

**LEOPARDS OF
ENGLAND, AND OTHER
PAPERS ON HERALDRY**

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Leopards of England, and other papers on heraldry by E. E. Dorling

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E. E. DORLING

**LEOPARDS OF
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LEOPARDS OF ENGLAND

And other Papers
on Heraldry

By
E. E. DORLING, M.A., F.S.A.

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1913

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INTRODUCTION

THE first article in this collection is offered rather for the instruction of ordinary folk who wish to know something about the history of the royal arms than for the consideration of advanced students of armory. It is not claimed for it that it contains anything that is new, or indeed anything that cannot be gleaned with a little trouble from printed books and a study of armorial seals. It is hoped, however, that it may be found to set forth the reasons of the changes that have been made from time to time in the arms of the sovereigns of England at somewhat greater detail than in some of the handbooks on heraldry. To that extent it may perhaps advance some slight pre-

tensions to originality. The drawings of shields which illustrate it are by the writer.

The paper on the King's Beasts at Hampton Court is a plain and matter-of-fact statement of the most important piece of heraldic restoration that has been attempted in this country in recent years. This account of it owes such archæological value as it possesses to the facts that I have borrowed from an article "On the Stone Bridge at Hampton Court" by Mr. C. R. Peers, F.S.A., read before the Society in 1910 and published in "Archæologia," second series, volume xii. I have to thank Messrs. Farmer and Brindley for allowing me to illustrate my paper with blocks made from the admirable photographs which they took of the carvings before they left their studio.

The remaining articles are perhaps of rather more technical character. That on the font at Holt was written

at the request of my friend Mr. John Paul Rylands, F.S.A., for the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire. My best thanks are due to that Society for their permission to republish it, and to Messrs. Ballantyne, Hanson & Company for the loan of the blocks that illustrate it.

This paper is an attempt, as is also that on the Nevill shields at Salisbury, to throw some light on a problem which confronts every student of ancient armory, the question, namely, whether the arms which we have been taught to regard as the arms of great lords should not more properly be considered as those of great lordships, whether in fact the arms that were displayed by the feudal nobility were not territorial rather than personal. I do not conceal my own belief that the weight of evidence is heavy on the territorial side, and though I am well aware that that opinion is widely regarded as heretical, I hope

that this expression of it may induce others at least to consider it.

The other papers have already appeared in "The Ancestor," whose publishers, Messrs. Archibald Constable & Company, have kindly given me permission to reprint them here. The illustrations for these papers were made by myself. Those for the article on Canting Arms in the Zürich Roll are reproduced in the outline form in which they were given originally in "The Ancestor." The drawings of the pieces of armorial glass that are here dealt with have also appeared in that review.

E. E. D.

Kew, 1912.

LEOPARDS OF ENGLAND

THE heraldry of the middle ages is a mass of conventions. Its language and its art, its laws and its symbols are all in the strictest sense conventional, and the lion, the most famous of all its symbols, is no exception either in nomenclature or in the form of its representation to that universal rule. Those royal beasts in the arms of the king of England, which we who name them are accustomed to speak of as "the English lions," were in the middle ages styled "leopards of England" alike by Englishmen and by foreigners; and it will perhaps be not amiss if in these notes we follow the ancient example given by the men who devised that wonderful thing which we call heraldry.

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We may grant at least that they knew what they were talking about when they gave such and such names to such and such objects which they had invented ; and we may perhaps attain to something of the simplicity and directness which made the great charm of mediaeval armory if we revert to their ways of naming things.

In the very early days of armory there were only two ways of representing the king of beasts. In process of time as heraldic art developed the armorists invented other ways of picturing him, and gave him, perforce, names that grew more and more mysterious and unintelligible. It is curious, however, that in all the large variety of forms that the royal arms assumed in the course of more than seven hundred years you shall only find the two earliest forms of the lion.

Only two ; and those two express exactly the two chief characteristics of