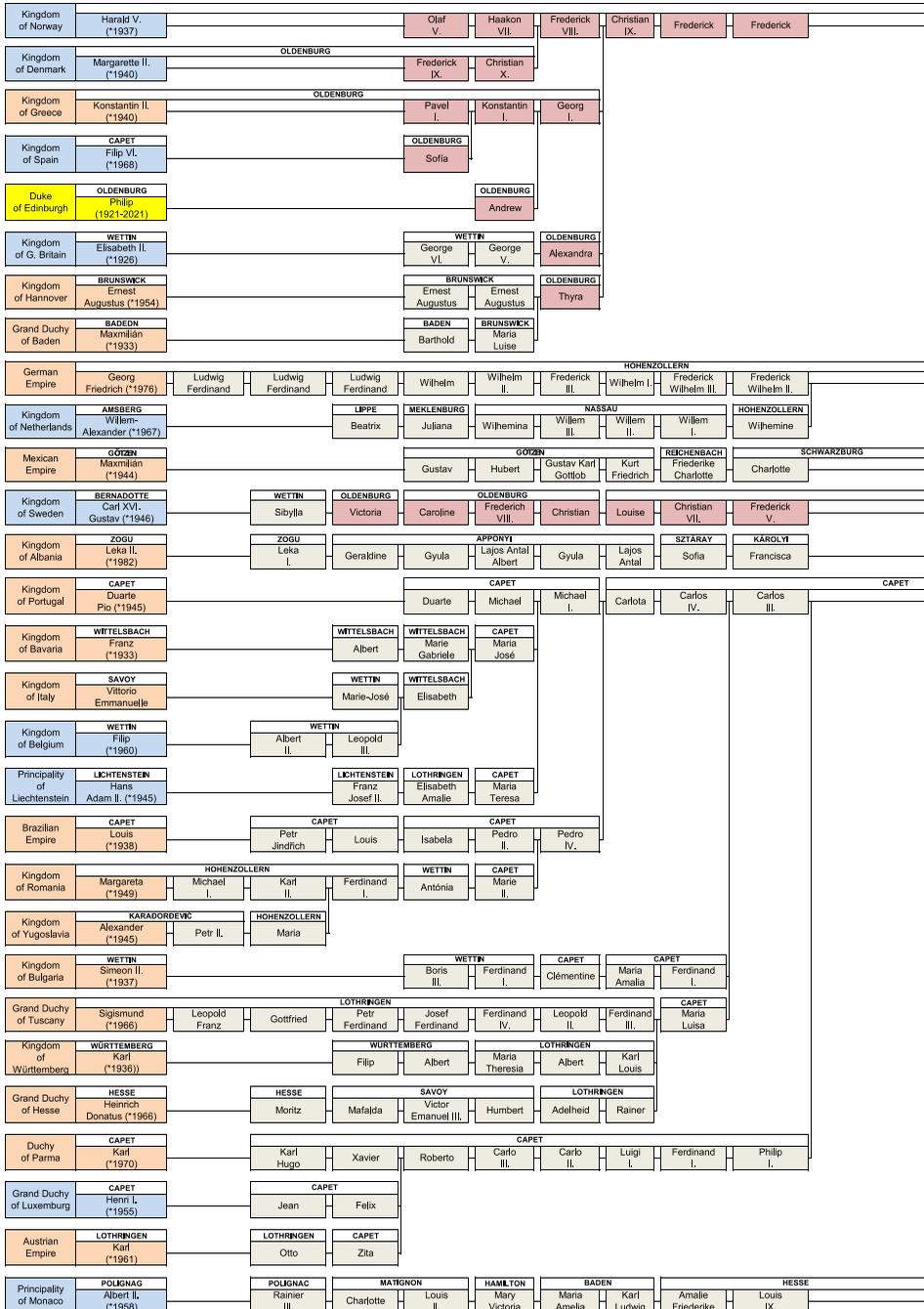
Philip	
Duke of Edinburgh	
1921	2021

HOHENZOLLERN

Johann Cicero	
El. of Brandenburg	
1455	1499

Anna	
Pr. of Brandenburg	
1487	1514

Diagram no. 8 – Contemporary European monarchs and selected heads of formerly ruling houses as descendants of the Oldenburgs



Conclusion

Prince Philip had a distinctive personality, with a strong sense of humour and an extraordinary sense of responsibility. Although he was born into a royal family, he almost immediately experienced the difficulties of immigration and realized that the life of members of ruling and formerly ruling families is neither static nor predetermined.

Although he eventually found his vocation in the British Navy, he had to resign from it soon after his marriage in order to devote himself entirely to service alongside his ruling wife, who is not only the Queen of not only Great Britain and Northern Ireland, but also of the Commonwealth of Nations, as well as the Supreme Governor of the Church of England.

Prince Philip also had to come to terms with some of his children's failed marriages, which were closely monitored by the media. However, according to several testimonies of family members, he has always been a support not only to his wife, but also to all generations of his descendants.

In Prince Philip we lost not only a man who was one of the visible faces of the British monarchy, but also one who sought to modernize it and consistently fulfil the obligations arising from his position.

Although Prince Philip did not live to see his approaching hundredth birthday, his life was rich and fulfilled, mainly because he placed the public interest above his own. Let him rest in peace.

Shrnutí [cz]

Genealogická studie pojednává o princí Philipovi, manželovi britské královny Alžběty II. Všímá si rodových vazeb v rodinách jeho předků i titulatury jeho a jeho potomků. Práce představuje prince Philipa jako potomka mnoha panovnických dynastií, včetně těch českých, i jako příbuzného všech současných panovníků i mnoha hlav bývalých panovnických rodů.

Summary [en]

This genealogical study deals with Prince Philip, the husband of Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom. It describes the family connections of his ancestors as well as his titles and those of his descendants. This work presents Prince Philip as a descendant of many royal dynasties, including the Bohemian ones, as well as a relative of all current rulers and many heads of former ruling houses.

Résumé [fr]

L'étude généalogique parle du prince Philip, l'époux de la reine britannique Elizabeth II. Il traite des liens familiaux dans les familles de ses ancêtres ainsi que ses titres et ceux de ses descendants. L'ouvrage présente le prince Philip comme un descendant de nombreuses dynasties monarchiques, y compris tchèques, ainsi qu'un parent de tous les monarques actuels et de nombreux chefs d'anciennes familles monarchiques.

About the Author



Petr Nohel, Ph.D. has a long-term interest in the genealogy and heraldry of aristocratic families, especially ruling and formerly ruling houses. He also focuses on the theory and development of succession law, monarchical and aristocratic titles, and creates genealogical diagrams, including diagrams of the apostolic succession of consecrated persons.

The author is a member of the following organizations:

- Czech Genealogy and Heraldry Society (since 2004)
- Church Law Society (since 2012)
- European Society for Catholic Theology (since 2016)
- Emperor Karl League of Prayer (since 2017)
- Royal Institute of Political Science (since 2021)

Other selected publications by the author

NOHEL, Petr. *One hundred years of the Baronet Brooksbank family and its connection to the British royal family*, In: *Genealogical and heraldic papers* (edition XL, No 3/2020), Czech Genealogical and Heraldic Society, Prague: 2020, p. 67-70, ISSN 1212-9631

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