

The Grand-Ducal family of Luxembourg in Königstein by ©Großmann-Hofmann

Königstein was part of the Duchy of Nassau between 1803 and 1866. Adolph succeeded his father, William, as Duke of Nassau in 1839, and visited Königstein while on honeymoon with his second wife, Princess Adélaïde-Marie of Anhalt-Dessau. In 1858, he bought the former administrative building for the Electors of Mainz to use as a summer home.

When Nassau was annexed by Prussia in 1866, Grand Duke Adolphe and the Nassau family left Königstein and when to live in Vienna, Italy, Bavaria and Frankfurt; the family never returned to Nassau to live there again. Between 1875 and 1877, they left their summer residence in Königstein and moved into a small castle which they had rebuilt and converted.

In 1889, Adolphe left Königstein for Luxembourg to assume the regency for the Grand Duke of Luxembourg and King of the Netherlands, William III, who had fallen ill. When Adolphe became Grand Duke of Luxembourg in 1890, he returned to Königstein on several occasions.

(Grand) Duchess Adélaïde-Marie loved Königstein and, at first, spent many weeks there during the year. With the death of Adolph in 1905, she became a more frequent visitor. When they were young, her six grandchildren — including Marie-Adélaïde and Charlotte, who would both later become Grand Duchess of Luxembourg — often visited her.

The Grand Ducal Family, Adélaïde-Marie in particular, were seen as benefactors and patrons; the support given to the small congregation of Königstein's evangelical church deserves special mention: the construction of the church (1888), the rectory (1908) and the parish hall and convent ("Herzogin-Adelheid-Stift") (1912) were mainly built under the patronage of Adolph and, after his death, Adélaïde-Marie. A donation funded a wing in the Catholic hospital for patients with no financial resources and from every denomination. They also supported local festivities - every year, the Grand Duchess would invite the children of Königstein to children's parties. When she died in 1916 at Königstein castle, the entire town mourned the loss.

The castle then passed to her daughter, Hilda, Grand Duchess of Baden. As she did not have any surviving children, it then passed to Luxembourg Court, before being bought in the 1950s.

The town of Königstein acquired the castle in 1970. Since 1981, following its renovation, it has housed the local court (Amtsgericht Königstein).

Today, the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess are remembered through street names (Herzog-Adolph-Straße and Adelheidstraße), the memorial dedicated to Grand Duke Adolphe, and the Grand Duchess Adélaïde-Marie Foundation (Herzogin-Adelheid-Stift). GERMAN VERSION PREVAILS. MANDATORY COPYRIGHTS.

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