

# Count of Hainaut

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The **Count of Hainaut** was the ruler of the county of Hainaut, a historical region in the Low Countries (including the modern countries of Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and parts of northern France and western Germany). In English-language historical sources, the title is often given the archaic spelling **Hainault**.



Coat of arms of the county of Hainaut.

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## List of counts of Hainaut

### House of Reginar

- Reginar I (r. 870-898), also Count of Mons (from 870) and Count of Liège
- Sigard (r. 898-908, m. 920), also Count of Liège
- Reginar I (r. 908-915), second time
- Reginar II (r. 915-after 932)
- Reginar III (r. before 940-958)
- Godfrey I (r. before 958-964)

The Count of Hainaut was then divided between the cities of Mons and Valenciennes.

### Counts of Mons

- Richar (r. 964-973), also Count of Liège
- Renaud (r. 973)
- Reginar IV (r. 973-974)
- Godfrey II (r. 974-998)
- Reginar IV (r. 998-1013), second time
- Reginar V (r. 1013-1039), acquired the southern part of the Brabant province around 1024
- Herman (r. 1039-1051), married Richilde, acquired Valenciennes around 1045 or 1049

### Counts and Margraves of Valenciennes

- Amaury (r. 953-973)

- Werner (r. 973)
- Reginar IV (r. 973-974)
- Arnulf (r. 974-988)
- Baldwin IV (r. 988-1035)
- Baldwin V (r. 1035-1045)

Valenciennes and Mons are once again reunited in a consolidated County of Hainaut.

## House of Flanders

- Baldwin I (r. 1051-1070), also Count of Flanders
- Arnulf I (r. 1070-1071), son of Baldwin VI, also Count of Flanders
- Baldwin II (r. 1071-1098), son of Baldwin I
- Baldwin III (r. 1098-1120), son of Baldwin II
- Baldwin IV (r. 1120-1171), son of Baldwin III
- Baldwin V (r. 1171-1195), son of Baldwin IV, also Count of Flanders from 1191
- Baldwin VI (r. 1195-1205), son of Baldwin V, also Count of Flanders and Latin Emperor of Constantinople
- Joan (r. 1205-1244), daughter of Baldwin VI, also Countess of Flanders
- Margaret I (r. 1244-1253), daughter of Baldwin VI, also Countess of Flanders, married first to Bouchard IV of Avesnes and then William of Dampierre



*The Counties of Flanders and Hainaut are claimed by Margaret's sons, the half-brothers John I of Avesnes and William III of Dampierre in the War of the Succession of Flanders and Hainaut. In 1246, King Louis IX of France awards Hainaut to John, but Margaret refuses to hand over the government but was forced to do so in 1254 by John and the German anti-king William II, Count of Holland.*

## House of Avesnes

- John I (r. 1253-1257), son of Margaret I and Bouchard IV of Avesnes

## House of Flanders

- Margaret I (r. 1257-1280), resumed control after John I's death

## House of Avesnes

- John II (r. 1280-1304), son of John I, also Count of Holland
- William I (r. 1304-1337), son of John II, also Count of Holland
- William II (r. 1337-1345), son of William I, also Count of Holland
- Margaret II (r. 1345-1356), daughter of William I,
  - jointly with her husband Louis IV, Holy Roman Emperor (d. 1347) and their son William III



## House of Bavaria

- William III (r. 1345-1388), son of Margaret II and Louis IV
  - jointly with his brothers Louis the Brandenburger, Louis the Roman and Otto the Bavarian (1347-1349), Stephen II of Bavaria (1347-1353) and Albert I
- Margaret returned in 1350 in opposition to her son and held Hainaut until 1356.
- Albert I, (Regent since 1358, ruled as count 1388-1404)
- William IV (r. 1404-1417), son of Albert I



- Jacqueline (r. 1417-1432), daughter of William IV

*Jacqueline was opposed by her uncle John, Duke of Bavaria-Straubing, son of Count Albert I in a war of succession. John's claims devolved upon Philip III, Duke of Burgundy, a nephew of William III, whose mother had been the sister of William. In 1432 he forced Jacqueline to abdicate from Hainaut and Holland in his favour.*

## House of Burgundy

- Philip I the Good (r. 1432-1467)
- Charles I the Bold (r. 1467-1477), son of Philip the Good
- Mary the Rich (r. 1477-1482), daughter of Charles the Bold, jointly with her husband Maximilian I, Holy Roman Emperor



## House of Habsburg

- Philip II the Handsome (r. 1482-1506), son of Mary and Maximilian
- Charles II (r. 1506-1555), son of Philip, also Holy Roman Emperor (as Charles V)



Charles II proclaimed the Pragmatic Sanction of 1549 eternally uniting Hainaut with the other lordships of the Low Countries in a personal union. When the Habsburg empire was divided among the heirs of Charles V, the Low Countries, including Hainaut, went to Philip II of Spain, of the Spanish branch of the House of Habsburg.



- Philip III (r. 1555-1598), son of Charles III, also King of Spain
- Isabella Clara Eugenia (r. 1598-1621), daughter of Philip II,
  - jointly with her husband Albert, Archduke of Austria)
- Philip IV (r. 1621-1665), grandson of Philip III, also King of Spain
- Charles III (r. 1665-1700), son of Philip IV, also King of Spain

Between 1706 and 1714 the Low Countries were invaded by the English and the Dutch during the War of the Spanish Succession. The fief was claimed by the House of Habsburg and the House of Bourbon. In 1714, the Treaty of Rastatt settled the succession and the County of Hainaut went to the Austrian branch of the House of Habsburg.

- Charles IV (r. 1714-1740), great grandson of Philip III, als Holy Roman Emperor (elect)
- Mary Theresa (r. 1740-1780), daughter of Charles IV, married Francis I, Holy Roman Emperor
- Joseph I (r. 1780-1790), son of Maria Theresa and Francis I, also Holy Roman Emperor
- Leopold (r. 1790-1792), son of Maria Theresa and Francis I, also Holy Roman Emperor
- Francis II (r. 1792-1835), son of Leopold II, also Holy Roman Emperor

The title was factually abolished in the aftermath of the French revolution and the annexation of Flanders by France in 1795. Although, the title remained officially claimed by the descendants of Leopold II until the reign of Charles I of Austria.

## Modern usage

### House of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha

In the modern Kingdom of Belgium, the title of "Count of Hainaut" was traditionally given to the eldest son of the crown prince, who was himself styled "Duke of Brabant". In 2001, with the birth of Princess Elisabeth of Belgium (now Duchess of Brabant), heir and eldest daughter of Prince Philippe, Duke of Brabant (now Philippe, King of the

Belgians), it was decided not to feminize and award her the title of Countess of Hainaut, but to abolish it.

- Prince Leopold, Duke of Brabant (1859–1865), son of Leopold II of Belgium
- Baudouin I of Belgium (1930–1934), son of Leopold III of Belgium

## See also

- Countess of Hainaut
- County of Hainaut
- Counts of Hainaut family tree

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