

# Martinez

In the 8th century, Spain fell under the control of the Moors, and this influence, which lasted into the 12th century, has also left its mark on Hispanic surnames. A few names are based directly on Arabic personal names. The majority of Spanish occupational and nickname surnames, however, are based on ordinary Spanish derivatives. In Spain identifying patronymics are to be found as early as the mid-9th century, but these changed with each generation, and hereditary surnames seem to have come in slightly later in Spain than in England and France. As well as the names of the traditional major saints of the Christian Church, many of the most common Spanish surnames are derived from personal names of Germanic origin. For the most part these names are characteristically Hispanic. They derive from the language of the Visigoths, who controlled Spain between the mid-5th and early 8th centuries. The surname of MARTINEZ is of Spanish origin, a baptismal name 'the son of Martin' belonging to Mars, the God of war. This name was borne by a famous 4th century saint, Martin of Tours, and consequently became extremely popular throughout Europe in the Middle Ages. It is one of the few saints' names other than the name of Old English saints that was found in England before the Norman Conquest of 1066. Gregorio Sierra MAERTINEZ (1881-1947) was the Spanish novelist and dramatist. He was a theatre manager, and an original and creative producer as well as publisher. At first the coat of arms was a practical matter which served a function on the battlefield and in tournaments. With his helmet covering his face, and armour encasing the knight from head to foot, the only means of identification for his followers, was the insignia painted on his shield and embroidered on his surcoat, the flowing and draped garment worn over the armour. The name is also spelt MARTINS, MARTI, MARTINEZ and MARTZ.

ARMS - Azure a cross calvary on three grieeces argent the dexter arm terminating in a sun in splendour or the sinister in a descrescent of the second

CREST - An estoile or

MOTTO - AUXILIUM AB ALTO  
Aid from above