

# **The Fons Honorum, Prerogatives and Privileges of the Portuguese House of Bragança (1)**

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## **I - The Origin of the Ducal, Royal and Imperial Dynastic House of Bragança**

The Royal and Ducal House of Bragança, officially titled the “Most Serene House of Bragança”, is a Portuguese Noble family that has had a great influence in Europe and in the World right up until the twentieth century. It was the Dynasty and Ruling Royal Family of the Kingdom of Portugal and of the overseas Empire for almost three centuries having been an Absolute Monarchy from 1640 until 1820, and then, a Constitutional Monarchy from 1834 until the Proclamation of the Republic in 1910.

The Head of the House of Bragança was also the Sovereign of the United Kingdom of Portugal, Brazil, Africa, India and the Algarves (“D'aquém e D'além Mar” meaning from here and beyond the sea) between 1815 and 1822 when the Royal Family went to Brazil to avoid a military conflict with Napoleon.

Upon the return of the Royal Family to Portugal however, there occurred the Proclamation of the Independence of the Empire of Brazil, (“Grito de Ipiranga” or Cry of Ipiranga) in 1822 by Prince Regent which gave origin to the Brazilian Imperial Royal Dynastic branch of the Bragança Family founded by Emperor D. Pedro I. It ruled the Empire of Brazil until the Proclamation of the United States of Brazil in 1889.

The House of Bragança is in fact a collateral line of the second Royal Dynastic House of Portugal known as the “House of Aviz” that reigned in Portugal from 1385 until 1580. The House of Braganza was therefore destined to Rule Portugal after the Restoration of Independence from the Spanish branch of the House of Habsburg, on December 1st, 1640.

This House emerged through the wedding of D. Afonso, first born Bastard son of King D. João I to D. Brites Pereira, only surviving child of the Holy Constable D. Nuno Alvares Pereira, (Canonized “Saint Nuno de Santa Maria” by Pope Benedict XVI on April 26th, 2009). The wedding was celebrated at Frielas, Portugal, on November 1st, 1401. (1439 in the Old Calendar) and D. Afonso who had received the title of “Count of Barcelos” from his Father-in-law was thus ennobled on the day of his marriage, having later received the title of “Duke of Bragança” from his brother Regent D. Pedro, in 1442.

But it is actually as of the year 1403, when the first born son of this couple was born, namely D. Afonso, IV Count of Ourém, that most historians consider the year of the Foundation of the House of Bragança, a Family that came to be recognized by the Coat of Arms that incorporated the Escutcheon of the Arms of Portugal set on a red Cross of Saint Andrew surmounted by Ducal a Coronet and later the Dragon of Bragança, (actually a winged serpent) as the symbol of Saint George.

## **II – The Bragança State**

The Dukes of Bragança much like the Dukes of Burgundy, the Grand Dukes of Luxembourg and some Church Prelates, were also true Sovereigns and their Estates were governed with Alcaides, Landlords and Squires. These lands formed a State within Portugal called the “Estado da Casa de Bragança” or “House of Bragança State”.

This State of the House of Bragança was first created with the Dowry given by King D. João I to his son in 1401 that included the lands of Neiva, Danque, Parelhal, Faria, Rates, Vermoim, with all its assets and hunting grounds.

It was further enriched by the Dowry given by D. Nuno Alvares Pereira, of the Village and Castle of Chaves, with its terms and lands, Monte Negro; the Castle and Fortress of Monte Alegre; the lands of Barroso and Baltar; the County of Barcelos; the Estates of Carvalhosa, Covas, Canedos, Serães, Godinhães, Sanfims, Temporam, Moreira and Piusada; Bustelo and Casais.

King D. João I, together with Queen Filipa of Lancaster and Prince D. Duarte, confirmed the donation of these lands to the House of Bragança and later added to the Estates the lands in Penafiel, Bastos and Coutos of Vargeas.

By Will of D. Nuno Alvares Pereira, confirmed on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1460 by King D. Duarte, his son-in-law D. Afonso also received the County and village of Arraiolos and the lands and rights of Montemor, Évora Monte, Estremoz, Souzel, Alter do Chão, Ferosa, Chancelaria, Assumar, Lagomel, Vila Viçosa, Borba, Monsaraz, Portel, Vidigueira, Frades, Vilalva, Auburn, Beja, Ourique and also the Patronages of São Salvador de Elvas and Vila Nova de Anços.

The second Duke of Bragança, D. Fernando I, second son of the first Duke, succeeding in the Duchy after his brother the illustrious D. Afonso, IV Count of Ourém's untimely death in 1460, having received and added to the Estates all of the titles, lands and Castles his brother had been given in life by their grandfather D. Nuno, including Ourém, Porto de Mos and the Marquisdom of Valença do Minho he had earned for himself by representing Portugal at the Council of Basil and Ferrara, (obtaining from Pope Eugene IV the Sacred Anointing for the Kings of Portugal and the Bull for the Discoveries) and by escorting two Royal Princesses to wed foreign Royals, namely his aunt, Princess Isabel, daughter of King D. João I who wed Phillip the Good, Duke of Burgundy in 1430, (the Order of the Golden Fleece having been instituted on that occasion) and his cousin, Princess Leanor, daughter of King D. Duarte I who wed Emperor Frederick the III in the last Imperial Wedding and Coronation to be held in Rome and presided by a Pope.

D. Afonso, as the first born of the House of Bragança and heir apparent of his father was the beloved grandson of Saint Nuno who had given him the County of Ourém. He grew to become Portugal's greatest Diplomat and with his wealth prepared Ourém Castle, which he remodeled after the Palace of Ferrara, to be served by with an autonomous Collegiate of Priests and become the capital of the powerful Bragança Duchy and State.

But sadly the IV Count of Ourém was outlived by his father who died at the uncommon age of 84 and his younger brother D. Fernando, who succeeded as II Duke of Bragança and V Count of Ourém didn't want to move from Vila Viçosa where he had converted a series of old buildings into a modest Palace. Thus the Duchy of Bragança became headquartered in that Village.

By virtue of a barter held on November 10<sup>th</sup>, 1424, between D. Fernando I and his sister D. Isabel, the lands of Paiva, Tendais and Lousada were later confirmed to the Bragança State on December 9<sup>th</sup> of that year by King D. Duarte. And so was formed the "Most Serene House of Bragança" which became by far the wealthiest and most important Noble House of Portugal and the most powerful of all Iberia after D. Fernando I took part in the expedition to Tangier as Constable and served as Governor of Ceuta.

In appreciation for his services King D. Alfonso V of Portugal raised the Village of Bragança to the status of City and made it the capital of the House of Bragança State. This State was an autonomous property separate from the Estates of the Crown and exempt of any feudal taxes. It henceforth maintained its own Army of 40, 000 men and a protective Ducal Guard composed of German Knights that wore yellow uniforms that were similar in style to those of the Vatican Swiss Guard, the Royal Honor Guard being today a revival of that tradition.

Unlike Burgundy and Luxembourg, the Bragança State did not become an independent nation for the Dukes of Bragança were always loyal servants and cousins of the King. The exception was D. Fernando II, 3<sup>rd</sup> Duke of Bragança who was decapitated in Evora on June 21<sup>st</sup>, 1483 for High Treason by order of King D. João II. He had more Estates and Power than the King of Portugal who openly lamented that his father, King D. Afonso V had made him "King of the Roads" because he had given everything of value to his cousin the Duke of Bragança. Intercepted letters that revealed a plot to dethrone and assassinate the Portuguese Monarch so as to make their cousin, Isabel the Catholic, Queen of all Iberia led to the public execution of Duke D. Fernando together with his cousin the Duke of Beja, Grandmaster of the Order of Christ and brother of Duchess D. Isabel de Bragança.

As "Sovereigns of the State of the Ducal House of Bragança" the Dukes of Bragança and Counts of Ourem, held the full and autonomous "Sovereign Powers" and "Fons Honorum" to confer titles up to that of "Marquis" and other grants of ennoblement such as the bestowal of Grants of Emblazonment of Coats of Arms.

