

# FAMILY OF BRUCE INTERNATIONAL

## Family of Bruce Scottish Games Host Guidelines

### Section 1

Thank you to all who participate in hosting our tents! This guide will serve to provide you with basic information on the **FAMILY OF BRUCE INTERNATIONAL, INC** and to provide you with some support. This document is updated from the August 2008 and 2011 document. The information in the guide is a compilation of information, helpful hints, and ideas that have worked (or not worked) in the past. The information participants include William P. Bruce, Thomas Allen Bruce, John Carlisle, Steve Bruce, Richard Bruce, and Deb Bruce Gottlieb. Your feedback and ideas are important also. Please send any ideas you have to the Operations Officer at [fobi@familyofbruce.org](mailto:fobi@familyofbruce.org). And... most importantly, HAVE FUN and enjoy celebrating our heritage!!

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# FAMILY OF BRUCE INTERNATIONAL

## Section 2

### Background:

Bruces are people who carry not only the name, but also its history, its heritage, its spirit and its honor in their hearts and in their minds. Bruces relish their connection to the family and allow that connection to draw them further and further into study, expanding their knowledge and enjoyment. They take opportunity to share what they have learned with other Bruces who have yet, for whatever reason, failed to catch the vision.

Bruces take action to serve the family selflessly and with whatever talents they may have. They do not seek personal honor or acclaim – only the honor of the family and its greater good. It is truly a joyful thing to recognize how many we have in our family who live out this definition. It is indeed our greatest asset, past, present and future.

**“WE HAVE BEEN – WE ARE – WE SHALL BE - BRUCE”**

The **FAMILY OF BRUCE INTERNATIONAL** was formed on October 14, 2005, when a general organizational meeting was conducted with members of the boards of directors of both the Family of Bruce Society in America and Bruce International, North America for the purpose of creating a single organization to represent the Family of Bruce.

The Family of Bruce International is a non-profit corporation pursuant to the laws of the State of Texas. On July 29, 2008, the IRS granted The Family of Bruce International status as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. This means that donations made to the Family of Bruce International are tax-deductible.

The Family of Bruce International is established to create and promote kinship amongst its family members and to encourage interest in the Family of Bruce and its history.

The Mission Statement approved at the September 2010 AGM for The Family of Bruce International is:

*“To promote, honor, and preserve our Scottish and Bruce heritage by sponsoring activities, events, scholarships, and continual communication through the newsletter and website. We will therefore provide educational information, tributes to our history and ancestors, and thereby attract Bruces and Septs into the enjoyment and celebration of our familial relationships.”*

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Key points of the organization and Bylaws are:

### **Membership:**

There are two classifications of members of The Family of Bruce International. However, both classifications have equal voting rights and all other rights and privileges, with the exception of serving as either President or Vice-President.

- a. Regular Membership – open to all persons of Scottish descent who bear the surname of Bruce or its recognized septs or whose mother or grandmother bore such surname. The recognized septs of Bruce are Carlisle, Carruthers, Crosbie, Randolph, and Stenhouse, regardless of spelling.
- b. Associate Membership – open to all non-Bruce individuals or those whose ancestry is before their grandmother with the surname of Bruce or septs.
- c. Annual Membership – annual dues of \$25.00 paid to the Family of Bruce International by January 1 for the coming year.
- d. Life Membership – One time dues based on a sliding scale. Ages 18-34 \$350; Ages 35-69 \$300; Age 70-89 \$200; 90 and older free. Life membership shall confer membership for the life of the member and spouse and exempt that member from all future payment of annual dues.

### **Officers:**

The officers of the Family of Bruce International shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Operations Officer. All officers shall hold their position for a period of two years or until their successors are duly elected or appointed as provided by the bylaws. The Family of Bruce International elections shall take place at the annual general meeting (AGM) usually held at the Stone Mountain Highland Games, Stone Mountain, Georgia in October of each year. The President and Vice President shall be any Regular Member, male or female, born with the surname of Bruce or of one of its recognized septs. The Secretary, Treasurer, and Operations Officer shall be a member, either Regular or Associate, male or female, in good standing.

