

THE EVOLUTION OF COAT ARMOUR AND YOUR FAMILY

NAME AND WHAT THEY MEAN TO YOU.

One of the first steps of civilization has been the distinction of ranks and Heraldry has unquestionably been found serviceable as the means of making that distinction. Primitive peoples bore individualistic or tribal devices on their bodies or on their war or hunting shields and such symbols evolved into emblems of caste to distinguish the illustrious and noble. Crests were employed during the feudal ages to display the exploits of chivalry, the deeds of valour, the rewards of merit or the gracious favor of princes and to commemorate its triumphs over oppression and violence.

A Coat-of-Arms has always been the indisputable appendage of a gentleman and an object of pride and display. In the modern sense they are used to distinguish the noble and to preserve, for posterity, the record of the achievements of our ancestors and as a testimonial of our descent. A crest on stationery lends a distinction which is never attained by any other form of die decoration, not even by the most artistically arranged monogram. Ministering largely to the pride of man, conferring honour, and cherished since its maturity, Heraldry has flourished in every country, and under almost every form of government.

Heraldry throughout the ages has always been a subject of abuse and ridicule by the untutored and to a degree this is true today. Much is unknown of this subject and it is only by taking a broadminded view of the limitations of knowledge of the past, that one can derive pleasure from the study of ancient armoury. It is in this light that such studies will ever be dear to us who take an interest in the social life of our ancestors, or who desire to recall in imagination the bright pageantry and chivalry of the gentlemen of our past, who, for age after age, were loved at home, and respected abroad. Our best and cultured minds, who worthily inherit the insignia of the chivalric ages, have always been drawn to the intriguing subject of Heraldry.

It is held that Heraldry is so intimately connected with aristocracy, that it has no connection with a democratic age or nation. This is disproved by the interest in this subject by our own leaders in America, and in the

King, Rt. Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie (MG
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Charts, etc. n.d., 1925-1958

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