



*The Grand  
Ducal Family  
of Luxembourg*



*\* The Grand Ducal Family of Luxembourg \**

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*TRH Grand Duke Henri and Grand Duchess Maria Teresa wave to the crowd from the balcony of the Grand Ducal Palace (7 October 2000)*



## Historical introduction

07

### *Chapter One*

## The House of Luxembourg-Nassau

17

- *The origins of the national dynasty* 18
- *The sovereigns of the House of Luxembourg* 20
  - *Grand Duke Adolphe* 20
  - *Grand Duke William IV*
  - *Grand Duchess Marie-Adélaïde* 21
  - *Grand Duchess Charlotte* 22
  - *Grand Duke Jean* 24
  - *Grand Duke Henri* 28
    - *Grand Duchess Maria Teresa* 32
  - *Hereditary Grand Duke Guillaume* 34
  - *Grand Duke Henri's brothers and sisters* 36
  - *HRH Grand Duke Henri's accession to the throne on 7 October 2000* 40

### *Chapter Two*

## The monarchy today

49

- *Prepared for reign* 50
- *The Grand Duke's working day* 54
- *The Grand Duke's visits abroad* 62
- *Visits by Heads of State to Luxembourg* 74
- *The public image of the Grand Ducal Family in Luxembourg* 78

*Chapter Three*  
The constitutional monarchy

- *The political situation of the Grand Duke* 84
- *The order of succession to the throne* 92
- *Accession to the Grand Ducal Throne* 94
- *The Lieutenancy* 96
- *The Regency* 98

*Chapter Four*  
The symbols of the monarchy

- *National Holiday*  
– *official celebration day of the Grand Duke's birthday* 102
- *Coats of arms of the Grand Ducal House* 104
- *The anthem of the Grand Ducal House* 106

*Chapter Five*  
The residences of the Grand Ducal Family

- *The Grand Ducal Palace* 110
- *Berg Castle* 116
- *Fischbach Castle* 118

*Annexe*

- *The Grand Duke's visits abroad*
- *Visits by Heads of State to Luxembourg*

# Index

## SUMMARY



# Historical introduction



*Intro*

# History

## Historical summary



*Bas-relief with the effigy of Countess Ermesinde*

*Around 963*

**Siegfried acquires the rocky outcrop of Lucilinburhuc**

*1214*

**Ermesinde of Luxembourg marries Waleran of Limburg**

*1059-1086*

**Conrad I, Count of Luxembourg**

*1226- 1247*

**Ermesinde, Countess of Luxembourg**

*1136*

**Death of Conrad II, last Count of Luxembourg from the House of Ardenne. Luxembourg passes to Henry of Namur, known as Henry the Blind**

*1247-1281*

**Henry V of Luxembourg, known as Henry the Blond, Count of Luxembourg**

*1136-1196*

**Reign of Henry of Namur**

*1281-1288*

**Henry VI, Count of Luxembourg**

1288-1313

**Henry VII, Count of Luxembourg,  
Emperor of the Holy Roman  
Empire (1308-1313)**

1313-1346

**John the Blind, Count of  
Luxembourg, (King of Bohemia  
since 1310)**

1346-1354

**Charles IV, Count of  
Luxembourg, elevates  
Luxembourg to a Duchy.  
Emperor of the Holy Roman  
Empire from 1346**

1354-1383

**Wenceslas I, Duke  
of Luxembourg**

1383-1419

**Wenceslas II, Duke  
of Luxembourg, Emperor  
of the Holy Roman Empire**

1419-1437

**Sigismond, Duke of  
Luxembourg, Emperor  
of the Holy Roman Empire**

1437

**Extinction of the House  
of Luxembourg**



*Effigy with crest and device of John the Blind*

## History of the sovereigns of Luxembourg

10



*The Charter of Enfranchisement  
granted to the City of Luxembourg  
by Countess Ermesinde (1244)*

Archives of the City of Luxembourg

From Siegfried to Grand Duke Henri, Luxembourg was controlled by several dynasties before becoming an independent modern state in 1815.

Siegfried is reputed to have founded Luxembourg in 963, when he exchanged some lands with the Saint Maximin Abbey in Trier. In this exchange, in return for land located in Feulen near Ettelbruck, he acquired an old castle built on a rocky promontory overlooking the Alzette valley. Siegfried had a small castle built on the site and, for the first time, history recorded the name of Luxembourg ('Lucilinburhuc'). This castle formed the nucleus of the future city.

Siegfried belonged to a noble family from the Meuse-Moselle region, but did not yet have the title of Count of Luxembourg. It was his great-grandson, Conrad I, who brought the name of 'Count of Luxembourg' into the history books for the first time, on a document dating from 1083, by which he founded the Benedictine Abbey of Münster.

From Siegfried to the death of Conrad II in 1136, eight Counts succeeded in the same family.

The first family of Luxembourg Counts died out with Conrad II.

It re-emerged under the name of Luxembourg-Namur at the time when Emperor Conrad III, the first Hohenstaufen on the Imperial throne, invested Henry of Namur, known as Henry the Blind, with the County of Luxembourg. With this house, Luxembourg came under the influence of Rome. Countess Ermesinde, daughter of Henry IV, married Thibaut of Bar, then Waleran, Duke of Limburg. On his death, she reigned from 1226 to 1247 in a climate of peace and religious development. In 1247, the dignity of Count passed to her son, Henry V, known as Henry the Blond. With him began the House of Luxembourg-Limburg.

With Count Henry VII started the rise of the Counts of Luxembourg to the highest echelons of power. In 1308, Henry was elected to the throne of the Holy Roman Empire.

Charles IV, son of Count John the Blind who became King of Bohemia in 1310, elevated the County of Luxembourg to the rank of Duchy in 1354. The House of Luxembourg died out in 1437 on the death of Emperor Sigismund, King of Bohemia and Hungary, Duke of Luxembourg. His niece Elisabeth ceded her rights to Philip of Burgundy, and Luxembourg fell into the hands of the Dukes of Burgundy.

The capture of Luxembourg by Philip the Good in 1443 incorporated the Duchy of Luxembourg into a larger entity, the Burgundian State and then the Low Countries. Moreover, the Low Countries did not really constitute a state, but a conglomerate of relatively independent principalities. The Burgundian regime strengthened the French influence in Luxembourg and French became the dominant language in the administration. The successors of the Dukes of Burgundy (the Spanish Hapsburgs in the 16th and 17th centuries, and Austrian Hapsburgs in the 18th century) continued using French.



*Map of the City  
of Luxembourg in 1581*  
(Braun-Hogenberg)





*Drawing of the Thüngen redoubt  
View of the entrance and longitudinal  
and cross section*

Hand-drawn plan, Xylander et Meyer, after 1837,  
66 cm x 98 cm, Bayerisches Hauptstaatsarchiv, Kriegsarchiv,  
München, (Luxemburg Pls N°62)

Charles the Fearless, the son of Philip the Good, undertook to unite his territories in the South (Burgundy) with his principalities in the North, which extended from Luxembourg to Holland. His ambitions caused fear and encountered many obstacles. His daughter, Marie of Burgundy, married Archduke Maximilian of Austria, Emperor from 1486 to 1516. She died prematurely and left the Burgundian heritage to her son, Philip the Fair, who inherited the kingdoms of Aragon and Castile by marriage. His son, Charles V, was elected Emperor in 1519. The Low Countries, and with it Luxembourg, passed into the hands of the Spanish Hapsburgs. In 1555-1556, Charles V abdicated and divided his lands, whereby his brother Ferdinand I inherited the Imperial Crown and the Austrian lands, while his son, Philip II, inherited Spain and the Low Countries.

The entry of France into the Thirty Years' War in 1635 made Luxembourg an object of envy. The war ended with the Treaty of the

Pyrenees in 1659, under which France obtained the cities and provostships of Ivoix-Carignan, Montmédy, Marville, Damvillers and Thionville, located in the Duchy of Luxembourg.

From 1678 to 1683, Louis XIV's troops occupied large territories in Luxembourg and took the capital in 1684. By the Treaty of Ratisbon, Louis XIV acquired the Duchy of Luxembourg. Vauban, who had masterminded the siege of the City of Luxembourg, rebuilt the fortress, but Louis XIV had to give up Luxembourg and return it to Charles II of Spain in 1698 (Treaty of Ryswick).

At the end of the Spanish War of Succession, the Spanish Netherlands, and Luxembourg with them, passed into the hands of the Austrian Hapsburgs in 1714, and consequently Emperor Charles VI took possession of them.

# History

## Historical summary

1443

**Conquest of Luxembourg  
by Philip the Good**

1443-1506

**Burgundian period**

1506-1684

**First Spanish period**

1684-1697

**First French period**

1697-1714

**Second Spanish period**

1714-1795

**Austrian period**

1795-1814

**Second French period**

1815

**Congress of Vienna**



*Portrait of Empress Maria Theresa,  
Duchess of Luxembourg*

Portrait by Jean-Pierre Sauvage (1699-1780)  
National Museum of History and Art, Luxembourg

13

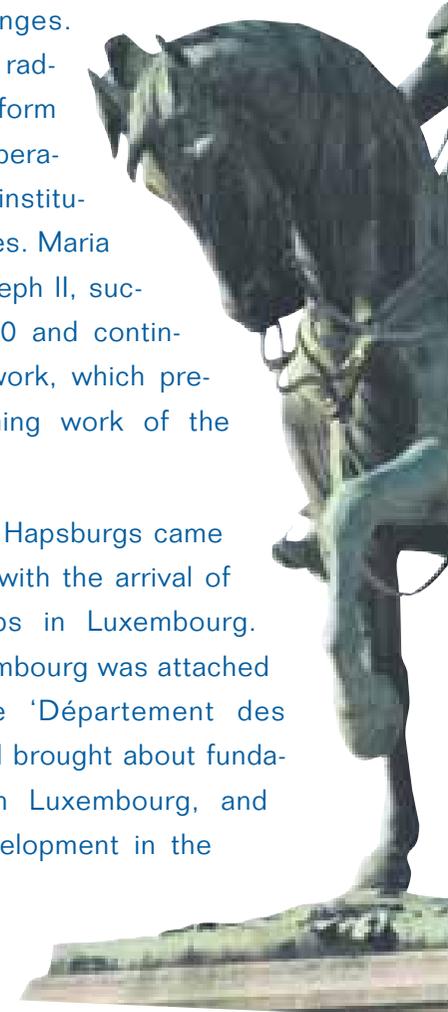


*The seal granted by Philip of Burgundy  
to the City of Luxembourg, taken in 1443*



The reign of Empress Maria Theresa (1740-1780) led to some pronounced changes. She embarked on a radical process of reform to improve the operation of the state institutions and its finances. Maria Theresa's son, Joseph II, succeeded her in 1780 and continued his mother's work, which prefigured the reforming work of the French Revolution.

The reign of the Hapsburgs came to an end in 1795 with the arrival of revolutionary troops in Luxembourg. The Duchy of Luxembourg was attached to France as the 'Département des Forêts'. This period brought about fundamental changes in Luxembourg, and determined its development in the 19th century.



*Equestrian statue of William II*



The work of the French Revolution, started under the Directoire, was marked in particular by the establishment of equality before the Law and the introduction of the Civil Code under the Consulate.

After Napoleon's defeat at the Battle of the Nations in Leipzig in 1813, and his abdication in 1814, the people of Luxembourg wanted the return of the Hapsburgs, but the Congress of Vienna in 1815 saw things differently. Since the main aim was to contain France within its borders, it was decided by the great European powers to create a large kingdom of the Netherlands, which would be ruled by the dynasty of Orange-

Nassau. As a result, William I of Orange-Nassau saw Holland enlarged by the addition of the former Austrian Netherlands. The Duchy of Luxembourg was elevated to the status of independent state, and ceded in a personal capacity to the King of the Netherlands 'to be possessed in perpetuity by him and his successors in complete ownership and sovereignty' (Article 67 of the Final Act of the Congress of Vienna). As such, the Kings of the Netherlands also became the Grand Dukes of Luxembourg, until 1890. In reality, William I did not treat Luxembourg, elevated to the status of Grand Duchy, as an independent state, but as the 18th province of his kingdom.

As under the Ancien Régime, the Grand Duchy had two linguistic areas – the German-speaking area, which included the capital where the people largely spoke Lëtzebuergesch (the language of Luxembourg), and the French-speaking area.



*Chapter One*

# The House of Luxembourg-Nassau

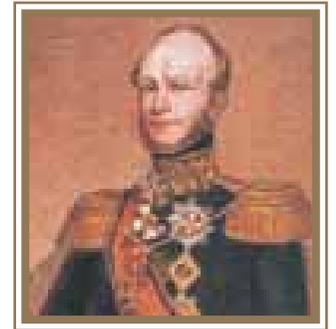


## *The origins of the national dynasty*

*William of Orange-Nassau (1772-1843)*



**W**illiam I did not treat Luxembourg as an independent state, but as a province of his kingdom. He took no account of political, economic and religious aspects of the southern provinces, causing discontent among the Belgians who rose up in revolution in August 1830. The people of Luxembourg joined them shortly afterwards for materialistic reasons. In addition to being burdened with heavy taxes, they reproached the King/Grand Duke for his complete lack of interest in Luxembourg. He only visited Arlon once, handed all positions



*William II (1792-1849)*

of responsibility to foreigners and even wanted to introduce the teaching of Dutch in primary schools. By revolting against William I, the Luxembourg population hoped to escape from Dutch influence and see their aspirations fulfilled in the future. The main powers, united in London, recognized the independence of

Belgium and finally imposed the partition of Limburg and Luxembourg. In 1839, William at last signed the treaty sanctioning this partition and the independence of the Grand Duchy. As a result, the personal union with the Netherlands was confirmed as well as Luxembourg's adhesion to the German Confederation.

**William II** succeeded his father in 1840 and granted the Grand Duchy a specific Constitution. His reign was short but full of reforms – he created the administrative infrastructures on which the Grand Duchy relied to become a real state, and ratified Luxembourg's entry into the Zollverein in 1842 (a customs union with Prussia). In 1848, Luxembourg adopted a very liberal Constitution, which limited the royal prerogative. William II died in 1849. As a sign of gratitude, an equestrian statue of William II was erected in the city centre of Luxembourg in 1884.

**His son, William III**, succeeded him in 1849 and reigned until 1890. He adopted a more reac-

tionary attitude, considering the Constitution as too liberal and too 'republican'. Therefore, he imposed an amended Constitution in 1856, which reaffirmed the monarchic principle, notably by creating a Council of State whose members were designated by the sovereign. He appointed his brother Henry as his Lieutenant Representative. The latter somewhat tempered the policy of his brother by becoming the defender of the country's independence abroad, notably during the crisis of 1867, when Napoleon III wanted to acquire Luxembourg. William III died on 23 November 1890.

In 1890, in accordance with the stipulations of the Family Pact of the House of Nassau dating from 1783, the Grand Ducal Crown passed to the only male heir of the House of Nassau, Duke Adolphe of Nassau, while the eldest daughter of William III, Wilhelmina, succeeded her father to the throne of the Netherlands, which was governed by a different order of succession to that of the Grand Duchy.

Thus, the personal union between Luxembourg and the Netherlands came to an end.



*William III (1817-1890)*

## *The sovereigns of the House of Luxembourg*

**G**rand Duke Adolphe (1817-1905), became the first sovereign of the national dynasty of Luxembourg at the age of 73 and, since then, his direct descendants have succeeded him to the throne.

He became the owner of the ruins of Vianden Castle and Berg Castle. In 1891, he bought Fischbach Castle.



*Grand Duke Adolphe (1817-1905)*

Nevertheless, he preferred to live in his castle in Hohenburg, in Bavaria, and left all political decisions to Paul Eyschen, President of the Luxembourg Government. The dynasty thus placed itself above politics in the eyes of the people of Luxembourg. Grand Duke Adolphe died at his castle in Hohenburg on 17 November 1905.

**H**is eldest son, **William IV** (1852-1912), was appointed Lieutenant Representative in 1902 and succeeded his father in 1905. While taking the oath, he asserted that the Grand Duke is above and outside political parties. Health problems led him to name his wife, Marie-Anne of Braganza, Lieutenant Representative in 1908. She took the oath as Regent on 19 November 1908.

William IV died in 1912 without a male heir. Six daughters were born of his marriage to Marie-Anne of Braganza: Marie-Adélaïde (1894), Charlotte (1896), Hilda (1897), Antonia (1899), Elisabeth (1901) and Sophie (1902).



