

## = Royal Arms of England =

The Royal Arms of England is a coat of arms first adopted as England 's personal arms by the Plantagenet kings who ruled the country in the late 12th century . They have come to symbolise in the popular mind England ( although historically nations never bore arms , only persons did ) and its monarchs . Its blazon is officially Gules , three lions passant guardant in pale or armed and langued azure , meaning three identical gold lions ( also known as leopards ) with blue tongues and claws , walking and facing the observer , arranged in a column on a red background . Although , the azure tincture of tongue and claws is not cited in many blazons , they are a distinguishing feature of the Arms of England , historically . This coat , designed in the High Middle Ages , has been variously combined with those of France , Scotland , Ireland , Nassau and Hanover , according to dynastic and other political changes affecting England , but has not itself been altered since the reign of King Richard I of England ( 1189 ? 1199 ) .

Although in England the heraldic charge refers to lions , the French heralds historically used the term leopard to represent the lion passant guardant , and hence the arms of England , no doubt , are more correctly blazoned , Leopards . Practically , however , the same animal was intended , but different names given according to the position ; in later times the name lion was given to both .

Royal emblems depicting lions were first used by the Norman dynasty , later a formal and consistent English heraldry system emerged during the 12th century . The escutcheon , or shield featuring three lions is traced to King Richard I 's Great Seal of the Realm , which initially used a single lion rampant , or else two lions , but in 1198 , was permanently altered to depict three lions passant , representing Richard I 's triple ( amongst many more ) position as King of the English , Duke of the Normans , and Duke of the Aquitaines . In 1340 , King Edward III of England laid claim to the throne of France and signified his pretence by quartering the Royal Arms of England with the Royal Arms of France . This quartering was adjusted , abandoned and restored intermittently throughout the Middle Ages as the relationship between England and France changed . When the French altered their arms from a seme ' of fleur @-@ de @-@ lys , to only three on an azure field , the English quartering followed suit . After the Union of the Crowns in 1603 , when England and the Kingdom of Scotland entered a personal union , the arms of England and Scotland were combined in what has now become the Royal coat of arms of the United Kingdom . It appears in a similar capacity to represent England in the Arms of Canada and the Queen 's Personal Canadian Flag . The coat of three lions continues to represent England on several coins of the pound sterling , forms the basis of several emblems of English national sports teams , and endures as one of the most recognisable national symbols of England .

When the Royal Arms is in the format of a heraldic flag , it is variously known as the Royal Banner of England , the Banner of the Royal Arms , the Banner of the King of England , or by the misnomer of the Royal Standard of England . This Royal Banner differs from England 's national flag , St George 's Cross , in that it does not represent any particular area or land , but rather symbolises the sovereignty vested in the rulers thereof .

## = = History = =

## = = = Origins = = =

Lions had previously been used by the Norman dynasty as royal emblems , and Attributed arms have been invented for kings who pre @-@ dated the systematisation of hereditary English heraldry that occurred in the second half of the 12th century . King Henry II of England ( 1133 ? 1189 ) had used a coat with a lion on it ; his children experimented with different combinations of lions . King Richard I ( 1189 ? 1199 ) used a single lion rampant , or perhaps two lions affrontés , on his first seal , but later used three lions passant in his 1198 Great Seal of England , and thus established the lasting design of the Royal Arms of England . Although King John ( 1199 ? 1216 ) had a seal in 1177 , with two lions passant guardant , the three lions passant or on a field gules were used as the

Royal Arms ( or King 's Arms ) by Kings John ( 1199 ? 1216 ) , Henry III ( 1216 ? 1272 ) , Edward I ( 1272 ? 1307 ) , and Edward II ( 1307 ? 1327 ) .

= = = Development = = =

In 1340 , following the death of King Charles IV of France , Edward III asserted a claim to the French throne through his mother Isabella of France . In addition to initiating the Hundred Years ' War , Edward III expressed his claim in heraldic form by quartering the royal arms of England with the Arms of France . This quartering continued until 1801 , with intervals in 1360 ? 1369 and 1420 ? 1422 .

