Medieval project

Heraldry

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2nd period

Coat of arms, or heraldry, is often mistaken for code of arms. This however, is not correct. Heraldry is almost 900 years old and is still used today in many countries. It was created in the roman empire and other lands surrounding the roman empire. Some cities in Europe still make the coats of arms for use in their everyday life. But most countries that still use the coat of arms use it for decoration.

The symbols of the coat of arms are on many medieval shields and flags. The coat of arms is displayed on the medieval shields and armor staring in the 15th century to show whom the armor belongs to. The coat of arms either identifies the soldier or the country for which they are fighting. This was important because they could identify dead soldiers or the armor could be returned to the country of the soldier.

The colors on the symbols all have different meanings. Colors can range anywhere from blue, meaning truth and loyalty, to orange, meaning worthy ambition. Symbols may have the same basic design but could mean two totally different things. It is easy to understand why many people stopped using heraldry.

There are also many different furs (patterns) in the symbols. They can range anywhere form Ermine, white with black spots, to Vair, Blue and white bell-shaped objects. This also makes the symbols even more confusing. Furs are the root to the coat of arms. All in all furs make the symbols the most interesting, in my opinion.

Banners were decretive additions to the symbols that hold the mottoes. They can vary from shape and also they can be turned horizontally or vertically. They also can have any color inside them.

In the medieval time many items were emblazoned with a coat of arms on it. Helmets had a coat of arms on it. Shields also has a coats of arms printed on them. Coats of arms were also embroidered in tapestries, and flags. Families even carved them into stone on the castle walls. Sometimes coats of arms were even baked on top of breads. These once again were to recognize the person or the country.