### **Roles:**

**Officers** – The Family of Bruce International is a non-profit organization and is lead by the offices of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Operations Officer.

**Board of Directors** – The Board of Directors consists of the Officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Operations Officer), Immediate Past President, and one At-Large position. The Board shall meet at least on a quarterly basis usually via conference call and face to face at the AGM.

**Lieutenant to the Chief** – Appointed by Lord Elgin as his personal representative and spokesman.

**High Commissioner** – The Family of Bruce High Commissioner is an individual appointed by the Chief of the Name of Bruce, Lord Elgin.

**Commissioner** – A Commissioner is an individual appointed by the High Commissioner to represent the Family of Bruce within a specified geographical locale, or upon an at large basis. The **FAMILY OF BRUCE INTERNATIONAL** recognizes the appointment of commissioners, but they are not required to be members of the organization.

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**Games Host** - One of the functions of The Family of Bruce International is to maintain a presence at various Scottish Games, or similar functions, throughout the country. The President of The Family of Bruce International must approve, in advance, setting up tents at specific Games in the name of the Family of Bruce International. The approval for this is facilitated by the Operations Officer. The organization shall be responsible for the fees necessary to participate in such an activity; however, the Host may also volunteer to pay for all or a portion of said fees. The Host shall be responsible for setting up and maintaining a tent at the function, and, in the event that tickets, gifts or other privileges are to be given to the organization for sponsoring a tent at said function, the Host shall be given the first option for use of same; however, in the event that what is being offered can be given to the organization as a whole (e.g. an honorarium), said benefit shall be given to the organization. Requests for reimbursement must be submitted to the Treasurer in writing accompanied by all original receipts or copies of checks. Items authorized for reimbursement include: the tent space, two tables, four chairs, and two entry tickets to the games. Other items for reimbursement would require approval from the President and the Treasurer.

## Other Notes:

- There is no need for a Games Host to be a historian, but he or she should anticipate questions about the history of the Family and of famous Bruces such as King Robert I "the Bruce", his brother Edward, High King of Ireland, James Bruce of Kinnaird, and various Earls of Elgin, among others. Basic reference material on these subjects should be available at Games. A Games Table Book is available to all games hosts. Contact the Operations Officer if you need a copy.
- A Games Host must avoid any actions that would appear to obligate The Family of Bruce International, its officers, or Lord Elgin to any action outside the regular and customary sponsorship of tents at Scottish Games or similar events. Any unusual expense or occurrence should be immediately brought to the attention of the President of The Family of Bruce International.
- Individual Games should be evaluated for the potential each may have for recruitment and public relations. Some small Games may not have much attendance, and therefore the potential for recruitment at those Games may be small, but even small or newly started Games may offer great potential for increasing the esteem and respect for The Family of Bruce International in their area. A rule of thumb may be to attend any Games as a spectator at least once before setting up a tent there.