*Grand Duke William IV*

of Deputies approved the new Family Statute established by William IV, which obtained force of Law on 10 July 1907.

 **Grand-Duchess Marie-Adélaïde** (1894-1924) was the first Luxembourg sovereign born on Luxembourg soil since John the Blind in 1296. She took the oath on 18 June 1912. Two years later, on 2 August 1914, German troops invaded the Grand Duchy. The

Having foreseen the problem of succession that might arise upon his death, he promulgated a new family statute in 1907, under which his eldest daughter, Princess Marie-Adélaïde, was declared heiress to the throne. On 16 April 1907, the Chamber

Government and Marie-Adélaïde protested but were powerless against the violation of Luxembourg's neutrality. The German occupiers hardly intervened in Luxembourg's internal politics. After the death of Paul Eyschen in 1915, Grand Duchess Marie-Adélaïde decided to play a more direct role in political affairs. She was poorly advised and wanted to impose a minority rightist Government, thus incurring the hostility of the opposition who accused her of violating the spirit of the Constitution.

When she took the oath, the Grand Duchess had declared her interest in political and social matters. She declared in particular: 'It is the desire to judge in accordance with the requirements of justice and equity that will inspire all my actions'.



It should be borne in mind that, during the debate about the new Family Statute in 1907, the socialists had been opposed to the monarchy. Although she never went beyond the limits set by the Constitution, Marie-Adélaïde drew too much hostility from the Left, which called for her abdication in Parliament the day after the armistice, accusing her of having adopted a pro-German attitude in 1914 when she received Kaiser Wilhelm II. Following violent disturbances aimed against the dynasty, the Grand Duchess was finally persuaded by Emile Reuter of the necessity of signing her abdication in favour of her younger sister Charlotte on 9 January 1919.

She left Luxembourg to enter the Carmelite Order in Modena in Italy. She died at Hohenburg Castle on 24 January 1924.

*Grand Duchess  
Marie-Adélaïde (1894-1924)*

*HRH  
Grand Duchess  
Charlotte, the day after  
her return from exile,  
15 April 1945*



While taking the oath, **Grand Duchess Charlotte** (1896-1985) asserted her desire to remain above all political matters. In 1919, the Constitution was revised – the most important reform was the introduction of universal suffrage for all Luxembourg citizens, men and women, from the age of 21. The principle of national sovereignty was formally written into the Constitution. The powers of the sovereign were limited – the Grand Duke had no powers other than those formally allocated to him under the Constitution.

On 28 September 1919, some months after the Grand Duchess' accession to the throne, a dual referendum was held on the economic orientation of the country (economic union with France or Belgium), and on the question of the future form of the state – 77.8% voted in favour of the dynasty under the reign of Grand Duchess Charlotte.

On 6 November 1919, her marriage to Prince Félix of Bourbon-Parma, born in Austria on 28 September 1893, was celebrated in



*Grand Duchess  
Charlotte (1896-1985),  
Prince Félix  
of Bourbon-Parma  
(1893-1970)*

Luxembourg, assuring the Grand Ducal House of a permanent place in the hearts of the Luxembourg people. Six children were born of this union: Jean (1921), Elisabeth (1922), Marie-Adélaïde (1924), Marie-Gabrielle (1925), Charles (1927) and Alix (1929).

The interwar period was marked in particular by Luxembourg's entry into the League of Nations in December 1920, and by the creation of the Belgo-Luxembourg Economic Union (BLEU) in 1921. As a result, Luxembourg was able to withstand the world economic crisis. The Government of Joseph Bech embarked on an active foreign policy that enabled

Luxembourg to acquire a guaranteed position on the international stage. But the threat of war re-emerged in the mid-1930s. Faced with the danger of annexation by Nazi Germany, the people of Luxembourg developed patriotic feelings focused around the dynasty.

In 1939, when Luxembourg celebrated the centenary of its independence, the Grand Ducal Family was at the heart of the festivities throughout the country.

On 10 May 1940, attacking to the west, the Germans violated the unarmed neutrality of Luxembourg. Having anticipated an attack, the Grand Ducal Family had decided to leave Luxembourg to escape capture by the Germans.

The Grand Duchess, accompanied by her family, went into exile in France, then passed through Spain to reach Portugal; she went on to Great Britain, the United States and Canada. The Grand Duchess and her Government joined the Allies. The official seat

of the Government became London. The Grand Duchess moved there in 1943 and encouraged the people of Luxembourg to resist the Nazi occupation. She continually addressed the people of Luxembourg via BBC radio from 1940 onwards.

On her return, on 14 April 1945, the Grand Duchess was welcomed by an enthusiastic crowd who no longer saw her as a mere sovereign, but as the symbol of the country's resistance and protector of the Luxembourg people.

By visiting areas devastated by the war, she reinforced the feeling of solidarity in the country.

During the 1950s and 1960s, the Grand Duchess made numerous official visits abroad, which showed the population that Luxembourg was recognized as a full member on the international stage. Owing to her determination to carve out a role for the Grand Duchy among the nations of Europe, her reign saw the start of the building of Europe.

On 12 November 1964, after a 45-year reign, she abdicated in favour of her eldest son, Jean, and retired to Fischbach Castle.

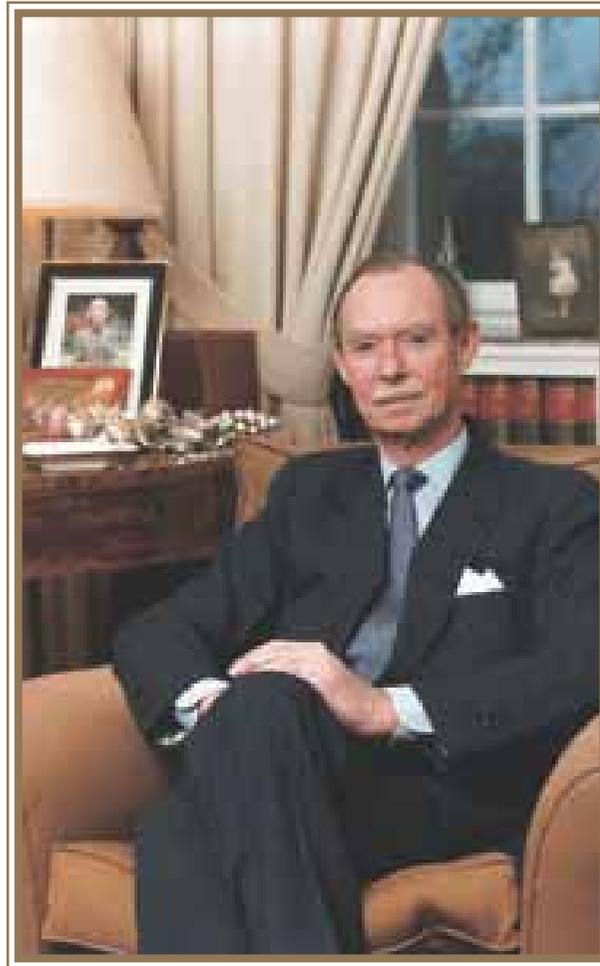
She died on 9 July 1985, 15 years after Prince Félix. A monument to her memory was unveiled in 1990, a testament to the affection in which she was held by the people of Luxembourg.



*Grand Duchess Charlotte and her Government in exile, London*



His Royal  
Highness  
Grand Duke  
Jean



Grand-Duke Jean of Luxembourg, Duke of Nassau, Prince of Bourbon-Parma, was born at Berg Castle in Luxembourg on 5 January 1921. He is the eldest son of Grand Duchess Charlotte and Prince Félix of Bourbon-Parma. His godfather was His Holiness Pope Benedict XV.

Grand Duke Jean spent most of his childhood at Berg Castle. He attended primary and secondary school in Luxembourg and completed his studies at Ampleforth College (Yorkshire) in Great Britain from 1934 to 1938.

From 5 January 1939, when the Crown Prince reached the age of majority, he bore the title of Hereditary Grand Duke of Luxembourg, in his capacity as heir presumptive to the Crown of the Grand Duchy.

On 10 May 1940, Prince Jean left Luxembourg with his parents to escape the German occupation, first taking refuge in France, then travelling to Portugal through Spain; he then went on to the United States, Canada and Great Britain. In Quebec, he

attended law and political science courses at Laval University.

In November 1942, he joined the British Army as a volunteer in the Irish Guards Regiment. He received his military training at the Royal Military College in Aldershot. He took the rank of lieutenant in the Irish Guards in March 1943, and captain in 1944. In 1984, he was appointed colonel of the Irish Guards Regiment.

He took part in his unit's landing on 11 June 1944 in Normandy, and served at the headquarters of the 32nd Brigade of the Guards Armoured Division. He was present at the Battle of Caen, and the liberation of Brussels on 3 September 1944.

On 10 September 1944, he crossed the Luxembourg border with his father and the American troops that liberated the Grand Duchy. He reached Luxembourg City that afternoon, where he was greeted with immense enthusiasm.

On 13 September 1944, he rejoined his unit and took part in the operations around Arnhem and the battles of the Ardennes offensive. At the end of January 1945, he helped capture the Reichswald to the northwest of Wesel, and continued the campaign with the Allied forces in Germany until the end of hostilities.

On 14 April 1945, the Hereditary Grand Duke returned to Luxembourg to attend the triumphal return of Grand Duchess Charlotte. The same year, he was appointed Colonel in the young Luxembourg Army.

The Grand Duke is the holder of a large number of Luxembourg and foreign awards. In particular, he has been awarded the following military decorations:

- Luxembourg Croix de Guerre and bar
- Silver Star Medal (USA)
- French Croix de Guerre
- Belgian Croix de Guerre 1940 and bar
- Oorlogsherinneringskruis (the Netherlands)
- 1939-1945 Star (GB)
- France and Germany Star (GB)

- Defence Medal (GB)
- War Medal 1939-1945 (GB).



*Triumphant return to the Grand Duchy  
(10 September 1944)*

On 9 April 1953, the Hereditary Grand Duke married Princess Joséphine-Charlotte of Belgium. They have five children:

- Princess Marie-Astrid (b. 17 February 1954)
- Prince Henri (b. 16 April 1955)
- Prince Jean and Princess Margaretha (b. 15 May 1957)
- Prince Guillaume (b. 1 May 1963).

Their Royal Highnesses live at Fischbach Castle.

From 1951 to 1961, the Hereditary Grand Duke was a member of the Council of State, which enabled him to be associated with the political life of the country.

He was proclaimed Honorary Doctor of Strasbourg University and Miami University on 22 November 1957 and 6 May 1979 respectively. Furthermore, he is Honorary President of the War Orphans charity, Chief Scout of the Luxembourg Boy Scouts Association, Honorary President of the Luxembourg Olympic and Sports Committee, member and, since 1998, Honorary Dean of the International

Olympic Committee, Honorary President of the War Veterans Association, Honorary President of the Unio'n (Union of the Luxembourg Resistance Movement).

An ardent nature lover, the Grand Duke is particularly interested in environmental problems and the protection of fauna and flora. He is keen on sports and, in particular, practises skiing, water-skiing, swimming, hunting and fishing. His other leisure interests include photography and music.

On 28 April 1961, Grand Duchess Charlotte appointed the Hereditary Grand Duke Lieutenant Representative. On 12 November 1964, at a ceremony at the Grand Ducal Palace, Grand Duchess Charlotte, after a 45-year reign, signed the declaration of abdication in which she renounced the Crown of the Grand Duchy in favour of her son, the Hereditary Grand Duke Jean. The same day, Grand Duke Jean took the oath in a solemn ceremony at the Chamber of Deputies. On 24 December 1999, after nearly 36 years on the throne, Grand Duke Jean

announced his abdication in favour of his son, the Hereditary Grand Duke Henri, who ascended the throne on 7 October 2000.



*On 12 November 1964,  
HRH Grand Duchess Charlotte signs the declaration  
of abdication in favour of her son*

Grand Duchess Joséphine-Charlotte, Princess of Belgium, was born in 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. On 23 February 1934, her father ascended the throne, succeeding King Albert, who had died in an accident at Marche-les-Dames.

At the age of seven, she lost her mother, Queen Astrid, in a tragic car crash at Küsnacht in Switzerland. She entered boarding school in 1940 and then received private tuition from 1942 onwards.

On 7 June 1944, the day after the Allied landings in Normandy, Princess Joséphine-Charlotte and her father, King Léopold, were deported to Germany. Liberated on 7 May 1945, the royal family moved to Prégny, near Geneva, where Princess Joséphine-Charlotte continued her studies. She took child psychology courses under Professor Piaget at Geneva

University. Back in Belgium, the Princess devoted herself particularly to social problems and the arts, besides attending to her official duties.

On 9 April 1953, she married Prince Jean in Luxembourg Cathedral and henceforth bore the title of Hereditary Grand Duchess of Luxembourg. On 12 November 1964, the day Grand Duke Jean acceded to the throne, she became Grand Duchess.

Since then, she has assisted her husband in his duties. In addition, owing to her keen interest in childcare and health matters, she became President of the Luxembourg Red Cross in 1964 and, since 1990, she has been at the head of the Grand Duchy's guides movement as Chief Guide.

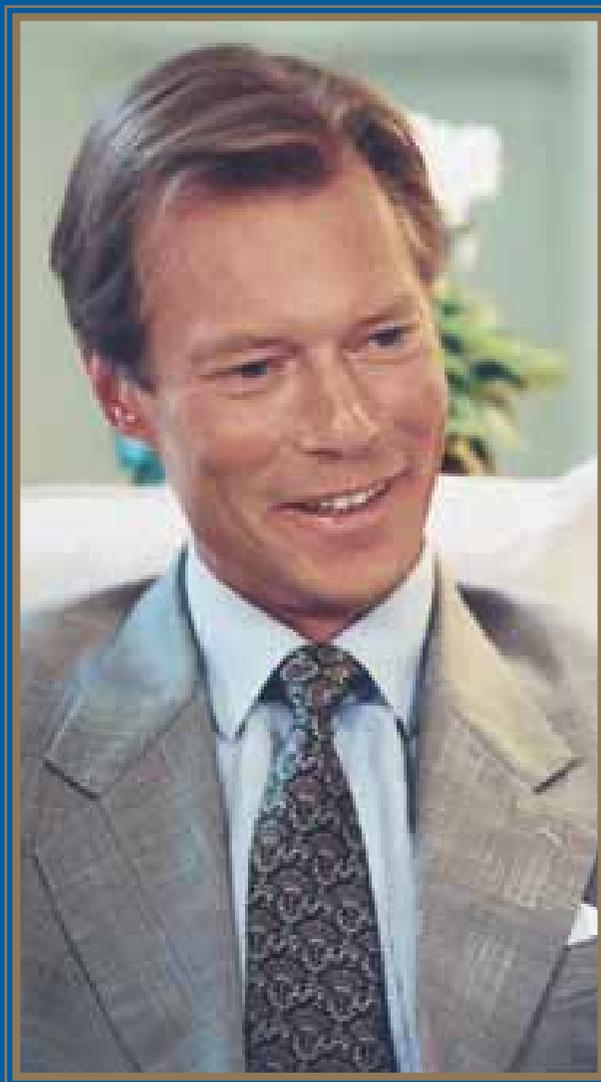
She has accepted the patronage of several charitable and philanthropic organizations, in particular the Union of Voluntary Blood Donors and the Luxembourg Paediatrics Society. Her leisure activities include floriculture, hunting, fishing, skiing and water sports.



*The wedding of HRH Prince Jean  
and Princess Joséphine-Charlotte,  
9 April 1953*



His Royal  
Highness  
Grand Duke  
Henri



**H**is Royal Highness Grand Duke Henri, eldest son of Grand Duke Jean and Grand Duchess Joséphine-Charlotte of Luxembourg, was born at Betzdorf Castle in Luxembourg on 16 April 1955.

In addition to Lëtzebuergesch, the Grand Duke speaks French, English and German.

The Grand Duke attended secondary school in Luxembourg and France, where he successfully gained his baccalaureate in 1974. He then went on to study at Geneva University (Switzerland), graduating in political science in October 1980. His Royal Highness was proclaimed Honorary Doctor (Humane Letters) of the Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, Connecticut (USA) and Honorary Doctor in Law of Miami University, Oxford, Ohio (USA). Furthermore, he was declared Honorary Doctor in economy of the University of Khon Kaen, (Thailand) and Honorary Doctor in politics from the University of Trier (Germany).