Following the death of Queen Elizabeth I of England in 1603 , the throne of England was inherited by the Scottish House of Stuart , resulting in the Union of the Crowns : the Kingdom of England and Kingdom of Scotland were united in a personal union under King James VI and I. As a consequence , the Royal Arms of England and Scotland were combined in the king 's new personal arms . Nevertheless , although referencing the personal union with Scotland and Ireland , the Royal Arms of England remained distinct from the Royal Arms of Scotland , until the two realms were joined in a political union in 1707 , leading to a unified Royal coat of arms of the United Kingdom .

= = = Union with Scotland and Ireland = = =

On 1 May 1707 , the kingdoms of England and Scotland were merged to form that of Great Britain ; this was reflected by impaling their arms in a single quarter . The claim to the French throne continued , albeit passively , until it was mooted by the French Revolution and the formation of the French First Republic in 1792 . During the peace negotiations at the Conference of Lille , from July to November 1797 , the French delegates demanded that the King of Great Britain abandon the title of King of France as a condition of peace . The Acts of Union 1800 united the Kingdom of Great Britain with the Kingdom of Ireland to form the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland . Under King George III of the United Kingdom , a proclamation of 1 January 1801 set the royal style and titles and modified the Royal Arms , removing the French quarter and putting the arms of England , Scotland and Ireland on the same structural level , with the dynastic arms of Hanover moved to an inescutcheon .

= = = Contemporary = = =

English heraldry flourished as a working art up to around the 17th century , when it assumed a mainly ceremonial role . The Royal Arms of England continued to embody information relating to English history . Although the Acts of Union 1707 placed England within the Kingdom of Great Britain , prompting new , British Royal Arms , the Royal Arms of England has continued to endure as one of the national symbols of England , and has a variety of active uses . For instance , the coats of arms of both The Football Association and the England and Wales Cricket Board have a design featuring three lions passant , based on the historic Royal Arms of England . In 1997 ( and again in 2002 ) , the Royal Mint issued a British one pound ( £ 1 ) coin featuring three lions passant to represent England . To celebrate St George 's Day , in 2001 , Royal Mail issued first ? and second @-@ class postage stamps with the Royal Crest of England ( a crowned lion ) , and the Royal Arms of England ( three lions passant ) respectively .

= = Crest , supporters and other parts of the achievement = =

Various accessories to the escutcheon ( shield ) were added and modified by successive English monarchs . These included a crest ( with mantling , helm and crown ) ; supporters ( with a compartment ) ; a motto ; and the insignia of an order of knighthood . These various components made up the full achievement of arms .

### == = Royal crest == =

The first addition to the shield was in the form of a crest borne above the shield . It was during the reign of Edward III that the crest began to be widely used in English heraldry . The first representation of a royal crest was in Edward 's third Great Seal , which showed a helm above the arms , and thereon a gold lion passant guardant standing upon a chapeau , and bearing a royal crown on its head . The design underwent minor variations until it took on its present form in the reign of Henry VIII : " The Royal Crown proper , thereon a lion statant guardant Or , royally crowned also proper " .

The exact form of crown used in the crest varied over time . Until the reign of Henry VI it was usually shown as an open circlet adorned with fleurs @-@ de @-@ lys or stylised leaves . On Henry 's first seal for foreign affairs the design was altered with the circlet decorated by alternating crosses formy and fleurs @-@ de @-@ lys . From the reign of Edward IV the crown bore a single arch , altered to a double arch by Henry VII . The design varied in details until the late 17th century , but since that time has consisted of a jewelled circlet , above which are alternating crosses formy and fleurs @-@ de @-@ lys . From this spring two arches decorated with pearls , and at their intersection an orb surmounted by a cross formy . A cap of crimson velvet is shown within the crown , with the cap 's ermine lining appearing at the base of the crown in lieu of a torse . The shape of the arches of the crown has been represented differently at different times , and can help to date a depiction of the crest .

The helm on which the crest was borne was originally a simple steel design , sometimes with gold embellishments . In the reign of Elizabeth I a pattern of helm unique to the Royal Arms was introduced . This is a gold helm with a barred visor , facing the viewer . The decorative mantling ( a stylised cloth cloak that hangs from the helm ) was originally of red cloth lined with ermine , but was altered to cloth of gold lined ermine by Elizabeth .

