

## **History and Notable Figures**

The origins of the Hoyos family lie in the region of Burgos in Old Castile, the heartland of Spain. The heart shield of the family coat of arms points to this geographic area. The first documented evidence of the Hoyos family lineage appears in two records of nobility from 1527 and 1532. The sons of Juan de Hoyos (1481-1538), Anton and Hans, accompanied Archduke Ferdinand, who would later become King and Emperor, from Spain to Lower Austria around 1521/22. They and their descendants supported the young Ferdinand and subsequent rulers of the House of Austria in central political matters and in upholding the Catholic faith.

### **Anton von Hoyos (1504-1551)**

Pope Adrian VI as coadjutor of the Bishop of Gurk initially appointed the eldest son, Anton, and in 1540 he was consecrated as a bishop himself. Later, he fell victim to an assassination.

### **Hans von Hoyos, Baron of Stichsenstain (1506-1561)**

Hans, his brother, served Archduke Ferdinand as early as 1525 and joined his military campaigns. He distinguished himself in many battles, including the 1529 defense of Vienna against the Turks. In 1544, King Ferdinand I appointed him as his councilor. Due to his personal and professional dedication, he was honored with the title "Baron of Stichsenstein." In 1548, he married Judith von Ungnad, a daughter of the provincial governor of Styria, who bore him seven healthy children. Hans acquired numerous estates in his desire to fully establish himself and his family in Austria, choosing Stixenstein Castle as his main residence. At his death, he held a considerable fortune for his time.

### **Division of the Family:**

Older Line:

### **Ludwig Gomez von Hoyos, Baron of Stichsenstein (1551-1600)**

Hans's eldest son, Ludwig Gomez, is considered the founder of the older line, which became extinct in 1718. His brother Ferdinand Albrecht founded the younger line of the Hoyos family, from which the still-existing main line emerged in the late 18th century. Ludwig Gomez acquired additional lands and estates and united the Stixenstein and Gutenstein domains. He was married to Susanna von Trautson, who bore him nine children.

### **Hans Balthasar the Elder von Hoyos, Count of Gutenstein (1583-1632)**

Hans Balthasar the Elder, son of Ludwig Gomez, earned high esteem in state service and had close ties to the ruling house. His liquid assets allowed him to acquire numerous properties. Notably, he made significant charitable contributions, including the newly built Minorite Monastery in Neunkirchen and a substantial donation for the construction of the Capuchin Monastery in Korneuburg. He also provided financial aid to the Franciscan Order in Vienna,

funding an altar and a crypt chapel for himself and his descendants. He was married twice, with four children from each marriage.

#### Hans Balthasar the Younger von Hoyos, Count of Gutenstein (1626-1681)

Count Hans Balthasar the Younger, who survived his childless half-brothers, thereby reunified and expanded the estates. During the outbreak of the plague in Vienna, he was appointed as the marshal of Lower Austria. While the imperial court withdrew to Innsbruck and most of the nobility fled from Vienna, Hans Balthasar the Younger, along with Governor Jörger and Count von Hofkirchen, remained as the only nobles in Vienna. His marriage to Esther Susanna, née Countess von Trauttmansdorff, produced seven children. Previously, Esther Susanna had been married to Hans Albrecht von Hoyos, Baron of Stichsenstein, from the younger line, thereby linking both the older and younger lines through her.

#### Franz Karl von Hoyos, Count of Gutenstein (1666-1706)

The eldest son of Hans Balthasar the Younger, Count Franz Karl, inherited the majorat of Gutenstein and Hohenberg, as well as the castle and estate of Stixenstein. In government service, he achieved the position of Imperial Court Councilor. His marriage in 1693 to Gabriela Marchesa Caretto di Grana was considered a favorable match. Emperor Leopold granted him Hungarian nobility, which entitled him to join the Hungarian nobility. Franz Karl died without children.

#### Ernst Ludwig von Hoyos, Count of Gutenstein (1689-1718)

Ernst Ludwig, Franz Karl's younger brother, succeeded him in the majorat. He served as chamberlain and court councilor under Leopold I and Joseph I, the latter of whom appointed him to the Privy Council. He was married to the imperial lady-in-waiting Josefa Antonia, Countess von Kolowráť. After his elder brother's death, Ernst Ludwig inherited not only the aforementioned majorat but also the estates of Stixenstein, Vestenhof, Rothengrub, Frohsdorf, Pitten, Eichbüchl, Kreuzstetten, the Freihaus in Vienna, as well as the estates of Retz and Enzesfeld, which he later sold. He had his favorite residence, Schloss Frohsdorf, remodeled by Fischer von Erlach. He died without descendants, and the majorat Gutenstein-Hohenberg was passed to Count Philipp Joseph Innocenz, a member of the younger line, whose son Johann Ernst, the founder of the still-living main line, became the universal heir and first holder of the new fideicommiss established by Ernst Ludwig.