These were rights that they exercised since the time of D. Fernando I, 2nd Duke of Bragança and which were later reconfirmed by King D. Manuel I after he restored the Ducal House in 1510 and gave the titles and Estates his brother-in-law King D. João II had given to the Menezes Family to D. Jaime I, son of the executed Duke D. Fernando II, who at 4 years of age had gone into exile in the Court of Isabel in Castile, a fact that to many confirmed the Catholic Queen's involvement in the murder plot against the Portuguese Monarch.

D. Manuel I in fact paid an astronomical sum to D. Fernando de Menezes, VII Count of Ourém, to get back the titles and lands of the House of Bragança that his brother in law and predecessor D. João II had confiscated in 1483 and given to the Menezes Family in 1489.

It was in fact Duke D. Jaime I who ordered the construction of the current Vila Viçosa Ducal Palace, which together with the Palace of the Duke's of Bragança in Guimarães, was to become one of the main residences of the Ducal Family in the seventeenth century. But this Duke did not just raise the Vila Viçosa Palace, he remodeled several other Ducal residences such as the Military Castles of Ourem and Porto de Mos, which he also turned into palatial homes.

D. João I, 6<sup>th</sup> Duke of Bragança, married Catherine, Infanta of Portugal and was the father of the brave D. Theodosio II who fought in the Battle of Alcazarquivir in 1578 being only 10 years of age at the time.

With the death of King D. Sebastião that same year in Africa, the Portuguese Throne was inherited by Cardinal D. Henrique, who because of his vow of celibacy could not produce a legitimate heir. When Henry died, King D. Philip II of Spain became King D. Philip I of Portugal and the Country lost its independence. There followed 60 years of Spanish rule, with three Spanish Kings, Philip I, Philip II and Philip III. During this period the Dukes of Bragança and their family were held in high esteem by their cousins in Madrid.

D. Nuno Álvares Pereira (Bragança) Colón, Duke of Veragua, a direct descendant of Saint Nuno and of Christopher Columbus for example was appointed the Governor of Lisbon during this period.

In 1640, a conspiracy of Nobles who wanted the total and permanent separation of Portuguese and Spanish Crowns, choose from the list of distant relatives of the last Dynasty of Kings of Portugal, a candidate who would fit the requirements of a Portuguese Monarch and the choice befell D. João II, Duke of Bragança. This Duke reluctantly accepted the leadership of the rebellion only after his wife agreed with these words: "Well, its better to be Queen for a day than a Duchess for a lifetime!"

Known as the Restoration of Independence, D. João II of Bragança became D. João I, King of Portugal on December 1<sup>st</sup> , 1640, thus beginning the fourth Dynasty known as the "Bragança Dynasty".

After 1640 the title of Duke of Bragança came to be attributed to the Crown Prince and heir presumptive, although some secondary Princes who ascended to the Portuguese throne, as was the case of D. Pedro II, D. Miguel I, D. Luis I, and D. Manuel II had not previously been Dukes of Bragança.

in fact the last King of Portugal D. Manuel II often used the title of "Duke of Bragança" and "Count of Ourém" when travelling abroad incognito during his years of Exile in Fullwell Park in England. He used these titles in honor of his assassinated brother Crown Prince of Beira D. Afonso who was shot along with his father King D. Carlos I in Terreiro do Paço Square in Lisbon, on February 1st 1908.

The Estates of the House of Bragança which were always separate from the Portuguese Royal House Estates, were later protected by a law passed by King D. João IV. These Estates were to be made available to the heir to the throne, according to primogeniture institution.

After the triumph of Liberalism in 1834, which abolished the Feudal Estates called "Morgadios" a new law was created that again exempted the House of Bragança's Estates from State confiscation. Thus, the administration of the Estate which formed the bond of the House of Bragança passed to the Crown Prince of Portugal known as the "Prince of Beira" when he completed 21 years of age.

After the 1910 Revolution that overthrew the Monarchy and established the Portuguese Republic, the Estate of the House of Bragança was not taken over by Portuguese State, the Parliament and Courts having established during various sessions, that the former State of Bragança and its castles personally belonged now to former King D. Manuel (I) de Bragança, the exiled Monarch.

In 1915, King D. Manuel II, in his Will had expressed that all of the Bragança Estates and Assets in Portugal would become available to the Country after his death. Although he had wished to change his Will in favor of his Cousin, D. Duarte Nuno, Duke of Bragança, whom he later recognized as his Heir through the "Pact of Dover", his unexpected death in 1932, made the Portuguese Salazar Government create the "House of Bragança Foundation" to administer the Estates during the interregnum but which is in no way connected to the Portuguese Royal House of Bragança Family.

Later, the widow of King D. Manuel II, Queen D. Augusta Victoria, together with the Dowager Queen Mother D. Amelia de Orleans e Bragança with their inheritances, and at President António de Oliveira Salazar's request, created the "D. Manuel II Foundation", today administered by the Head of the Portuguese Royal House. The Dowager Queen Mother together with Pope Pius XII also became the Godparents at Baptism of the current Head of the Royal House, D. Duarte Pio.

The Brazilian descendants of the Bragança Royal and Ducal House, through Emperor D. Pedro I is the Imperial branch of the family that reigned in Brazil until 1889 when the last Emperor, D. Pedro II abdicated. The first born child of the last Emperor and therefore the heiress to the Imperial throne was Princess D. Isabel of Bragança and Bourbon who married in 1864 the French Count d'Eu, Louis-Philippe Gaston d'Orléans, the King of France's grandson. From the marriage between the Royal House of Orleans and the Imperial Royal House of Bragança descend the "Orléans e Bragança" members of the Family of which the mother of the current Duke of Bragança was a member, having been Imperial Princess of Brazil.

Other descendants of the Emperors of Brazil hold the Bragança name in combination with others such as the Saxe-Coburg Bragança's. The branches of the Bragança Family in the Imperial line of Brazil also hold the similar Fons Honorum of the Head of the Portuguese Royal and Ducal House of Bragança but only in regards to the Titles of Imperial Brazilian concession created after its independence and the Grand Mastership of the Imperial Brazilian Orders of the Rose and of Christ, seldom bestowed by H.I.H. Prince D. Luis, through his brother H.I.H. Prince D. Bertrand. Ironically, all Titles in Brazil originally granted by Portuguese Emperor Kings before that Country's Independence, still come under the jurisdiction of the Portuguese Royal House and are listed in the Portuguese Institute of Nobility's Roster rather than the one maintained by the Brazilian Institute.

### **III. Rights, Treatments and Sovereign Powers of the Dukes of Bragança**

Among the reigning and non reigning Catholic Ducal Houses in Europe, the Dukes of Bragança, as legitimate heirs and descendants of the Kings of Portugal, and also Successors, since 1640, of the Crown and the Throne of Portugal, enjoyed and also still have, certain rights, powers, Regal prerogatives, titles and treatments that since the fifteenth century are of recognized international law.

The powers, rights and privileges that the Dukes of Bragança exercised and still morally exercise, are described in various official publications such as the "Mappa of Portugal" published by João Baptista de Castro in 1762 and the "Privileges of the Nobility and Gentry of Portugal", published in 1806 with the license of the "Meza do Desembargo" of the Palace or "Royal Dispatch Office".

These powers were exercised by the Dukes of Bragança since the creation of the State of Bragança and later, simultaneously, with their powers as Reigning Monarchs, were they or not, from the same Dynastic House of Bragança.

D. Fernando II, Duke of Braganza, for example was so powerful he held 41 Commandries in the Order of Christ, 80 Churches and 18 Alcaidarias - mors, including Vila Viçosa and Ourem Castles. At that time, the Dukes already enjoyed Sovereign Powers, wore the Insignia of Princes of the Realm and like the Kings, could "Enoble" and grant Titles of Nobility but only up to that of "Marquis". They also appointed "Ombudsmen" and bestowed annual Grants of up to "fifty thousand Cruzados" in gold.

With D. Fernando II, Duke of Bragança, the Dukes of Bragança and Counts of Ourem, received the "Treatment and Prerogatives of Infantes" (Princes of the Realm) and thus never added to their baptismal names any surnames whatsoever, being treated only by the title of Lord (a) Dom (Dona) and the Treatment of "Excellency" and later of "Royal Highness". Abroad they were presented as being "Infantes of Portugal" with "Portugal" at times presented as a surname.

