



Heraldry

Henry Paston-Bedingfeld, Peter Gwynn-Jones

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Incorporating some stunning illustrations, many of which have never before been published, *Heraldry* explores the history, symbolism and artistry of the heraldic system, providing an invaluable introduction to this fascinating subject. The origins of heraldry date back to twelfth century Europe, and the authors, both of whom are Officers of Arms, draw upon their expertise to trace the history of the use of heraldry, from the pageantry of the medieval tournament to its use today by corporations and individuals worldwide. Over the centuries heraldic decoration has evolved to become a precise art., governed by its own rules and methods - even using its own language. Simple geometric shapes decorated the early shields, but later changes became increasingly intricate, displaying a veritable menagerie of fantastic beasts, birds and flora, as well as embellishments such as supporters, helms and crests. The development of the role of the heralds themselves has also reflected the changing times. Initially just recorders of coats of arms, they are now responsible for new creations and also play a vital ceremonial role on state occasions in Britain. The absorbing and authoritative text is complemented by an extensive selection of colour and black-and-white illustrations, including some specially-commissioned colour photography from the archives of the Royal College of Arm. Complete with a glossary of the major heraldic terms, *Heraldry* is a comprehensive and lavishly illustrated guide to this important historical subject.

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