

7. *Adelaide, Countess and Marchioness of Turin.*

On Ulderico Manfred's death his daughter Adelaide had inherited the March of Turin (the succession passing through the female line in default of male heirs). The fact that her succession was uncontested demonstrated that the March had evolved into an ordered territorial principality, in which administrative continuity was maintained. Since Adelaide was still young, her mother governed the March until her death in 1042, in her daughter's name. By then Adelaide's first husband had also died. Shortly afterward she was married to Marquis Henry of Monferrato, of the Aleramic lineage, but he too soon died. In about 1045 Adelaide married her third husband, Count Oddo of Savoy. Each of her husbands in turn was formally invested by the emperor as marquis of Turin, a right they acquired through their marriage to her. She herself held the title of countess of Turin, but in time she would take the title of marchioness as well. In contrast to her first two marriages, that to Oddo of Savoy would prove lasting: he lived until about 1060 and she bore him at least five children. This marriage would be of great historical significance, for it constitutes the point of origin for the House of Savoy's claim on Turin and its territory. In time this claim would lead to the establishment of Savoyard overlordship over the city and its county, creating a composite domain spanning both sides of the Alpine chain and controlling the passes across it. But the fulfillment of that claim lay still far in the future.

Oddo was a younger son of Humbert "the White-Handed", count of Maurienne and Savoy, Alpine territories southwest of Lake Geneva which at that time formed part of the Kingdom of Burgundy. In the succession wars that broke out in Burgundy following the death of its last king in 1032, Humbert had expanded his domains to include the provinces of Belley and Bugey to the west, and the Val d'Aosta across the Alps to the east, making himself a force to be reckoned with in regional politics. This growing power helps explain why the Emperor Conrad II chose his son to be Adelaide's new husband; furthermore, like Adelaide and the Arduinid line, Humbert was also a loyal partisan of the emperor. After his father and older brothers died, some time after his marriage, Oddo inherited all the Savoyard domains west of the Alps, uniting them briefly with the March of Turin, and foreshadowing the shape of the future Savoyard state. But this union was destined not to last. The children of Oddo and Adelaide died one by one, and the dynastic link between their two patrimonies came to an end. The lands