

and transactions with seals of their owners' armorial bearings, thus preserving such records for posterity. Abuses in displaying coat armour gave use, in the earlier part of the sixteenth century, to the Herald's Visitation, the purpose of which was to confirm, control, and record such bearings as were then in use. In their invaluable documents are set forth the principal hereditary achievements of the United Kingdom, and, "All who can deduce descent from an ancestor whose armorial ensigns have been acknowledged in any of the Visitations are entitled to carry these arms by right of inheritance".

The CREST was, as its name indicates, worn on the top of the helmet, a small ornament usually fashioned of metal, wood, or leather. This crest was attached to the metal helmet by means of a twisted cloth, represented on Coats-of-Arms by a wreath of six skeins and always colored with the principal metal and principal color of the shield, alternately, in the order named.

Coat armour originated with the desire to protect the wearer; the first forms were crude leather caps to protect the head. These were improved upon and eventually were made of metal, gradually covering the entire body.

The HELMET has often varied in shape in different ages and countries and in the twelfth century a change was made to indicate the rank of the individual wearer. In Heraldry this rank is indicated by its position, its construction or style, the arrangement of the vizor, etc.

The MANTLING, or EMBELLISHMENT, representing the cloak or mantle worn over the coat armour, as a protection from the sun and being the best material to deaden the effect of the thrust of the sword, is depicted by irregular draperies flowing from the helmet, down both sides of the shield.

MOTTOES are not a component part of the grant of any arms, but have merely been adopted by the families themselves, sometimes as a war cry, a pun upon the family name, but usually with deep sincerity in the expression of their thought.

King, Rt. Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie (MG
26 J 7 volume 26) Genealogy - Mackenzie -
Charts, etc. n.d., 1925-1958

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