



Documentary Note

Accession to the Throne of HRH Grand Duke Henri
7 October 2000

The Grand-Ducal Family

'I shall place the interests of the Luxembourg people above all things',
HRH Grand Duchess Charlotte, 15 January 1919, while taking her oath
in front of a delegation from the Chamber of Deputies (Parliament).

A Century's History In One Dynasty

On 24 December 1999 Grand Duke Jean announced his intention to abdicate in favour of his eldest son, Hereditary Grand Duke Henri. The accession to the throne of Grand Duke Henri, on 7 October 2000, represents an important moment in the grand-ducal family's history and confirms its will to mark its reign with the stamp of continuity. In order to guarantee a smooth transition, Grand Duke Jean appointed his son Lieutenant-Représentant (Lieutenant Representative) in 1998, thus providing for an adaptation period for the country and for the future sovereign.

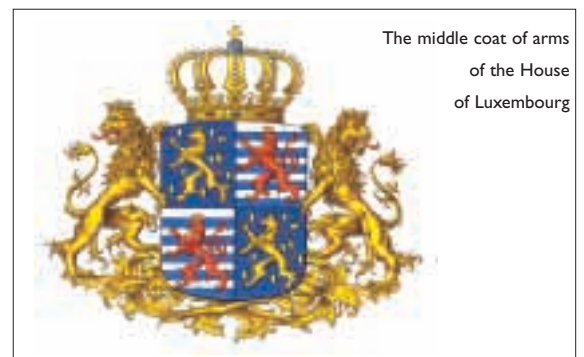
Grand Duke Henri, the sixth sovereign of the Nassau-Weilbourg dynasty, will, in his manner, reinforce the strong link which ties the population to the reigning House and carry on the style defined by his father, combining tradition and modernity.

The grand-ducal family has preserved its legitimacy amongst the Luxembourg society because it has been able to gain its trust in the most difficult moments: the resistance movement during the Second World War of which Grand Duchess Charlotte was a centre figure is

one of the most significant examples. Through its demeanour, the grand-ducal family succeeded in transmitting a feeling of unity to the Luxembourg people, which today is still one of the key factors of the country's stability.

Introduction

The European powers met at the Congress of Vienna between 1814 and 1815 to reorganize Europe. It was here that it was decided to create a Kingdom of the Netherlands, of which William of Orange-Nassau became sovereign. The Duchy of Luxembourg was given to William I and raised to the rank of Grand Duchy. In theory, the Congress of Vienna made Luxembourg an independent state, but William I attached it to his Kingdom. Luxembourg thus became in fact the 18th province of the Netherlands.



The middle coat of arms
of the House
of Luxembourg

Grand Duchy
of Luxembourg

Form of
government:
Representative
democracy

Neighbouring
countries:
Belgium
France
Germany

Surface:
2,586 sq km

Population:
435,700 of
which over
152,000 foreigners
Luxembourg-City:
80,670

Density:
163.8 inh./sq km

Unemployment
rate: 2.5%

GDP per inh.:
31,531 euro
in PPP (purchasing
power parities)

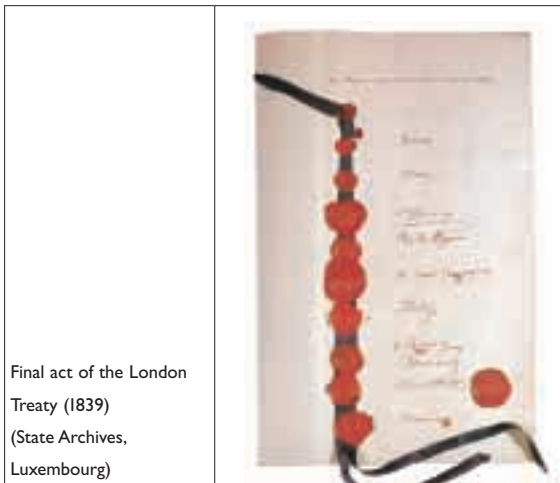
Grand-Duché de Luxembourg
MINISTÈRE D'ÉTAT



Service
Information
et Presse

I. The Birth of the Grand-Ducal House

Luxembourg gained true independence with the Treaty of London in 1839. This Treaty in effect confirmed that the Grand Duchy was sovereign and independent, while simultaneously being joined in personal union with the King of the Netherlands and being a member of the German Confederation. Luxembourg was broken up after the Treaty of London, with the French-speaking part being given to the Kingdom of Belgium and the German-speaking part forming the independent Grand Duchy.



Final act of the London Treaty (1839)
(State Archives, Luxembourg)

The country's national identity was formed as it gradually acquired independence, and has been strengthened by the actual presence of the ruling grand-ducal House in the Grand Duchy since 1890.

