

established by gift of his excellency Strahd von Zarovich III, to be held by her and her heirs in perpetuity. Thus far, the Fidatovs have held their land for ~~six~~ generations:

seven! Lady Valetia
Lord Andrei
Lord Fyodor and his brother, Lord Gennadi
Lord Vaslav
Lord Sidor
Lord Anatoly, the current heir, and also the youngest ever to succeed to the title.

Lady Marilena

The Gifts of Accession & the Family Crest

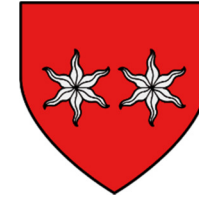
When Lady Valetia Fidatov thus ascended to the rank of nobility, the grateful denizens of her estate presented her with a gift in the form of a silver teacup embossed with her family crest:



This tradition of presenting the new ruling Fidatov with a gift upon assumption of the title has continued to the present day.

Lord Andrei adopted a modified personal crest upon the birth of his twin sons, Fyodor and Gennadi. So proud was he that he declared them the twin stars of the house of Fidatov and changed his crest to represent them.

Sidor grew tired of looking at all these items and made cases for them in the portrait gallery. But in typical stupid fashion, he neglected to make one for his own gift!!



Upon his accession to the title, Lord Andrei, like his mother, was presented with a silver teacup engraved with his new family crest.

Lord Andrei lived to see his elder son Fyodor married, in what was considered the wedding of the century, to the high-born and charming Zinerva von Krasz. As a condition of the match, the crest was modified yet again to include the wolf of the von Krasz family. Thus, the Fidatov crest reached its final and current form.



Like his father and grandmother, Lord Fyodor received an engraved silver teacup upon his accession. Alas, his rule was to last barely a year before he was lost to the jaws of a ferocious blue dragon whilst far from Barovia on business, attempting to replenish the family coffers after the expenses of his wedding.

Lord Fyodor was succeeded by his brother, Lord Gennadi. At this point, out of respect for the young lord's sensitivities upon his recent loss, the decision was made to break with tradition. Since that time, each new Fidatov ruler has received a unique item as an accession gift.