SIMPLE WHERALDRY

CHEERFULLY ILLUSTRATED



BY
IAIN COONCREIFFE
& DON POTTINGER

HIS COAT OF ARMS



man in full armour was unrecognisable.

So each man wore a distinctive coat, by which he could be recognised, over his armour. This was called his coat "of arms".





These "arms" were displayed on his banner, shield and horsecloth, as well as on his coat—



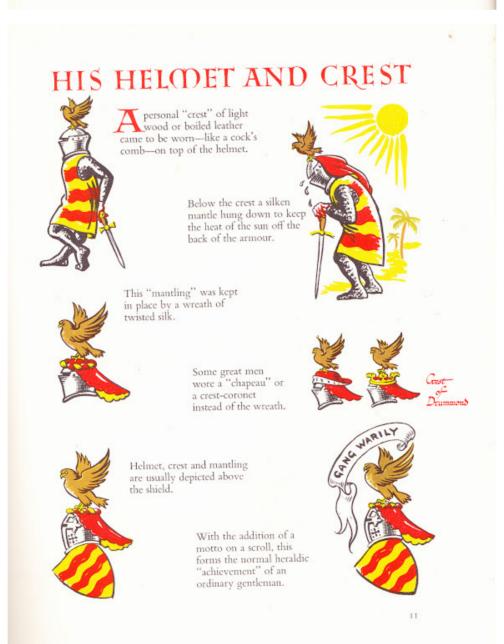
and came to be worn in civil life too.

s no two men in the same region could wear exactly the same coat of arms, these "arms" were soon used separately as personal symbols—and especially to mark their owners' possessions, because few people could read in those days.

Such a coat of arms is usually depicted on a shield.







HIS USE OF HERALDRY

His heraldic emblems can be used in innumerable ways to mark his property.



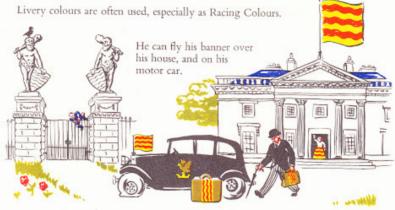
brushes, cuff-links, buttons, brooches, silver, china and writing paper.



They can appear on such things as curtains, furniture,



They are also used to identify him. Scotsmen wear their own personal crest or their chief's crest-badge in their bonnets (chiefs add three eagle's feathers and chieftains two).



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HIS (CIHOLE ACHIEVECDENT

These badges are sometimes displayed on a background of the "liveries" (usually the two principal tinctures of the shield), on a headquarters flag called the "standard".



Deummond, Earl of Perth



All peers, and those Scots lairds who are territorial barons, may place a chapeau above their shields—peers always put it inside their coronets.



Mantlings are normally of the livery colours, but the Sovereign's is gold, lined with ermine, and those of Scots peers and certain Officers of State are red, lined with ermine.

Certain prominent men are also allowed to depict their shields held up by "supporters", which stand on a mound called a "compartment".

So the full achievement of a peer is made up of his coat of arms, chapeau, coronet, helmet, crest, mantling, motto, supporters, and compartment.



Achievement

of

Drummond

Earl of Perth

CUIVES AND DAUGHTERS



aughters are allowed by courtesy to use their fathers' coats, which they conventionally depict on a diamond-shaped "lozenge".







When they marry, they place their own family coat beside their husband's, on his shield.

This is called "impaling".





If their father has no sons, they become heraldic heiresses when he dies. Then they may place their own family shield in the middle of their husband's shield, and it is called an "escutcheon of pretence".













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ELDEST SONS



Because no two men may wear the same coat of arms simultaneously, even the eldest son must use a special mark during his father's lifetime.







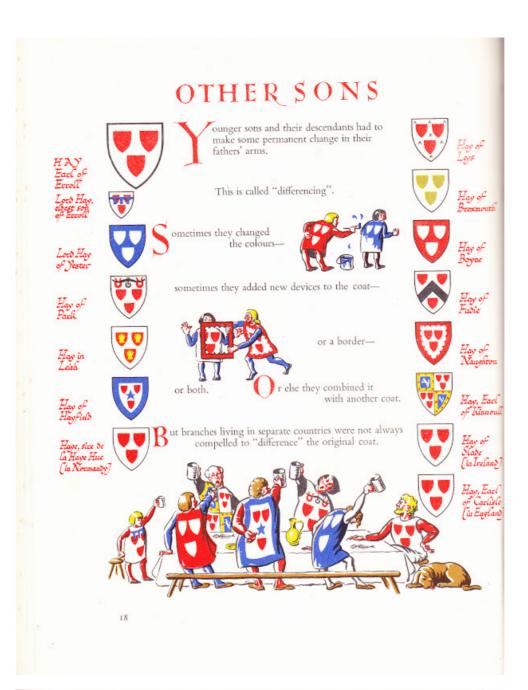
(In Scotland, this mark may be used by whoever is next in succession to the coat of arms).

