



His Serene Highness RAINIER III  
SOVEREIGN PRINCE OF MONACO

(Photo Picedi)

## H. S. H. PRINCE RAINIER III, SOVEREIGN OF MONACO

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H. S. H. Prince Rainier III succeeded to the throne of Monaco upon the death of his grandfather, Prince Louis II, which occurred at the Palace of Monaco on 9th May 1949.

The ceremonies marking the accession of H. S. H. Prince Rainier of Monaco took place on 19th November 1949, but the official rites were celebrated concurrently with the first Monaco national holiday of the new reign, on 11th April 1950.

Prince Rainier III was born in Monaco on 31st May 1923. On his father's side he is a descendant of the famous Polignac family, a name that has been borne by several diplomats and ministers under the French Monarchy. Through his mother, a descendant of the Grimaldi, Prince Rainier III is a direct descendant of the House of Baden, the Douglasses and Hamiltons, and the Beauharnais family.

The Grimaldi dynasty goes back to Otto Canella (1071-1143), who was Consul of Genoa in 1133. Otto Canella's third son, Grimaldo, Consul of Genoa in 1162, gave his name to the House of Grimaldi.

H. S. H. Rainier III, Louis, Henri, Maxence, Bertrand, Prince of Monaco, also bears the following titles: Duke of Valentinois; Marquis of Les Baux, Count of Carladès, Baron of Buis, and Seigneur of Saint-Rémy, bestowed upon his ancestors by the King of France in accordance with certain clauses of the Treaty of Peronne (8th July 1641); those of Sire of Matignon, Count of Torigni, Baron of Saint-Lô, Baron of Hambye and Baron of La Luthumière, acquired following the marriage of Princess Louise-Hippolyte Grimaldi with Jacques de Matignon (20th October 1715); and finally those of Duke of Mazarin, Duke of Mayenne, Prince of Château-Porcien, Count of Ferrette, of Thann and of Rosemont, Baron of Altkirch, Seigneur of Isenheim, Marquis of Chilly, Count of Lonjumeau, Baron of Massy, and Marquis of Guiscard, which derive for the most part from the estate of Cardinal Mazarin and were brought into the House of Grimaldi by the Duchess of Aumont Mazarin, a descendant of Hortense Mancini, in the XVIIIth century.

H. S. H. Prince Rainier III spent his early childhood at the Palace of Monaco and the Château of Marchais, in the French department of the Aisne. He spent a year at the Summer Fields School at St. Leonards-on-Sea, near Hastings (Sussex), England, and continued his studies at Stowe, located in one of the country-houses of the Duke of Marlborough. He went then to Rosey, Switzerland, for three years and to the University of Montpellier for another two years and a half. He then attended the Ecole des Sciences Politiques in Paris.

In 1941, Prince Louis II awarded him the Grand Cross of the Order of Saint Charles, of which he is now Grand Master. H. S. H. Princess Charlotte renounced her title of Hereditary Princess and her rights as Princess of Monaco in favour of her son in 1944. As his grandfather had done during the First World War and his father during the second, while his mother, a Chevalier of the French Legion of Honour, devoted herself assiduously to hospital work, Prince Rainier volunteered for duty in the French Army and performed distinguished service with the Staff of the 2nd Army Corps during the Rhine Army's Alsatian campaign. On 12th February 1945 he was mentioned in Brigade despatches and awarded the Croix de Guerre.

He was made a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour on 10th January 1947 by the President of the Provisional Government of the French Republic for

services in the field, and subsequently was awarded the Belgian Croix de Guerre and the French Resistance Medal. The Grand Cross of the Royal Order of George I of Greece was conferred upon him in 1948, and a further distinction has been the Swedish Order of Seraphims.

He was promoted to the rank of Captain by the French Government, and in January 1949, Prince Louis II commissioned him as Colonel of his Carabineers.

As he felt his end approaching, Prince Louis II delegated the conduct of state affairs to him, which is the greatest proof of confidence a Sovereign can give, as he was well aware of the Hereditary Prince's earnest desire to contribute to the Principality's happiness and prosperity.

Like his great-grandfather, Prince Albert I, Prince Rainier III is a keen sailor and oceanographer.

The Monaco Lecturing Society has been under his patronage for a number of years.

Following the example set by his predecessors, Prince Albert I and Prince Louis II, H. S. H. Prince Rainier has reaffirmed His Government's high regard for the International Hydrographic Bureau, an interest that dates from the latter's foundation, and that led to its providing the very handsome building in which the Bureau's offices are at present located. The Prince has been so generous as to leave this centre of the Bureau's activities at the disposal of the International Hydrographic Bureau without cost to the Bureau.

The Principality of Monaco celebrated its young Sovereign's accession to the throne of his ancestors with enthusiasm, and spectacular ceremonies reflected the optimism that marked the beginning of the new reign.

Numerous foreign diplomatic missions represented their countries at the ceremonies: Belgium, Denmark, Egypt, France, Great Britain, Greece, Italy, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, San Marino, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States, and the Vatican. The following naval units visited the Port of Monaco in order to participate in the festivities: H.B.M. Destroyer "Gravelines", representing the British Navy; the U.S. Destroyer "Larsen", representing the United States Navy, and the Light Cruiser "Fantasque", representing the French Navy.

The day of the Accession, a Pontifical High Mass followed by a *Te Deum* was solemnized at the Cathedral by the Bishop of Monaco in the presence of the Princely Family, the Palace and State Officials, Foreign Delegations, and all Members of the Consular Corps.

The States Members of the International Hydrographic Bureau were represented by the Directing Committee and the Secretary-General. The ceremony was followed by a review and parade of troops, and receptions took place at the Palace. A gala performance was given at the Monte-Carlo Opera, attended by the Prince and His Family; there were various choreographic and concert entertainments, and a fireworks display. An international games competition, as well as a ballet performance, took place at the Louis II Stadium.

Since the days when the Celto-Ligurian coast was visited by early Phœnician navigators, generations of men have been attracted by the superb climate of that unique spot (Monofcos), "whose frontiers consist of flowers". At the crossroads of the Aurelian and Julian Ways, the Harbour of Monaco, the Port of Hercules (*Herclé Manico Portus*) of Antonine's Maritime Route and Ptolemy's Geography constitutes one of the first foundations on this coast of an enduring civilization. The rock bearing the Castle of the Grimaldis sheltered the fleet that sailed forth to protect the people living on the coast of Provence from the Saracens and pirates of the Barbary Coast.

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