In Royal Court, the Dukes of Bragança preceded all other Dukes of the Realm and their children, if they had Titles, even minor ones, preceded all other Title Holders including the other Dukes. All except the Counts of Vila Real who had a special hereditary privilege.

The so-called "Morgado" or Bragança Estate with the Powers, Rights and Treatments of the Dukes of Bragança, were also exempt from the June 30<sup>th</sup>, 1860 law that ordered the Registration of all assets and likewise the law of May 19<sup>th</sup>, 1863 that extinguished all Feudal rights and "Morgadio" Estates in Portugal.

The exercise of the exclusive rights of the Dukes of Bragança also never required Royal, Ecclesiastical or Canonical approval and did not cease with the rise of a Ducal House of Bragança to the Throne in 1640 nor with the end of the Monarchist Regime in 1910.

A request from Ecclesiastical State on the Conservation of the House of Bragança, presented to the King by the Court in 1641, made D. João IV by Royal Charter of October 27<sup>th</sup>, 1645, apply the Estate or Morgado to financially supporting the first born Princes of all future Monarchs who were henceforth designated as "Príncipe da Beira".

To these Crown Princes, as Dukes of Bragança, were the inherent right to the Estates as the donations had stipulated and also the hereditary "Sovereign Powers of the State of Bragança". At that time, it was also expressly pointed out that there was indeed a division between the Government, the State Powers of the Absolutist and later Constitutional Sovereign Crown and the Powers of the State of the House of Bragança.

The first Kings of Portugal which were not anointed by the Church before 1445 had been addressed as "Their Highnesses" and then, after D. Afonso, IV Count of Ourém obtained that privilege from the Pope when he attended the Council of Basil and Ferrara they rose above the Clergy so that as of 1557 they came to be addressed as "Their Majesty".

But the Kings of the House of Bragança also enjoyed the Ecclesiastic Treatment of "Most Faithful Majesty by the grace of God", a style conferred upon them by Pope Benedict XIV on December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1748.

They also had the title of "Most Serene Lord" which the Dukes of Bragança had already enjoyed along with that of "Most Serene and Faithful Lord by the Grace of God". Today however, the Dukes of Bragança simply prefer the treatment of "Royal Highnesses". In addition to these Titles, the Dukes of Bragança descending exclusively from "Miguelista" line of King D. Miguel I, have "Sovereign Treatment" as "Titular Kings of Portugal and of the Algarves" and this because these are descendants of a Monarch who never abdicated or relinquished his Regal Rights despite having gone into exile. Although the right to the assets of the former "Morgado" of the House of Bragança has been denied to the Dukes of "Miguelist" line and were applied in the creation of the House of Bragança Foundation (one of the great historical injustices of our times), the independence of the "Morgado" and their Estates, was previously recognized by numerous successive Republican administrations, along with the rights and privileges thereof.

## **A) Title Concessions, Recognition and Regulation**

We know that most Monarchies introduced such honor systems for the purpose of local Feudal administration as well as for the Social Ennoblement in service and in recognition of Merit and Acts of Heroism.

The very term and nature of "Ennoblement" translated to "Charity" and was since its very essence, synonymous with "Service" to the Crown and to others. The Motto of the Nobles of the Royal House of Bragança, created back when it was still a Ducal House, sums up this notion with the words: "Depois de Vós", meaning "After Thee".

It is the Motto today on the Insignia of the "Hereditary Knights and Dames of the Portuguese Royal House". These are members of the Dynastic Orders of the Portuguese Royal House that register with the Royal Honor Guard, the traditional right to have their heirs continue to serve the Portuguese Royal House as members of the Portuguese Royal Orders.

Bestowal of Titles is in fact unique and different to each Country. For example, up until the establishment of the House of Bragança with Saint D. Nuno Álvares Pereira, all Titles and their Feudal lands were property of the Crown and were usually granted in recognition of military victories and exploits and later on for the creation of economic revenue through industry, trade, commerce or in appreciation of personal services rendered.

Since the majority of the Portuguese titles of Nobility were granted for only one lifetime and returned to the Crown following the death of the Titular, it was not guaranteed that the succession of the same would be granted the heir of the deceased unless he or she had already lived up to the former's legacy.

Therefore Titles and Nobility itself could thus be revoked by the Head of the Portuguese Royal House or of the Ducal House of Bragança for reasons such as High Treason. This is the recent case of the Ducal House of Loulé that which has styled itself a "Royal" alternative Head of the Portuguese Royal House having usurped the Grand Mastership of the Dynastic Orders subsequently meriting the revocation of all House Titles, Styles, Privileges and even Nobility, a fact that has been publicly confirmed and heralded by the Portuguese Institute of Nobility.

Since the early days of the Portuguese Monarchy all Titles returned to the Crown but could be given another life, either in the person of a direct descendant or a relative of the former Title holder or else a completely different family, if the King or the Head of the Ducal House of Bragança so wished.

In fact the Titles of the House of Bragança were the first to have been separated from the Crown all together and allowed full independent inheritance and succession by the direct primogenitor male heir.

During the exile of King D. Manuel II in England, the power to regulate the use of Noble Titles in Portugal, as well as to invest Knights in the Dynastic Royal Orders, was exercised exclusively by the King, not in his capacity as former Monarch, but as Sovereign Head of the Royal House of Bragança.

It is interesting to note however, that after the death of King D. Manuel II in 1932, his mother the Dowager Queen Mother D. Amelia de Orleans e Bragança, used her status as former Duchess of Bragança to grant Treatments and bestow Dynastic Orders of the Royal House such as the Royal Order of Our Lady of Conception of Vila Viçosa which she bestowed upon the President of the Republic, Oscar de Fragoso Carmona and on the Priminister António de Oliveira Salazar, amongst others.

The Dowager Queen Mother made these unusual concessions during her visit to Portugal in 1945. Salazar had saved the Queen's Chateau in France from Nazi occupation by declaring it Portuguese Extraterritorial property, flying the Portuguese Republican Flag over it and so following World War II, the Queen came to Portugal for the first time in 1910 to thank him by granting Royal Honors.

D. Amélia however, was never the Grand Mistress of the Order and in fact at the time, the Grand Master was already D. Duarte Nuno, father of D. Duarte Pio, the current Head of the Portuguese Royal House. Some scholars defend that D. Amélia was simply using her prerogative as Duchess of Bragança and not that of Queen.

With the death of King D. Manuel II all Titles, Sovereign Rights and Powers of the Dukes of Bragança and also those rights as Head the Royal House, fell upon the Bragança descendants of King D. Miguel I and were exclusively inherited by D. Duarte Nuno proclaimed Titular King D. Duarte II by the Monarchist Cause, in 1932. These rights were not only recognized to D. Duarte Nuno, Duke of Bragança, by all of the families of the other lines of the House, such as the senior line of the Braganças that abdicated and lived in the United States, but also those Braganças of Brazil and France.

It should be said that even the then head of the Ducal House of Loulé recognized the Duke of Bragança as the titular King. Both the Dowager Queen Mother and the deceased King's widow recognized these rights confirmed by the Government of the Estado Novo who voted unanimously the end of the Banishment Law that was applied since 1834 to all the descendants of King D. Miguel I but was in reality never enforced. The Portuguese Republican Government later ordered the House of Bragança Foundation to restore the São Marcos Estate (a former Convent it owns) to house the Royal Family who lived in a small building in Coimbrões, Gaia.

In 1945, with the support of the Dowager Queen Mother Amelia, the Council of Nobility was created by the Duke of Bragança, D. Duarte Nuno, to exercise the function of recognizing and regulating the use of Nobility, Titles and Coats of Arms in Portugal during the Interregnum. The privilege given to the Council (now replaced by the Institute of Portuguese Nobility) was nothing more than a Courtesy of the Dukes of Bragança to have it serve as the Chancellery for Registration and Regulation of the use of Titles, regulated in truth by the Head of the Portuguese Royal House and Ducal House of Bragança during the Interregnum of the current Republican regime.