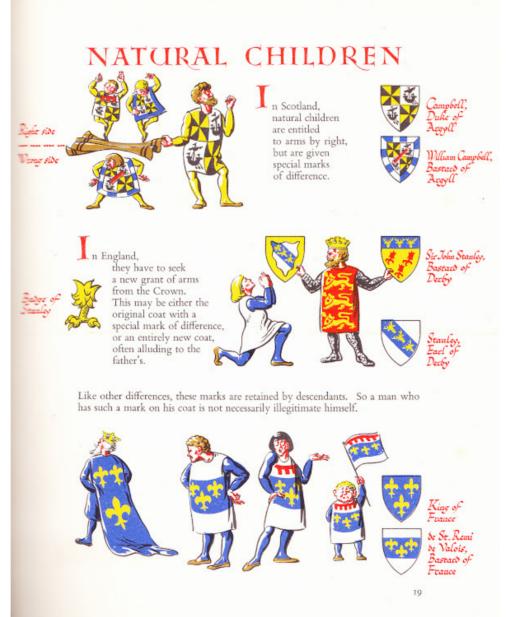


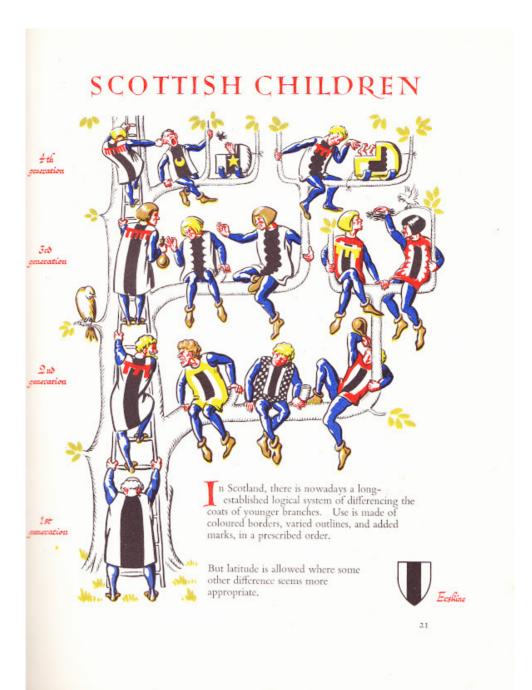


When his father dies, he inherits the plain coat of arms from him, and removes the label.

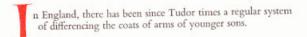
















It consists of a special mark for each legitimate son in order of birth. The eldest son has his label. The second son has a crescent, the third a star, the fourth a bird called a "martlet", the fifth a ring, the sixth a fleur-de-lys, the seventh a rose, the eighth a certain kind of Cross called a "Cross moline", and the ninth an eight-petalled flower. These marks may be of any heraldic tincture.

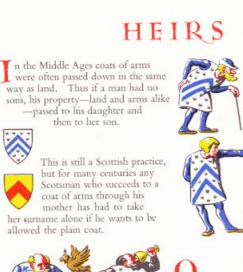




The eldest son drops his label on succeeding to the family coat. But the younger sons retain their individual marks, and pass them on to their descendants—whose younger sons in turn add further









therwise he cannot use a coat inherited through his mother unless he "quarters" it with his father's coat—and indeed this has been the only method normally allowed in England since at least Tudor times.

"Quartering" takes place
when a shield is divided into
equal "quarters", in which
are placed the various coats

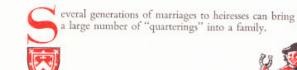


Of course if a man with no sons had several daughters, all his grandchildren could eventually "quarter" his arms with their own fathers' coats.

of arms its owner has inherited.



MORE HEIRS





Keith

They are still called "quarterings" even when there are more than four of them.



Up to four coats may be placed one in each quarter of the shield (vacant quarters being filled by repetitions).





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bove this number, the four quarters of the shield may become "grand quarters", one or more of them being sub-divided into lesser quarters to accomodate the extra coats.











MORE HEIRS



n England, since Tudor times, any number of new coats may be added to the shield consecutively without sub-division into fours. A shield then becomes "quarterly of six" or "quarterly of ten", or whatever the number of coats may be.



Server



Le Moyne



. . .



Chibrock



- -



Fitz Wazi



Aggentine



Fauntlerg



Howard



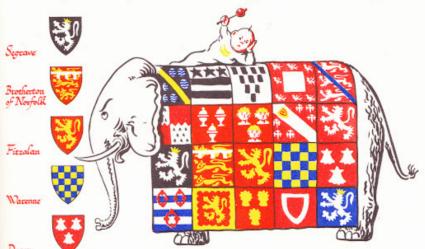
Mowb

24

he first coat may be repeated

at the end to make the "quarterings" up to an even number.

STILL MORE HEIRS



Dacee



S

o many quarterings can be accumulated by an old English family during several centuries that a quarterly coat sometimes becomes so large that it would almost require an elephant to carry it.