#### **Figures of the Younger Line:**

##### Ferdinand Albrecht von Hoyos, Baron of Stichsenstein (1553-1609)

Ferdinand Albrecht, brother of Ludwig Gomez, was the founder of the younger line. He studied in Vienna and then entered court and state service. In the Netherlands, he gained a thorough understanding of lock and canal systems, which he applied in plans for regulating the Danube Canal between 1598 and 1600. He sold several family properties and sought to establish a contiguous estate in Lower Austria. In 1593, he acquired the princely pawn estates

of Persenbeug, Rohregg with Wimberg, Yspertal, and the toll station at Emmersdorf. He was married to Regina, Baroness von Lobkowitz, who bore him eight children.

Adam Eusebius von Hoyos, Baron of Stichsenstein (1587-1640)

Ferdinand Albrecht's son and heir, Adam Eusebius, completed his studies at the universities of Padua and Siena. In state service, he held the position of imperial panetier and steward and served as chamberlain to Archduke Charles. Among his memberships in religious brotherhoods, the knighthood of the "Militia Christiana" is notable. He was a patron of monasteries and a significant donor to the Carthusian Monastery in Aggsbach. The outbreak of the Thirty Years' War left its mark through plunder and destruction in the southern Waldviertel. Adam Eusebius restored numerous castles and estates, and his descendants from two marriages included ten children.

Hans Albrecht von Hoyos, Baron of Stichsenstein (1632-1659)

While the surviving son from the first marriage, Franz Ludwig (1620-1667), died in mental infirmity, his half-brother Hans Albrecht also caused concern with his restless lifestyle. A penchant for entertainment, extravagance, and brawling characterized his life. His wife, Esther Susanna, née Countess von Trauttmansdorf, bore him two children. As a widow, she remarried the aforementioned Hans Balthasar the Younger from the older line, who became both the guardian and stepfather of the two-year-old Leopold Karl.

Leopold Karl, Count von Hoyos (1657-1699)

Leopold Karl was the heir of the Hoyos family. He was elevated to the status of imperial count at seventeen. Later, he became a chamberlain, associate justice of the Lower Austrian Landrecht, and court councilor. Upon returning from his four-year study and educational journey, he took over the management of his estates in the southern Waldviertel, which he completely renovated. In 1681, he entered into a significant marriage with Maria Regina, Countess of Sprinzenstein. As the daughter of the provincial marshal of Lower Austria, she inherited the estates of Horn, Rosenberg, and Raan, with the fortress of Kamegg and Mold. These estates and the right to the dominion of Drosendorf were passed to the Hoyos family through her marriage to Leopold Karl. These estates are still owned by the family today. Leopold Karl died in 1699, and his wife followed in 1704. Only one of their eight children, Johann Anton (1690-1709), survived his mother but only by a few years.

Philipp Josef Innocenz, Count von Hoyos (1695-1762)

The son of Leopold Karl, Philipp Josef Innocenz, inherited all family estates. A quick marriage was necessary to ensure the survival of the entire family line. Therefore, he married Maria Magdalena, Countess of Hohenfeld, who, just before the extinction of the older line, bore him a son. In 1718, Philipp Josef Innocenz inherited the fideicommiss Gutenstein and Hohenberg established by Hans Balthasar the Elder, and his son inherited the remaining allodial estates of the older, now extinct line. Thus, at the age of 23, Philipp Josef Innocenz

united an estate complex, partly as owner, partly as guardian of his minor son, that no family member had held before him.

#### Johann Ernst the Elder, Count von Hoyos (1718 - 1781)

The son of Philipp Josef Innocenz, Johann Ernst the Elder, inherited the estates of his godfather, Ernst Ludwig, at a young age, managed by his father until Johann reached legal age. After his father's death, he obtained the majorat of Gutenstein-Hohenberg, then Horn, Rosenburg, and Raan. In 1771, he expanded his holdings by purchasing additional estates. His main residence was the representative manor house Frohsdorf. In 1769, he built the new patronal church of St. Leonhard in the Hornerwald. His marriage to Maria Franziska, Countess of Sinzendorf, produced only one son. Throughout his life, Johann Ernst Senior struggled with financial difficulties, leaving behind a significant debt upon his death.