The 1783 family pact of the House of Nassau laid down that the grand-ducal Crown had to pass to the Nassau-Weilbourg branch upon the death of the last male descendant in the Orange-Nassau line. Thus, when William III of the Netherlands died without leaving a male descendant, the Crown of the Grand Duchy passed to Duke Adolphe of Nassau, while the eldest daughter of William III, Wilhelmina, succeeded to her father's throne in the Netherlands, which was governed by a different order of succession from the Grand Duchy. The personal union between Luxembourg and the Netherlands thus ended with the death of William III.

Grand Duke Adolphe of Nassau thus became the founder of the national dynasty of Luxembourg in 1890 at the age of 73, since when his direct descendants have succeeded to the throne.

Sovereigns of the Grand Duchy from 1815 to the present day

William I (1815-1840)

William II (1840-1849)

William III (1849-1890)

Henry of the Netherlands (Lieutenant Representative of the Grand Duke from 1850 to 1879)

Adolphe of Nassau (1890-1905)

William IV (1905-1912)

Marie-Adélaïde (1912-1919)

Charlotte (1919-1964)

Jean (1964-2000)

II. The Sovereigns of the Grand-Ducal Family

Grand Duke Adolphe took the oath before the Chamber of Deputies on 9 December 1890 and made his joyous entry into the city of Luxembourg on 23 July 1891. He became the owner of the ruins of Vianden Castle, and Berg and Fischbach castles. He subsequently resided at Hohenburg Castle in Bavaria and left all political decisions to Paul Eyschen, the president of the Luxembourg Government. The dynasty thus placed itself above politics in the eyes of the people of Luxembourg.

His eldest son William IV was appointed *Lieutenant-Représentant* in 1902 and succeeded his father in 1905.



Grand Duke Adolphe
(1817 - 1905)

During the taking of the oath, Grand Duke William IV asserted that the Grand Duke is outside and above political parties. Health problems led him to name his wife, Marie-Anne of Braganca, *Lieutenant-Représentant* in 1908. Having had six daughters by his marriage, he had foreseen that succession might be problematic upon his death. On 16 April 1907, the Chamber of Deputies approved the new family statute established by William IV. This provision entered into force on 10 July 1907. In accordance with the terms of this statute, his eldest daughter, Princess Marie-Adélaïde, was declared heir to the throne. Grand Duke William IV died on 25 February 1912.

Grand Duchess Marie-Adélaïde was the first sovereign born on Luxembourg soil since John the Blind in 1296. She takes the oath on 18 June 1912. Two years later, on 12 August 1914, the German troops invaded the Grand Duchy. The government protested against the violation of Luxembourg's neutrality, but renounced to any opposition against the German war machinery in order to protect the Luxembourg population's interests. Until the liberation on 11 November 1918, the German occupant left intact all the structures of the Luxembourg State. The German occupation was limited to military domains.

While taking the oath at the Chamber of Deputies, Grand Duchess Marie-Adélaïde asserted her interest in political and social questions. Heavily influenced by her Catholic education and convinced she was sovereign by the grace of God, she claimed the right to intervene in political matters. Although she never went beyond the limits set by the Constitution, she attracted too much resentment from the Left, which demanded her abdication in parliament following the revolutionary unrest in January 1919.

In order to save the dynasty, Prime Minister Émile Reuter, convinced Marie-Adélaïde to abdicate in favour of her younger sister Charlotte. Marie-Adélaïde entered the Carmelite order in Modena in Italy. She died in 1924 at the family castle in Hohenburg.

Grand Duchess Charlotte came to the throne in difficult times. During her taking of the oath on 15 January 1919 before a delegation from the Chamber of Deputies, she asserted her desire to remain above politics. Her position was strengthened by the results of a political referendum held on 28 September 1919 in which 77.8% of the Luxembourg people voted to keep the dynasty under Grand Duchess Charlotte.

Her marriage to Prince Félix of Bourbon-Parma in Luxembourg on 6 November 1919 contributed to

anchoring the grand-ducal House more firmly in the hearts of Luxembourgers. Six children were born of this marriage: Jean (1921), Elisabeth (1922), Marie-Adélaïde (1924), Marie-Gabrielle (1925), Charles (1927) and Alix (1929).

The revision of the Constitution in 1919 redefined the Crown's prerogatives. It declared the nation as sovereign and limited the sovereign's powers.



Grand Duchess Charlotte
(Photo: Edouard Kutter)
(1896-1985)

The interwar period was marked in particular by Luxembourg's entry into the League of Nations on 16 December 1920 and by the creation of the Belgo-Luxembourg Economic Union (BLEU) in 1921.