Although the Dukes of Bragança have previously allowed for the Council of Nobility and today the Institute to handle the recognition of Titles, the fact is that both D. Duarte Nuno and D. Duarte Pio, have, on occasion, although rarely, personally intervened to recognize Titles or else personally revoke or move the Institute to revoke, Titles and even Nobility as was the recent case of the former Duke of Loulé, Pedro Folque, stripped of all ancestral rights, treatments and privileges for what was considered nothing less than High Treason in usurping the Titles, Treatments and Arms of the Head of the Portuguese Royal House.

Personally, the Head of the House of Bragança has the right to all the Titles of Dukedom of Bragança in use since 1442 including "Duke of Guimarães" (since 1470), "Duke of Barcelos" (since 1562), "Marquis of Vila Viçosa" (since 1445), "Count of Ourém" (since 1385), "Count of Arraiolos" (since 1371), "Count of Neiva" (since 1401), "Count of Faria" (since 1401), "Count of Barcelos" (since 1385), "Count of Guimarães" (since 1463) and the "Lordships" of 22 Lands with the hereditary "Mayorships" of 17 Municipalities.



The Duke of Bragança is also entitled to the Title of "Grand Master of the Orders of Our Lady of Conception of Vila Viçosa and Saint Isabel" and the Title of "Hereditary Grand Master of the Order of Saint Michael of the Wing".

It should be noted that it was His Royal Highness D. Duarte Pio, Duke of Bragança, who rehabilitated the Titles of "Duke of Viseu" and "Duke of Coimbra" for his brothers D. Miguel and D. Henrique and later "Duke of Porto" for his son D. Afonso, Prince of Beira.

According to the late Prof. Peter Bander Van Duren who together with the Vatican Archbishop Iginio Cardinale had been entrusted by Pope John Paul II to prepare a study on the Orders and their relationship with the Holy See, "the Kings of Portugal, as well as the Dukes of Bragança, always recognized "Nihil Obstat" the use of foreign Titles of Nobility, conferred by foreign Monarchs or Heads of non reigning foreign Royal Houses.

Several foreign Titles were recognized in this way by Kings; D. Luís I, D. Carlos I and D. Manuel II as well as by the Dukes of Bragança; D. Duarte Nuno and D. Duarte Pio as is the case of the Titles given to Portuguese subjects during the visits of the Kings of England, Italy and Spain and during the visit of Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany. These Titles however, remain foreign and are given "Courtesy" recognition and thus do not become "Reborn Portuguese Titles" unless they are complemented specifically in that way as was the case of the titles of the "Duke of Wellington" who was also made "Duke of the Victory in Portugal".

In the 19<sup>th</sup> Century for example, many Titles were created for personal services rendered and even favors. For example, the first Baron of Alvaíázrw who was made Surgeon General of Portugal was granted his Title for successfully treating the Royal Family of their ailments and delivering the Royal Princes; D. Pedro and D. Miguel.

Indeed it is not entirely unheard of that former reigning European Monarchs continued to grant and bestow Titles and honors, in Exile, and even create new Orders and Honors Systems, Councils and Governments in Exile for the future Regulation and Registration of their concessions and those of their heirs.

At times these Grants seemed contradictory to what was traditional during the Monarchy or even exaggerated for the time and or meriting the circumstance and sometimes to a scandalous extent in a critical comparison of Grants.

Some believe that titles bestowed by deposed or non-reigning Monarchs and especially in a Style that was not traditional during their Reign, should be considered "Titles in Waiting", that only become effective once the Monarch's system in his Country is restored. For this reason the Institute of Portuguese Nobility only recognizes Portuguese Titles granted up until the Proclamation of the Republic in 1910 and does not Register or Regulate any of the Titles granted by King D. Manuel II in exile or his Successors.

Former Brazillian Emperor D. Pedro I was harshly criticized, in Brazil and abroad, for creating so many Titles and bestowing so many Orders, both in Brazil and Portugal, to loyalists for favors rendered during the Liberal War waged against his brother the Absolutist King D. Miguel I.

Some experts argue that D. Pedro, also known as King D. Pedro IV of Portugal, should in fact not have granted Titles, since they were granted in Brazil with lands of the Portuguese Kingdom when he was clearly never crowned King of Portugal.

There were in fact so many titles granted at that time that one contemporary writer, Almeida Garrett, wrote: "*Foge Cão que te fazem Barão. Para onde se me fazem Visconde?*" (Run dog or they will make you a Baron. But to where shall I run, if they will make me a Viscount?).

Later on in defending the validity of the Concessions of the would be King and former Emperor of Brazil, Joaquim António de Aguiar, the Prime Minister of D. Pedro's daughter, Queen D. Maria II, argued that the ex-Emperor had granted these concessions "not as Emperor or King but as Duke of Bragança."

D. Pedro's brother D. Miguel whilst King in Exile, also granted Titles and bestowed Orders for loyalty and as payment of personal favors in manners that did not always respect the *Code of Posture and Chivalry* that was then the law governing Nobility.

The Titles, Arms and Decorations given to the Count of Queluz, are the best example of this since the Concession Grants themselves read that *such Privileges and Grants are without precedence and should never again be bestowed in this form and manner*. These acts did not go without protest and even resignation of Members from some of the Major Orders of the time that were bestowed to the Count at the highest level.

Already living in Exile in London England, D. Manuel II, last King of Portugal, bestowed dozens of Titles and Conferred Orders, as have his Dynastic and Family Heirs including his mother the Dowager Queen D. Amélia de Orleans who also granted *Courtesy Recognition* to certain foreign Titles bestowed upon Portuguese.

As with Orders of Chivalry, for Portuguese Nobles to freely use foreign Titles in Court required permission but also a *New Grant* or Rebirth. This meant the Title could be given by the King as a nationalized Concession of the Title originally granted by a foreign Potentate. This is something completely different from *Recognition* and although sometimes foreign Titles were referred to in *Grants of Arms* and other Letters Patent, as being "*Recognized*", this did not entail anything more than a "*Courtesy Recognition*" for nationals or foreigners, since these Titles are not part of the Portuguese Royal Honors System. So in essence a "New Grant" on a foreign Title is just that, giving the Title Holder in fact two exact same Titles; one foreign and one Portuguese.

Foreign citizens may present non-European Titles in European Monarchist circles and receive a "*Courtesy Recognition*", but European citizens who are recipients of non-European titles must never present these titles in their own national, European, Monarchist circles for accreditation, as they will most certainly be frowned upon for causing a "*Conflict of Sovereignty*".

This means that an African may present an African Title for *Courtesy Recognition* when visiting Portuguese Monarchist circles for example, but that a Portuguese recipient of such non-European Titles should never use or present the same in Portugal without clearly identifying its origin as otherwise it may cause confusion.

## **B) The bestowal of the Titles of "Dom", "Parente" and "Sobrinho"**

One of special Treatments in use in Portugal over the centuries is the Title of "Dom" or "Dona.", which has always been a personal gift of Kings and of the Dukes of Bragança to honor Nobles and Servants of the most distinguished House.

Another honor is that of "Parente" (relative) or "Sobrinho" (nephew) which was first granted in 1648 to the Duke of Cadaval who is descended from the 3rd Duke of Braganza and who was made the Head of the "Pereira Family" as Representative of the Arms of D. Nuno Álvares Pereira.

Later, in 1718, this honor was also given to the Duke of Lafões on the day of his Baptism. This Treatment of "Parente" sometimes included the Right to use several Armorial Elements similar to those of an "Infante" (Prince) or "Grandee of the Realm", a comparable Privilege to the Grant of "Godchild" which entitles one to use Royal Mantling of animal skin on a Shield the the Treatment of "Excellency" or "Serene Highness" as is still given by some foreign Monarchies, especially African ones along with the Treatment of "Honorary Member of the Family" at times bestowed with the Right to use the name of the Royal Family, as is the case of the Privilege conferred by Royal and Imperial African Houses and Asian Houses.

Although the concession of these Titles in Portugal has somewhat fallen into disuse since 1910, the fact is that both the King D. Manuel II and his Heirs, as the Sovereign Heads of the Royal House and of the Ducal House of Bragança, have, on occasion, conferred the Title of "Dom" to several loyal Servants.