### == = Supporters == =

Animal supporters , standing on either side of the shield to hold and guard it , first appeared in English heraldry in the 15th century . Originally , they were not regarded as an integral part of arms , and were subject to frequent change . Various animals were sporadically shown supporting the Royal Arms of England , but it was only with the reign of Edward IV that their use became consistent . Supporters fell under the regulation of the Kings of Arms in the Tudor period . The heralds of that time also prochronistically created supporters for earlier monarchs , and although these attributed supporters were never used by the monarchs concerned , they were later used to signify them on public buildings or monuments completed after their deaths , for instance at St. George 's Chapel , in Windsor Castle .

The boar adopted by Richard III prompted William Collingbourne 's quip " The Rat , the Cat , and Lovell the Dog , Rule all England under the Hog " , and William Shakespeare 's derision in Richard III . The red dragon , a symbol of the Tudor dynasty , was added upon the accession of the Henry VII . After the Union of the Crowns , the supporters of the arms of the British monarch have remained as the Lion and the Unicorn , representing England and Scotland respectively .

### == = Garter and motto == =

Edward III founded the Order of the Garter in about 1348 . Since then , the full achievement of the Royal Arms has included a representation of the Garter , encircling the shield . This is a blue circlet with gold buckle and edging , bearing the order 's Old French motto Honi soit qui mal y pense ( " Shame be to him who thinks evil of it " ) in gold capital letters .

A motto , placed on a scroll below the Royal Arms of England , seems to have first been adopted by Henry IV in the early 15th century . His motto was Souverayne ( " sovereign " ) . His son , Henry V adopted the motto Dieu et mon droit ( " God and my right " ) . While this motto has been exclusively used since the accession of George I in 1714 , and continues to form part of the Royal Arms of the

United Kingdom , other mottoes were used by certain monarchs in the intervening period . Veritas temporis filia ( " truth is the daughter of time " ) was the motto of Mary I ( 1553 ? 1558 ) , Semper Eadem ( " always the same " ) was used by Elizabeth I ( 1558 ? 1603 ) and Anne ( 1702 ? 1714 ) , James I ( 1603 ? 1625 ) sometimes used Beati pacifici ( " blessed are the peacemakers " ) , while William III ( 1689 ? 1702 ) used the motto of the House of Orange : Je maintiendrai ( " I will maintain " ) .

= = As a banner = =

The Royal Banner of England is the English banner of arms and so has always borne the Royal Arms of England ? the personal arms of England 's reigning monarch . When displayed in war or battle , this banner signalled that the sovereign was present in person . Because the Royal Banner depicted the Royal Arms of England , its design and composition changed throughout the Middle Ages . It is variously known as the Royal Banner of England , the Banner of the Royal Arms , the Banner of the King of England , or by the misnomer of the Royal Standard of England ; Arthur Charles Fox @-@ Davies explains that it is " a misnomer to term the banner of the Royal Arms the Royal Standard " , because " the term standard properly refers to the long tapering flag used in battle , by which an overlord mustered his retainers in battle " . The archaeologist and antiquarian Charles Boutell also makes this distinction . This Royal Banner differs from England 's national flag , St George 's Cross , in that it does not represent any particular area or land , but rather symbolises the sovereignty vested in the rulers thereof .

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= = In other banners = = =

= = Other roles and manifestations = =

Several ancient English towns displayed the Royal Arms of England upon their seals and , when it occurred to them to adopt insignia of their own , used the Royal Arms , albeit with modification , as their inspiration . For instance , in the arms of New Romney , the field is changed from red to blue . Hereford changes the lions from gold to silver , and in the 17th century was granted a blue border charged with silver saltires in allusion to its siege by a Scottish army during the English Civil War . The town council of Faversham changes only the hindquarters of the three lions to silver . Berkshire County Council bore arms with two golden lions in reference to its Royal patronage and the Norman kings ' influence upon the early history of Berkshire .

The Royal Arms of England features on the tabard , the distinctive traditional garment of English officers of arms . These garments were worn by heralds when performing their original duties ? making royal or state proclamations and announcing tournaments . Since 1484 they have been part of the Royal Household . Tabards featuring the Royal Arms continue to be worn at several traditional ceremonies , such as the annual procession and service of the Order of the Garter at Windsor Castle , the State Opening of Parliament at the Palace of Westminster , the coronation of the British monarch at Westminster Abbey , and state funerals in the United Kingdom .