Luxembourg faced up to the world economic crisis. The government, headed by Joseph Bech, initiated an active foreign policy that allowed Luxembourg to acquire a confirmed international position. But war was once again looming on the horizon from the mid-1930s onward.

German troops invaded Luxembourg on 10 May 1940, violating its neutrality. The Grand Duchess went into exile accompanied by her family and the Government. From France, she passed through Spain, Portugal and then Britain, the United States and Canada. It was in London that the Grand Duchess sided with the Allies and that the headquarters of the Luxembourg Government were established. From London Grand Duchess Charlotte encouraged the Luxembourg resistance. Her attitude strengthened the people's spirit of unity.

An enthusiastic crowd greeted her upon her return on 14 April 1945, seeing her as a symbol of the country's resistance.

On 28 April 1961, Grand Duchess Charlotte designated her eldest son Jean *Lieutenant-Représentant* and on 12 November 1964 she abdicated in his favour, retiring to Fischbach Castle. She died on 9 July 1985.

Grand Duke Jean, Duke of Nassau, Prince of Bourbon-Parma, was born at Berg Castle in Luxembourg on 5 January 1921.

His Royal Highness spent most of his childhood at Berg Castle. His primary and secondary education was in Luxembourg, and he completed his studies at Ampleforth College in Yorkshire, Great Britain.

The Crown Prince came of age on 5 January 1939, after which he bore the title of Hereditary Grand Duke of Luxembourg as heir presumptive to the Crown of the Grand Duchy.

Upon the German invasion on 10 May 1940, the Hereditary Grand Duke left Luxembourg with his parents, first taking refuge in France and then passed through Spain to reach Portugal, the United States, Canada and Great Britain. In Quebec, he took courses in law and political science at Laval University. In November 1942 he joined the British Army as a volunteer in the Irish Guards, where he occupied the rank of lieutenant in 1943, and of captain in 1944. He was promoted colonel of the Irish Guards on 21 August 1984. On 10 September 1944, he crossed the Luxembourg border with the American troops that liberated the Grand Duchy. He reached Luxembourg City that afternoon, where he was greeted with wild enthusiasm. He then rejoined his unit on 13 September

Triumphal return
of HRH Prince Jean
(10 September 1944)



and continued the campaign with the Allies in Germany until the end of hostilities.

The Hereditary Grand Duke returned to Luxembourg on 14 April 1945 to assist the Grand Duchess Charlotte's triumphal return from exile.

On 9 April 1953, His Royal Highness the Hereditary Grand Duke married Her Royal Highness Princess Joséphine-Charlotte of Belgium. They have five children: Princess Marie-Astrid, born on 17 February 1954, Prince Henri, born on 16 April 1955, Prince Jean and Princess Margaretha, born on 15 May 1957, and Prince Guillaume, born on 1 May 1963. Their Royal Highnesses live in Berg Castle.

HRH Grand Duchess Joséphine-Charlotte in company with her brother, HM the King of Belgium, during the grand-ducal couple's State visit in Belgium (16-18 March 1999)



The Hereditary Grand Duke was a member of the Council of State from 1951 to 1961, which enabled him to become familiar with the machinery of the legislative and political life of the country.

Grand Duchess Charlotte appointed the Hereditary Grand Duke *Lieutenant-Représentant* on 28 April 1961. He became Grand Duke in 1964 when taking the oath in a solemn ceremony at the Chamber of Deputies on 12 November.

For almost 36 years, Grand Duke Jean has been at the head of a country that has been marked by many changes during his reign, in particular the struggle against the steel crisis in the 1970s, industrial diversification and the country's development into a financial centre, together with the establishment of the European institutions.

On 24 December 1999 Grand Duke Jean announced that he would be abdicating in favour of his son, the Hereditary Grand Duke Henri, on 7 October 2000.

Grand Duchess Joséphine-Charlotte, Princess of Belgium, was born at Brussels Palace on 11 October 1927. Her godmother was Grand Duchess Charlotte.

She spent her childhood in Stuyvenberg, the residence of her parents, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Léopold of Belgium and Princess Astrid of Sweden. Her father ascended the throne on 23 February 1934, succeeding to King Albert, who had died in an accident at Marché-les-Dames.

At the age of seven she lost her mother, Queen Astrid, in a tragic car crash at Küsnacht in Switzerland. She entered a boarding school in 1940 and then received private tuition from 1942 onwards. After the war, the royal family settled in Prégny, near Geneva, where Princess Joséphine-Charlotte continued her studies.

On 9 April 1953 she married His Royal Highness Prince Jean at Luxembourg Cathedral. Since then she has assisted her husband in his duties. In addition, being interested in children's and health problems, she is the president of the Luxembourg Red Cross since 1964.