In 1974, Prince Henri enrolled at the Royal Military Academy in Sandhurst, England, which awarded him his officer's commission in 1975. On 6 October 2000, Grand Duke Henri was awarded the title of General of the Luxembourg Army. Since 1989, he has been an Honorary Major in the United Kingdom's Parachute Regiment.

On 14 February 1981, he married Maria Teresa Mestre who also graduated in political science at Geneva University in 1980.

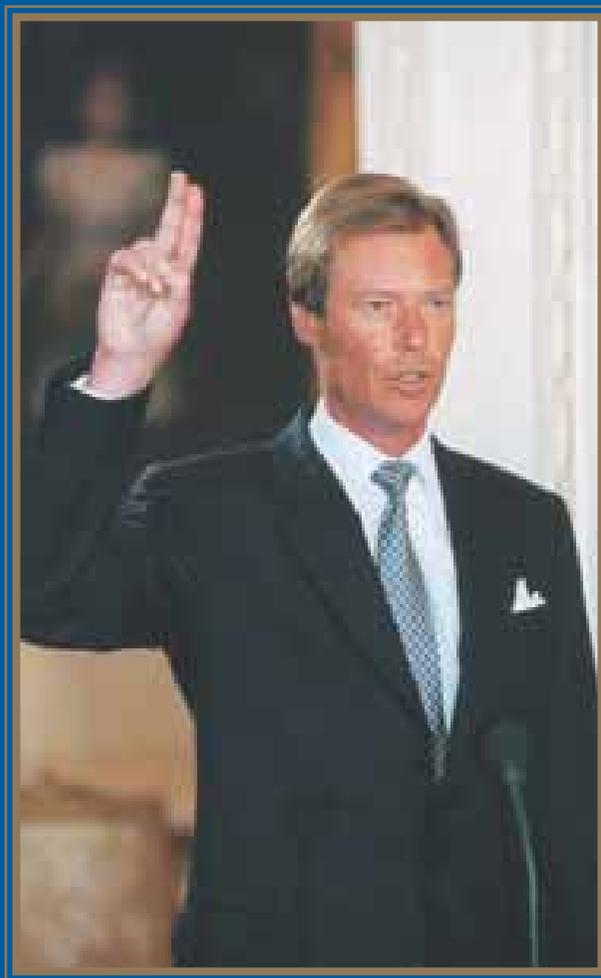
Their Royal Highnesses have four sons and one daughter:

- Prince Guillaume (b. 11 November 1981)
- Prince Félix (b. 3 June 1984)
- Prince Louis (b. 3 August 1986)
- Princess Alexandra (b. 16 February 1991)
- Prince Sébastien (b. 16 April 1992).

Grand Duke Henri has undertaken many information and education trips in Europe and overseas. From 1978 to 1980, he studied in the United States.



*On 14 February 1981, the Hereditary Grand Duke marries Maria Teresa Mestre*



*On 4 March 1998, the Hereditary Grand Duke takes the oath as Lieutenant Representative*

As Honorary President of the Economic Development Committee, founded in 1977, the Prince led many trade missions throughout the world to promote the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg as an investment centre.

From 1980 to 1998, the Prince was a member of the Council of State, which enabled him to familiarize himself with the legislative machinery of the Grand Duchy.

The Grand Duke is patron of many associations active in the fields of culture and sports, science and civics.

Furthermore, he has been member of the International Olympic Committee since the session in Nagano in February 1998.

As President of the Patronage Committee of the Société des Foires Internationales de Luxembourg, he is high patron of the Civil Defence Organisation.

In addition, he is an active member of the Mentor Foundation, launched under the patronage of the World Health Organisation. The purpose of this foundation is to prevent young people from taking drugs.

Highly interested in the conservation of nature, the Grand Duke is president of the Galapagos Darwin Trust Luxembourg and member of the executive committee of the Charles Darwin Foundation.

On 4 March 1998, in accordance with Article 42 of the Constitution, he was appointed Lieutenant Representative of His Royal Highness. On 7 October 2000, he succeeded his father after the latter had abdicated.

His main leisure activities are literature, classical music and sports in general, and, more particularly, swimming, sailing, water-skiing, tennis and hunting.

Sipa Press/Pierre Villard



*The Grand Duke is a nature lover and is involved in protecting the environment*



Her Royal  
Highness  
Grand Duchess  
Maria  
Teresa



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

In 1959, Maria Teresa left Cuba with her parents during the revolution. The family moved to New York, where the young lady became a student at Marymount. She studied at the French School of New York from 1961.

In June 1965, her parents moved for a few months to their family property in Santander, Spain, before finally settling in Geneva. Maria Teresa Mestre continued her studies at the Marie-José Institute in Gstaad, then at the Marie-Thérèse boarding school in Geneva, where she successfully gained her baccalaureate in 1975. During her stay in Switzerland, Her Royal Highness obtained Swiss nationality.

She continued her education at Geneva University, where she met Prince Henri and, at the same time as His Royal Highness, she graduated in political science in 1980. They

married on 14 February 1981, and Maria Teresa took the title of Princess and Hereditary Grand Duchess.

Since 7 October 2000, the day HRH Grand Duke Henri acceded to the throne, she has borne the title of Grand Duchess.

During her studies, Maria Teresa Mestre took particular interest in social and humanitarian problems. She took care of elderly people in homes in Geneva and gave courses to underprivileged children.

Apart from Spanish, her mother tongue, HRH the Grand Duchess speaks fluent French and has a good knowledge of English. She also speaks Lëtzebuergesch and knows some German and Italian.

She has been a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador since 10 June 1997.

Furthermore, she is President of the Prince Henri-Princess Maria Teresa Foundation, which was established in 1981 to work for the integra-

tion of disabled and underprivileged people. She is also Honorary President of the AIDS Research Foundation. She has given her high patronage to the Immigration Festival, the European Theatre and Music Festival in Wiltz, the Association for the Blind in Luxembourg and the Luxembourg Alzheimer's Association.

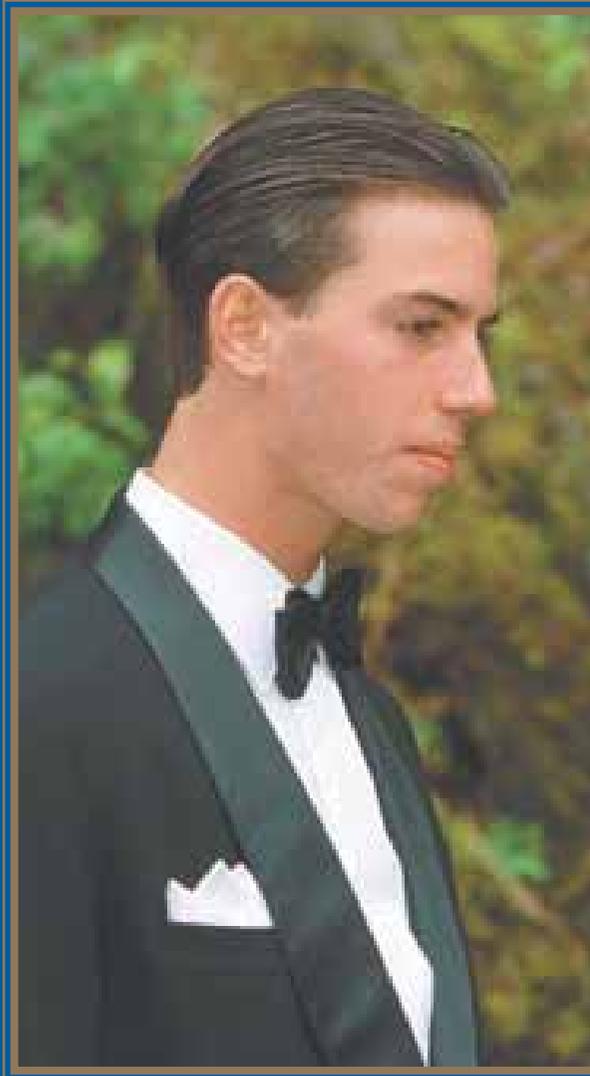
She is patron of an orphanage which bears her name, in Divin, Belarus.

In October 1999, Her Royal Highness was proclaimed Honorary Doctor of Seton Hall University (school for diplomatic and international relations, USA).



*Their Royal Highnesses the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess, surrounded by their children in the drawing room of Fischbach Castle*

## His Royal Highness Prince Guillaume



Prince Guillaume was born on 11 November 1981 at the Grand Duchess Charlotte maternity hospital. He is the eldest son of Their Royal Highnesses the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess of Luxembourg.

His brothers and sisters are Prince Félix (1984), Prince Louis (1986), Princess Alexandra (1991) and Prince Sébastien (1992).

He attended primary school in Lorentzweiler and secondary school, until the fourth year, at Lycée Robert Schuman in Luxembourg. He continued his education in Switzerland where he gained his baccalaureate. In September 2001, the Hereditary Grand Duke began his training as an officer at the Royal Military Academy in Sandhurst (GB).

On 18 December 2000, Prince Guillaume was proclaimed Hereditary Grand Duke.

Since Autumn 2000, he has been chairman of the board of directors of the Kräizbiërg Foundation, which works to help mentally handicapped people.

Taking over from his father, the Hereditary Grand Duke has assumed the role of honorary president of the Board of Economic Development since 2001. His first mission in this capacity took him to South Korea in April 2001.

In addition to Lëtzebuergesch, Prince Guillaume speaks fluent French, English and German and has some knowledge of Spanish.

Like most youths in his age group, the Prince enjoys listening to modern music but is also interested in classical music. He played the violin for some years and history is his favourite subject. Prince Guillaume is very keen on sports and enjoys playing tennis, swimming, sailing and skiing.

Like his grandfather and father, Prince Guillaume is actively involved in the scout movement in Luxembourg. He participated in a camp in Nepal during summer 1997, where, with his scout friends, he took part in a reforestation project and other initiatives in favour of disadvantaged communities.

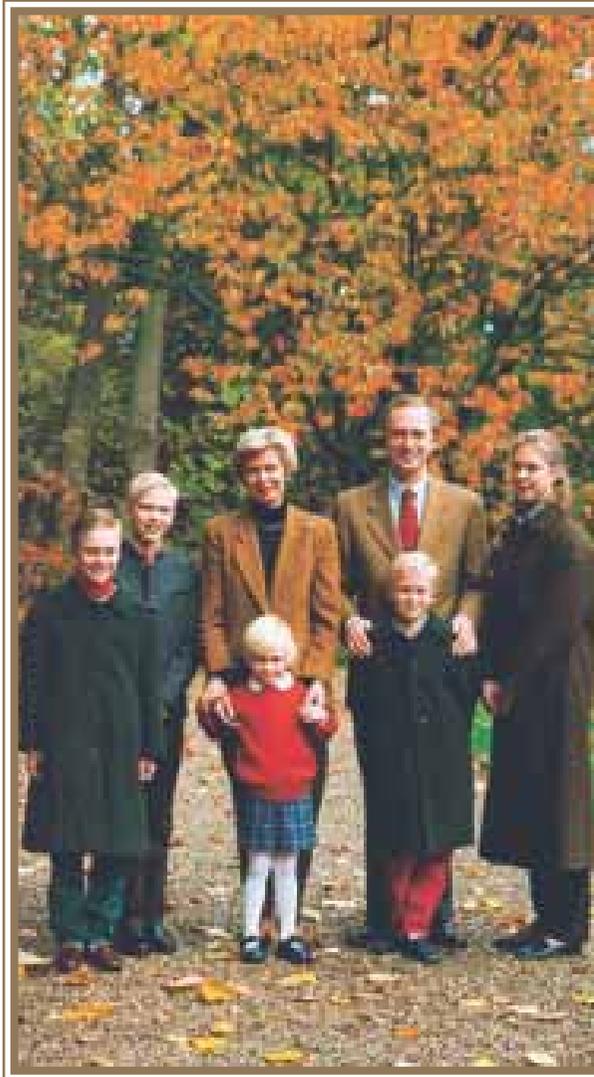


*Prince Guillaume surrounded by his father, the then Hereditary Grand Duke Henri, and his great-grandmother, Grand Duchess Charlotte*

*The brothers  
and sisters  
of HRH  
Grand Duke  
Henri*

*Princess Marie-Astrid and her husband  
with their five children*

Princess Marie-Astrid



**H**RH 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 studied in Luxembourg and Belgium. She gained her diploma as a state-registered nurse in 1974 and completed her education in 1977 with a nursing certificate in tropical medicine from the Prince Léopold Institute.

She has been President of the Red Cross for Luxembourg Youth since 1970.

The Princess has been married to His Imperial and Royal Highness Charles Christian of Hapsburg-Lorraine, Archduke of Austria, Prince of Bar, since 6 February 1982.

Five children were born of this marriage:

- Princess Marie-Christine (b. 31 July 1983)
- Prince Imre (b. 8 December 1985)
- Prince Christophe (b. 2 February 1988)
- Prince Alexander (b. 26 September 1990)
- Princess Gabriella (b. 26 March 1994).

## Prince Jean



*Prince Jean and his wife*

**B**orn at Betzdorf Castle on 15 May 1957, twin brother of Princess Margaretha, Prince Jean studied in Luxembourg, Switzerland and France, where he obtained his baccalaureate. He then attended language courses in Great Britain.

In 1977, he obtained his officer's commission after a period of study at the Royal Military Academy in Sandhurst. In 1979, he was appointed Captain in the Luxembourg Army. Prince Jean completed his higher education at the Institut Européen d'Administration des Affaires (INSEAD) in Fontainebleau, France. Today he works in the financial services industry.

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

On 27 May 1987, he married Hélène Vestur, who bears the title Countess of Nassau. Four children were born of this marriage:

- Marie-Gabrielle, Countess of Nassau (b. 8 December 1986)
- Constantin, Count of Nassau (b. 22 July 1988)
- Wenceslas, Count of Nassau (b. 17 November 1990)
- Carl-Johan, Count of Nassau (b. 15 August 1992).

## Princess Margaretha



*Princess Margaretha with her husband,  
Nicolas of Liechtenstein, and their children  
Marie-Astrid, Maria-Anunciata  
and Joseph-Emmanuel*

Born at Betzdorf Castle on 15 May 1957, twin sister of Prince Jean, Princess Margaretha studied in Luxembourg, partly at the European School, as well as in Belgium, Great Britain and the United States.

She married His Serene Highness Prince Nicolas of Liechtenstein on 20 March 1982. Three children were born of this marriage:

- Princess Maria-Anunciata (b. 12 May 1985)
- Princess Marie-Astrid (b. 26 June 1987)
- Prince Joseph-Emmanuel (b. 7 May 1989).

## Prince Guillaume



*Prince Guillaume with his wife  
and their three children*

Born at Betzdorf Castle on 1 May 1963, Prince Guillaume is the youngest of the five children of Their Royal Highnesses Grand Duke Jean and Grand Duchess Joséphine-Charlotte of Luxembourg.

He attended secondary school in Luxembourg and Switzerland and obtained his baccalaureate in Grenoble in 1982. He continued his studies at Oxford University in the United Kingdom and at Georgetown University in Washington, where he graduated in 1987.

He gained six months' work experience at the International Monetary Fund in Washington, and spent two years at the Commission of the European Communities in Brussels.

In 1992, he became President of Lux-Development, an agency responsible for carrying out the Luxembourg Government's bilateral and intergovernmental development aid programme.

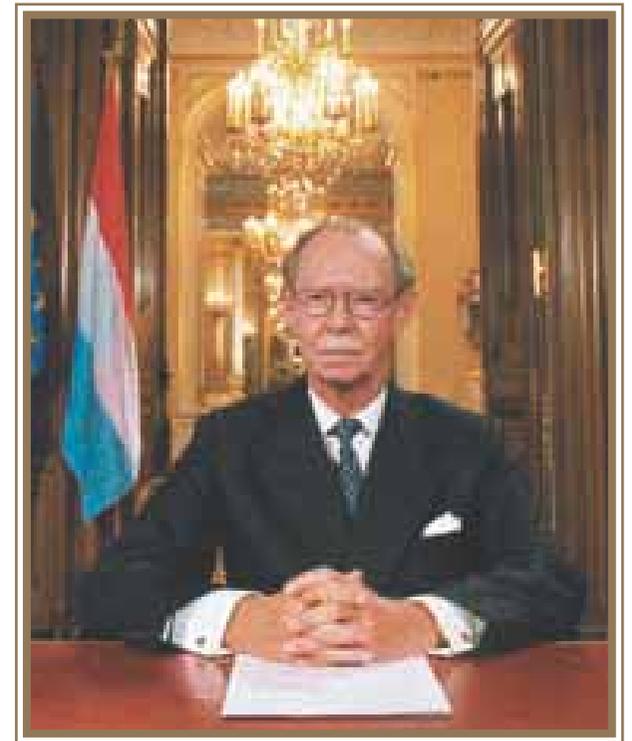
Furthermore, he is President of the 'Mérite Jeunesse' Foundation. He married Sibilla Weiller on 8 September 1994, who has since borne the title of Princess of Luxembourg.