# FAMILY OF BRUCE INTERNATIONAL

## Section 4

### Organization Summary of Key/Important Points:

- Family of Bruce International was formed on October 14, 2005 and is a non-profit corporation.
  - There are two types of memberships 1) Regular and 2) Associate.
  - The Officers of the Family of Bruce International organization are President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Operations Officer.
  - Annual Dues run from January through December each calendar year. Dues are prorated the first year for new members.
- Games hosts represent the Family of Bruce International organization and must be a current member of Family of Bruce International. Many Commissioners are games hosts and it is important to note that a commissioner position is one for the Name and Family of Bruce rather than the Family of Bruce International. (see next point below)
- The Name and Family of Bruce is a separate Bruce entity from The Family of Bruce International and is decreed by the Bruce Chief, the 11<sup>th</sup> Earl of Elgin and 15<sup>th</sup> Earl of Kincardine, Lord Elgin. The High Commissioner was appointed by Lord Elgin to represent him and the Name and Family of Bruce. Commissioners are appointed by the High Commissioner to represent the Name and Family of Bruce.
- The Family of Bruce International Board of Directors consists of the Family of Bruce International Officers, the High Commissioner, the Lt. to the Chief, the Immediate Past President, and one At-large Board member. The High Commissioner and the Lt to the Chief positions are non-voting.
- Some expenses are reimbursable. They include: the tent space, two tables, four chairs, and the cost of two entry tickets. Make sure authorization for reimbursement has been approved by the Family of Bruce International President.
- Adherence to Heraldry – As you know, we are particularly insistent on properly displaying heraldic items such as flags and banners and to be correct on information we disseminate. As Bruces, we are so privileged to be part of a greater Bruce community headed by our Chief, Lord Elgin. In addition to Lord Elgin, many Bruces in Scotland and England are held in high esteem and positions. Notably, Lord Elgin as the senior member of the Queen's Order of the Thistle, Charles Lord Bruce as a member of the Queen's Royal Company of Archers, Hon. Adam Bruce as the Lyon Court Marchmont Herald of Arms, Mrs. Elizabeth A. Bruce Roads as Snawdoun Herald of Arms, and Alastair Bruce of Crionaich who is Fitzalan Pursuivant of Arms Extraordinary in England. This may explain why it is important to keep within the guidelines and rules of heraldry and the Lyon Court.
- When displaying the American Flag, it will always be on the left as you face it.

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## Section 5

### Games Tent Set Up

1. Hosts –
  - a. Contact the Operations Officer or your regional commissioner. Permission for reimbursement is from the President.
  - b. Contact the event organizers and ascertain what paper work will need to be completed, rules followed, fees paid.
  - c. Assemble your events materials for identification and display. A list of ideas follows.
  - d. Contact current members in the locality of the event and invite them to join you in this project. Organize your volunteers and assign tasks. The Operations Officer can provide a list of members and/or send out an email from The Family of Bruce International.
  - e. Arrange for travel and accommodations where necessary.
  - f. Take photos at the event. Those of members actively engaging the public are best. Following the event, write an event report and send it along with photos to both your regional commissioner and the clan/family newsletter editor.
  - g. Send "Thank you" notes to those members who were volunteer helpers.
  - h. Must be at least generally conversant in the history and customs of the Family of Bruce and of Scotland.
  - i. Must be at least generally conversant in the activities and affairs of our family organization, including our by-laws and legal status.
2. Recommended Tent Necessities
  - a. Tent – many games provide tents; however, some do not. In that case, there are a number of tents that can be purchased or rented. In Minnesota, William uses an EZ UP tent.
  - b. Tables & Chairs – many games charge for tables and chairs. It is a good idea to bring some portable ones of your own.
  - c. Table Coverings –
    - i. Cloth when the weather is good. Dark Green or Black table cloths or sheets work well.
    - ii. Plastic (inexpensive from party stores) when the weather is poor. They can also double as covers for display materials in wet weather.
  - d. Banner – Bruce banner and tartan flag. Usually made of vinyl with large vinyl lettering and is weather resistant. Contact the Operations Officer to borrow a banner. You will be responsible for the cost of the return shipping.
  - e. American Flag and St. Andrews Flag if available. The Family of Bruce International recommends displaying the Lion Rampant as a banner rather than a flag. See Heraldry article for explanation.
  - f. Membership Applications (to be provided by Operations Officer).
  - g. Bruce Family brochures (to be provided by Operations Officer).
  - h. Bruce Family History document (to be provided by Operations Officer).
  - i. Visitor Log.
  - j. Past Newsletters (if available).
  - k. Binder of basic historical information (to be provided by Operations Officer).
  - l. Signage –
    - i. Membership Applications
    - ii. Price List of Products (if applicable).
  - m. Ideas for Reference Items:
    - i. Books on King Robert and other Bruces
    - ii. Genealogy resources