III. The Hereditary Grand-Ducal Couple

HRH Hereditary Grand Duke during an economic prospecting mission in Canada (25-28 April 2000)



Hereditary Grand Duke Henri, eldest son of Grand Duke Jean and Grand Duchess Joséphine-Charlotte of Luxembourg, was born on 16 April 1955 at Betzdorf Castle, Luxembourg.

Educated in Luxembourg and France, where he successfully obtained his baccalaureate in 1974, he went on to study at Geneva University, where he graduated in political science in October 1980. It was during his student years that he met Maria Teresa Mestre, who was to become his wife. The Prince speaks Luxembourgish, French, English and German. He has travelled abroad on many occasions and also studied in the United States (1978-1979). He holds the rank of colonel in the Luxembourg Army.

On 14 February 1981 he married Maria Teresa Mestre. They have five children: Prince Guillaume, born on 11 November 1981, Prince Félix, born on 3 June 1984, Prince Louis, born on 3 August 1986, Princess Alexandra, born on 16 February 1991, and Prince Sébastien, born on 16 April 1992.

The Prince was a member of the Council of State (Conseil d'État) from 1980 to 1998, which enabled him to familiarize himself with the legislative and political machinery of the country. He acquired a solid understanding of the industrial fabric of Luxembourg and undertook a number of economic prospecting missions abroad. He was appointed *Lieutenant-Représentant* of the Grand Duke by decree on 3 March 1998 and took the oath the following day.

Hereditary Grand Duchess Maria Teresa was born in Havana, Cuba, on 22 March 1956, to José Antonio Mestre and Maria Teresa Batista-Falla de Mestre.

In 1959, Maria Teresa left Cuba with her parents during the revolution. Her family moved to New York and then to their family property in Santander (Spain) in 1965, before finally settling in Geneva.

She studied at the University of Geneva, where she met Prince Henri, both graduated in political science in the same year, in 1980.

The couple got married on 14 February 1981. Maria Teresa has since borne the title of Princess and Hereditary Grand Duchess.

She has been a Unesco Goodwill Ambassador since 10 June 1997 and is also the president of the Prince Henri – Princess Maria Teresa Foundation, founded in 1981, which works to help the integration of disabled and disadvantaged people, as well as honorary president of the 'Fondation Recherche sur le Sida' (AIDS Research Foundation).

The Other Members of the Grand-Ducal Family:

Her Royal Highness Princess Marie-Astrid, the eldest daughter of Grand Duke Jean and Grand Duchess Joséphine-Charlotte, was born at Betzdorf Castle on 17 February 1954. The Princess was educated in Luxembourg and Belgium.

She has been married to His Imperial and Royal Highness Charles Christian of Habsburg-Lorraine, Archduke of Austria, Prince of Bar, since 6 February 1982 and has five children.

His Royal Highness Prince Jean, twin brother of Princess Margaretha, was born at Betzdorf Castle on 15 May 1957, and was educated in Luxembourg, Switzerland, France and Britain.

Following the declaration of 26 September 1986, he renounced his rights of succession to the throne.

He married Hélène Vestur on 27 May 1987 and has four children.

Her Royal Highness Princess Margaretha, twin sister of Prince Jean, was born at Betzdorf Castle on 15 May 1957. Princess Margaretha was educated in Luxembourg, Belgium, Britain and the United States. She married His Serene Highness Prince Nicolas of Liechtenstein on 20 March 1982 and has three children.

His Royal Highness Prince Guillaume was born at Betzdorf Castle on 1 May 1963 as the youngest of the five children born to Their Royal Highnesses Grand Duke Jean and Grand Duchess Joséphine-Charlotte of Luxembourg.

He received his secondary education in Luxembourg, Switzerland and France, continuing his studies at Oxford University and Georgetown University in Washington. On 8 September 1994, Prince Guillaume married Sibilla Weiller and has three children.



A Constitutional Monarchy

Luxembourg is a representative democracy in the form of a constitutional monarchy. The first article of the Constitution declares that the Grand Duchy is a 'free, independent and indivisible democratic State'. Article 51 indicates that it is ruled by a system of parliamentary democracy. The nation is the source of sovereign power and it is before the representatives of the sovereign nation that the Grand Duke takes the oath provided for by the Constitution.

Sovereign power resides in the nation, but the exercise of the sovereign powers is entrusted to the Grand Duke. The Grand Duke has only those powers that the Constitution and laws expressly confer upon him.

The Grand Duke's Political Status

When the Grand Duke accedes to the throne he takes the following oath as soon as possible in the presence of the Chamber of Deputies or a deputation that it has appointed: 'I swear to observe the Constitution and the laws of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, and to maintain the national independence and integrity of the territory, as well as public and individual liberties' (Article 5).