Quite often however, some European Knights, but mostly North Americans members of the Royal Dynastic Portuguese Orders, wrongly style themselves "Dom", "D." or even "Sir", thinking it rightful to use the same unique Treatment that some English Knights have and which like "Dom" is a Title conferred personally by the British Monarch. It is however somewhat comparable to the designation of "Dom" when given as a Treatment that was usually not hereditary and belonged only to the first holder of a Minor Noble Title such as that of a Baron or a Count, and that not all Title holders had the right to use it since It was only given as a distinct Title by the Kings or the Dukes of Bragança.

Nobles and Ladies also had the same Treatment as was given to a "Dona" which nowadays is no different than the Courtesy Treatment that has evolved toward all ladies from the nineteenth century onward. In Spain and certain parts of Portugal for example the Title and use of a "Grant Title" of "Dom" is now often confused with the social Treatment "don", an equivalent to the English "Mister".

When Minor Nobility is given the Title of "Dom" or "Don" in some Countries such as Portugal or Spain they often became "Hereditary Knights" and were treated in various documents as "Beloved", a distinction that was synonymous of great loyalty to the Crown. A trace of this ancient relationship of fidelity that was common place in the House of Bragança is still seen in the Protocol of the English Barons to whom is reserved the address of "Beloved" for "Viscounts and Earls", "Beloved Cousin" or "Most Beloved Cousin" for Marquis and Dukes and "Cousin"; amongst all foreign Royals and Dukes.

Also granted by the Kings and Dukes of Bragança were the Titles of "Beloved Councilor" or "Esteemed Advisor".

### **C) Foros**

The Kings of Portugal and the Dukes of Bragança also conferred so-called "Foros" that complemented certain Titles of Nobility.

These Foros were the following Title Grants of: "Fidalgo Cavaleiro da Casa Real" meaning Noble Knight of the Royal House, "Fidalgo Escudeiro" meaning Noble Squire of the Royal House, "Moço Fidalgo" meaning Younger Nobleman of the Royal House, "Cavaleiro Fidalgo" meaning Knight Nobleman of the Royal House, "Escudeiro Fidalgo" meaning Squire Nobleman of the Royal House, "Moço da Câmara" meaning Younger Nobleman of the Chamber of the Royal House and finally, "Fidalgo de Cota de Armas" literally meaning a "Nobleman with Chainmail". Although the granting of the Title "Fidalgo de Cota de Armas" was still common until 1910, the Granting of most of the Foros have fallen into disuse after 1896, with only the first three Titles or designations commonly used after that along with "Moço" or Page (Borne by Noble Children serving in the Court) who at 20 years were made Squires and then Knights.

During the Middle Ages Squires were literally armed the "Fidalgos" on the Battlefield and then constituted part of the military host of the National Royal Army or that of the State of the House of Bragança.

According to several sources of the nineteenth century (Portuguese, English and Italian), cited in the publications of the late Prof. Dr. Peter Bander van Duren, these last three "Foros", though now obsolete, were "automatically granted", as compliment to the higher degrees given to those who were traditionally awarded the Royal Dynastic Order of Our Lady of Conception of Vila Viçosa and made membership transmissible to their sons.

In the same Order Primate of the Royal House, according to some authors, such Concessions also conferred, "Minor Nobility" or "Personal Nobility" to Commanders and Grand Officers (Commanders with Star) and later on "Hereditary Nobility" to the recipients of the Grand Cross who were or became Portuguese Nationals.

#### **D) Knights and Dames of the House of Bragança or of the Portuguese Royal House**

Today, after the ancient Chivalric Military Orders were reduced to Honorary Orders of Merit in 1834, by Queen Maria I, all Investitures are honorary or decorative, whether conferred by the Chancellery of the Dynastic Orders of the Portuguese Royal House (Duke of Bragança) or by the Chancellery of Orders of the Republican State (President).

As we all know all Investitures are in fact honorary and so the designation of "Honorary Knight" may or may not be used when granting Knighthoods to Portuguese nationals, but today is usually only applied to identify grants to foreigners decorated for services rendered to the Royal House or the Nation and exempt from some of the obligations of "Effective Members".

In the past, "Professed Knights" were those "Monastic Warriors", who had an active participation both in battles and in the religious activities of the Order. "Honorary Knights" were those that either did not profess the same rules of the Religious Military Order or who were foreigners that helped the Order fighting in battle and were often members of other Orders. This is the case of D. Nuno Álvares Pereira who was an Honorary Knight of several Portuguese Orders but a Professed Prior of the Hospitillar Order of Saint John (Order of Malta).

D. Nuno in fact had been dubbed a Knight of the Portuguese Royal House whilst serving as a Page in Court. He was not Knighted by the King however, but rather by the Queen D. Leonor for at a time Kings, Queens, Princes, Prelates and the Dukes of Bragança, could Dub Knights without Investiture of Religious Habit (a Cape or Mantle) and thus essentially gave them the right to bear Arms (Weapons) and defend the Country, protect the poor, the widows and oppressed.

The "Squires", "Knights" or "Dames" of the House of Bragança, today called "Knights and Dames of the Portuguese Royal House" on account of the fact that there is no other Royal House in Portugal than that of Bragança, like the Knights and Dames of the Dynastic Royal Orders or of the Royal House, could be treated by those same Titles which distinguished the territorial administration, grades or ranks of the ancient Military set up of; "Knights", "Commanders" and "Grand Officers" who are still treated by the Style "Senhor Comendador" meaning "Lord Commander."

If one is impeded due to the Religious Canonical Norms of various Orders from becoming a member of what are now the Canonically Erected Catholic Dynastic Orders, either because he or she is not a Roman Catholic or a practicing Roman Catholic in good standing (ie. divorced from a Catholic Marriage and remarried civilly without an Annulment, Excommunicated or Suspended for belonging to unapproved, militant anti-catholic or esoteric organization), then one can become simply a Knight or Dame of the Portuguese Royal House or be awarded the Cross of Merit by *Motu Proprio* bestowal with complimentary Knighthood in one of the traditional Chivalric Ranks.

Since traditionally only a Reigning Sovereign can Dub or Arm Knights by the touching of the "Sword of the State" to the shoulders, since 1910, neither the exiled King of Portugal D. Manuel II nor the Dukes of Bragança His successors, have carried out such a ritual although in principle they could as Sovereigns of the Bragança State.

The Gold Sword of King D. Miguel I or of Saint Nuno is however sometimes present at Investiture Ceremonies, although H.R.H. the Duke of Bragança may hold them but does not use them for Dubbing.

#### **E) Hereditary Knights and Dames of the Portuguese Royal House or Knights of the Crown**

The creation of Knights has always been the prerogatives of the Kings of Iberia and of the Dukes of Bragança since 1403. The Right to invest Knights, in any rank, and independent from any State or Dynastic Orders and also to raise an Army and personal Guard, were privileges that the Ducal House of Bragança already had long before they became Kings of Portugal in 1640 and some of which the Head of the Royal House continues to maintain to this present day despite the Proclamation of the Portuguese Republic in 1910.

As is the case in many other Orders of Chivalry, the Minor and Personal Nobility conferred through the bestowal of Knighthood upon an individual by the Duke of Bragança, either *Motu Proprio* as a Knight or Dame of the Portuguese Royal House or by Investiture in the Dynastic Orders of Our Lady of Conception of Vila Viçosa, Saint Michael of the Wing or Queen Saint Isabel, today Canonically Erected in various Dioceses as Associations of the Faith, is non transmissible, but in keeping with the tradition in the former Monastic Military Orders, today, Knighthoods may become Hereditary if the express wish of the Knight or Dame is accepted by the Sovereign Head of the Royal House and registered with the Chancellery of the Royal Honor Guard. This Knight or Dame is then granted the designation of *Hereditary Knight or Hereditary Dame of the Portuguese Royal House* and may use a badge that heralds this registration.

Although Knighthoods were granted in many parts of Europe, "Hereditary Knighthoods" were only to be commonly found in the Kingdoms of Spain, Portugal, Hungary and in Sardinia, where it was introduced in 1323 under the Aragonese (Spanish) domination. Knights were Invested during a solemn ceremony where they received not a sword, as other Knights did, but rather a scabbard and a sword belt.