Three children were born of this marriage:

- Prince Paul-Louis (b. 24 March 1998)
- Prince Léopold and Princess Charlotte (b. 2 May 2000)



*The accession  
to the throne  
of HRH  
Grand Duke Henri  
on 7 October 2000*



*On 6 October 2000, the day before  
HRH Grand Duke Henri's accession to the throne,  
HRH Grand Duke Jean addresses the people*

 On 7 October 2000, the ceremonies for HRH Grand Duke Jean's abdication and HRH Grand Duke Henri's accession to the throne took place in Luxembourg.

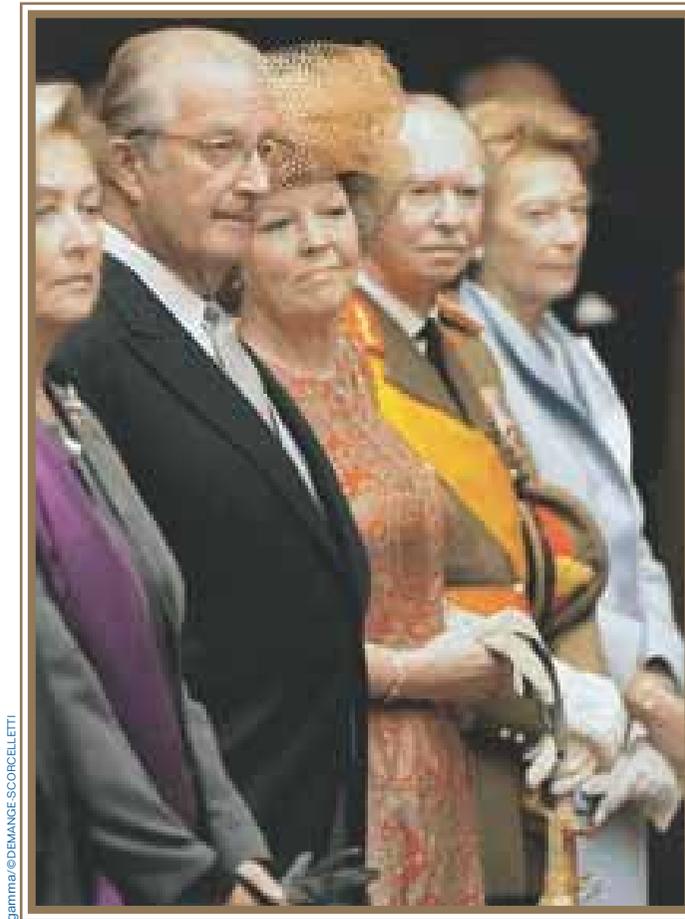
Grand Duke Jean announced his intention to abdicate in favour of his eldest son, Hereditary Grand Duke Henri, on 24 December 1999.

After a reign of nearly 36 years, it seemed natural to Grand Duke Jean to hand over the reigns to his eldest son and to let the Grand Duchy take advantage of the experience gained by the Hereditary Grand Duke.

On 7 October 2000, at around 10.00 a.m., in the presence of HRH Grand Duchess Joséphine-Charlotte, HRH the Hereditary Grand Duke, HRH the Hereditary Grand Duchess, HRH Grand Duke Jean signed the Grand Ducal Abdication Decree at the Grand Ducal Palace.



*HRH Grand Duke Jean signs the Grand Ducal Abdication Decree*



*HRH Grand Duke Jean and  
Grand Duchess Joséphine-Charlotte, and  
TM the Queen of the Netherlands and  
the King and Queen of the Belgians take part  
in the swearing-in ceremony*

HM Queen of the Netherlands, TM the King and the Queen of the Belgians, the other members of the Grand Ducal Family, the representatives of the main political institutions and public figures also took part in the ceremony.

Following signature of the Abdication Decree, Prime Minister Claude Juncker gave a speech in which he paid tribute to HRH Grand Duke Jean and his wife.

The abdication ceremony was followed by the swearing-in ceremony, which took place at a solemn sitting of the Chamber of Deputies.

At about 11.00 a.m., during a public sitting at the Chamber of Deputies, HRH Grand Duke Henri took the oath stipulated by Article 5 of the Constitution:

*'I swear to observe the Constitution and the Laws of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, to maintain the national independence and integrity of the territory, as well as public and individual liberties'.*

Thereafter, Grand Duke Henri delivered the enthronement speech, in which he proved to be fully aware of the duties and obligations his new function imposes on him and promised to accomplish them in all conscience and with the utmost ability. On this particular day, he wished to thank his parents for the trust they had placed in him. In addition to the political and economic aspects, His Royal Highness mentioned the profound values of our society and reminded us that the 'foundations of our civilization lie in solidarity, justice, tolerance, respect for others and humanity'.



gamma/© DEMANGE SCORCELLETTI

*HRH Grand Duke Henri takes the oath stipulated by Article 5 of the Constitution*



*The public figures, who took part in the solemn session  
at the Chamber of Deputies, heartily applaud the new Grand Duke and his wife*

After the swearing-in ceremony, TRH and the royal children returned to the Palace on foot. The large crowd, gathered along the route, acclaimed Grand Duke Henri and Grand Duchess Maria Teresa enthusiastically.

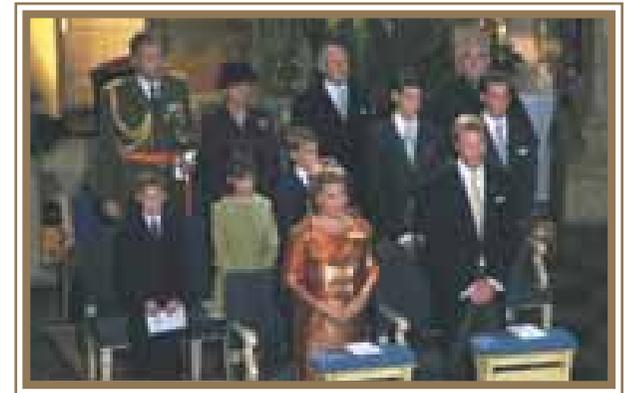
At around midday, TRH Grand Duke Henri and Grand Duchess Maria Teresa, the other members of the Grand Ducal Family and Dutch and Belgian sovereigns appeared on the balcony of the Grand Ducal Palace and waved to the crowd.

After being invited to a dinner given by the Government at the Cercle Municipal, the accredited ambassadors were presented to TRH Grand Duke Henri and Grand Duchess Maria Teresa.

At around 4.20 p.m., TRH Grand Duke Henri and Grand Duchess Maria Teresa, accompanied by the royal children, left the Grand Ducal Palace on foot for Notre-Dame Cathedral where they attended a thanksgiving service.



*TRH Grand Duke Henri and Grand Duchess Maria Teresa, surrounded by their children, Grand Duke Jean, Grand Duchess Joséphine-Charlotte and the Dutch and Belgian sovereigns, wave to the crowd from the balcony of the Grand Ducal Palace*



*TRH the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess and the royal children attend the thanksgiving service at Notre-Dame Cathedral in Luxembourg*



*TRH the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess wave to the crowd thronging the streets of the capital*

Later in the afternoon, TRH proceeded to the City Hall where they were welcomed by the Mayor of the City of Luxembourg, Mr Paul Helminger. After the welcome address by Mr Helminger, the members of the Grand Ducal Family signed the guest book of the City of Luxembourg.

Upon leaving the City Hall, at around 6.00 p.m., Their Royal Highnesses went to meet the crowd gathered at the entrance to the building.

Thereafter, they went around the twice-weekly market, in the Place Guillaume, which, for the occasion, remained open until late in the evening. The Grand Duke and the Grand Duchess continued their walk through the streets of the capital. They joined the people to admire the craft stands and watch the folk dancing.



The official programme ended at around 8.00 p.m. with a military music concert by the Luxembourg army in front of the Grand Ducal Palace. This also presented the opportunity to listen, for the first time, to 'La marche du Grand-Duc Henri', composed by Julien Hoffmann for the occasion.



*TRH the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess watch balloons in the national colours float away*





*Chapter Two*

# The monarchy today

*Monarchy*



*Three generations united by the same sense of duty and responsibility*

## Prepared for reign

*'I feel ready'*, the new Grand Duke Henri declares. However, it will not be an easy task to succeed his father, Grand Duke Jean, considering the latter has made a lasting impression on Luxembourg after a reign of 36 years. This determination shown by the new Grand Duke is fully in his honour and in line with the challenge that awaits him.

Deliberate symbolism or simple coincidence, the concordance between the change of reign and the change of century breathes fresh impetus into the whole country. However, no major upheavals are expected; and quite justifiably, considering the new Luxembourg sovereign intends to embark on a route of renewed continuity.

There is no reason whatsoever for Grand Duke Henri to change the basis of an order already well established by his father. 'We have to maintain the same line and, at the same time, find our own style', he explains clearly while insisting on the presence of his wife, Maria Teresa, at his side: 'because to

reign goes hand in hand with married life'. His style is strongly inspired by that of his father, but on the whole constitutes a more relaxed, flexible and modern version. Moreover, by his own description, Grand Duke Henri sees himself as someone more 'laid-back'.

The new Grand Duke will now have to focus on perpetuating the family tradition and its ancestral values and, at the same time, transferring them into the modern context of the 21st century. Even though he does not intend to become personally involved in the political affairs of his country, in the same way that his father deliberately kept away from them, the new sovereign will concentrate on maintaining the greatest economic growth Luxembourg has ever known and taking up the challenges dear to him: 'I intend to remain close to my country's economic and social situation and take a particularly close look at certain matters, such as youth education, problems related to drugs and violence, development aid and the environment', he announced.

*'I have a double duty, to ensure political neutrality and tolerance, because this country belongs to the people, not to the sovereign'.*

Tageblatt, 5 October 2000, p. 15.  
'The country belongs to the people, not to the sovereign'  
Interview by Danièle Fonck



*HRH the Hereditary Grand Duke visits a contingent of the Luxembourg army,  
on manoeuvres in Norway (March 1997)*

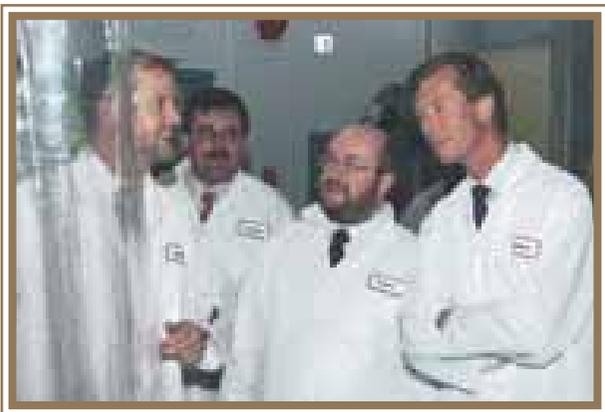
Grand Duke Henri's creed is to ensure the well-being of his people. 'Our aim is to make sure that people are happy, that we are ready to listen to the needs of the individuals in so far as possible, to share the moments of joy and sadness with our people'. As such, he attaches great importance to the preservation of the country's unity, which is not possible without the integration of the foreign communities: 'It is of the utmost importance to make sure Luxembourg and non-Luxembourg people live together as they have done in the past'. The Grand Duchy owes its credibility on the European scene above all to its economic and social stability, but also to its distinctive multi-lingual identity. Therefore, he continues, 'The Luxembourg experience should serve as an example for what Europe should become in the future, that is to say a kind of melting pot of Europeans living together in harmony'.

Strengthened by a Christian education firmly anchored in his values, he has been able to develop a keen sense of duty and generosity towards others, accompanied by dignity and

humility. A profound respect for traditions and fundamental values while, simultaneously, keeping abreast of the times, that is how we can summarize the style of the new Luxembourg Grand Duke.

Sources:

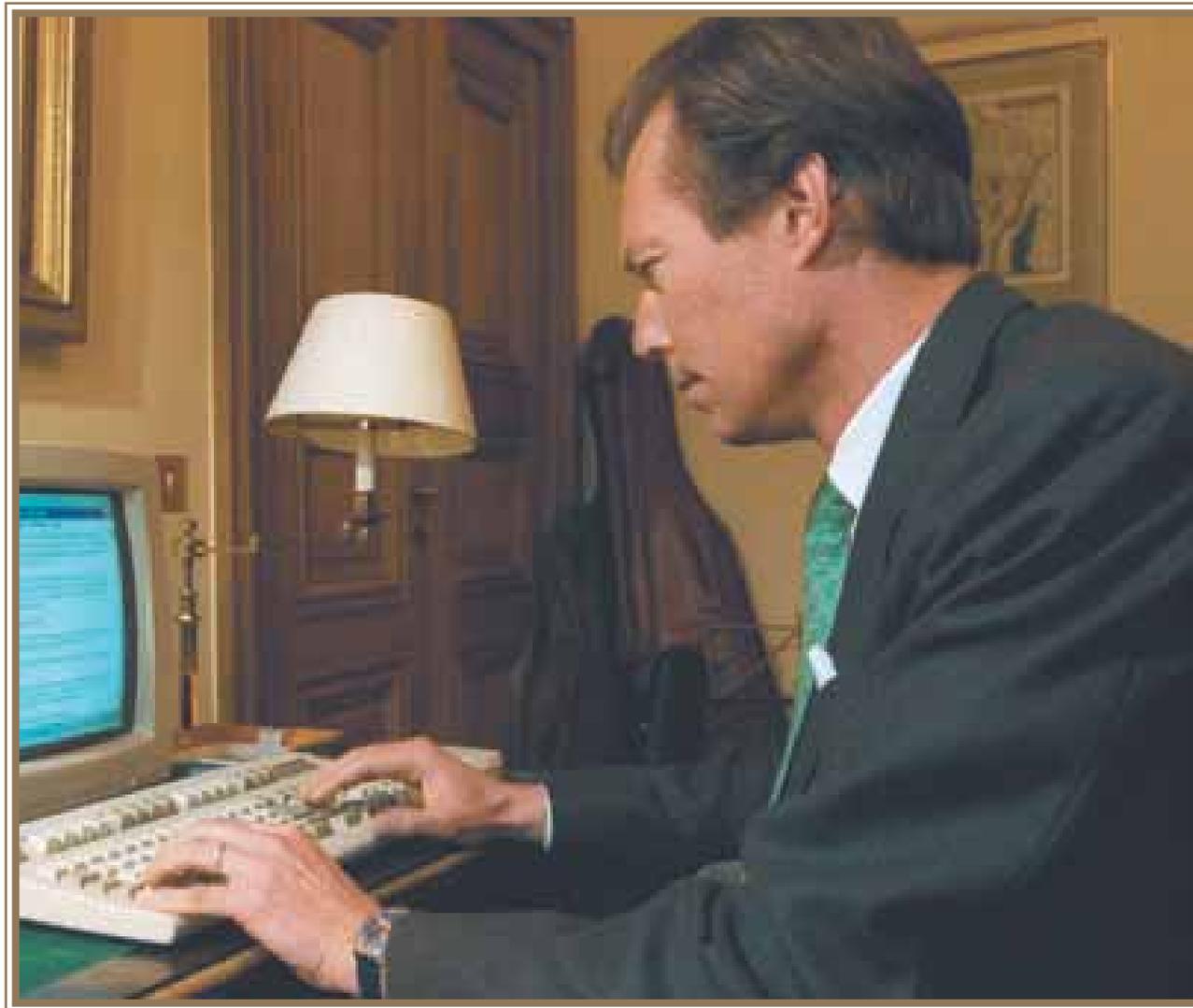
- 1) 'Le nouveau visage d'une monarchie moderne', Stéphane Bern, Télécran, 23 September 2000, pp. 42-44
- 2) 'Avec la population dans les moments de joie comme les moments de peine', Thierry Cugnot, Le Républicain Lorrain, 5 September 2000 p. 7



*Accompanied by Mr François Biltgen, Minister with responsibility for Communications, HRH the Grand Duke visits a company specializing in the telecommunications sector (economic trade mission to Canada, 25-28 April 2000)*



*On 3 July 2000, the Prime Minister of China, Zhu Rongji, is welcomed at the Grand Ducal Palace by HRH the Hereditary Grand Duke*



## The Grand Duke's working day

The Constitution allocates various powers and obligations to the Grand Duke. However, when consulting the articles of the Constitution, it is difficult to imagine the practical organization of the Grand Duke's working day.