According to Article 33 of the Constitution, 'the Grand Duke is the Head of State, symbol of its unity and guarantor of national independence. He exercises the executive power in accordance with the Constitution and the laws of the country'.

The Grand Duke represents the State in its foreign relations. He plays an essential role in exercising legislative power and justice is administered in his name. However, he has no means of interfering in the exercise of judicial power.

His legal status is characterized by the representative character of his function, the constitutionality of his powers, inviolability of his person, freedom from responsibility and by special provisions concerning his patrimonial rights and the civil list.

The 'representative character' of the Grand Duke is based on the principle of the hereditary devolution of the Crown as set out in the Constitution. The Constitution places the Head of State outside and above political parties and thus guarantees his impartiality.

The 'inviolability' of the Grand Duke means that he cannot be accused or prosecuted by any person, that he cannot be tried by any jurisdiction and cannot be asked to account for his actions.

The 'inviolability' of the Grand Duke implies complete freedom from responsibility. This freedom from responsibility is general and absolute from both a penal and political standpoint.

The 'political freedom from responsibility' of the Grand Duke has ministerial responsibility as its counterpart. Any measure taken by the Grand Duke in the exercise of his political powers must in fact be countersigned by a member of the Government who takes full responsibility.



Luxembourg Constitution of 1848

The Grand Duke's Prerogatives

The Grand Duke's prerogatives are an expression of respect for a tradition that has been firmly anchored in the Grand Duchy's Constitution since 1868. Yet in reality it is clear that the manner in which the Grand Duke exercises his sovereignty is more pragmatic and less rigorous than the Constitution would seem to indicate.

The Grand Duke's powers are mainly listed in Articles 33 to 48 of the Constitution. The Crown's prerogatives as set out in the Constitution of 1868 were redefined in 1919: sovereign power no longer resided in the person of the sovereign but in the nation. The conditions for any personal politics no longer existed. The Grand Duke exercises his power in accordance with the Constitution and laws of the country.



The Grand Duke commands the armed forces

The Grand Duke promulgates the laws. 'He makes his resolve known within three months of the vote of the Chamber' (Article 34). The Grand Duke makes the regulations and decrees necessary to enforce the laws, but he may never suspend the laws themselves nor dispense with their enforcement.

The Grand Duke has the power to organize and supervise the administrative services and to appoint civil and military officials. Lastly, the Grand Duke commands the armed forces in order to maintain order and security in the country.

'Justice is dispensed in the name of the Grand Duke by the courts and tribunals. Judgments and decisions are enforced in the name of the Grand Duke' (Article 49). But he does not, however, have any means

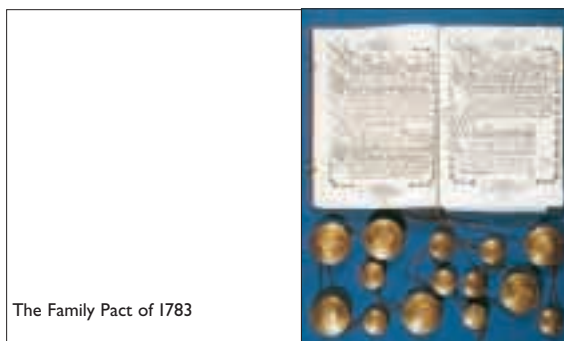
of interfering in the exercise of judicial power. The Constitution reserves the prerogative of mercy for the Grand Duke, which means the right to reconsider or reduce the penalties handed down by the courts.

In theory, the Grand Duke decides upon the organization of his Government, which comprises at least three members, while choosing his ministers freely and dismissing them when he deems it necessary. However, in practice, the Grand Duke chooses the mediator and/or 'formateur' (a person asked to form a government), who generally becomes Prime minister, on the basis of the election results. The 'formateur' presents the team of members of the Government to the Grand Duke. They are generally leading figures in the political groups represented in the Chamber of Deputies. The Grand Duke proceeds to nominate and swear in the members of the Government. He has the right to dismiss a minister, but has never made use of it until now. The tradition is that the entire government presents its resignation to the Grand Duke after the legislative elections.

The Grand Duke represents the country abroad and acts at an international level in the name of the State. He can also conclude treaties with foreign states, but these must receive the assent of the Chamber of Deputies.

The Order of Succession to the Throne

In accordance with the terms of Article 3 of the Constitution, the Crown of the Grand Duchy is hereditary in the Nassau family in accordance with the pact of 30 June 1783, Article 71 of the Treaty of Vienna of 9 June 1815, and Article 1 of the Treaty of London of 11 May 1867.



The Family Pact of 1783

The Family Pact of 1783

The Crown is handed down in a direct line by order of male primogeniture, to the exclusion of female descendants. If there is no male issue in a direct and collateral line in one of the branches of the House of Nassau, the Crown is automatically handed down to the male descendant of the other branch. If there is no male descendant in either branch, the Crown is handed down by order of primogeniture to the female descendant of the reigning dynasty.