Talbot



It is not necessary to show all the accumulated quarterings, provided that junior branches show any which they use as differences to their plain family coat (where they have "differenced by quartering").

ummin



For convenience, only about half a dozen quarterings are usually shown.



But if a quartering is shown which has descended through more than one woman, then the coats of all *intervening* heiresses must also be shown.



Lord Mowbray and Stourton

Toway



H aving the same surname does not entitle a man to use another's arms.

If he can prove a blood relationship he is entitled to a differenced version of those arms. But he may be unable to prove it—or may not be related at all, in which case he has no right whatever to any form of those arms.



In England, therefore, unrelated families who happen to have the same surname are usually given utterly dissimilar plain coats of arms.









But such coats are quite unlike the systematically differenced coats of proved branches of the

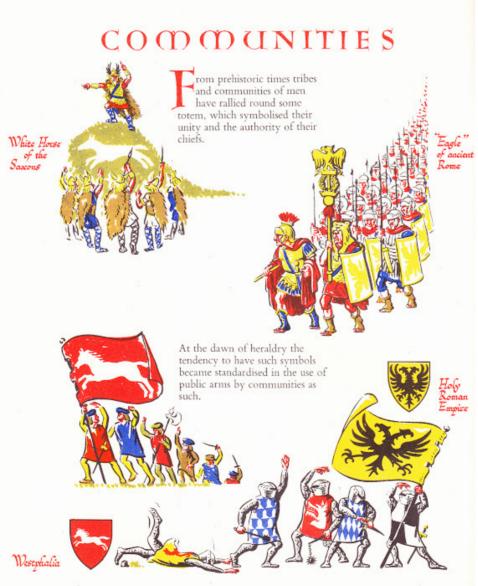
Chief's house.

