

Orders of the

Holy See - The highest of the pontifical Orders of Knighthood is the Order of Christ (reserved for heads of state and princes, with one class only). Constituted in 1319 as a military order under the pope and the Portuguese Crown jointly, it was governed by the Cistercian rule, but was relieved of the obligation to celibacy in 1499. From 1522 to 1789 the Portuguese and the papal branches became progressively distinct, and thereafter the papal branch survived as a separate order. The Knights of the Golden Spur or Milizia Aurata of St. Silvester in 1841 and again, under its old name (with one class only) in 1905, when the Order of St. Silvester (Three Classes) came into being as a separate entity. Other Orders are those of St. Gregory the Great (for loyal services to the papacy with four classes in 1831 but with three only from 1834) and of ~~Pope~~ Pius IX (with two classes in 1847 and three classes, 1863) was granted in 1931 to the Latin patriarch of Jerusalem.

Iceland - Order of the Falcon (1922)

Italy - The Kingdom of Italy under the house of Savoy continued several Orders instituted by the dukes of Savoy or Kings of Sardinia. Such were: The Order of the Annunziata, whose origin is described ~~above~~ previously under *History*, and whose knights enjoyed the highest precedence and were styled as "cousins" of the King; the Order of St. Maurice ~~(1472-1672)~~ and St. Lazarus, formed by the merging of the Savoyard Order of St. Maurice (1434; revived 1872) with a branch of the religious Knights of St. Lazarus (dating from the period of the crusades in Palestine; settled in Naples from 1311; tentatively merged with other religious Orders of Knights in the 15th century, but resurrected in 1517) and completely secularized in the course of the Risorgimento; the Military Order of Savoy (1815); and the Civil Order of Savoy (1831). The Order of St. Maurice and St. Lazarus, ~~formerly~~ transformed into a charitable organization) and the Military Order, now styled "of Italy," were continued by the 20th century Republic, but the other royal orders previously mentioned, together with the Order of the Crown of Italy (1868), were officially suppressed. The Republic has also Orders of Merit of the Republic, of the Star of Italian Solidarity and of Merit of Labour.

Latvia - Orders of Lacplesis (1919) and of the Three Stars (1924) during the period of Independence.

Liechtenstein - Order of Merit (1937)

Lithuania - Military Order (1919) and Orders of the Grand Prince Gediminas (1928) and of Vytautas (1930) during the period of Independence.

Lucca - Order of St. Louis (1836; transferred to Parma, 1847)

Luxembourg; Orders of the Golden Lion of Nassau (dynastic; reserved to Luxembourg since the severance of the personal union with the Netherlands), of the Oak Crown (1841) of Adolphus of Nassau (1858)

Mecklenburg - Orders of the Wendish Crown (dynastic, for both duchies, 1804) and of the Griffin (for Mecklenburg-Schwerin, 1884; extended to Mecklenburg-Strelitz 1904).

Oldenburg - Order of Peter Frederick Louis (1838)

Parma - Constantinian Order of St. George (1816; a facsimile of an Order, of supposedly Byzantine origin, of which the Farnese dukes of Parma had been grand masters from 1697 to 1731) Order of St. Louis (founded for Lucca, 1836; transferred to Parma by the Bourbons, 1847)

Poland - Order of the White Eagle (1705; revived as the premier order of the Republic with one class only, 1921); Order of the ~~White Eagle~~ St. Stanislaw (1705); Order *Virtuti Militari* ("for Military Valour", 1792; revived 1917); Order of *Pola Restituta* (5 classes 1921); of the Cross of Independence (Two classes 1928) and of the Grunwald Cross (Five classes, 1944)

Moravia - Order of St. Charles (1855)

Montenegro - Order of St. Peter (dynastic 1852) and of Danilo

Netherlands { Orders of William (military, with four classes, 1815) of the Netherlands Lion (civil 1815), of the Golden Lion of Nassau (till 1890, see Luxembourg) of Orange-Nassau (five classes 1892) of the House of Orange (5 classes, for outstanding services to the Royal House, 1905)

Norway { Orders of St. Olaf (with five classes, 1847) and of the Norwegian Lion (one class only, with foreign heads of state and princes admitted 1904)