Each morning, the Grand Duke glances through the Luxembourg and international newspapers. He also uses the latest means of communication to keep up to date with current news.

One of the Grand Duke's more regular tasks involves signing Laws, decrees, treaties and conventions. He visits the Grand Ducal Palace several times a week, where his advisors update him on current affairs and where he receives Ministers and other figures.

Audiences are also held at the Grand Ducal Palace. The nature of these audiences may vary. First of all, there are official audiences, which are part of the Grand Duke's constitutional tasks: he regularly receives members of the Government, in particular the Prime Minister and the Minister for Foreign Affairs. He also meets foreign ambassadors for the

handing over of credentials and audiences of leave.

As, owing to historical reasons, the ambassador is considered equivalent to the head of state, the ceremonial aspect is always strictly adhered to when a new ambassador enters office.

Furthermore, the Grand Duke receives national and international figures from all sides – politicians, leaders of Community institutions, representatives of the economic, scientific, cultural and sports world.

In general, the Grand Duke receives his visitors on his own.



*TRH the Grand Duke and the Grand Duchess receive the Luxembourg delegation, which participated at the Olympic Games in Sydney (30 October 2000)*



*During the visit by members of the Belgian Government to Luxembourg (16 September 1999), the Belgian Prime Minister, Mr Guy Verhofstadt, has an audience with the Hereditary Grand Duke*

During state visits to Luxembourg, foreign Heads of State stay at the Grand Ducal Palace, where various ceremonies are also held. The official programme of these visits consists of traditional events, such as the laying of a wreath in front of the National Monument of Luxembourg Solidarity, a reception of the diplomatic corps and national authorities, an official dinner or lunch, including speeches. Whereas the programme for foreign Heads of State normally includes meetings in the political and economic fields, their spouses visit social and cultural institutions. A private visit lasting several days may follow the official programme.

In turn, the Grand Ducal Couple visit foreign states. These visits allow the Head of State to foster or strengthen ties with other countries.

The Grand Duke's visits inside the Grand Duchy, on which he is often accompanied by his wife, are also an opportunity to meet the people. This is particularly true of the National Holiday festivity, which is held on 23 June. This day consists of a series of traditional events, such as the Te Deum, audiences and a military parade. The evening before, the Grand Ducal Couple meet the people during visits inside the country. These visits end in the capital city with a torchlit procession and fireworks display.

*TRH light the scout  
campfire during the national  
holiday festivities, in  
Esch-sur-Alzette on 22 June 2000*





*The first Luxembourg euro minted by HRH the Hereditary Grand Duke in Utrecht, in the presence of Mr Luc Frieden, Minister of Treasury and Budget (27 June 2000)*

From an economic point of view, the Grand Duke visits all the sectors of activity, for instance the country's industrial companies and financial institutions. Furthermore, he makes visits of support to agricultural, wine-producing and forestry centres. In the social and public-health sector, hospitals, nursing and retirement homes welcome the Grand Duke as a guest. Moreover, the Grand Duchess makes a large number of social and humanitarian visits.

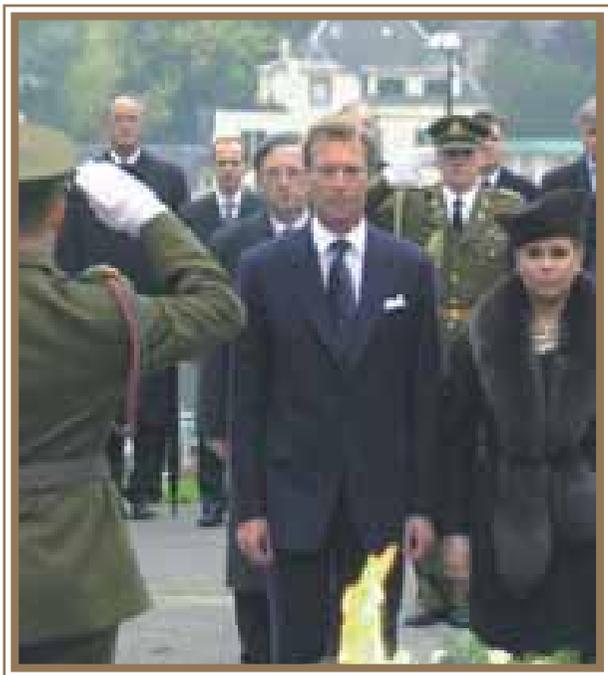
Finally, the Grand Duke visits schools, vocational training centres and educational institutions regularly in the scientific, cultural and sport sectors. He attends concerts, exhibitions, conferences and sporting events.



*HRH the Grand Duke visits the workshops  
of a Luxembourg electro-plating company  
(8 November 2000)*



*HRH Hereditary Grand Duke Henri in discussion with members of the Luxembourg delegation  
(7th Small Nations Games of Europe in Reykjavik, Iceland – June 1997)*



*TRH in front of the National Monument of Luxembourg Solidarity on National Remembrance Day (15 October 2000)*

The Grand Duke also attends National Remembrance Day, a ceremony to commemorate the tragic events of the past.

The sovereign pays particular attention to organizations responsible for the protection and security of citizens, for example the fire brigade and civil defence.

If the Grand Duke is unable to attend an event he has been invited to, he can be represented by the Marshall of the Court, his personal private secretary or a chamberlain. Furthermore, he, or the Grand Duchess, can grant their patronage to certain initiatives. A patronage can be granted to permanent institutions as well as to selected events.

The presence of the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess is also proof of a dialogue existing between the reigning dynasty and the people. Management and staff of a company or persons in charge of social and humanitarian organizations can draw inspiration from meetings with the sovereign.

The Grand Duke can also manifest his interest directly in certain persons, for example by traditionally congratulating citizens on their hundredth birthday, or by naming himself godfather of the seventh son born in a family (traditionally, the Grand Duchess is also the godmother of a family's seventh daughter).

Since the reign of Grand Duchess Charlotte, sovereigns of the Grand Duchy have firmly declared their desire to remain above political affairs. For this reason, the sovereign only rarely addresses the public directly. However, since 1972, the Grand Duke has regularly made a speech at the end of the year, which is broadcast on radio and television. This custom is an integral part of the dialogue the Grand Duke enjoys with his country. The speech touches on current national concerns and the Grand Duke knows how to choose his themes wisely without offending certain members of the population. He tries to be as close as possible to the overall thoughts of his country and, as such, not to enliven his comments with current political

facts that would distort the aim of his speech. Nevertheless, the Grand Duke can, through his intervention, place an emphasis on certain subjects particularly dear to him.

The speech delivered by the Grand Duke during the end-of-year festivities is an opportunity for the sovereign to underline his attachment to fundamental values, such as liberty, tolerance and solidarity.

Conscious of the fact that social stability is a key element in Luxembourg's prosperity, the Grand Duke insists on the need to give all fellow citizens the feeling of being part of the same community.

Furthermore, the sovereign is particularly interested in protecting the environment and development aid.

The end-of-year speech also gives the Grand Duke the opportunity to assess the Grand Duchy's economic and political development. Against this background, the progress regarding the construction of Europe holds a special place.

The first end-of-year speech made by Grand Duke Henri was innovative as he chose to let his wife, the Grand Duchess, address the people, dedicating her message to the more impoverished.

The Grand Duke's working day is extremely varied and intense. He can rely on the services of the Marshall of the Court to help him carry out his tasks and has a personal advisor in the person of the personal private secretary to the Grand Duke. Furthermore, the Grand Duchess enjoys the support of a special secretary. During their visits at home and abroad, the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess are accompanied by aides-de-camp, who also play an important role in preparing and organizing these visits.



# *The Grand Duke's visits abroad*

*(Detailed list included in the appendix)*



*On 10 October 2000, TRH the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess are received at the Elysée by the President of the French Republic, Mr Jacques Chirac, and his wife*

*Courtesy visits by TRH the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess to Paris and Berlin 10-12 October 2000*

**A**fter acceding to the throne, the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess visited Paris on 10 October, and Berlin on 12 October. These courtesy visits gave them the opportunity to show the importance Luxembourg places in their two neighbouring countries as economic and political partners. At the same time, these visits were also proof of their desire to strengthen the ties that unite Luxembourg with France and Germany.



*HRH Grand Duke Henri receives a warm welcome from Mr Lionel Jospin, Prime Minister, at the Hôtel Matignon*

In Paris, the busy programme included talks with Mr Christian Poncelet, President of the Senate, an invitation to lunch at the Elysée by the President of the French Republic, Mr Jacques Chirac, and his wife, and a meeting with Mr Raymond Forni, President of the National Assembly, and Mr Lionel Jospin, Prime Minister. During this visit, the Grand Ducal Couple were able to see a preview of the exhibition at the Musée d'Orsay, devoted to Edouard Manet's still life paintings.



*Grand Duke Henri inspects the Republican Guard*

Mr Jacques Chirac said he was particularly touched that the new Grand Ducal Couple chose France as destination for their first courtesy visit.

*TRH the Grand Duke  
and Grand Duchess arrive  
at Berlin Tegel Airport*



*HRH Grand Duke Henri  
and Mr. Johannes Rau, President  
of the Federal Republic of Germany,  
in the garden of Bellevue Castle,  
the official residence of the  
President*

In Berlin, the Grand Ducal Couple enjoyed exceptionally warm hospitality from the German authorities.

The day before the official reception, the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess were invited to a reception at the Luxembourg Embassy. The following day, meetings with the President of the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr Johannes Rau, the German Chancellor, Mr Gerhard Schröder, and the President of the Bundestag, Mr Wolfgang Thierse, were on the agenda. TRH the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess also had the opportunity to visit the Rathaus (City Hall) in Berlin, cross the Brandenburg Gate together with Mr Eberhard Diepgen, the Mayor of Berlin, and his wife, and attend the official opening of the new Luxembourg Embassy in Berlin.



*On 12 October 2000, HRH Grand Duke Henri meets Mr Gerhard Schröder,  
Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany*



*TRH cross the Brandenburg Gate,  
together with Mr Eberhard Diepgen,  
Mayor of Berlin, and his wife*



*TRH the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess are welcomed by TM the King and Queen of Spain, the Prince of Asturias, the Infanta Cristina and her husband, Iñaki Urdangarin, at the Prado Palace, residence of foreign Heads of State (7 May 2001)*

*State visit to Spain  
by TRH the Grand Duke and  
Grand Duchess – 7-9 May 2001*

The Grand Ducal Couple completed their first state visit to Spain. They were welcomed by TM the King and Queen of Spain at the Prado Palace, residence of foreign Heads of State.

After the official reception, the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess were invited to a private lunch at the Zarzuela Palace, residence of the King and Queen.

The afternoon part of the state visit was devoted to culture. After attending a cello recital by Françoise Groben, the Grand Ducal Couple visited the 'Codex Aureus' exhibition at the 'Charles of Antwerp' Foundation, together with TM the King and Queen.



*HM the King of Spain addresses issues relating in particular to Europe, during a speech at the gala dinner (7 May 2001)*

This first day ended with a gala dinner at the Royal Palace in Madrid. The King and Queen were joined at the gala dinner by Crown Prince Felipe of Spain, the Infanta Elena and her husband Mr Jaime de Marichalar, and the Infanta Cristina with her husband Mr Iñaki Urdangarin.

During the official speeches, both Heads of State condemned the acts of terrorism perpetrated at the weekend prior to the state visit. HRH the Grand Duke assured HM the King that 'the people of Luxembourg will stand by the people of Spain in their fight against terrorism'. Furthermore, the two monarchs addressed issues related to Europe. HM the King of Spain thus paid tribute to the stance adopted by both countries in favour of the ambitious EU expansion project.



*Mrs Lydie Polfer, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade next to Crown Prince Felipe of Spain at the gala dinner (7 May 2001)*



*Mrs Esperanza Aguirre, President of the Senate, welcomes the Grand Ducal Couple and Mrs Polfer to the Senate Palace (8 May 2001)*

The second day of the visit began with a ceremony at the Plaza de la Lealtad (Loyalty Square) in the centre of Madrid, where TRH the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess paid tribute to those who gave their lives for Spain.

Thereafter, Their Royal Highnesses the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess visited the 'Casa de la Villa de Madrid', where they were welcomed by the Mayor of the City of Madrid, Mr Alvarez del Manzano.

Mrs Esperanza Aguirre, President of the Senate, then welcomed the Grand Ducal Couple to the Senate Palace. After the official ceremony at the Plaza de la Marina Española, the Grand Ducal Couple met members of the Senate and Chamber of Deputies.

Towards the end of the morning, TM the King and Queen joined the Grand Ducal Couple at the Cultural Centre of the City of Madrid, where they attended the 'Macarrón Retrospective' exhibition. It is interesting to note that three paintings by Ricardo Macarrón, from the collection of the Grand Ducal Court, enhanced this exhibition.

Afterwards, the Grand Duke visited the Moncloa Palace, the seat of the Prime Minister, where he held talks with Mr José Maria Aznar, together with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Mrs Lydie Polfer.

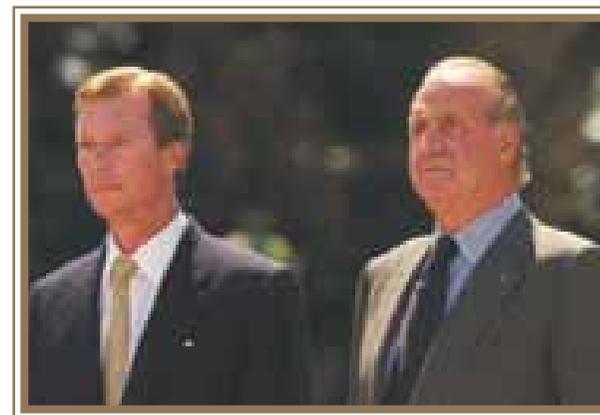
After lunch, given by the Prime Minister and his wife in honour of the Grand Ducal Couple, the Luxembourg Head of State met Spanish

entrepreneurs at the offices of the Confederation of Spanish Entrepreneurs.

Simultaneously, the programme of HRH the Grand Duchess included a visit to the Prado Museum, where she was particularly interested in the works of Greco, Velazquez and Goya.

The second day of the visit ended with a reception given by TRH the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess in honour of the Royal Family at the Prado Palace.

The departure ceremony on the morning of 9 May 2001, in the presence of TM the King and Queen of Spain, concluded TRH the Grand Duke's and Grand Duchess' first state visit to Spain.



*HRH the Grand Duke and HM the King of Spain in front of the Prado Palace during the reception ceremony (7 May 2001)*



*Accompanied by the Queen of Spain, the Grand Duchess visits the 'Niño Jesús' hospital, in Madrid, one of Spain's first paediatric hospital.*



*TRH Grand Duke Jean and Grand Duchess Joséphine-Charlotte  
surrounded by traditional dancers in Akasakou Park*

**5-12 April 1999:**

*state visit by TRH the Grand  
Duke and Grand Duchess  
to Japan*

It was during the cherry-blossom season, a most important time for the Japanese, that the Grand Ducal Couple visited Japan, both to consolidate the ties of friendship with the Imperial Family and to promote Luxembourg and strengthen the economic links between the two countries.

Extract from the toast proposed by HRH Grand Duke Jean at the dinner given by HM the Emperor of Japan:

*'There are great geographical distances between Japan and Luxembourg, but the recent past has shown that our countries are similar in that we share characteristics and interests (...). Today, our political, economic and cultural ties are much closer than at the start of our bilateral relations 72 years ago'.*



*HRH Grand Duke Jean and Empress Michiko raise their glasses to the friendship that unites the two reigning families*



*HRH the Grand Duchess and Emperor Akihito have developed a perfect rapport*

**16-18 March 1999:**

*state visit by TRH the Grand Duke  
and Grand Duchess to Belgium*

**F**or the second time since 1967, TRH the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess visited Belgium. There are close ties between the families because the Grand Duchess is the sister of King Albert II.