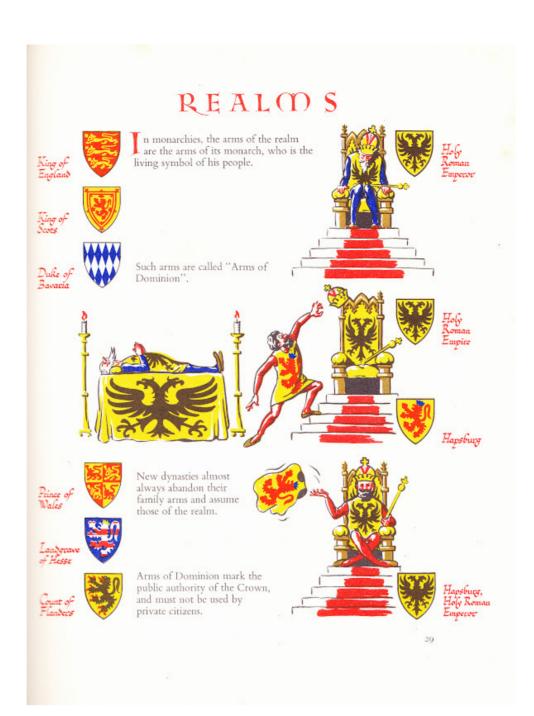


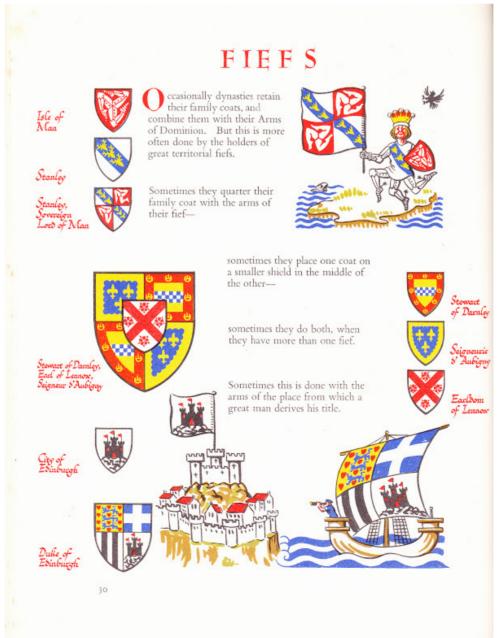


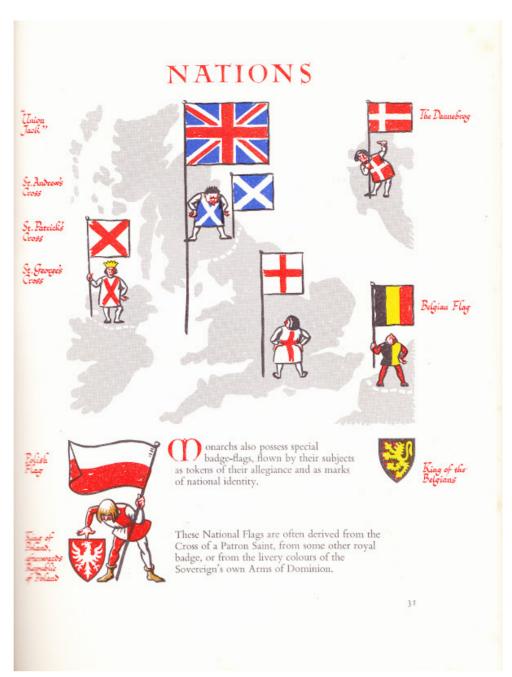


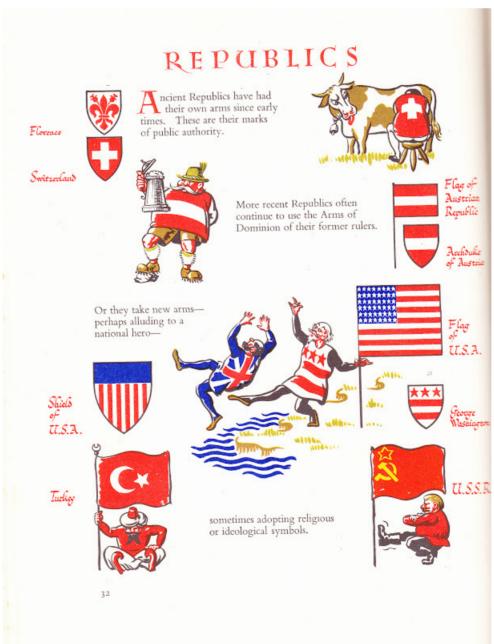


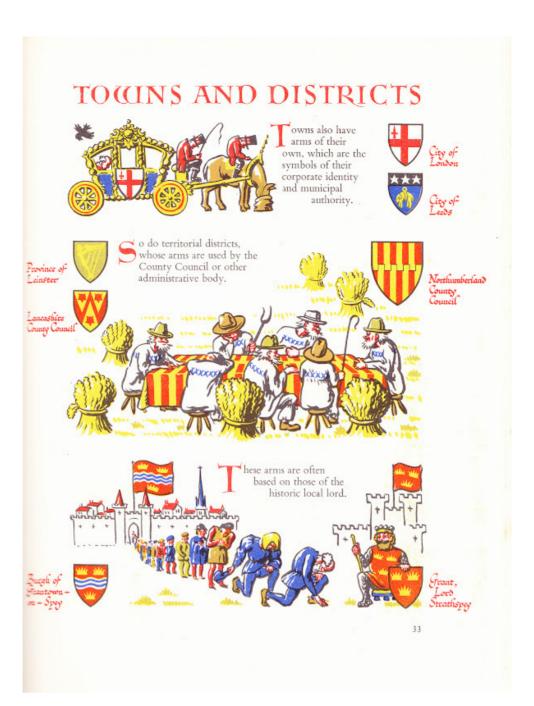




















ithin the towns, trades associations developed from the old guilds into noble Livery Companies with their own arms and heraldic liveries. Some great merchant companies spread far beyond the towns, administering wide territories under their Livery Flags.





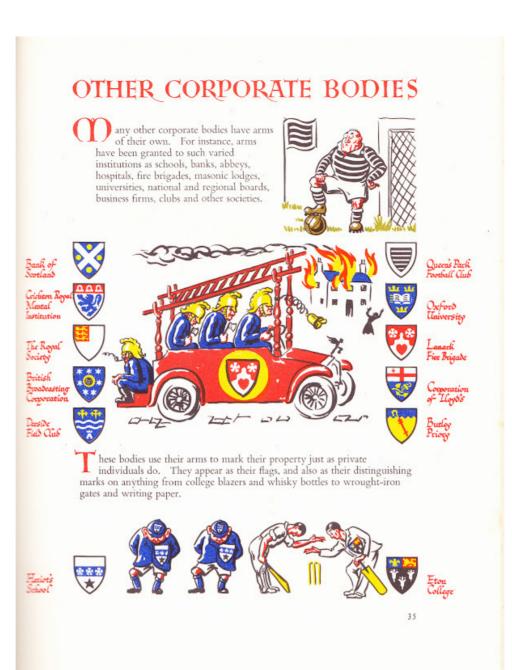


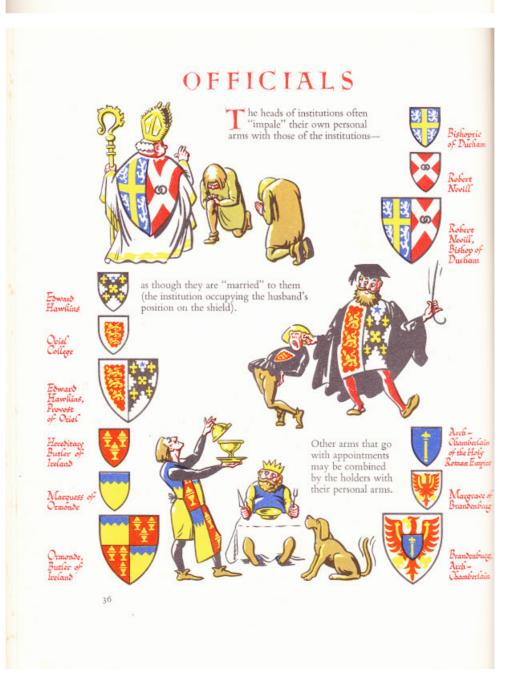
Livery Flag of the Honourable East India











ROYAL ARMS



ur present Queen reigns over us because Her Majesty is a direct descendant of the mighty Sovereigns of England and Ireland—and of the ancient Kings of Scots, the oldest continuing dynasty in Christendom.