Today such a privilege is usually only granted upon those in proven, continued, dedicated service to the Portuguese Royal House who normally have already been awarded the highest ranks of Knighthood in one of the Dynastic Orders or else as a gift granted directly from the Duke of Bragança *Motu Proprio* in recognition of extraordinary services rendered.

The designation of "*Hereditary Knight of the Portuguese Royal House*" or "*Hereditary Dame of the Portuguese Royal House*" should not be confused with the *Foros of the Portuguese Royal House* which were normally presented to the Noble Pages and Members of Nobility in Attendance in the Royal and Ducal Courts up until 1910 and which according to Dr. Peter Bander Van Duren, are only automatically bestowed upon all those who receive the rank of Knight Commander with Star (Grand Officer) or Knight Grand Cross ranks in the Dynastic Order of Our Lady of Conception of Vila Viçosa.

All Knights and Dames of the Portuguese Royal House and Hereditary Knights and Dames of the Portuguese Royal House, as a body come under the jurisdiction of the Royal Honor Guard (Real Associação de Guardas de Honra) and are Registered as such in the Official Roster in accordance with the Statutes of August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2006. These are in fact the only ranks of Chivalry allowed in the Royal Honor Guard Organization as a Dynastic and Royal prerogative.

With regards to the Hereditary Knights or Dames of the Portuguese Royal House, the Registered desire of Succession, primarily falls upon the Primogenitor, however can be Willed to another family member or designated heir, so long as this desire is registered with the Chancellery and entered into the Membership Roster of the Knights and Dames maintained by the Royal Honor Guard. The Chancellery should be kept up to date of any changes made by the member in this regards.

Also in keeping with ancient tradition and in accordance with the Statutes, the Registered desire of Hereditary Succession is a *Perpetual Membership* in the *Hereditary Knights and Dames of the Portuguese Royal House* body and the designated title only granted by Letter Patent after the Petition is approved and a onetime Membership Fee is received by a designated Catholic Royal Charity.

As in all organizations, the registered desire of Succession of the heir of a Knight or Dame of the Portuguese Royal House or of a Dynastic Royal Order(s) must comply with the Statutes and Norms for admission and bestowal of Knighthood, namely the contribution of Passage Fees and Dues, and the minimum age requirement. Heirs are exempted from the necessity to have two sponsors who are already members or to have to complete a time of Postulancy or stipulated waiting period.

"Hereditary Knights and Dames of the Portuguese Royal House" may present themselves and be afforded treatment as such and both their designated heirs and children may attend all functions and are entitled to be Royal Honor Guards, exempt of Passage Fee, if they meet with the minimum age requirements and contribute with Yearly Dues.

"Hereditary Knights and Dames of the Portuguese Royal House" once registered are provided exclusive Membership Insignia (Neck Medallion on rope for Portuguese & Spanish Knights and ribbon for all honorary knights) and a lapel Pin (Miniature) which can have the engraved Family Name and Registration Number on the back. Members must pay for a replacement set in the event it is lost, damaged or stolen. The Insignia can be worn on its own at all functions or together with the Insignia of the Portuguese Dynastic Orders.

Donations received from the Knights and Dames of the Portuguese Royal House help the Royal Charities actively supporting organizations operating in impoverished locations in Portugal and also in the Diocesan Missions of former Portuguese Oversea Territories such as São Tomé e Príncipe, Angola, Mozambique and East Timor. They also help support various cultural and historic projects in Portugal. The ancient Rights and Social Status of traditional Hereditary Knights were in many ways similar to the Italian "Baronetti" and the English "Baronettes", although there is a considerable difference between the "Knight" designated to be "Hereditary" and the "Hereditary Baronetage" who is born a Noble.

## **F) Concession of Knighthoods in the Dynastic and Chivalric Orders of Merit**

Upon establishment of the Republic, there was a clear separation of property, with regard to the former Portuguese Military Orders. Those that belonged to the Crown passed to the State, with the President becoming the Grand Master of the reconstituted ancient Military Orders, and those that were considered Private and Dynastic Honors bestowed by the Monarch or the Dukes of Bragança continued to be bestowed by the Royal and Ducal House of Bragança as the Royal House of Portugal.

In a desire to maintain the ancient custom of literally Investing Professed Knights in the Portuguese Dynastic Royal Orders who actually take a vow and are robed with a Religious Chapel Habit (a Cape or Mantle), the current Duke of Bragança, D. Duarte Pio, in recent years, has allowed for the Canonical Erection of the Portuguese Royal Dynastic Orders as "Associations of the Faithful" of the Roman Catholic Church.

In this way, the Statutes of the two Dynastic former "Military" Orders created by King D. João VI, namely Our Lady of Conception of Vila Viçosa and Saint Isabel are now respectively approved by the Cardinal Patriarch of Lisbon for the Archdiocese and by the Bishop of the Diocese of Coimbra where the incorrupt body of the Holy Queen is venerated.

As for the ancient Military and Monastic Order of Saint Michael of the Wing (of Cistercian Obedience) this has been Canonically Erected in several Dioceses as a "Royal Brotherhood" of the Order of Saint Michael of the Wing. These Brotherhoods under the Patronage of the Portuguese Royal House form an "International Federation of Royal Brotherhoods of the Order of Saint Michael of the Wing" (RISMA) with the Archdiocese of Santiago de Compostela at the head given the tradition of the Order having been founded with Knights of the Order of Saint James from Aragon.

The Order also has a Religious Monastic Arm located at the Cistercian Monastery of Santa Maria de Oseira in Galicia, Spain, which was the second of the two former Obediences, the first one having been Alcobaça, Portugal. The Monastery of Oseira that received many the Monks of Alcobaça that were exiled from Portugal in 1834, still displays the sculpted Coat of Arms of the Order of Saint Michael of the Wing on its renaissance façade and in the decor of the famous Library. The Abbot of Oseira is today the "Honorary Grand Prior" of the Order and all of the Monks "Honorary Knights".

By privilege of His Royal Highness the Duke of Bragança, Knighthoods can now be conferred in the traditional Ranks of Chivalry simultaneously to "Professed" (Catholic) and "Honorary" Brothers and Sisters of the Royal Brotherhood upon Investiture, but this only if the Bishops so desires and if the RISMA Statutes permit "Honorary" Members.

Although D. Duarte is still regarded as the Grand Master of the Orders of Our Lady of Conception of Vila Viçosa and Saint Michael of the Wing and Dona Isabel the Grand Mistress of the Order of Saint Isabel (as of the Royal Wedding on May 13<sup>th</sup> 1995), the religious jurisdiction over the Canonically Erected Associations belongs to the Bishops and is exercised by the elected Council governed by the Judge.

The Dukes of Bragança as Grand Masters of the Portuguese Dynastic Orders are in fact who actually dub Knights and also have the power to revoke Concessions, to promote or to change Knights and Dames from one Order to another.

In recent times for example, ladies who in the 1980s and 1990s had been "temporarily" made "Dames of the Order of Our Lady of Concession of Vila Viçosa", an Order traditionally conferred only on men, were later transferred and made "Dames of the Order of Saint Isabel" after it was reactivated and Canonically Erected in Coimbra.

Likewise, after the Canonical Erection of the Order of Saint Michael of the Wing, at the various Prelate's request, all atheist, agnostic and Knights of the Mormon belief that had previously been invested in the Order through the Royal Brotherhood by the former Grand Chancellor D. Miguel and the former Bishop of the Diocese of São Tome e Príncipe D. Abílio Ribas were made instead "Knights and Dames of the Portuguese Royal House" with no attachment any longer to the Catholic founded Royal Orders or Brotherhoods.

Brothers of the Protestant Churches and Church of England and also of the Orthodox and Coptic Faith or those Religions whose Sacraments are recognized by the Roman Catholic Church were allowed to maintain their status.

Today however, some Royal Brotherhoods permit non-Catholics as "Honorary Brothers" but these are not allowed to wear the Chapel Habit (a Cape or Mantle) of the Order, although they can wear the Insignia. These "Honorary" Members can instead wear the Cape of a Knight or Dame of the Portuguese Royal House.

