

## **Extracts from notes distributed to enquirers by the Office of Lord Lyon**

Armorial bearings, of which the Crest is a subsidiary part, are a form of individual heritage property, devolving upon one person at a time by succession from the grantee or confirmee, and thus descended like a Peerage. They indicate the Chief of the Family or Clan, or the Head of a subsidiary line or household descending from members who have themselves established in the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland a right to a subsidiary version of the arms and crest, containing a mark of difference indicating their position in the Family or Clan. This is not a 'cadet' coat of arms; it is the ancient ancestral arms with a mark of cadence usefully showing the cadet's place within the family.

The parts of the armorial bearings consist of:

- (a) The Shield, bearing the basic device;
- (b) The Helmet, with its Crest, which sits on top of the helmet;
- (c) The Motto in a scroll;
- (d) The Mantling or cape, which kept the sun off the wearer's armour in hot weather.
- (e) Very rarely, two supporters on either side of the shield, which are external attributes of the arms of Peers, Chiefs and a very few other persons of special importance including Knights Grand Cross of Orders.

It is not only illegal, but a social crime and error of the most grave character, to assume and purport to use your Chief's arms without a due and congruent difference. Anyone who does so merely publishes their own ignorance, and lapse into bad manners, and use of such on seal or notepaper will dose the doors of ail the best families against the presumptuous upstart.

There is no such thing as a "Clan coat of arms". The arms are those of the Chief, and clansmen have only the privilege of wearing the strap-and-buckle crested badge to show they are such Chief's clansmen.

You cannot have a crest without first having a shield. The crest was a later addition. Misuse of crests arises from misunderstanding of the badge rule under which junior members of the family may wear in specified manner their Chief's crest and badge.

**CREST BADGE:** The Crest of the Chief is worn by all members of the Clan and of approved Septs and followers of the Clan, within a strap and buckle surround bearing the Chief's motto. This is for personal wear only, to indicate that the wearer is a member of the Clan whose Chief's crest-badge is being worn. The badge or crest is not depicted on personal or business stationery, signet rings or plate, because such use would legally import that the tea-pot, etc., was the Chief's property!

**ACQUISITION OF GRANTS AND MATRICULATION OF ARMS:** Those who wish to use arms in any personal sense must petition for a Grant of Arms or - if they can trace their ancestry back to a direct or, in some cases collateral, ancestor - a "cadet matriculation" showing their place within the family. Forms of Petition and sample proof-sheets relative to such applications can be supplied if required.

When a grant, or matriculation, of arms is successfully obtained, an illuminated parchment, narrating the pedigree as proved, is supplied to the Petitioner, and a duplicate is recorded in the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland and/or the Public Register of Genealogies and Birthbrieves.

Application for such a Confirmation, by Letters Patent or Matriculation, from the Lord Lyon King of Arms is the only way to obtain a genuine coat of arms, and use of bogus heraldry only leads sooner or later to social humiliation.

Apply to: The Lord Lyon King of Arms,

H.M. New Register House, Edinburgh EH1 3YT