Her Majesty therefore quarters the historic coats of these kingdoms.

These coats are the Queen's exclusive property, and none of them may ever be used except by Her Majesty's authority.







The quarterly coat is flown as the personal flag of the Sovereign as such, and marks Her Majesty's presence.

he Royal Arms are arranged rather differently in England and in Scotland, giving greater prominence in each country to its own national elements.





ROYAL BADGES

The Queen possesses a number of royal badges.

Some are used to mark Crown property, and others are worn by Her Majesty's subjects as a token of their allegiance.



The national flags are themselves royal badges.





There are also royal plant badges for each nation in the British Isles—

and many other local royal



Perhaps the royal badges most widely used throughout the Commonwealth and Empire are the Crown itself, and the Royal Cypher, the Sovereign's crowned initials.



ROYAL FAMILY



rince Charles, as Heir Apparent to the Throne, is automatically Duke of Cornwall in England by descent from the Plantagenets—and also Duke of Rothesay and Prince and Steward of Scotland by descent from Robert the Bruce, and Lord of the Isles (he is descended from an heiress of Songeled King of the Isles). The first of Somerled, King of the Isles). The first Duke of Cornwall was the Black Prince. His Royal Highness differences the Royal Arms with a plain white label, and possesses the famous badge of ostrich plumes.



Wales

When the Heir Apparent is created Prince of Wales he places the arms of Wales in the centre of his shield.



Formerly, younger sons of the Royal Family used various differences; and married daughters of the Sovereign impaled the plain royal arms with their husband's coat.





But for many centuries now all members of the Royal Family have had differenced versions of the Royal Arms settled on them by Royal





They are always given white labels, of three or five points, on which each prince or princess has individual marks to form his or her particular difference.



These are given to royal princesses as well as to royal princes.

ROYAL CONSORTS



hen the Sovereign is a King, his consort as Queen impales the Royal Arms with those of her own family, in the ordinary way.





When Lord Darnley married Mary, Queen of Scots, he became King Consort as "Henry, King of Scots". Queen Mary Tudor's husband was already a King; and Mary II's husband, William of Orange, became King as William III. But the husbands of Queen Anne and Queen Victoria retained instead their title of Prince.



Prince Albert, as Prince Consort, quartered the British Royal Arms (differenced by a special label) with his own Saxon royal coat.









With the royal arms of Der Greece (his father's family), His Royal Highness quarters the arms of Mountbatten (his mother's famous family) -and also those of the royal city of Edinburgh, from which the Duke derives



HER CDAJESTY'S DOCTINIONS

A part from the Royal Arms, which are the symbol of the Sovereign everywhere, bearings have been assigned to Her Majesty's Governments in the great Dominions, for use as marks of public authority there.



With the famous maple leaves—and the arms of England, Scotland and Ireland—the bearings of Canada include, for the French Canadians, the royal arms of France.

The Queen is descended from the old Kings of France, the line of Saint Louis.



The Australian bearings symbolise the six states that form the Commonwealth

-and those of South Africa symbolise the four provinces of the Union.





As with Australia, the stars of the Southern Cross appear in the bearings of New Zealand

—and regional allusions also occur in the bearings of Ceylon.





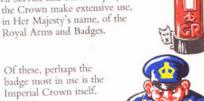
Her Majesty also possesses badges in each Dominion which, when placed with the Union Badge on a blue ensign, are "worn" by ships in public employment—and on a red ensign, are flown by citizens on their own ships as marks of national identity.



HER MAJESTYS SERVANTS



he Civil Service and other employees of the Crown make extensive use, in Her Majesty's name, of the Royal Arms and Badges.









Some servants of the Queen, such as the Yeomen Warders of the Tower, still wear the royal plant-badges on breast and back in mediæval manner.

The continuing use by certain Crown departments of the badge of Sidney (the broad-arrow) is a relic of the service of a Sidney, who as Master of the Ordnance nearly three centuries ago used his personal badge to mark the stores for which he was responsible.



Most of the coinage struck by Her Majesty's Mint bears the Royal Arms, Crests or Badges.







HER MAJESTY'S FORCES



White Ensign.

White Ensign



The gold anchor, formerly badge of the Lord High Admiral, is still borne by the Board of Admiralty.

Her Majesty's ships have individual badges of their own, surrounded by a rope beneath a "naval crown".