#### **The Royal Order of Our Lady of Conception of Vila Viçosa**

The first and foremost Royal Dynastic Order is that of Our Lady of Conception of Vila Viçosa, founded in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 1818 by King D. João VI, to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary as Queen and Patroness of Portugal, a Title She held since the Coronation by King D. João IV on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 1646.

The Order has the ranks of Knight Grand Cross, Knight Commander with Star (Grand Officer), Knight Commander and Knight. The Order also has a Medal of Merit.

Membership in the Order cannot be solicited. Members are invited as the Order is only bestowed for outstanding or continued services to the Portuguese Royal House over decades. In accordance with a Protocol Agreement celebrated between the Royal House and the Oureana Foundation in 1995 (today no longer in effect) and later with the Archdioceses of Lisbon and Santiago de Compostela, the Cardinal Patriarch of Lisbon and the Archbishop of Santiago de Compostela can nominate candidates for the Royal Order of Our Lady of Conception of Vila Viçosa as "Honorary Members" in the traditional Ranks of Chivalry, in recognition for the contribution of Major Benefactors to Cultural Projects under the Patronage of the Portuguese Royal House and of the D. Manuel II Foundation.

Cases have included the recent sponsorship of the recreated sterling silver Lamps of the tomb of Saint James given by the Kings of Portugal to the Cathedral of Santiago in centuries past and melted down by Napoleon's troops in the early 1800s.

Although in the past the Order of Our Lady of Conception of Vila Viçosa was awarded to several women on a "temporary" basis pending the revival of the Order of Saint Isabel in 1995, under the Grand Mistresses, the Duchess of Bragança H.R.H. D. Isabel de Herédia e Bragança, the Order of Our Lady of Conception of Vila Viçosa is only for men. All "Honorary Members" who are foreign recipients may wear the Insignia but only "Portuguese Professed and Effective Members of the Order" may wear the Religious Chapel Habit (a Cape or Mantle) and attend the yearly functions, celebrations and gatherings of the Order.

The Insignia of the Order was designed by Jean Baptiste Debret in 1818.



### **The Royal Order of Queen Saint Isabel**

The second Order of the Portuguese Royal House is that of Queen Saint Isabel instituted by D. João VI as Regent in honor of his wife Queen D. Carlota Joaquina and this on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 1801, confirmed on April 25<sup>th</sup> 1804. It is conferred to women and only in one rank, namely that of "Dame Grand Cross".

The Insignia of the Order was also designed by Jean Baptiste Debret.

### **The Royal Order of Saint Michael of the Wing**

The third Order which after 1847 became exclusive to the "Titular Kings of Portugal and of the Algarves" of the Miguelist line of the Royal House of Bragança (descendants of King D. Miguel I) is actually the first and oldest Military Order of Portuguese foundation, namely the Order of Saint Michael of the Wing.

It was founded by the first King of Portugal D. Afonso Henriques in 1147, approved by Pope Alexander III and reformulated by King D. Miguel I as a Papal Ward during his second exile in the Vatican beginning in 1834.

D. Miguel who had revived the ancient *Monastic Military Order of Saint Michael of the Wing* shortly after his Acclamation later on, in 1848, reformed it again, as a "Military and Secret Order" having granted it new Statutes printed in Brambach, in 1859.

The Order also has a Medal of Merit and in 2016 instituted the Medal of Saint Michael, Angel of Portugal and of Peace commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Apparitions of the Archangel at Fatima, Portugal in the years 1916 and 1917 and limited to 100 concessions in 2016 and 100 concessions in 2017, conferred in the Grades of Gold, Silver and Bronze.

## **G) Other Honor and Award Systems**

Knights and Dames of the Portuguese Royal House may also received these Grants as "Honor Conferrals" in one or more of the established Award Systems.

### **The Cross of Merit of the Portuguese Royal House**

Several foreign Orders have in fact organized a similar award system within their Orders and identified it as an "Order of Merit" of the original Order. Such is the case of the Orders of Merits of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta and the Order of Merit of the Royal House of Savoy.

Formerly called the "Cruz De Mérito Da Causa Monárquica", and unofficially known as the "Ordem de Mérito", "Ordem de Mérito da Causa Monárquica", "Ordem do Mérito e Distinção" or "Ordem de Mérito da Casa Real", the Cross of Merit was formerly instituted as the "Cross of Merit of the Portuguese Royalist Cause" also known as "Ordem do Mérito da Causa Monárquica" (Order of Merit of the Monarchist Cause).

The Cross of Merit of the Monarchist Cause, as it was originally called, was instituted by Decree of April 12th, 1993 of H.R.H. the Duke of Bragança, D. Duarte Pio, for recognition of extraordinary services rendered to the Portuguese Monarchist Cause and for outstanding Merit in the Monarchist Cause demonstrated between 1973 and 1993.

It was first bestowed in 1993, in following grades: Cross, Star, Sash and Collar. It also conferred the following Class of Medals of "Dedication to the Monarchist Cause", "Youth Medal of Dedication to the Monarchist Cause" and "Youth Medal of Fidelity", now suppressed.

The Medal instituted as the "Cross of Merit of the Portuguese Royal House" also grants now the Dukes of Bragança the possibility to bestow equivalent complimentary rank Insignia for the traditional Ranks of Chivalry of the Knights and Dames of the Portuguese Royal House. These are "Medal of Merit = Knight", "Silver Star of Merit = Knight Commander", "Gold Star of Merit = Knight Grand Officer", "Sash of Merit = Knight Grand Cross" or "Collar of Merit = Knight Grand Collar". Now attached to this Award are also the "Medal of Merit" and "Medal of Merit for Youth".

By Decree of H.R.H. the Duke of Bragança, the Cross of Merit was later reformulated to include the grades of "Gold Star" and a second Collar known as the "Grand Collar" and reserved exclusively for use by the Grand Master and the Chancellery.

The award may be conferred to both men and women alike and admission is processed by the Chancellery with the Roster maintained by the Secretariat.

### **The Real Effigy Medal and the Medal of Fidelity to the King**

Apart from the Medals of Merit of the Orders of Our Lady of Conception of Vila Viçosa and of Saint Michael of the Wing, the Head of the Ducal House of Bragança of the Miguelist line also bestowed a Medal known as the "Royal Effigy of D. Miguel I" and the "Medal of Fidelity to the King and Country" both instituted after the Vilafrancada uprising led by then Prince D. Miguel in an attempt to restore the absolutist powers to his father King D. João VI.

Since the skirmish only managed to raise the dust and ended with the young Prince's first Exile in the Vatican, the award given to the loyal absolutist revolutionaries by the King became popularly known as the "Medalha da Poeira" or Dust Medal. The popular name indicated that after the dust had settled the movement had not managed to revoke the Constitution and restore Absolute powers to the King who none the less was grateful for their sacrifice and dedication.

### **Ordem de D. Miguel I Medal**

D. Miguel during his first Exile in the Vatican as Ward of the Pope also instituted a medal known as *Order of Dom Miguel*, later known as "*Ordem de Dom Miguel I*" which was an adaptation of an earlier *Medal of Loyalty* to King John VI or another version of the "Medalha da Poeira".

Unlike the previous, this Medal can still be conferred by the Head of the Portuguese Royal House for special services in Memory of the King of Portugal D. Miguel I.

### **H) Grants of Arms and Recognition of Arms**

In Heraldry, the Dukes of Braganza who have their own Coats of Arms since the 1400s surmounted by the Ducal Coronet or any one of the other Coronets that they are entitled to as Dukes, Marquis and Counts, as Heads of the Royal Household, also have the exclusive right to bear the Royal Shield as the Royal Family Blazon and this on a red field called the "Royal Pavillion".

It is primarily the same National Escutcheon of Portugal only surmounted by the Royal Crown and this because it was originally the Royal Family's and not the nation's, having been adopted by the Republican State as the national flag after 1910 but without the Crown.

Although it was the King that Granted Arms to Nobles through the Royal Herald or Garter King of Arms, the Dukes of Bragança could also bestow "Grants of Arms" to the Nobles and Knights of Portuguese Orders as well as Augmentations and Supporters.