The 1815 Treaty of Vienna

This treaty gave the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg the order of succession established between the two branches of the House of Nassau by the act of 1783. It was in fact during the Congress of Vienna that the Grand Duchy was given to the King of the Netherlands, William I, Prince of Orange-Nassau, to be possessed by him and his successors for perpetuity. At the same time, Luxembourg was part of the German Confederation, and William I became Grand Duke of Luxembourg within this confederation.

The 1867 Treaty of London

Article I of the treaty kept the links between the Grand Duchy and the House of Orange-Nassau, and confirmed the rights that the agnates of the House of Nassau had over the Grand Duchy.

The Family Statute of 1907

In 1906, Grand Duke William IV suspected that his health was deteriorating and that a question of succession would arise since he had six daughters from his marriage to Marie-Anne of Braganca. He therefore drew up a new family statute that he had approved by the Chamber of Deputies, ensuring his daughters succeeded to the throne. This in fact amended Article 42 of the family pact.

Accession to the Grand-Ducal Throne

The heir presumptive acquires the Crown by right when the throne becomes vacant either by the death or abdication of the holder. Accession to the throne is by right and does not depend on taking the oath. On the other hand, there are cases in which the power of the Grand Duke has to be relegated. There are two possible cases in which this can occur.

The Regency

'If, on the death of the Grand Duke, His successor is a minor, the regency is exercised in accordance with the Family Pact' (Article 6 of the Constitution).

The surviving mother of the Grand Duke minor acts as regent in accordance with the family pact if the Grand Duke is incapable of reigning.

The regent takes office only at the moment of taking the oath. He has all the prerogatives of the sovereign, taking his place *ad interim*. However, Article 115 of the Constitution stipulates that 'During a regency, no change may be made to the Constitution as regards the constitutional prerogatives of the Grand Duke, his status and the order of succession.'

Should the throne become vacant following extinction of the dynasty, the Chamber shall make temporary arrangements for a regency. A new Chamber, to be summoned with double the customary number of members within 30 days, shall take the final steps to fill the vacancy.

There have so far been four regencies in the Grand Duchy:

- Duke Adolphe of Nassau, later Grand Duke of Luxembourg, acted as regent twice at the end of the reign of William III: 8 April 1889-3 May 1889, 4 November 1890-23 November 1890. He took the oath on 9 December 1890;
- Grand Duchess Marie-Anne, wife of Grand Duke William IV, acted as regent twice, once during the final illness of William IV (19 November 1908-25 February 1912) and subsequently during the minority of Grand Duchess Marie-Adélaïde (25 February 1912-18 June 1912).

The Lieutenantcy

'The Grand Duke may have himself represented by a Prince of the blood, who bears the title of Lieutenant to the Grand Duke and resides in the Grand Duchy. This representative shall take an oath to observe the Constitution before exercising any of his powers' (Article 42 of the Constitution).

The Grand Duke thus delegates his powers, and this acting capacity may be temporary or permanent. The powers of the *Lieutenant-Représentant* are limited by this mandate, and the measures he takes by virtue of

On 3 March 1999
HRH the Hereditary
Grand Duke takes the
oath as *Lieutenant-
Représentant* of
HRH the Grand Duke



his mission have the same effect as if they had been issued by the Grand Duke himself. However, the Grand Duke is free to add to the mandate any limitations he deems necessary.

There have been five lieutenantcies in the history of the Grand Duchy:

- the first lieutenantcy was that of Prince Henry of the Netherlands, who was appointed by his brother, King of the Netherlands and Grand Duke of Luxembourg William II, on 5 February 1850. The lieutenantcy lasted for almost 30 years, until Prince Henry's death in 1879;
- the second lieutenantcy was that of Prince William of Nassau, later Grand Duke William IV, who was entrusted with the powers of *Lieutenant-Représentant* on 4 April 1902 by his father, Grand Duke Adolphe, then 85 years old. This lieutenantcy lasted until his accession to the throne on 17 November 1905, with the death of Grand Duke Adolf;
- the third lieutenantcy began on 19 March 1908, when Grand Duke William IV, afflicted by ill health, appointed his wife, Grand Duchess Marie-Anne. This lieutenantcy continued until 19 November 1908, when she became regent;
- the fourth lieutenantcy was that of Hereditary Grand Duke Jean, appointed *Lieutenant-Représentant* of Grand Duchess Charlotte on 4 May 1961. It ended on 12 November 1964 with the abdication of Grand Duchess Charlotte in his favour;
- the fifth lieutenantcy was that of Hereditary Grand Duke Prince Henry, which began on 3 March 1998. It will end in October 2000, following the abdication of Grand Duke Jean in his favour.