#### Johann Philipp, Count von Hoyos (1747 - 1803)

Johann Philipp, the only son, grew up in rural isolation. He married Christiane, Countess of Clary-Aldringen, the daughter of the master of the hunt in Lower Austria. She was highly integrated into society and the imperial court. The child of these two can arguably be considered the most notable personality in the Hoyos family. Johann Philipp established Frohsdorf Castle as the new family seat. After his father's death, he took on a heavy debt burden. The family's economic foundation was based on timber utilization through the development of wood floating systems. Until her son's marriage in 1799, Countess Christiane herself managed the family estates. In 1802, a major fire destroyed Stixenstein Castle, resulting in the loss of a large part of the Spanish family archive and imperial correspondence. Johann Philipp died a year later.

#### Johann Ernst the Younger, Count von Hoyos-Sprinzenstein (1779 - 1849)

Born physically weak, Johann Ernst the Younger nevertheless displayed physical and mental resilience throughout his long life. A strong presence, linguistic talent, curiosity, and legal studies marked his educational journey. At twenty, he married Therese, Countess of Schlabrendorf, who bore him four sons, two of whom died young, and six daughters. His acquired expertise enabled him to gradually reduce the family's debt. One significant contribution was a contract to deliver extensive firewood to Vienna, following a royal timber floating privilege. In 1836, he became a member of the Order of the Golden Fleece. The French invasions brought looting and damage to the family's Lower Austrian estates. In 1805 and 1807, Emperor Franz I visited Stixenstein and Gutenstein, forging a lifelong friendship. Johann Ernst the Younger was the first estate owner to raise and equip the 6th Landwehr Battalion exclusively with his own staff. As a lieutenant colonel, he fought against Napoleon in 1809. In 1812, he accompanied the Austrian imperial couple to Dresden. During the Congress of Vienna in 1814/15, the local sovereign appointed him as the personal

chamberlain to the King of Prussia. In 1821, he was also awarded the title of Excellency as a Privy Councillor. Upon Anton, Count of Lamberg-Sprinzenstein's death in 1822, the dominion of Drosendorf and the estates of Pyhra and Thumeritz fell to Johann Ernst the Younger, who then bore the additional name "Sprinzenstein." Further successes followed. Johann Ernst became Chief Court and State Master of the Hunt. In 1829, he became the second commissioner of the Lower Austrian nobility. In 1840, he was appointed field marshal lieutenant and, during the March Revolution of 1848, organized 40,000 men as commander of the National Guard. Shortly after celebrating his golden wedding anniversary, Johann Ernst the Younger died following a fall from his horse.

Heinrich, Count von Hoyos-Sprinzenstein (1804 - 1854)

Johann Ernst's son Heinrich found it difficult to succeed his remarkable father. He received a solid education in legal and agricultural matters. His marriage to Felicie, born Countess of Zichy, produced eight children. Heinrich died very early, after bearing the extensive responsibilities as head of the entire family for just five years.

Ernst Carl the Elder, Count von Hoyos-Sprinzenstein (1830 - 1903)

Heinrich's son, Ernst Carl the Elder, joined the army in Upper Italy in 1848, witnessing Field Marshal Radetzky's victories firsthand. After his father's death, he ended his military career. For over half a century, he managed four Lower Austrian entailed estates as majorate lord, facing considerable challenges. He married Eleonore, Countess of Paar, in 1856, and they had five sons and three daughters. Appointed as a chamberlain and a Privy Councillor, he joined the Reichsrat in 1861, eventually becoming vice-president of the House of Lords. In 1889, he was admitted to the Order of the Golden Fleece. For donating the Stixenstein springs to Vienna, he was awarded honorary citizenship. Ernst Carl the Elder earned great merit as a builder, overseeing the 20-year restoration of Rosenberg Castle, which had severely deteriorated after a major fire, investing significant personal funds. Fortunately, this cultural heritage was preserved. His proud portrait in the official uniform of a Privy Councillor above the entrance to the Rosenberg library stands today as a symbol of the family's centuries-long contributions to Lower Austria. It also serves as a testament to his descendants' commitment, especially that of the current owner, to fulfilling the family's public responsibilities and future.

Ernst Carl the Younger, Count von Hoyos-Sprinzenstein (1856 - 1940)

Like his father, Ernst Carl the Younger faced significant economic challenges when he took over estate administration in 1898. From a young age, he was interested in exploring unknown territories in exotic lands. He travelled through North America, Greenland, Asia, and Africa. Renowned scholars acknowledged his high scientific understanding and considerable ability in geographical and ethnographic problem solving. He wrote several books and kept extensive diaries of his travels. His marriage to Marie, Countess of Larisch-Moennich, produced two sons, Rudolf and Hans. After only three years of marriage, his

young wife died in 1886. Ernst Carl the Younger served almost continuously on the front lines during World War I until returning as a highly decorated officer at the age of 61 in 1917. He was the last holder of the entailed estate. He died in 1940, with the fideicommissa dissolved under Hitler in 1939, leading to an unprecedented division of his estate among his son Rudolf and the children and wife of his deceased brother Hans.