Badge of H.M.S. Renown

ROYAL AIR FORCE

Her Majesty's aircraft bear roundels of the livery colours of the Union.



Formations have their own individual badges, prepared for them by a herald who is Inspector of Royal Air Force Badges, and approved by the Queen in person.

The frames of these badges are different for each Dominion.



HER MAJESTY'S FORCES

egimental badges are worn on caps, collars and buttons. They often allude to the man who raised the regiment, its territorial connection, its function or its battle honours.

So do regimental ties.









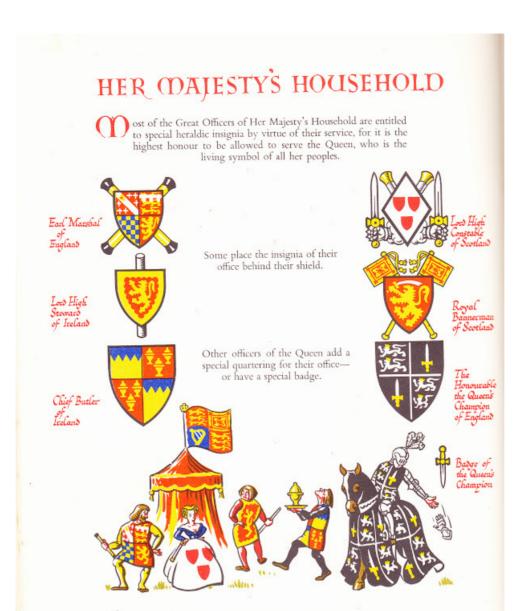
The spirit of a corps—with its continuing service and loyalty to the Queen—is embodied in its Colours, which are specially consecrated before presentation to the Regiment. In addition to the actual Colours, there are often flags bearing company or squadron badges.

Scottish Horse, raised by Atholl



Certain troops, including the Household Cavalry and Foot Guards, form a permanent part of the Queen's household, and are called the Household Brigade. Their badges are usually drawn from the royal badges or from the stars of the noble orders of knighthood.





AUTHORITY OVER ARMS

Because disputes arose over coats of arms, the King gave authority to certain Great Officers to judge in such matters—and also to stop men from assuming heraldic honours to which they were not entitled.





In England, this authority was given to the Lord High Constable (later abolished) and to the Earl Marshal—who is also Duke of Norfolk.



In Scotland, the authority was given to the High Sennachie, who became styled the Lord Lyon King of Arms from the lion in the Scottish royal coat.

Today, legal control of armorial rights is still vested in the Court of the Earl Marshal, for England, and in the Court of the Lord Lyon, for Scotland.





These Great Officers were also made responsible for recording genealogies and organising public ceremonies—the traditional function of a herald.

HERALDS

o assist them, these Great Officers have therefore the services of a number of officers of arms, generally known as "heralds".

In England, the Principal King of Arms is called Garter. There are also two other Kings of Arms called Clarenceux and Norroy, six Heralds and four Pursuivants, who with Garter form collectively the College of Arms under the Earl Marshal.



In Scotland, there are three Heralds and three Pursuivants, who with other officials make up the Court of the Lord Lyon.

The Republic of Eire has appointed a Principal Herald of Ireland: and Norroy as Ulster King of Arms deals with Northern Ireland's heraldry.





Great nobles also had their private officers of arms, and some still maintain the right.



Heralds also made proclamations, and carried out diplomatic missions. Since they publicly represented their masters in the performance of these duties, they wore their masters' coats.





As the use of arms developed, heralds evolved practical conventions governing the design and arrangement of coats of arms. These conventions make up the Science of Heraldry.

"TINCTURES"

Only five colours are in general use in heraldry—red (called "gules"), blue ("azure"), black ("sable"), green ("vert") and purple ("purpure").

8'Albret









There are also two metals used—gold ("or") and silver ("argent"), often depicted yellow and white—



and a number of furs, including ermine (white stoat with black tails), "contre-ermine" (black with white tails), "erminois" (gold with black tails) and "vair" (alternate blue and white squirrel skins).