*HM Queen Paola, HRH Joséphine-Charlotte  
and Prince Philippe during the reception ceremony*

Extracts from speeches:

*'While our visit could be considered a family reunion, it should, however, be interpreted as the solemn affirmation of our determination to strengthen the friendship forged during this century by our two peoples'.*

(HRH the Grand Duke)

*'Your great fondness for Belgium is known and appreciated by us all. You were Yourself, Your Royal Highness, among the first liberators of our capital in 1944 (...). For nearly 160 years, the neighbourly links between our countries have been drawing closer all the time'.*

(HM the King of the Belgians)



*HRM the King of the Belgians and HRH the Grand Duke inspect the troops during the official reception at the Place des Palais*



*Moments of friendship and affection are apparent during the dinner given by the King and Queen of the Belgians in honour of the Grand Ducal Couple*



# *Visits by Heads of State to Luxembourg*

*(Detailed list included in the appendix)*



*Mr K. R. Narayanan, President of India and his wife sign the guest book of the City of Luxembourg during their visit to Luxembourg on 14-16 September 1998*

**14-16 September 1998:**

*state visit by Mr K. R. Narayanan,  
President of India.*

 xtract from the speech by Mr Narayanan,  
President of India:

*'The democratic values we share with  
Luxembourg represent a common attachment  
between our two nations. Our relationship is  
becoming stronger and stronger and deserves,  
in view of its potential, to be diversified in  
order to take in all sectors of governmental  
and non-governmental activity'.*

Extract from the speech by HRH the Grand  
Duke during the gala dinner at the Salle des  
Glaces of the former Echternach Abbey  
(15 September 1998):

*'There is no reason to believe there are fun-  
damental differences between East and West.  
Human beings are all alike and share the  
same fundamental values (...).*



*Both Luxembourg and India aspire to  
peace among peoples. Having endured terri-  
ble suffering inflicted by devastating wars,  
we decided, in 1951, to become a founder  
member of the European Union, whose  
prime objective is peace'.*

*Mr K. R. Narayanan, his wife and daughter  
next to the Grand Ducal Family  
before the gala dinner*

**18-19 April 1996:**

*state visit to Luxembourg by Their Majesties King Harald and Queen Sonja of Norway*

**T**his visit took place 32 years after the state visit by King Olav V of Norway, and 22 years after a state visit to Norway by Grand Duchess Charlotte in September 1964. The links are very close between the two families because Grand Duchess Joséphine-Charlotte is the cousin of King Harald V.

Extract from HRH Grand Duke Jean's speech:

*'Our two nations are both old and young: old in the sense that Your historic and cultural roots, like ours, date back to the Middle Ages; young in the sense that our two nations recovered their independence relatively late compared with other nations on the continent (...). I would like to take this opportunity to pay particular tribute to Your fellow citizens and Your leaders for the courageous and imaginative answers they tirelessly offer in a spirit of human solidarity. I am thinking in particular of their commitment to the lasting development of peace and notably the role played by Norway in the Middle East peace process (...). Norway is a partner and a friend of Luxembourg and of a united Europe in the making'.*



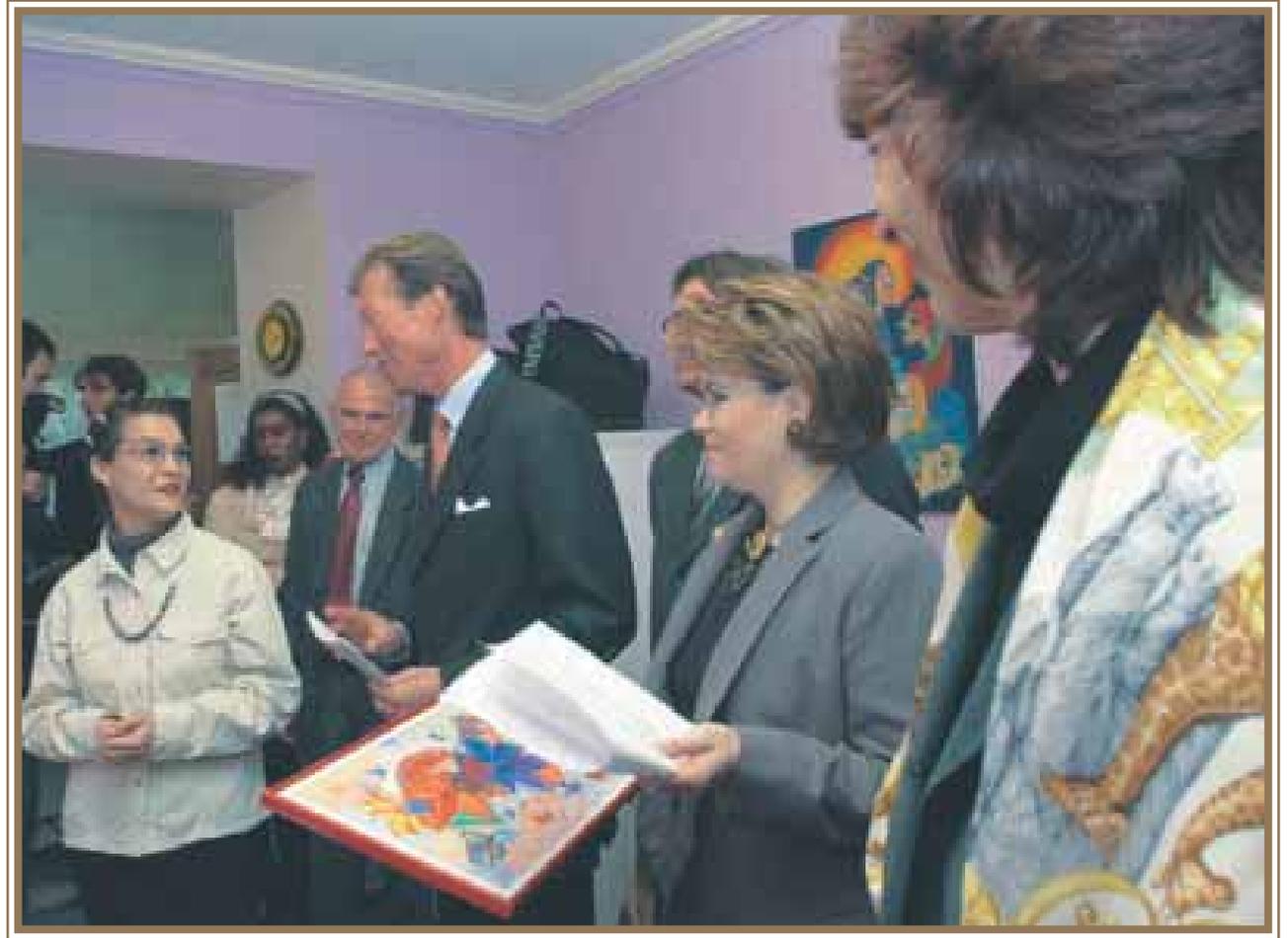
*III King Harald and Queen Sonja of Norway at the Grand Ducal Palace  
before the gala dinner given in their honour*



*Relaxing walk on the Corniche  
in the City of Luxembourg*

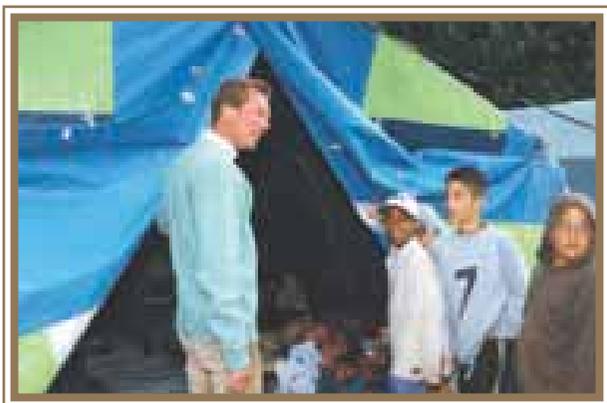


*The public  
image of the  
Grand Ducal  
Family in  
Luxembourg*



*On 7 March 2000, accompanied by the Minister of Health and Social Security, Mr Carlo Wagner, the Hereditary Grand Ducal Couple visit the the day centre for the homeless 'Stëmm vun der Strooss'*

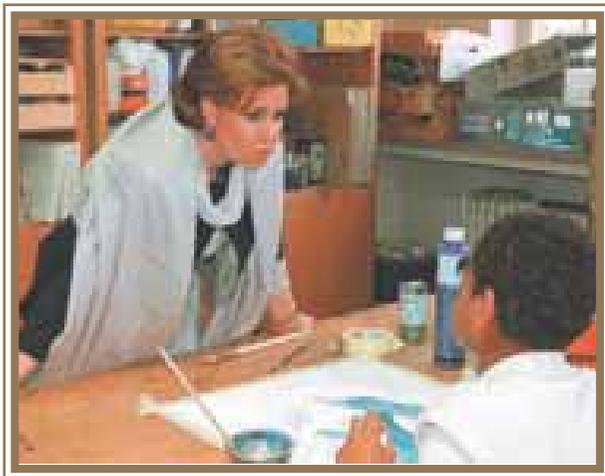
Besides his political role, the Grand Duke is active in other areas of public life. He is assisted by his wife, whose role is much more than that of a representative. The Grand Ducal Couple are involved in causes that are particularly dear to them: the fight against social injustice and protection of the poor. Concerned to preserve nature for future generations, they are also interested in protecting the environment.



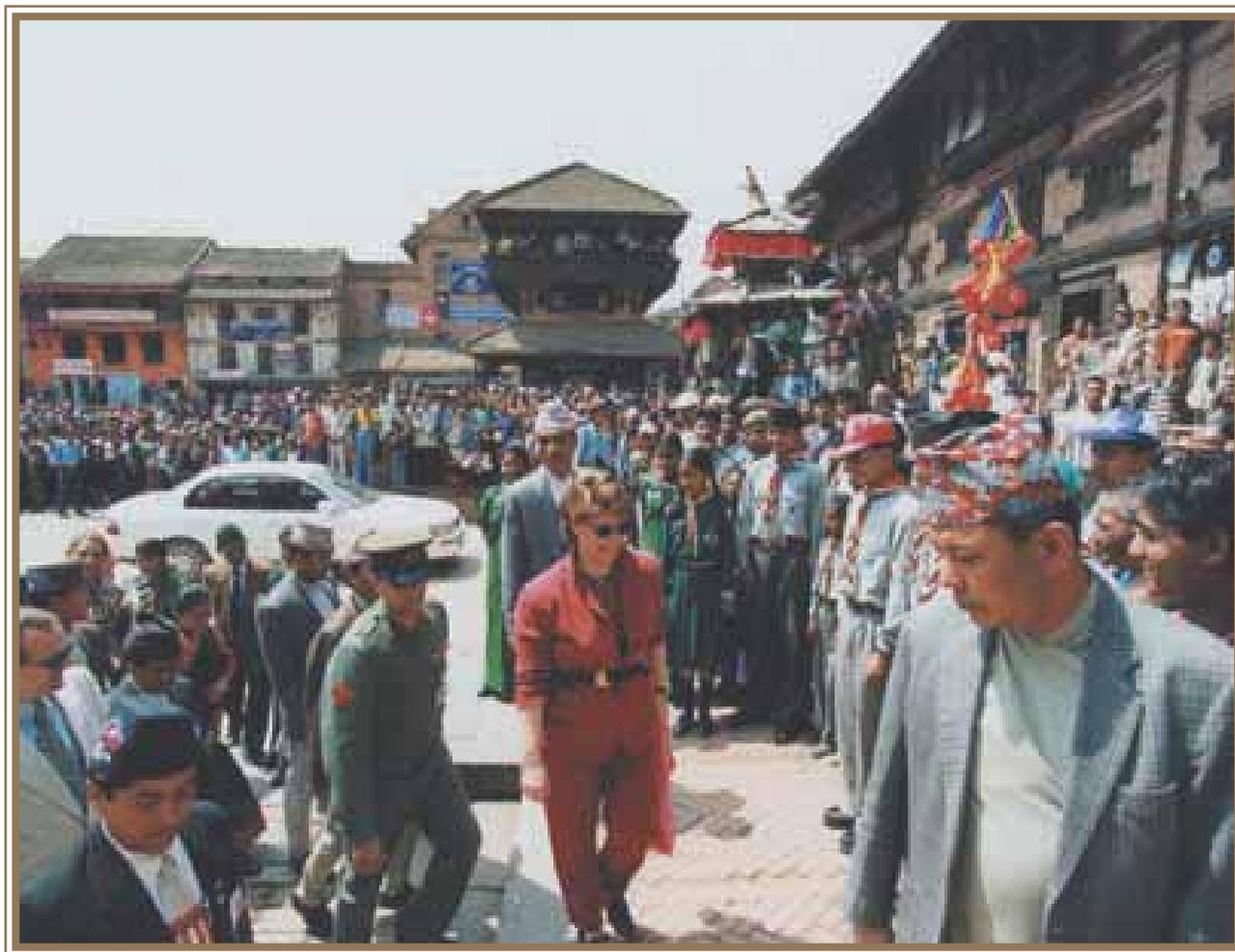
*On 22 July 1999, HRH the Hereditary Grand Duke visits a holiday camp of the National Youth Service in Oesling*



*On 22 July 1999, TRH the Hereditary Grand Duke and Grand Duchess visit the Oesling where they can appreciate the quality of medicinal and condimental plants grown in the 'Kraidergaart' in Winseler*



*On 12 April 2000, HRH the Hereditary Grand Duchess visits the Socio-Educational Institute in Dreiborn, a second-opportunity school*



*In her capacity as UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, HRH the Hereditary Grand Duchess visits Nepal and Bangladesh (15-22 April 1998)*

Besides their active involvement in the abovementioned causes, the Grand Ducal Couple like to manifest their fondness for the people and their interest in the country's everyday life. So they hardly ever miss an opportunity to attend remembrance day ceremonies, traditional festivals or exhibitions.

The Grand Duchess complements her husband's political role perfectly by defending human values. As such, she is involved in preserving family values and actively supports women's rights. Her role as UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador is perfectly in line with this image.



*At the pedo-psychiatric day centre of the Centre Hospitalier, the Hereditary Grand Duke discusses bees with two young girls in the therapeutic working group (28 June 1999)*

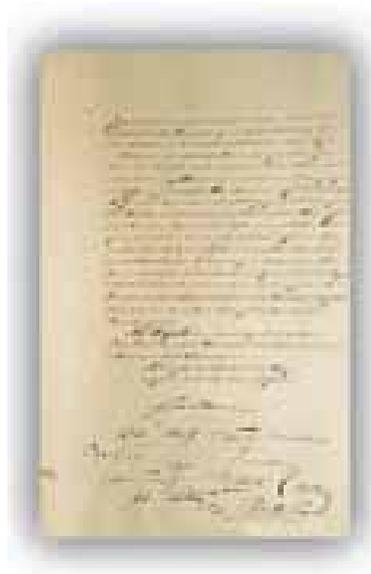


*Chapter Three*

The constitutional  
monarchy



## *The political situation of the Grand Duke*



*Constitution of 1848*

### *\* The constitutional monarchy*

**T**he Grand Duke is the Head of State, symbol of its unity and guarantor of national independence. He exercises his executive power in accordance with the Constitution and the Laws of the country. Furthermore, he represents the state in its foreign relations and plays an essential part in exercising legislative power. Justice is administered in his name, but he nonetheless has no means of interfering in the exercise of judicial power.

### *\* The legal situation of the Grand Duke*

The Grand Duke occupies a special position in the state in view of his high status. The Constitution places him beyond Common Law in certain situations.

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

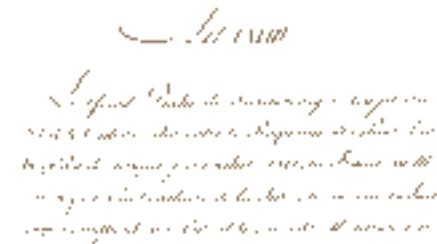
The Grand Duke is one of the organs of sovereign power. He represents the nation in exercising a substantial proportion of the attributes of sovereignty. He does not have any powers other than those the Constitution formally allocates to him and the specific Laws enacted under the Constitution.

