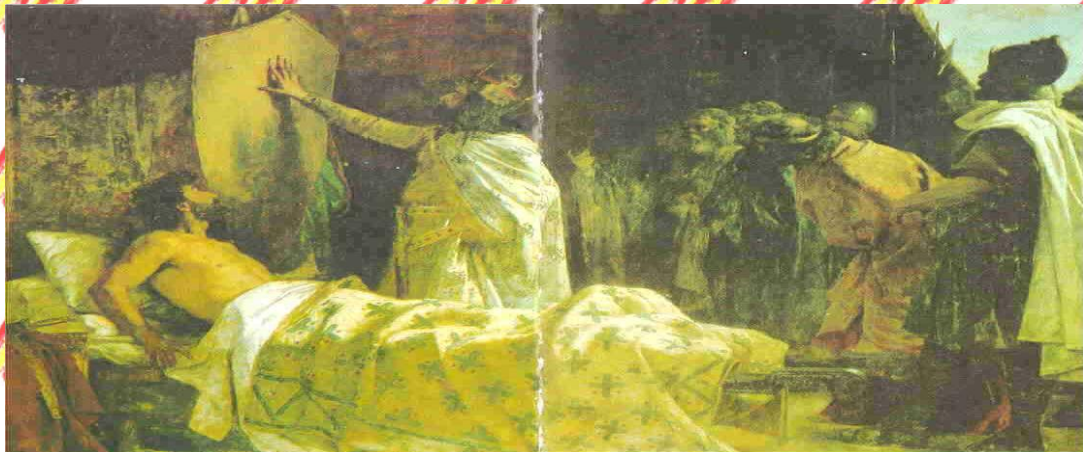


Historical Background

In 870, Charles the Bald, King of the Franks, appointed Gifre Earl of Cerdanya and Urgell. In 887 Bernat De Gòtia Earl of Barcelona, rebelled against the Frankish king. Guifré together with his brother Miró de Conflent and Sunifred gave support to the king Charles the Bald.

In 878, Louis the stutterer, who had succeeded his father Charles on the Frankish throne, granted Guifré the earldom of Barcelona, Girona and Besalu. He repopulated the area of Osona, which was depopulated by the Aissó rebellion in 827, which made it possible for a border with muslims territories to be established in the rivers Llobregat and Segre.

In 897 while he was trying to stop a muslim raid, led by Muhammad Al-Qasi, governor of Lleida, Guifré was seriously wounded by a lance that caused him to die. His Earldoms were divided into his sons; thus Guifré Borrell received the earldoms of Barcelona, Girona and Osona; Miró "el jove" the one in Cerdanya; Sinofré, Urgell i Sunyer Besalú. Guifré, who also founded the "Casal of Barcelona", established succession in his earldoms and his sons were the first Earls who weren't appointed by the Franks.



THE LEGEND

There is a legend, dating back to the 16th century that tells about Louis the Pious scraping the four red stripes of the Catalan flag on Guifre's shield. Actually the appearance of the four bars didn't take place before the 12th century, therefore this story can only be a legend.

According to this legend, Louis the pious asked Guifré for some help to stop a raid by the Normans. In the battle, our Earl was seriously wounded. The king visited him and with his fingers dipped in blood, scraped the four stripes on the Guifre's golden shield.

Another medieval legend tells that the Catalan flag was made of a draining ship and a golden necklace as a tribute to the dog that licked the wounds of Otger Catalo and heated him until he was able to fight again and conquer Catalonia accompanied by the new Barons of Fame.

"Casal of Barcelona": was the principal comtal house, of Gòtica. He apply the Earldom of Aragó (1410) , Sicília (1281-1410), and Provença (1112)