Today it is the Duke of Bragança as Head of the Portuguese Royal House that regulates the use of ancestral Portuguese Noble Coat of Arms, first through the Council of Nobility and today through the Institute of Portuguese Nobility.

"Grants of Reconfirmation of Coats of Arms" (whether personal or family), for people who have inherited or received them from foreign Royal Houses, have also been granted on occasion by both Kings and Dukes of Bragança. In the past this was done through the Chancellery or the Heraldic Council of the Federation of Royal Brotherhoods of the Order of Saint Michael of the Wing.

Recognition of the use of ancestral Arms by Portuguese and Brazilian Nobles of Portuguese descent is usually handled by the Institute of Nobility of Portugal although the Brazilian Institute of Nobility established by the Imperial Crown Prince D. Luís de Orleans e Bragança, as Head of the Brazilian Imperial Royal House, also handles such cases.

Both the Duke of Bragança and his cousin the Imperial Prince of Brazil, sometimes take it upon themselves to personally Grant "Recognitions of Arms" *Motu Proprio* and some of which still allow the foreign Nobles to establish "Family Pacts" in a foreign practice to regulate the sharing of Titles and Coats of Arms of a particular House.

In accordance with tradition, all Knights and Dames of the Portuguese Royal House bearing ancestral, personal or hereditary legitimate Grants of Arms, may have the Insignia of the Portuguese Dynastic Orders, incorporated under the blazon.

Hereditary Knights and Dames may include the corresponding symbols and augmentations, once approved by the Heraldic Council and designed by the Heraldic Artist.

Foreign non-European Arms, once certified, may only be registered in the Prester John Institute Armorial Roster of the Prester John Institute of which the Duke of Bragança is currently the Head and Regent in his hereditary Title of Grand Liurai of Portugal in East Timor.

Some Arms have already been registered in the English Armorial Register based in the United Kingdom, although the Portuguese Royal House does not permit registration or membership of its members in Noble, Genealogical and Chivalric organizations that are not approved by CILANE.

### **I) Real Guarda de Honra or Royal Honor Guard of the Portuguese Royal House**

The Dukes of Bragança, as one of the most privileged Nobles of all Iberian Houses due to the fact that they were ten times descended from the Kings of Portugal, by the 15<sup>th</sup> Century already had the right to raise a private Army which over time became larger than that of the State.

The Dukes of Bragança also maintained, since the 16<sup>th</sup> Century, an armed body of soldiers that formed a "Praetorian Guard" known as the "Guarda Tudesca" since they were actually all of German nationality or later descent.

These Guards were also the trusted "Gentlemen in Waiting" to the Duke of Bragança, an Honor Guard with privileges bestowed of Hereditary Nobility as Moços, Fidalgos and Cavaleiros da Casa Real but without any connection to the Crown, State, Knighthoods or other Dynastic House Orders of later creation.

So loyal and trustworthy were these German Guards of the Ducal House of Bragança that they were also recruited and nominated "Albardeiros" or "Yeomen of the Royal Guard", an elite Military Corp of Archeiros (Archers) created the by King D. Sebastião which were maintained by the Cardinal King D. Henrique and later by the Phillips of Hapsburg as Kings of Portugal.

The name of D. Francisco Sousa is one that comes down to us as Commander of Borba da Montanha and Captain of the Guarda Tudesca of the Duke of Bragança and of the Albardeiros during the reign of Kings D. Henrique and D. Filipe I.

It is worthy of mention that King D. Filipe II actually left the Kingdom of Portugal in the hands of Viceroy Alberto Cardinal, Grand Archer of the German Guard, today known as the Royal Halberdiers.

This tradition of this ancient Royal Honor Guard lives on in the Royal Honor Guard of the Portuguese Royal House, an association that besides providing the usual Ceremonial Memorial and Funerary Guard Service at the Tombs of the deceased Portuguese Kings, Queens and National Heroes, (similar to the service that the Istituto Nazionale della Guardia de Onore del Pantheon of Rome provides), are also privileged to be part of the selected Corps of "Gentlemen in Waiting to the Royal House of Bragança", with duties that include the bearing of the Royal Insignia, Royal Standards, the Royal Sword, as well as being Custodians to Religious Images and Relics, Guards during Royal Visits, Processions, Masses, Investitures, Pilgrimages, Audiences, Conferences and Memorial or Funeral Services and providing a Royal Honor Guard for the Most Blessed Sacrament.

#### **J) Royal Patronage**

"Royal Patronage" unlike the designation of "By Appointment to the Royal House of Bragança" or "Suppliers to the Portuguese Royal House" granted by the Head or Members of the Royal and Ducal House to products or services of renowned excellence and quality, entails the "Ennoblement of an organization of Civil or Religious character" either through a Decree known as an "Alvara" (Grant) or through the accepted Active Membership or Honorary Membership and or Presidency by the Head of the Portuguese Royal House, either as reigning King and Queen or else as Duke or Duchess of Bragança.

Such Grants allow to the organization to style itself "Royal", a distinction that despite being in a Republic, the Portuguese Patent and Registration Services allow but only with a Letter of Authorization from the Duke of Bragança.

In the past, the current Duke of Bragança was quick to publicly clarify that "Honorary or Effective Membership or Patronage" granted by any other member of the Portuguese Royal House, other than its Head, does not confer the title of "Royal" to an organization and that, apart from the Head of the Royal Family, his or her Consort and Children, no other member of the Royal Family may use the Style of "Royal Highness". Instead they may use "Highness" being that the designation "Royal" ceases for all Royal Children in the Royal Family upon the elevation of a new Head of the Royal Family and constitution of a new Royal and Ducal Family following the death of the former.

In keeping with this tradition, the current Duke of Bragança's brothers ceased to be "Royal Highnesses" and became "Highnesses" following the birth of His Royal Highness the Crown Prince D. Afonso.

The "Royal" status conferred upon various organizations grant the same permission to surmount their arms with the Royal Crown or to have the Royal Pavilion illustrated next to it. It also allows for the Royal Flag to fly alongside that of the organization. Lastly, it permits the Head of the organization, as President or Judge, to bear the Royal Insignia, when representing the Sovereign Patron at official functions where the Patron is unable to attend.

Worthy of note is the story of Maria Chrysostomo da Silveira from Oakland, California, USA a member of the "Sociedade Portuguesa da Rainha Santa Isabel" (Portuguese Society of Queen Saint Isabel), who during a celebration held in 1910 shortly before the Republican Revolution, was privileged to wear a Royal Tiara and Ermine Robe, sent to the United States for use by this Commoner on the special occasion when Queen D. Amélia accepted to be Honorary President of the Society by Proxy.

### **CONCLUSION**

In 2006, in an unprecedented stand, the Department of Legal Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Portugal issued a "Declaration of Recognition" of D. Duarte Pio as the legitimate heir to the Portuguese Royal House and Throne by virtue of the "historical recognition and tradition of the Portuguese people"; the "customary rules of dynastic succession"; and the "tacit recognition of other Royal Houses of Europe and the World with which the legitimate House of Bragança shares ties of consanguinity."

In that same document, the Portuguese government confirms that "on occasion it has given D. Duarte Pio, representative, political, historical and diplomatic status and that in fact the Dukes of Bragança are often sent to represent the Portuguese people in cultural, humanitarian or religious events abroad, with the conferral of a diplomatic passport."

The document confirms however that the State does not pay any remuneration to D. Duarte Pio or financial support to fund the services provided by H.R.H. on behalf of Portugal.

This essay shows how thanks to the Dukes of Bragança and Counts of Ourem, the Royal and Ducal House of Bragança continues to perpetuate the use of its historic Titles, Treatments, Styles and Arms, that in turn reflect a glorious memory of eight centuries of heroes who were ennobled by their valorous acts and humility in the service to others.

Their courage has merged with the annals of Portugal itself so as to become history. The Dukes of Bragança were historically and still are among the most celebrated figures of our time, whose personal achievements continue to fascinate and inspire this new generations that increasingly demand to know their cultural roots and a sense of national identity often overshadowed in a borderless Europe.

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