The representative character of the Grand Duke is based on the principle of hereditary devolution of the Crown set out in the Constitution. The acceptance of this principle by the nation is permanent and does not need to be demonstrated by repeated elections. This legal situation may be described as a constitutional pact between the head of state and the nation. The Constitution places the head of

state outside and beyond political parties and thus guarantees his impartiality.

The inviolability of the Grand Duke means that he cannot be accused or prosecuted, tried by any jurisdiction or asked to account for his actions. This inviolability of the Grand Duke implies complete freedom from responsibility, which is universal and absolute from the penal and the political standpoint. From the penal standpoint, the Grand Duke cannot be prosecuted for crimes, offences or infringements.

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



1/11/1880  
Le Grand Duc de Luxembourg a signé  
le 11 novembre 1880, à Luxembourg, la  
Déclaration relative à la responsabilité  
ministérielle, et a été contresigné  
par le Ministre des Affaires  
étrangères, M. de Bock.



*The Grand Duke signs Laws, Decrees and Treaties*

### ✧ *The constitutional powers of the Grand Duke*

The Grand Duke's powers are mainly listed in Articles 33 to 48 of the Constitution relating to the exercise of the executive power, jus regaliū, attributions of an international order, and involvement in the exercise of legislative power. Articles 72 and 74 confer certain means of action on the Chamber of Deputies.

### ✧ *The state, its territory and the Grand Duke*

The Crown of the Grand Duchy is hereditary to 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 (Article 3 of the Constitution).

The person of the Grand Duke is inviolable (Article 4).

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

### ✧ *Sovereign power*

Sovereign power lies in the nation and is exercised by the Grand Duke in accordance with the Constitution and the Laws of the country.

He does not have any powers other than those allocated to him formally by the Constitution and specific Laws enacted under the Constitution, without prejudice to Article 3 of the Constitution (Article 32).

As Head of State, symbol of its unity and guarantor of national independence, the Grand Duke exercises his executive power in accordance with the Constitution and the Laws of the country (Article 33).

The Grand Duke sanctions and promulgates Laws. He makes his resolve known within three months of the vote in the Chamber (Article 34).

He makes appointments to civil and military posts according to the Law, apart from the exceptions established by Law.

No other salaried post may be created under a legislative provision (Article 35).

Moreover, he drafts the regulations and decrees necessary to enforce the Laws, without ever being able to suspend the Laws themselves, or dispense with their enforcement (Article 36).

The Grand Duke drafts treaties that have no effect before being approved by the Law and

published in the form required for the publication of Laws.

Secret treaties are abolished.

He drafts the regulations and decrees necessary to enforce treaties, in the forms that govern the enforcement of Laws and with the effects associated with those measures, without prejudice to subject matter which is reserved to the Law by the Constitution.

No cession, exchange or addition of territory may take place unless pursuant to a Law.

In addition, the Grand Duke commands the armed forces; he may declare war and the cessation of hostilities after having been authorized to do so by a vote in the Chamber issued under the conditions of Article 114, paragraph 5 of the Constitution (Article 37).

The Grand Duke has the right to set aside or reduce sentences imposed by the courts, except judgments relating to members of the Government (Article 38).



*The Grand Duke commands  
the armed forces*



*Ordre de Mérite civil et militaire d'Adolphe de Nassau,  
badges of the grand cross*



*Ordre du Lion d'Or de la Maison de Nassau,  
badges of the grand cross*

He has the right to mint currency pursuant to the Law (Article 39).

The Grand Duke has the right to bestow titles of nobility, without being able to associate these with any privilege (Article 40).

He bestows civil and military orders by observing the prescriptions of the Law (Article 41).

Furthermore, the Grand Duke may be represented by a blood-related prince, who will bear the title of Lieutenant to the Grand Duke and reside in the Grand Duchy.

This representative will take an oath to observe the Constitution before exercising his powers (Article 42).

The civil list is fixed at 300,000 gold francs per annum.

This sum may be changed by Law at the start of each reign. The budgetary Law may allot to the Royal House the amounts necessary to cover its representation expenses each year (Article 43).

The Grand Ducal Palace in Luxembourg and Berg Castle are reserved for the residence of the Grand Duke (Article 44).

Orders given by the Grand Duke must be countersigned by the competent member of the Government (Article 45).

The assent of the Chamber of Deputies is required for any Law.

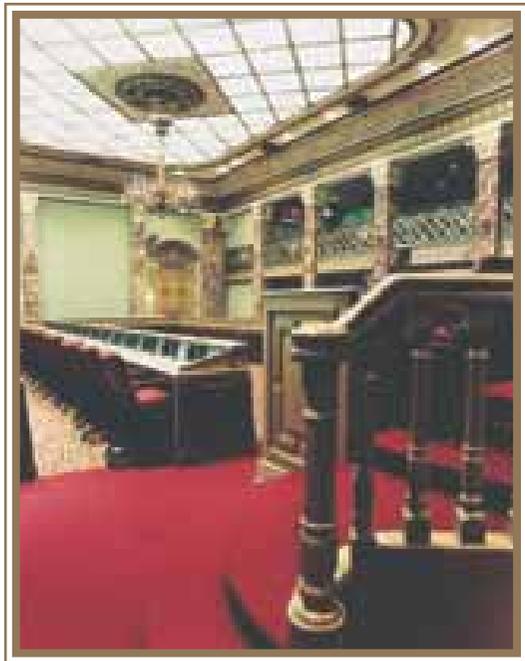
The Grand Duke submits proposals or drafts of Laws to the Chamber for approval.

The Chamber has the right to propose draft Laws to the Grand Duke (Article 47).

Justice is dispensed in the name of the Grand Duke by the courts and tribunals. Decrees and judgments are executed in the name of the Grand Duke (Article 49).



*Plate from a set created in 1884 by the Zens earthenware painters of Echternach, presented to Queen Emma of the Netherlands, Grand Duchess of Luxembourg. The plate shows a view of Berg Castle*



*The meeting room  
of the Chamber of Deputies*

## ✧ *The Chamber of Deputies*

The Chamber of Deputies sits each year in ordinary session on the date set by the regulations.

The Grand Duke may convene an extraordinary session of the Chamber and must do so if requested by one-third of the Deputies.

All sessions are opened and closed by the Grand Duke in person, or in his name by an authorized representative appointed for this purpose (Article 72).

The Grand Duke may dissolve the Chamber. New elections must be held within three months of dissolution (Article 74).

## ✧ *The Government*

The Grand Duke settles the organization of his Government, which comprises at least three members (Article 76).

The Grand Duke appoints and dismisses the members of the Government (Article 77).

There is no intermediate authority between the members of the Government and the Grand Duke (Article 79).

Under no circumstances may a verbal or written order by the Grand Duke release a member of the Government from his liability (Article 81).

The Grand Duke may not pardon a convicted member of the Government except at the request of the Chamber (Article 83).

## ✧ *Justice*

Justices of the Peace and Judges are directly appointed by the Grand Duke. Court Counsellors and the Presidents and Deputy Presidents of the District Courts are appointed by the Grand Duke, on the recommendation of the Supreme Court (Article 90).

## ✧ *Communes*

The Grand Duke also intervenes at a communal level. Luxembourg currently has 118 communes, which are the only application of the principle of territorial decentralization.

The Grand Duke appoints all the mayors designated by the majority of communal councillors as well as the city commissioners (Organic Law of 24 February 1843).

The communal council establishes the commune's budget annually and draws up the accounts. It enacts communal regulations, except in emergencies. It may levy local taxes subject to the approval of the Grand Duke (Article 107).

The Grand Duke has the right to dissolve the council. New elections will then be held within a month following dissolution.



*The Grand Duke regularly receives the Prime Minister at the Grand Ducal Palace to discuss the national and international political situation*

## *Order of succession to the throne*



*The Family Pact of 1783*

Under the terms of Article 3 of the Constitution, the Crown of the Grand Duchy is hereditary to 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.

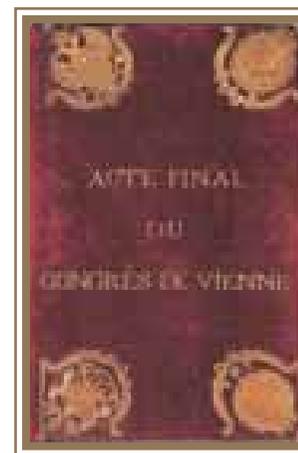
**The Family Pact of 1783** – the first chapter describes the sovereign possessions of the House of Nassau, and the second chapter is devoted to the order of succession. The Crown is passed down in a direct line by order of male primogeniture, to the exclusion of female descendants. In the absence of a male heir in the direct or collateral line in one of the branches of the House of Nassau, the Crown will pass by right to the male descendant in the other branch. If there is no male descendant in the direct line or collateral line in the two branches, the Crown is handed down by order of primogeniture to the female descendant of the reigning dynasty.

**The Final Act of the Vienna Congress of 1815** – this Act gave the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg the order of succession established between the two branches of the House of Nassau by the Pact of 1783. During the Congress of Vienna, the Grand Duchy was ceded to the King of the Netherlands, William I, Prince of Orange-Nassau, to be possessed in perpetuity by him and his successors.

**The Treaty of London of 1867** – this treaty redefined the status of Luxembourg following the crisis that had developed in its regard. Napoleon III's attempt to acquire Luxembourg failed when Bismarck refused to allow a former member of the German Confederation to fall under French domination. The City of Luxembourg was still occupied by a federal Prussian garrison, which irritated Napoleon III. War was avoided through the initiative of Austria and Russia to convene an international conference. Prussia withdrew its garrison from the fortress of Luxembourg and the Grand Duchy was declared perpetually neutral. Article 1

of the treaty upholds the links attaching the Grand Duchy to the House of Orange-Nassau and confirms the rights that the agnates of the House of Nassau have over the Grand Duchy.

**The Family Statute of 1907** – in 1906, William IV felt that his health was deteriorating and that the question of the succession would soon arise since he had six daughters from his marriage to Marie-Anne of Braganza. He therefore drew up a new Family Statute that the Chamber of Deputies approved, ensuring his daughters could succeed to the throne. This included Article 42 of the Family Pact, but William IV had a cousin, the Count of Merenberg, who had his eye on the throne. Princess Marie-Adélaïde was therefore declared heiress presumptive to the Crown. This Statute was submitted to the Chamber of Deputies, which enshrined it in Law on 10 July 1907.



# *Accession to the Grand Ducal Throne*



The heir presumptive acquires the Crown by right when the throne becomes vacant either by death or abdication of the reigning monarch. Accession to the throne is by right and does not depend on taking the oath.

While ascending the throne, the Grand Duke takes the oath in the presence of the Chamber of Deputies or a deputation appointed thereby.



*Accession to the throne by HRH Grand Duke Jean  
on 12 November 1964.*

*'I swear to observe the Constitution and the Laws  
of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, to maintain  
national independence and the integrity of the terri-  
tory, as well as public and individual liberties'.*

(Article 5 of the Constitution)

# The Lieutenancy



*On 3 March 1998, Grand Duke Jean appoints his son,  
the Hereditary Grand Duke, as his Lieutenant  
Representative*

The Grand Duke may be represented by a blood-related prince who will bear the title of Lieutenant to the Grand Duke and reside in the Grand Duchy. This representative will take an oath to observe the Constitution before exercising his powers' (Article 42 of the Constitution).

The Grand Duke thus delegates his powers, and this acting capacity can be temporary or permanent. The powers of the Lieutenant Representative are limited by this mandate, and the measures he takes by virtue of his mission have the same effect as if they were issued by the Grand Duke himself. However, the Grand Duke is free to apply any restrictions to the mandate he deems necessary.

# Lieutenancy

## Historical summary

✦ *There have been five Lieutenancies in the history of the Grand Duchy:*

**The first Lieutenancy** was that of Prince Henry of the Netherlands, appointed by his brother, King and Grand Duke William III, on 5 February 1850 (swearing-in on 24 October 1850). It lasted for nearly 30 years, until Prince Henry's death on 13 January 1879.

**The second Lieutenancy** was that of Prince William of Nassau, later Grand Duke William IV, who was entrusted with the powers of Lieutenant Representative on 4 April 1902 by his father, Grand Duke Adolphe, then aged 85 (swearing-in on 14 April 1902). This Lieutenancy ended on his accession to the throne on 17 November 1905.

**The third Lieutenancy** began on 19 March 1908 (swearing-in on 2 April 1908), when Grand Duke William IV appointed his wife Grand Duchess Marie-Anne Lieutenant Representative due to his poor health, and continued until 13 November 1908, when she became Regent.



*On 4 May 1961, Hereditary Grand Duke Jean takes the oath as Lieutenant Representative*

**The fourth Lieutenancy** was that of the Hereditary Grand Duke Jean, appointed Lieutenant Representative by Grand Duchess Charlotte on 28 April 1961 (swearing-in on 4 May 1961). It ended on 12 November 1964 with the abdication of Grand Duchess Charlotte in his favour.

**The fifth Lieutenancy** was that of Prince Henri, Hereditary Grand Duke, on 3 March 1998 (swearing-in on 4 March 1998). This lasted until 7 October 2000, following the abdication of Grand Duke Jean in his favour.

## The Regency

If, on the death of the Grand Duke, the successor is a minor, the Regency is exercised in accordance with the Family Pact' (Article 6 of the Constitution). The surviving mother of the minor Grand Duke acts as Regent, in accordance with the Family Pact.

'If the Grand Duke is unable to reign, the Regency is to be instituted as in the case of minority' (Article 7, paragraph 1 of the Constitution).

'Should the throne become vacant, the Chamber will 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' (Article 7, paragraph 2 of the Constitution).

When taking up his functions, the Regent takes the following oath:

*'I swear loyalty to the Grand Duke.  
I swear to observe the Constitution and the  
Laws of the country'.*  
(Article 8).

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 no change may be made to the Constitution during the Regency.

# Regency

## Historical summary

*So far, there have been four Regencies in the Grand Duchy:*

The first two were exercised by Duke Adolphe of Nassau, later Grand Duke of Luxembourg, at the end of the reign of William III, from 8 April 1889 (swearing-in on 11 April 1889) to 3 May 1889, and from 4 November 1890 (swearing-in on 6 November 1890) to 23 November 1890 (William III †).

Then there were two Regencies by Grand Duchess Marie-Anne, wife of Grand Duke William IV. The first started during the final illness of Grand Duke William IV, when he designated his wife as Regent on 13 November 1908 (swearing-in on 19 November 1908) and lasted until 25 February 1912 (William IV †). The second Regency lasted from 25 February to 14 June 1912, during the minority of Grand Duchess Marie-Adélaïde.



*Grand Duchesses Marie-Adélaïde,  
Marie-Anne and Adélaïde-Marie*



N

M

*Chapter Four*

The symbols of  
the monarchy



Symbols



*Military parade during the National Holiday*

## The National Holiday

Since the 18th century, the country has celebrated the sovereign's birthday and this tradition was upheld after 1815. From 1816 onwards, the Luxembourg people have celebrated the birthday of King and Grand Duke William I on 24 April. In 1840, two birthdays were celebrated: that of William I and that of his son William II, who succeeded him. And finally, under William III, the date of the birthday celebration was established as 17 June, then 19 February from 1860 onwards.

With Grand Duke Adolphe's accession to the throne in 1890, the celebration was moved to 24 July. Under William IV, it took place on 22 April and under Marie-Adélaïde, from 1913, the festivities were held on 14 June. When Grand Duchess Charlotte ascended the throne in 1919, the date for the birthday celebrations became 23 January. In 1947, the date for celebrating the Grand Duchess' birthday was declared a National Holiday.

On 23 December 1961, a Grand Ducal Decree fixed the birthday celebration date to 23 June. The term 'National Holiday' does not appear in legal documents. It is described as 'Date of the official celebration of the Grand Duke's birthday'.

The festivities begin in the evening of 22 June in the presence of the Grand Ducal Couple in a commune outside the capital. Thereafter, the Grand Ducal Family make their way to Luxembourg City to attend the torchlit procession organized by associations of the capital city and a fireworks display.

On 23 June, a military parade proceeds along Avenue de la Liberté and the Te Deum is celebrated in Luxembourg Cathedral, in the presence of the country's authorities and the diplomatic representatives of countries officially recognized by Luxembourg.



