

chief actors in the stirring dramas of ancient times. Heraldry is a memorial of the brave and true hearts and great names, of those downright in-earnest and picturesque times, and a monument to the men who, by their energy, love of liberty, and valour, very largely contributed to make this world what it is today.

In the following pages we will summarize the essential features of Heraldry, with the thought that these explanations may serve toward a more full enjoyment of your Coat-of-Arms.

THE ORIGIN OF HERALDRY

Heraldry as a science is not of remote origin, it had its inception during the second or third Crusades, in the early part of the twelfth century and is directly attributable to the soldiers of the Cross. Its introduction was coeval with the use of armour in the Middle Ages, when it became necessary for men to recognize each other as friend or foe in the melee of battle. Many of its symbols were derived from remote ages, some of which appear to have come from Egypt or Asia Minor and many others from the early Church. Symbols were originally chosen by the wearer according to his own will, commemorative perhaps of some valorous incident, others selected ferocious appearing imaginary beasts of legend with the thought of intimidating their enemies on the field of battle, some as emblematical of their surnames, or place of residence. Then the military period of the Crusades brought their symbols; afterwards came figures representative of the Arts, the Chase, agriculture and certain merchant's marks. The tournaments brought others, indicative of the knight's prowess at these pageants as well as at subsequent successful wars. A later and more learned age contributed others from the classical stories. At first these heraldic bearings were embroidered on a surcoat worn over the armour itself, hence the name "Coats-of-Arms". Gradually this haphazard method gave way to the system of continuing the same device in a family which resulted in hereditary Coats-of-Arms.

During this period the imperfections of uncultivated eloquence and a general ignorance of written language contributed greatly to the practice of authenticating all deeds

King, Rt. Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie (MG
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