Rudolf, Count von Hoyos (1884 - 1972)

Ernst Carl the Younger's elder son, Rudolf, studied economics in Leipzig and forestry in Munich. Like his father, he served on the front lines throughout World War I. After the war, economic losses led Rudolf to speculative investments advised by "experts," which only worsened the situation. The attempted recovery coincided with the Great Depression of the 1930s, significantly impacting the estate's assets. In 1921, he married Maria, Countess of Hartig. Of their six children, the youngest died shortly after birth, and the eldest son, Ernst, fell in World War II. Rudolf's political involvement culminated in his appointment as president of the State and Federal Councils in 1934, making him Austria's second-highest official at that time. Following Hitler's invasion of Austria, he was repeatedly imprisoned by the Gestapo. He was forced to cede substantial agricultural land to the "German Settlement Society" and, in 1945, also suffered extensive damage from the Russian occupation forces. The Bürgerhospital Foundation in Horn, managed by the Hoyos family since the 17th century, was dissolved during the Nazi era. After persistent efforts, Rudolf succeeded in reviving the foundation in 1955 under the Lower Austrian Regional Foundation and Fund Reorganization Act. In 1957, he was admitted to the Order of the Golden Fleece. He remained active well into old age and, at 87, even climbed Hochschneeberg. The following year, he tragically died in a car accident.

Dipl.-Ing. Hans, Count von Hoyos (1923 - 2010)

After his youth in Horn and Gutenstein, Hans Hoyos served in the mountain infantry from 1942 to 1945 and was wounded twice. With a doctorate in agriculture and forestry from the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences in Vienna, he gradually took over managing the family estate, which was divided among the four surviving children following Rudolf's death in 1972. As the eldest son, he inherited the former family estates of Horn, Drosendorf, and Rosenberg, including three large castles. His primary goal was preserving and restoring the castles, making them usable, and repairing other buildings and monuments, with a particular focus on Rosenberg. Restoration work began in 1986, ahead of the 1990 state exhibition "Nobility in Transition," and has continued annually with significant investments. Hans rounded out the estate holdings with additional purchases. His public service included serving as vice-president of the Federation of Forest and Landowners for 25 years and as chairman of the Lower Austrian Forest Owners Association for 15 years. In 1972, a board was established to oversee the Bürgerhospital Foundation in Horn. Since its founding, Hans has represented the family in this role as the owner of the former estate "Das Gut Horn." In 1978, he was inducted into the Order of the Golden Fleece.

Dipl.-Ing. Hans Count von Hoyos (1923 - 2010)

After spending his youth in Horn and Gutenstein, Hans Hoyos was conscripted as a mountain infantry soldier from 1942 to 1945 and was wounded twice. As a graduate in agriculture and forestry from the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences in Vienna, he gradually took over the management of his father's estate, which was divided among the four surviving children after Rudolf's death in 1972. As the eldest son, he inherited the former family estates of Horn, Drosendorf, and Rosenberg, including the three large castles. His focus was on preserving and restoring the castles, making them functional, and restoring various other buildings and monuments. His special attention was devoted to Rosenberg Castle. Restoration work on Rosenberg began in 1986, ahead of the 1990 state exhibition *Nobility in Transition*, and has continued annually with significant effort. Hans expanded his holdings through various acquisitions. His extensive contributions in the public sector included serving as Vice President of the Austrian Association of Forest and Landowners for 25 years, Chairman of the Lower Austrian Forest Owners' Association for 15 years, and as a board member of the Austrian Association of Agricultural Estates, among other roles. In 1972, the management of the Bürgerspital Foundation in Horn was entrusted to a board consisting of the District Commissioner of Horn, the mayor of Horn, and the current owner of the former noble property *The Horn Estate*. As the latter, Hans served on this board since its establishment. In 1978, Hans was knighted into the Order of the Golden Fleece. In 1993, Hans entrusted the son of his brother Heinrich, Dipl.-Ing. Markus Count von Hoyos, born in 1960, with the economic management of the Horn forestry administration (forestry master). Retaining usufruct rights, Hans adopted Markus in 1998/99 and transferred his estates to him.

Dipl.-Ing. Markus Count von Hoyos (1960 - )

After attending high school in Vienna and completing his military service, Markus studied forestry at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences in Vienna. Markus is married to Petra, née Groiss. They have four children: Heinrich, born in 2003; Ferdinand, born in 2004; Anna-Caroline, born in 2006; and Marie-Louise, born in 2008.