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- iii. Pictures of other games
  - iv. Pictures from Scotland
  - v. Travel brochures from Scotland
  - vi. Maps of Scotland
  - vii. Clan Map of Scotland
  - viii. Old issues of the Blue Lion
  - ix. NOTE: Please be concerned about quoting/copying content from the internet and other sources. Some content is not historically correct and/or it may be copyrighted.
  - n. Table Configurations:
    - i. One table across the front. The benefit of this is it shows visitors what you have without having them walk into the tent. If you don't have a table in the front, be prepared to stand in the front of the tent to welcome in visitors.
    - ii. Two tables – one on each inside of the tent with room to walk in the middle. Or, one table in the back and one of the side. This is good if the tents are adjoining and it leaves the front area open to allow access.
    - iii. Three tables – make a U shape with room to walk in the middle. This would be done with a larger tent space; otherwise, there will not be room for chairs!
    - iv. Or... put the table(s) in the middle of the tent if the weather has been poor and visitors can come in and walk around the tent.
  - o. Inviting Ideas:
    - i. Shortbread Cookies or other enticing nibbles!
    - ii. A plant of rosemary or a small flower arrangement.
    - iii. A celtic cross or a statue.
    - iv. Photo and Reference Books showing pictures of Bruce events and stories of our people.
  - p. Tent Walls of lattice work or other plastic fencing stretched between the posts.
    - i. Hang Bruce pictures telling stories of historical and current Bruce family members.
    - ii. T-shirts for Sale (if applicable)
    - iii. Decorative Banners.
3. Family of Bruce Products (if applicable)
- a. Coordinate products you wish to sell with the merchandise person who currently is Polly Bruce Tilford.
  - b. Keep an inventory log of what you have and what is sold at each games.
  - c. Use a receipt book because all sales are CASH.
  - d. Product Price List (to be provided by merchandise manager).
  - e. Send a check to the Treasurer made out to **FAMILY OF BRUCE INTERNATIONAL** of the proceeds collected.
4. Miscellaneous Items
- a. Tape
  - b. Scissors
  - c. Paper Towels
  - d. Cleaner/Spray
  - e. Safety pins
  - f. Twine
  - g. **Lots** of bungee cords (different sizes)
  - h. Tools (hammer, screwdriver)
  - i. Tarp
  - j. Food and beverages for yourself!!

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Examples of Tent Set-Ups:



Example of tables on each side and in the back of the tent allowing for people to come in and browse.



Example of two tables in the front with a space for people to come in. Note the American flag is on the left.

# FAMILY OF BRUCE INTERNATIONAL



Bruce Information Table



Bruce Merchandise Table



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## Section 6

### Reference Library –

See the following list for credible sources to borrow from your local library or purchase for your own....

#### BOOKS –

##### *Non-Fiction*

The Bruce (An Epic Poem) by John Barbour (1375) Translated and edited by A.A.M. Duncan. Canongate Classic in 1997 and reprinted with corrections in 1999.

Robert Bruce and the Community of the Realm of Scotland by G. W. S. Barrow

Collins Scottish Clan and Family Encyclopedia by George Way of Pleau and Romilly Squire

The Elgins 1766-1917: A Tale of Aristocrats, Proconsuls, and Their Wives by Sidney Checkland – Aberdeen University Press, 1988.

So You're Going to Wear the Kilt by J. Charles Thompson

Traveler Extraordinary – about James Bruce of Kinnaird. New York: W. W. Norton and Co., 1968

The Pale Abyssinian: A Life of James Bruce, African Explorer and Adventurer by Bredin, Miles. Harper Collins, 2000

"The Story Of Scotland" by Nigel Tranter

"A Traveler's Guide To The Scotland Of Robert The Bruce" by Nigel Tranter

"The Abbey & Palace of Dunfermline" – guidebook from Historic Scotland

"The Complete Book Of Tartan" by Iain Zaczek & Charles Phillips

"Bannockburn" – guidebook from The National Trust For Scotland

"The Scottish 100" by Duncan Bruce – well known author on Scottish events and people. Mr. Bruce is Lord Elgin's Personal Representative in the United States.

