

# DUCHESS OF CROY SNUBBED OFFICIALLY

Almanach de Gotha Declares  
She Is Not of "Equal Birth"  
with the Duke.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

BERLIN, Dec. 10.—The 1914 edition of the Almanach de Gotha, which has just appeared, categorically announces that the marriage of Miss Nancy Leishman and the Duke of Croy "is not a marriage of equal birth."

The New York TIMES correspondent understands that this phraseology, which is unusual in the Almanach, is printed at the instigation of the Prussian Royal Heralds' Office and is intended as notice to the Duke that his wife is not entitled to the privileges of the Kaiser's Court or the other royal courts of Germany.

When the Duke of Croy and Miss Nancy Leishman were married at Geneva on Oct. 28 there was a strong presumption that the bride would not be acknowledged as the Duchess of Croy in Germany. The marriage took place without the consent of the Kaiser and with the disapproval of the family of the Duke. Upon the announcement of the engagement last April the match was disapproved at a family council called by the Dowager Duchess of Croy, the Duke's mother, of members of all the branches of the Croys in Belgium, Prussia, France, and Hungary. Later the Association of High German Nobility, at a meeting at Frankfort-on-Main, also opposed the marriage.

The House of Croy is one of the oldest in Europe, and has for centuries intermarried with royal families. The Duke of Croy traces his lineage to John I. of Croy, (1346-1415,) a descendant of a King of Hungary. The royalty of the Croys antedates that of the Hohenzollerns by a full century.

The genealogical authorities who asserted that Miss Leishman could become the Duchess of Croy held that the House of Croy derived its nobility from France and that its members were not bound by the rules of the German nobility, but were governed solely by the family laws of their own house.

The contention of German aristocratic society and of the Prussian Court is that the House of Croy has been "mediatized," or united, with the other German royalties, because it belonged to the Holy Roman Empire before it was destroyed by Napoleon. A "mediatized" house is subject to the rules of all the German royal houses regarding marriage and titles. If the Croy family is a "mediatized" house, the consent of the Kaiser is necessary in order that the bride may bear her husband's title and that her children may succeed to the titles and estates in Germany of their father.

The position that the Croys are a "mediatized" house has been held by the Duke of Croy in a lawsuit which may have established the precedent which will debar his bride from recognition as Duchess of Croy in Germany. This suit, which was brought by the Duke as a minor, was to prevent the offspring of his cousin, Prince Philip of Croy, who married an Englishwoman, Elizabeth Mary Parnell, from ranking as a Princess of Croy or enjoying any of the prerogatives of the House of Croy. The suit ended in the Duke's favor. His own matrimonial alliance is of exactly the same kind as that which the courts on his behalf refused to recognize.

In Austria, where the Croys have estates, the bride would be even less likely to receive recognition than in Germany. The severe rules of the Court of Vienna confer upon the wife none of the privileges of the Court through her husband, but allow her only those which she inherits from her ancestors.

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