*The traditional fireworks display on the eve of the National Holiday*



*The Hereditary Grand Duke and Grand Duchess in the streets of Esch-sur-Alzette the day before the National Holiday (22 June 2000)*

## The coats of arms of The Grand Duke

y way of the Grand Ducal Decrees dated 23 June 2001 and 23 June 2002, HRH The Grand Duke established his small, medium and great coats of arms as follows:

### *Small coats of arms*

Quarterly, in I and IV the arms of Luxembourg, barry of ten argent and azure, a lion rampant, queue forchee and saltired gules, armed, langued and crowned or, in II and III the arms of Nassau, azure semy of billets or, a lion crowned or, armed and langued gules.

The shield is surmounted by a royal crown.

### *Medium coats of arms*

The small coats of arms increased by supports, a dexter lion crowned, regardant, queue forchee and saltired or, armed and langued gules and a sinister lion crowned or, armed and langued gules.

### *Great coats of arms*

Quarterly, in I and IV the arms of Luxembourg, barry of ten argent and azure, a lion rampant, queue forchee and saltired gules, armed, langued and crowned or, in II and III the arms of Nassau, azure semy of billets or, a lion crowned or, armed and langued gules. On an escutcheon of pretence the arms of Bourbon of Parma, azure three (two, one) fleurs-de-lis or within a bordure gules charged with eight shells argent.

The shield is surmounted by a royal crown and encircled by the ribbon and the cross of the Oak Crown Order.

The supporters are a dexter lion crowned, regardant, queue forchee and saltired or, armed and langued gules and a sinister lion crowned or, armed and langued gules, both lions holding the Luxembourg flag fimbriated or.

All is surrounded by a purpure mantle doubled with ermine, bordered, fimbriated and tied or and surmounted by a royal crown, the flags are surpassing the mantle.



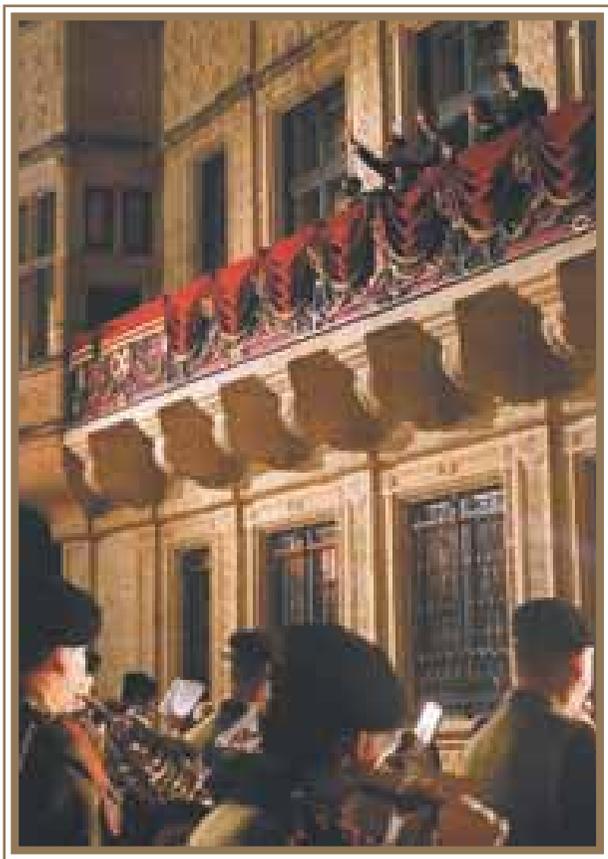
*The small coats of arms  
of the Grand Duke*



*The Grand Duke's  
medium coats of arms*



*The Grand Duke's  
great coats of arms*



*The day of the accession to the throne, during TRH the Grand Duke's and Grand Duchess' appearance on the balcony, the military band plays the Wilhelmus*

## The anthem of the Grand Ducal House

The origin of the anthem of the Grand Ducal House dates back a very long time. Experts point to a common origin with the Dutch 'Wilhelmus', the national anthem of the Netherlands. There is a clue leading directly from the 'Wijse van Condé' to the Dutch 'Wilhelmus', but this is not true in the case of the Luxembourg 'Wilhelmus', which is referred to as 'het nieuwe' or 'het moderne Wilhelmus' by Dutch musicologists. While composing the theme for his variations for keyboard (KV 25), Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart used the Luxembourg 'Wilhelmus' and not the Dutch melody 'Willem van Nassau'. The theme of these variations was suggested to him by Princess Caroline of Nassau-Weilburg. Therefore, we have reasons to believe that for a very long time, a 'Wilhelmus' very different from the Dutch version was in use in the Nassau-Weilburg family. This 'Wilhelmus' is inspired by a trumpet call or a cavalry fanfare of which we have no written trace earlier than the 16th century. The melody is found in the 'oude Geuzenlied' printed in 1581.

This melody was used by Philippe Manternach in 1883 for his march 'Vive le Roi! Vive la Reine!' composed on the occasion of the visit by William III and Queen Emma to Luxembourg. A few years later, Duke Adolphe was welcomed with the 'Wilhelmus' apostrophised as the national anthem along with the song 'Ons Hémecht' (Our Homeland).

In 1915, to commemorate the centenary of the Congress of Vienna, the first Luxembourg text of the 'Wilhelmus' was published by Willy Goergen. This text was reworked in 1939 but did not become established. In 1919, on the occasion of the marriage of Grand Duchess Charlotte to Prince Félix, Nikolaus Welter found the inspiration to 'create an anthem for the House of Luxembourg-Nassau-Bourbon'. At the Te Deum of 23 January 1920, it was performed for the first time by the cathedral choir.

The melody was harmonized for a choir with four equal voices by Jean-Pierre Beicht, organist at Luxembourg Cathedral. Subsequently, Welter dropped the first verse, which was marked too strongly by events of the time, leaving us with the following text today:

# Wilhelmus

## «De Wilhelmus»

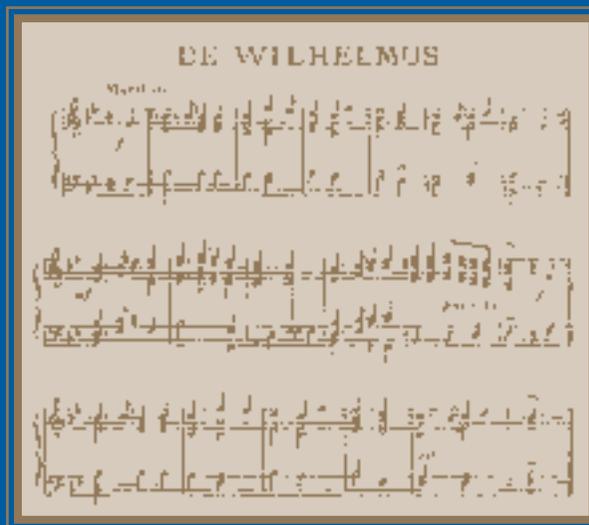
E neit Lidd op eng al Weis Nik. Welter

I

Zwê Kinnekskanner, de' trei sech le'f,  
ko'men ausenâner weit an de'f;  
Zwê Kinnekskanner, de' trei sech le'f,  
hunn och stëll gebiet datt Fridde ge'f:  
Haut weisen si der ganzer Welt  
en engem Feld  
d'Goldlilje mat dem ro'de Kro'nele'w;  
Haut dron s'a jongem Glëck Hand an Hand  
d'Hoffnonk vun dem Letzeburger Land.

II

D'Wilhelmusweis voll Mutt, Krâft a Schwonk  
fle'ßt durch d'Blutt ons we' e Feierdronk:  
d'Wilhelmusweis voll Mutt, Krâft a Schwonk  
mëcht àl Hierzer an àl Zeite jonk.  
An op de Fielzen un der Our  
de wei  
en Tur  
hieft himmelhe'ch eng sche'n Erënneronk.  
Haut dre't e stolzt Geschlecht Hand an Hand  
Nuem a Le'ft vum Letzeburger Land.



III

Mir hun a schwe'rer Zeit Drei bekannt,  
I'gong fir d'Freihët an et gong fir d'Land;  
mir hunn a schwe'rer Zeit Drei bekannt,  
d'E'er agesat zum Ennerpand.  
A wann eng nei Geför en drët,  
mir si berët,  
mir halen nês mat Hierz a Wëlle stand;  
Da stët rem fro' a stolz Hand an Hand  
Gro'ß a Kleng am Letzeburger Land.

IV

So' werden s'ëmmerzo' èneg gôn,  
Fürst a Vollek Frêd we' Lëd mat drôn;  
So' werden s'ëmmerzo' èneg gôn,  
Ganz hir Pflicht ge'nt sech an d'Hémecht dôn;  
E starke Stâm an âler Erd,  
an duebel wert  
mat freier Kro'n voll Saft a Sonn ze stôn.  
O Herrgott, lêt du trei Hand an Hand  
d'Kanner vun dem Letzeburger Land!  
Aus all Geföre lêt glëcklech durch  
Blutt a Gëschl vum freie Letzeburg!



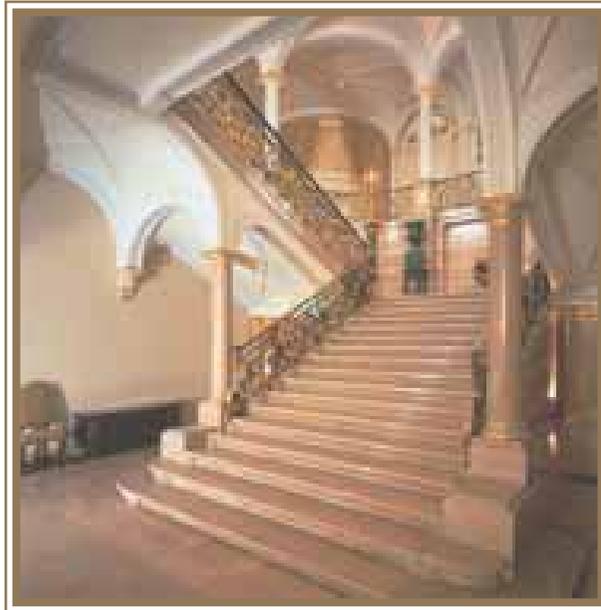
*Chapter Five*

The residences of  
the Grand Ducal Family





# *The Grand Ducal Palace*



*The grand staircase at the Grand Ducal Palace*

For more than a century, the Grand Ducal Palace has been the official residence of the Grand Duke and the place where he carries out his functions. Located in the heart of the City of Luxembourg, the Palace embodies the closeness between the Grand Ducal Family and their subjects.



*Neoclassical vase in the shape  
of a two-handled amphora and  
of St. Petersburg porcelain*



*A panoramic view of the rue du Marché-aux-Herbes where the Grand Ducal Palace and Chamber of Deputies are situated side by side*

## From City Hall to Government building



*The ballroom*

On 11 June 1554, a substantial part of the city was destroyed by a fire caused when lightning struck the Church of the Franciscans and ignited gunpowder stored in the basement. City architect Adam Roberti did not start reconstruction work on the City Hall until 1572. The work was completed in 1573.

In 1683 and 1684, the City Hall once again sustained serious damage during the siege of Luxembourg by Vauban, because the cellars were being used by the population as shelters during the bombardment. In 1728, the town could once again invest in repairs.

In 1741, the City Hall was extended by adding a building known as 'La Balance'.

When the French administration moved into the city in 1795, the City Hall became the Prefecture of the 'Département des Forêts'.

From 1817, the King's Governor resided and worked in the City Hall, then known as the 'Hôtel de Gouvernement'. It was extended between 1825 and 1856, thanks to the acquisition by the Government of several houses situated around the Government building. The construction of the Chamber of Deputies in 1858 enabled the Deputies to leave their cramped accommodation.

In 1883, the state rooms were renovated for the visit of King and Grand Duke William III of the Netherlands and his wife.



*Corridor decorated with pictures of former Princes and Princesses, ancestors of the Nassau family*



*Part of the banister  
(in bronze and wrought iron)  
of the grand staircase*



*Partial view of the Salon Jaune, with a picture  
of HRH Grand Duchess Marie-Adélaïde*

## The Grand Duke's residence

From 1890, the former City Hall became the exclusive residence of Grand Duke Adolphe. The Palace underwent major renovation work and an additional wing was built in the courtyard, under the supervision of Belgian architect Bordiau and the state architect Charles Arendt. The Grand Duke bore most of the costs and installed furniture.

The Grand Ducal Palace was occupied by the Nazis during the Second World War and converted into a concert hall and tavern (Schlossschenke). The furniture, jewellery and works of art were looted. Flags bearing swastikas were displayed on the façade.

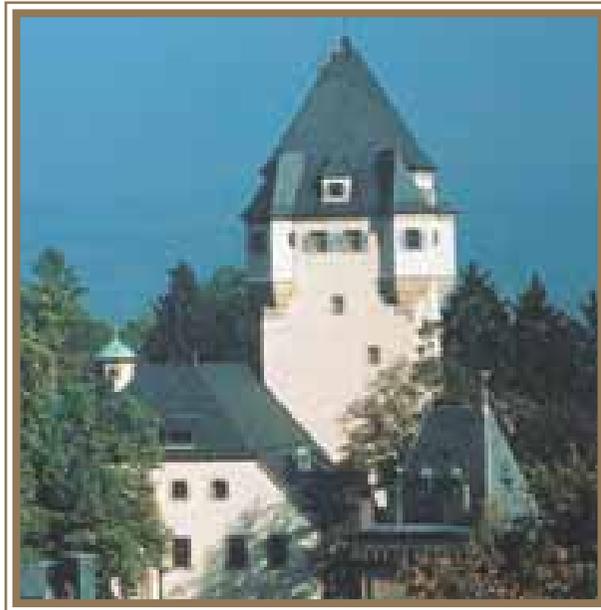
It was not until 14 April 1945 that the people of Luxembourg could once again cheer the Grand Duchess on the balcony of the Palace.

Between 1991 and 1996, major renovation work restored the Palace to its former glory.



*The dining room decorated with woollen and silk tapestries representing the Telemachus Adventures and woven in the Reyclams Leyniers workshops in Brussels*

## *Berg Castle*



The first record of a Lord of Berg(he) dates from 1311. Berg Castle changed hands frequently until the King and Grand Duke William II purchased the estate from Baron Claude du Pasquier in 1845.

During the reign of William III, the castle underwent many alterations in the neo-Gothic style. Then, in 1891, Grand Duke Adolphe purchased the King's private estates. The same year, Hereditary Grand Duke William IV made Berg Castle his home, where six daughters were born of his marriage with the Infanta Marie-Anne of Braganza.

On his accession to the throne, William IV had the old castle demolished and replaced with a building better suited to the needs of the day. The plans were drawn up by Munich architect Max Ostenrieder and executed by the Luxembourg architect Pierre Funck-Eydt. Work started in 1907 and was completed in 1911.

Grand Duchesses Marie-Adélaïde and Charlotte resided there during their successive reigns.

The Luxembourg state acquired the castle in 1934 and placed it at the disposal of the Grand Ducal Family.

During the Second World War, the Nazis established an elite school for young girls in the castle. The alterations they imposed caused a great deal of damage and, like the Grand Ducal Palace, the furniture and many works of art were plundered.

From 1948, the amendment of the Constitution made Berg Castle the home of the Grand Duke. During the restoration work undertaken after the war, the Grand Duchess and her family moved to Fischbach Castle until 1964.



*Aerial view of Berg Castle*



# *Fischbach Castle*



*Aerial view of Fischbach Castle*

The Fischbach estate is one of the oldest in Luxembourg and appears to date back to the time when the property belonged to Echternach Abbey. The first known Lord, Udo of Fischbach, is recorded in 1050.

Like Berg Castle, it had many owners and underwent many alterations, particularly after being set on fire by the Poles in the army of Duke François of Lorraine in 1635.

In 1850, King William III acquired the estate and ordered the demolition of the majority of the industrial installations that had been added when the previous owner, industrialist Auguste Garnier, had granted ownership to the company S.A. Belge des Hauts Fourneaux.

In 1891, Grand Duke Adolphe became the owner.



*The library in Fischbach Castle*

During the Second World War, the Nazis converted the castle into a rest home for artists and called it 'Künstlerheim Fischbach'. The majority of the furniture and works of art were looted.

Fischbach Castle remained Grand Duchess Charlotte's favourite residence from 1945 until the end of her days.

In 1987, Prince Henri and his wife made the castle their home.



*Walk in the park of Fischbach Castle*



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