The Accession to the Throne of HRH Grand Duke Henri

'Participating in the exercise of the highest constitutional responsibilities is the most natural way to prepare a future reign with continuity', HRH Grand Duke Jean, 3 March 1998. Grand Duke Jean transfers his powers to his eldest son, Prince Henri, on 7 October 2000.



On 12 November 1964 HRH Grand Duchess Charlotte signed the abdication act

The lieutenancy is one of the Grand Duke's prerogatives that enables the Hereditary Grand Duke to prepare himself for his future commitments and the country to gradually prepare itself for a change in its Head of State.

Even before he was appointed *Lieutenant-Représentant*, Prince Henri had the opportunity to gain experience in exercising his responsibilities. He played important roles in missions abroad organized by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the aim of strengthening the Luxembourg economy. In particular, he was also a member of the Council of State from 1980 to 1998. He has thus performed numerous duties in the interest of his country for a significant period of time.

He was subsequently appointed the Grand Duke's *Lieutenant-Représentant* on 3 March 1998. Since then he has exercised the grand-ducal prerogatives daily in his father's name and been able to familiarize himself with the home and foreign affairs of the Grand Duchy. This period of adaptation has become normal in the exercise of the grand-ducal sovereignty, making it possible to avoid the Head of State's sudden retirement. The people likewise benefit from a period in

On 24 December 1999, HRH Grand Duke Jean announced his intention to abdicate in favour of his eldest son, Prince Henri



which they can become accustomed to the idea of the change that is to come.

On 24 December 1999, Grand Duke Jean announced his abdication in favour of his eldest son. The date fixed for the accession to the throne of HRH Grand Duke Henri is 7 October 2000. After almost 36 years on the throne, it seems natural to the Grand Duke to 'hand over power to the new generation' and to enable the Grand Duchy to benefit from the experience that Prince Henri has acquired during his two years of lieutenancy. The Grand Duchy is also greeting this event with serenity and enthusiasm.

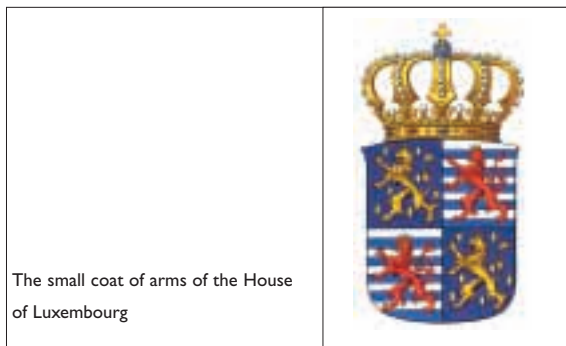
The Symbols of a Dynasty

The Coat of Arms



The large coat of arms of the House of Luxembourg

The official coat of arms of the House of Nassau was fixed in 1898 and has remained valid from the days of Grand Duke Adolphe until today. The coat of arms



The small coat of arms of the House of Luxembourg

exists in three different forms: the small coat of arms, middle coat of arms and large coat of arms.

The Wilhelmus

The anthem of the grand-ducal House is inspired by a trumpet call or cavalry fanfare of which we have no written trace earlier than the 16th century. The tune is found in the 'oude Geuzenlied' printed in 1581. This tune was revived during the visit of William III and Queen Emma to Luxembourg in 1883. Several years later, Grand Duke Adolphe was greeted by the Wilhelmus doing duty for the national anthem alongside the 'Ons Hémecht'. The first text of the Wilhelmus in *Lëtzebuergesch* was published by Willy Goergen in 1915 to commemorate the centenary of the Congress of Vienna. This text was revised in 1939 but did not become established. Nikolaus Welter found the inspiration to create an anthem for the House of Luxembourg-Nassau-Bourbon on the occasion of the marriage of Grand Duchess Charlotte and Prince Félix in 1919. He subsequently removed the first stanza, which was marked too strongly by the events of the period. The Wilhelmus is stroken up when one of the members of the grand-ducal family arrives at or leaves a ceremony.



Every year, the grand-ducal family attends the Te Deum at Luxembourg Cathedral which closes the national holiday festivities

The National Holiday

The national holiday is the commemoration of the day of birth of the sovereign.

With the accession of Grand Duke Adolphe to the throne in 1890, 24 July was established as national holiday. Under William IV, it was moved to 22 April. Since 1913 the festivities have been held on 14 June, Grand Duchess Marie-Adélaïde's birthday. With the accession of Grand Duchess Charlotte to the throne in 1919, 23 January became the birthday holiday. In 1947 the Grand Duchess's birthday was declared a national holiday.