##### *Fiction:*

The Bruce Trilogy by Tranter, Nigel. Coronet: London, 1996. The trilogy includes:

The Steps to The Empty Throne (1969)

The Path Of The Hero King (1970)

The Price Of The King's Peace (1971)

The Rebel King Series by Bruce, Charles Randolph and Carolyn Hale. The series currently includes:

Rebel King – Hammer of the Scots (2003)

Rebel King – The Har'ships (2004)

Rebel King – Bannok Burn (2006)

"The Great Scot" by Duncan Bruce

#### DVDs:

Bruce Family History – Ian Grimble

700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Enthronement of Robert Bruce

#### WEBSITES:

Family of Bruce International: [www.familyofbruce.org](http://www.familyofbruce.org)

## FAMILY OF BRUCE INTERNATIONAL

Rampant Scotland: [www.rampantscotland.com](http://www.rampantscotland.com)  
Electric Scotland: [www.electricscotland.com](http://www.electricscotland.com)  
Scottish Online Newspaper: [www.scotsman.com](http://www.scotsman.com)  
Tartans: <http://www.tartansauthority.com/web/site/home/home.asp>

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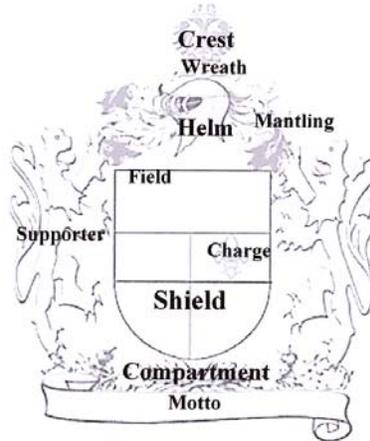
## Section 7

### Introduction to Heraldry – Blue Lion Issue – May 2007

By Deborah Bruce Gottlieb

A key purpose of heraldry is to distinguish persons and families, and to denote important ancestral achievements. In heraldry, Coats of Arms or Arms identify individuals, cities, corporations, religious faiths, and other entities, and they only belong to one person or entity at a time. The subject of heraldry is very complex, and the intent of this article is to introduce the subject to start the conversation.

Heraldry originated in medieval times in Europe as a method of identification on the battlefield. Early countries adopting heraldic devices were England, Scotland, France, Germany, Spain, and Italy. Initially Coats of Arms were assumed, and later rules were put in place as the inheritance of Arms was established. There are several parts to the Coat of Arms which is also known as the full Achievement of Arms. The Shield is the foundation of the Arms to which a helmet, mantling, wreath, crest, motto, coronet, compartment and supporters may be added. Originally in Scotland, supporters were known as "Bearers" and are the human or animal figures placed on either side of a shield as if supporting it.



Elements of a Coat of Arms  
Illustration from Wikipedia

The Shield was used in combat as protection and designs were painted on the shield to distinguish friends from foe. Note the shields and banners in the picture of Robert the Bruce at the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314 below.



1314 - Robert The Bruce, Scotland 1314A.D.  
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[www.markchurms.com](http://www.markchurms.com)

Far from being archaic, heraldry is still very much in evidence today. The heraldic authority in Scotland is the Court of the Lord Lyon. The Lyon Court or Court of the Lord Lyon, [http://www.lyon-court.com/lordlyon/CCC\\_FirstPage.jsp](http://www.lyon-court.com/lordlyon/CCC_FirstPage.jsp), deals with all matters relating to Scottish Heraldry and protocol, and maintains the Public Register of all Arms and Bearings in Scotland. Dr. Joseph J. Morrow is the current Lord Lyon King of Arms; Elizabeth A. Roads, LVO, (who is also a Bruce) is the Lyon Clerk and the Snawdoun Herald of Arms; and the Hon. Adam Bruce, WS is the Marchmont Herald of Arms. The Lyon King of Arms office dates from the middle ages. The earliest official record of the appointment of a Lyon was made by King Robert the Bruce in 1318, but the office is older.



