

BRITISH HERALDRY

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British heraldry by Cyril Davenport

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CYRIL DAVENPORT

**BRITISH
HERALDRY**



1, Arms of James I. 2, Great Seal of Scotland

BRITISH HERALDRY

BY

CYRIL DAVENPORT

V.D., J.P., F.S.A.

WITH 210 ILLUSTRATIONS BY THE AUTHOR

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BRITISH HERALDRY

CHAPTER I

The Beginnings of Armory—The Bayeux Tapestry—Early Heraldic Manuscripts—The Heralds' College—Tournaments

ARMORY finds its beginnings among the pictorial devices which were used as individual or tribal marks of identification by ancient peoples. Such clan or family devices were in the nature of badges rather than of crests or coats-of-arms, and their adoption at a certain stage of civilization became necessary because naked savages were much alike, and without some well-known mark tattooed on the skin or carried on the person in some prominent way, friends and foes in the mass would be indistinguishable. Early tribal or totem devices were almost invariably the figure of some living creature, and they were put wherever identification was advisable, marked on the skin, worked into clothing, painted on tents and other belongings (Plate I, 2), in fact shown universally as conveniently as might be. Whenever an animal was chosen as a tribal mark, the animal itself was invariably sacred to all members of the tribe, and looked upon as a beneficent and powerful ally in all ways, especially in war. Among the North American Indians especially, where large tribes were powerful and quarrelsome, the system of totem marks was at one time highly developed.