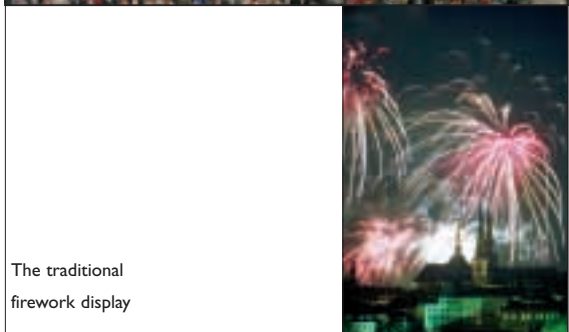
A grand-ducal decree of 23 December 1961 fixes the date of the official celebration of the Grand Duke's birthday on 23 June, irrespective of his actual day of birth.

The festivities begin on the evening of 22 June in one of the villages outside the capital in the presence of the grand-ducal couple. At around 10 p.m. they reach Luxembourg to take part in the traditional torchlight procession organized by the associations of the city.

A firework display is held on Adolphe bridge towards 11.30 p.m. On 23 June, a military parade is held in Avenue de la Liberté, and the Te Deum is celebrated at Luxembourg Cathedral at 11 a.m.



The crowd gathers to welcome the members of the grand-ducal family



The traditional firework display

The Grand Duke's Official Residence

The Grand-Ducal Palace

Article 44 of the Constitution states that the Grand-Ducal Palace in Luxembourg and Berg Castle are reserved for the residence of the Grand Duke. The Grand-Ducal Palace – previously the City Hall from 1413 to 1795, the prefecture of the Forestry Department in 1795, and then the Luxembourg executive building in 1817 – has been the official residence of the sovereign for exercising his duties since 1890.

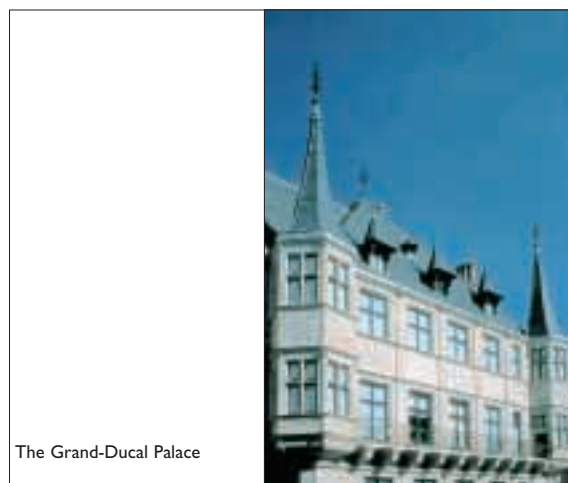
The total transformation of the existing rooms and the construction of a new wing in the courtyard then created the necessary space. The Brussels architect Bordiau was commissioned for the work, assisted by the state architect Charles Arendt.

Art historians consider the palace to be a typical late 16th-century Spanish Renaissance style building. Such buildings are indeed to be found on the Iberian peninsula and the former Spanish Netherlands (Amsterdam and Brussels in particular).

The Grand-Ducal Palace was converted into a concert hall and tavern under the Nazi occupation, which was considered as profanation by the Luxembourg

population. It was not until 14 April 1945 that the people of Luxembourg could once again cheer Grand Duchess Charlotte on the balcony of the palace.

Since 1964, the interior of the palace has undergone significant changes to give it a warmer atmosphere. The palace was completely renovated between 1992 and 1996. Today, the palace is essentially a place of work where the Head of State discharges his most important official duties.



Further Reading:

Gilbert Trausch, *Histoire du Luxembourg*, Hatier, Nations d'Europe series, 1992

Gilbert Trausch, *Le Luxembourg. Émergence d'un État et d'une Nation*, Fonds Mercator, 1989

Ministry of State, *De l'État à la Nation, 1839-1889*

Raymond Reuter, *Charlotte*, Luxnews, 1982

Raymond Reuter, Christian Calmes, *Jean Grand-Duc de Luxembourg*, Luxnews, 1986

Dr Jean-Claude Loutsch, *Armoiries du pays de Luxembourg*,

Publications nationales du ministère des Arts et des Sciences, 1974

Impressum

Text: Service Information et Presse – Cellule Édition in collaboration with the Maréchalat of the Grand-Ducal Court and Mr Paul Dostert (historian)

Layout: atelier graphique bizart

Print: Imprimerie Centrale s.a., Luxembourg

Pictures: Photothèque S.I.P., Maréchalat of the Grand-Ducal Court, Private collection of the grand-ducal family, Tom Wagner

Editor

Service Information et Presse (Information and Press Service) – Cellule Edition – September 2000

ISBN 2-87999-088-2