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When you want to hoodwink people

In Italy you will find a large number of squares and streets named after Amedeo di Savoia, others named after the Duca d'Aosta, and finally, there are others named after Amedeo di Savoia Duca d'Aosta. All you need do is to walk the streets of historic towns and keep your eyes open instead of shut.

The last reigning branch of the House of Savoy descends from the cadet branch in respect to Carlo Felice, but no one ever dreamed of making them use the surname Carignano.

According to the fundamental rule followed by our legal system, the son assumes the surname of his father. On his birth certificate housed in the Senate of the Kingdom, later the Senate of the Republic, Aimone di Savoia (sic), with Umberto di Savoia (sic) as witness, declared the birth of his son Amedeo Umberto, who only following the death of his father – who in turn followed the death of his elder brother – became Duke of Aosta.

The surname is not derived from registry entries and other documents, but from the birth certificate. There can be no question of that.

It is also true that a recent juridical trend is inclined to attach some importance to the way in which a person is known in a specific social context. But this concerns a possibility directly recognized on behalf of the person in question; it would not permit anybody to oblige him to use a surname other than the one that is automatically his by law.

Only the “fertile” mind of Vittorio Emanuele could come up with a claim to oblige his cousin to call himself with a title of nobility indicating a province [Aosta], leaving him to be the only one to bear (and to destroy) the family name of Savoy. And there are others, who show a good dose of ignorance of the norms and circumstances, who have followed him.