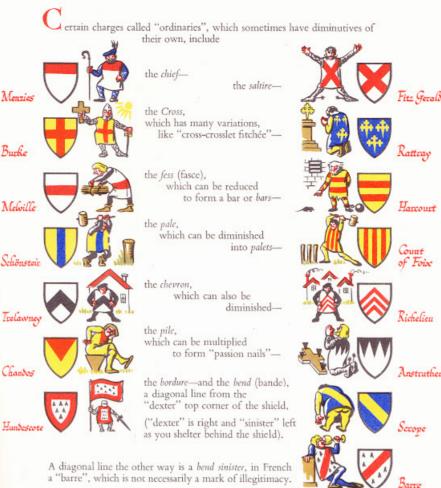




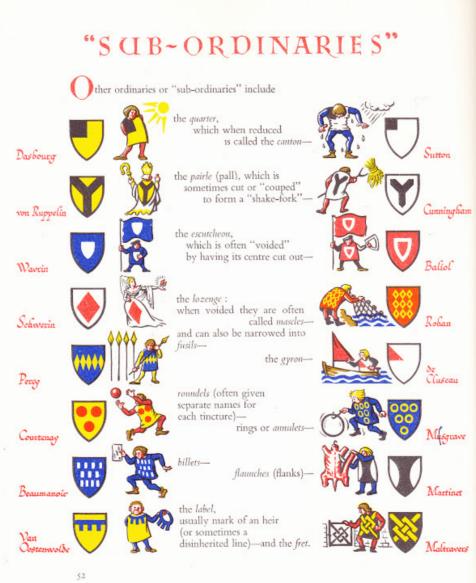


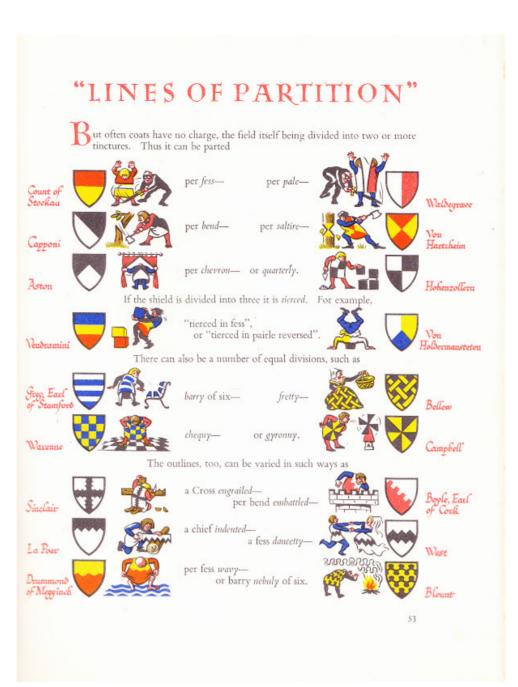
Some families have plain shields, but usually some "charge" is placed upon the background or "field". Normally colour is not placed on another colour, nor metal on metal, as being too indistinct at a distance. But colour shows up well on metal, and metal on colour.

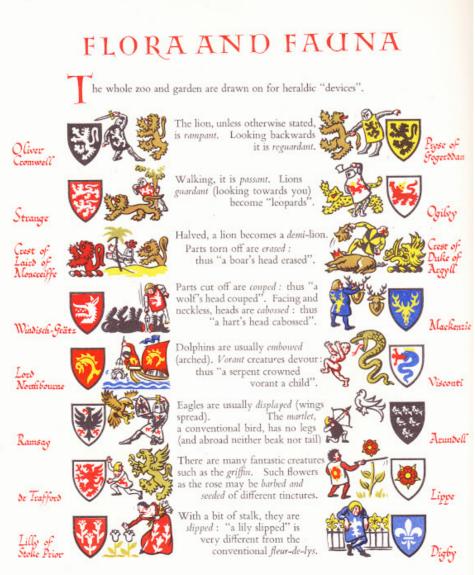
"ORDINARIES"

