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Theme: “Heads of State: Ancestry, Coats of Arms, and Flags”



### THE ROYAL DANISH COAT OF ARMS AND ITS CHANGES SINCE 1972

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Summary (in English)

The coat of arms of the kingdom of Denmark goes back to around 1200 and has for over 700 years been the heraldic symbol of the country. The heraldry of the monarchs of the kingdom are different, and the changing fields and charges reflect both the history of Denmark, the changing powers of the Danish monarchs, the territories they ruled as well as their ambitions. With the ascension of Queen Margrethe II to the throne in 1972, remarkable changes were made to the Royal Coat of arms, primarily to convey a more modern approach with a reduction of fields and charges. However, the heraldry of the royal family was also expanded as both the Prince Consort, the Crown Prince and his brother in time got their own coat of arms. By tradition, royal princes were created Counts of Rosenborg upon marrying non royals, and in the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, several new coats of arms were created for the different branches of the present Counts of Rosenborg. In addition, arms were also created for the spouses of the Crown Prince and his brother. The paper aims at giving an overview of this recent development of the Royal Coat of Arms by showing how charges and fields were changed to reflect the bearer as well as differentiating the branches of the Counts of Rosenborg.

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