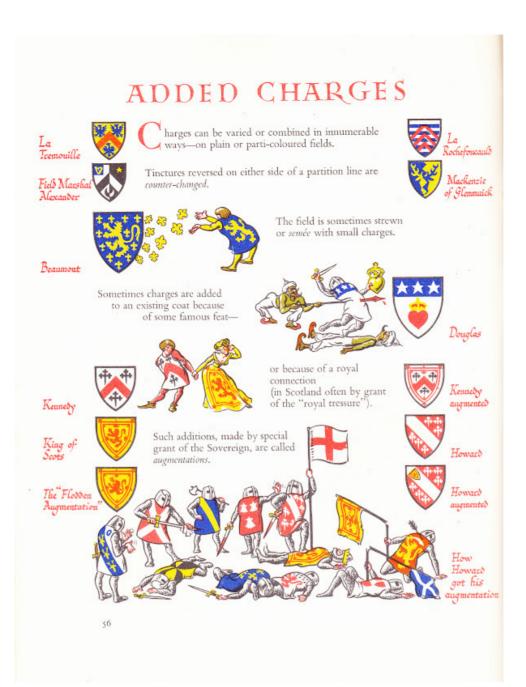


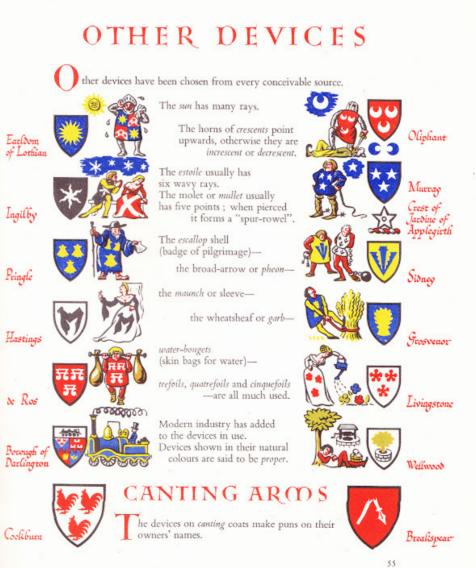
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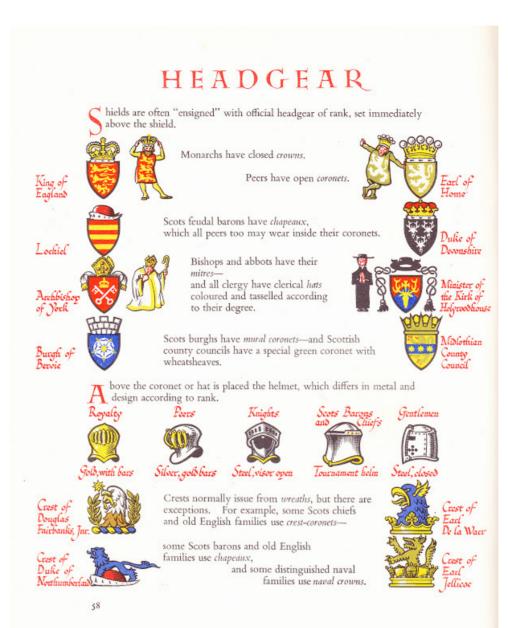












BLAZONING

o "blazon" a coat of arms is to describe it in technical terms, in order to be brief yet precise. This is done in an accepted sequence :

then lesser

principal charge charges on the fieldthe fieldprincipal charge. three between three castles Or. Gules,

Chiefs and cantons, with any devices on them, are mentioned

later, and bordures come last of all.

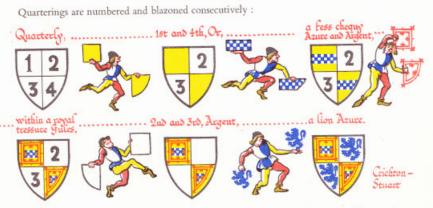
Thus: "argent two barrulets [narrow bars] wavy azure, between in chief two maple leaves slipped and in base a thistle eradicated [uprooted] gules, a bordure sable charged with eight bezants".

then the

First name

then lesser

devices on the



INSIGNIA

fficials are often entitled to place their insignia of office behind their shield.





Holders of collars of SS and members of knightly orders may add their badge and collar, Garter, circlet or riband to their achievement. Decorations may be suspended by their ribbons below the shield.

Similarly, baronets may hang their badge from its riband—or the badge may be charged on the shield itself (in a canton or inescutcheon)-or even both.





SUPPORTERS

In England, hereditary supporters are allowed only to peers—in Scotland they are allowed to chiefs and to certain ancient barons as well. But some institutions have supporters—and, for instance, Knights of the Garter, the Thistle, and Knights Grand Cross of other orders are granted them for life.

Usually there is a supporter on either side of the shield, but sometimes the shield is borne by a single supporter.

Supporters usually stand on a grassy compartment, but very few families have special compartments.



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YOUR OWN ARMS

F YOU ARE SCOTS, OR OF SCOTTISH DESCENT, you are entitled to arms if you can prove you are the heir of someone who has recorded arms in Lyon Register, which began in 1672 and is kept in the Court of the Lord Lyon, H.M. Register House, Princes Street, Edinburgh. You may still register ancient arms if legally proved heir to someone who bore them before 1672.





If you are a younger son, or belong to a younger branch, you are still entitled to arms, but must apply to the Lord Lyon for a suitable "difference" to be "matriculated" for you in Lyon Register. This costs about 18 guineas—made up of Stamp Duty and fees (which go direct to H.M. Treasury) together with the cost of the Herald Painter's work on the illuminated parchment.

But if you have not (or cannot prove) such a descent, you may apply to the Lord Lyon King of Arms at his Court for Letters Patent granting you special

This costs about £48, made up as before of Stamp Duty, Treasury Fees and the cost of painting the title deed itself.

This entitles you and your descendants to arms for ever, though younger sons must of course "matriculate" their particular differences.

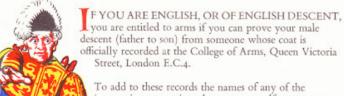




These arms are protected for you by all the force of the Law of Scotland (where the use of bogus arms is illegal) and anyone who infringes your patent will be prevented from doing so, and may be prosecuted and fined by Lyon Court.

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YOUR OWN ARMS



intervening generations down to yourself costs one or two guineas

If you are a younger son, or belong to a younger branch, you must remember to "difference" the plain arms of your ancestor.

But if you have not (or cannot prove) such a descent, you may apply to the Earl Marshal through the College of Arms for Letters Patent granting you special arms of your own.



This costs £105, as it entails a considerable amount of expert knowledge on the part of the heralds, and also includes the cost of preparing the beautifully illuminated patent.

Moreover, neither the College nor its, officers receive any subsidy from public funds, and its building and records have to be maintained from their fees.



Such Letters Patent entitle you and your descendants to arms for ever.