The Lyon Clerk, Lord Lyon, Lord Bruce holding the Great Sword of King Robert I, and The Master of Bruce at the 700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Enthronement of Robert the Bruce at Scone in 2006

In Scotland, personal heraldry is legally protected and the Heraldic societies today strive to promote understanding and education about the subject. Coats of Arms and armorial flags to represent entities, are still used at many events around the world. Flags and Banners indicate Sponsorship, loyalty, and representation.

In Scotland, Coats of Arms are granted to individuals, and the inheritance of Coats of Arms is governed by specific rules. The heir of a specific coat of arms would be the only person who could use those arms without changes made to them.

Since heraldry is a system of identification and color is important there are rules for colors, known as tinctures and the names of the colors are mainly French.

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The Crest is one component of the Achievement and is usually at the top of the Arms and is placed on the Wreath. The description of Lord Elgin's Crest is "*A lion statant with tail extended azure, armed and langued gules*". Translated, this means that there is a standing (statant) blue (azure) lion with an extended tail, and a red (gules) tongue (langued) and claws (armed). Below is the Lord Elgin's crest.



*An Cireann Ceann Cinnidh*  
Or Crest of the Chief

The Blue Lion was initially brought from Normandy by Robert de Bruis in 1066. Since the Crest and Arms are the property of an individual, they belong to Lord Elgin and can only be used by him. The familiar crest badge in silver made up of the Chief's crest surrounded by a buckled belt is the indication that the person wearing it is not claiming the crest as his or her own, and is indicating his or her relationship to the Chief. When used in letterhead or printing, the statement "An Cireann Ceann Cinnidh" indicates that the person is not making the crest as his or her own.

Flags and Banners are among the best use of heraldry today and are derived from Coats of Arms. The use of an armorial banner is restricted to the person who owns the Arms, and indicates the presence of the person at a place or an event.

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### Heraldry in "The Bruce" – Blue Lion Issue – May 2009

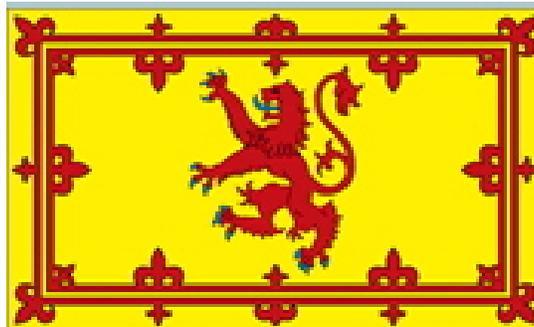
By Thomas Allen Bruce, CStJ, FSA Scot

Flags derived from armorial bearings, known as "flying heraldry," are among the best and most often seen armorial usages. The definitive study of flying heraldry is Heraldic Standards and Other Ensigns by Robert Gayre of Gayre and Nigg, and it is to Lt. Col. Gayre that I am indebted for pointing out that heraldry, and specifically flying heraldry, is mentioned in the epic poem "The Bruce" by Archdeacon John Barbour.

Just before the battle at Glentool, for example, we read:

*When the king heard that news he put on his armour without (any) more delay,  
as did all those who were there and then they gathered in one body. I'm sure  
there were nearly three hundred, and when they had gathered, the king had his  
banner unfurled and put his men in good order. (Barbour: Book 7: 286.)*

The banner referred to in that passage was undoubtedly the red lion rampant within a double tressure banner of the King of Scots, the same flag relentlessly abused at American Scottish Games today. The armorial banner indicates the personal presence of the armiger, and, in the Middle Ages, was displayed by a military leader only when troops were drawn up and ready to do battle, as a war challenge. (Gayre: 24.)



The banner, still very much in evidence today, is a square or rectangular flag depicting the charges on the shield of a coat of Arms, and nothing else, just as if the shield has been made in square or rectangular form. (Learney: 20)

Before the battle of Bannockburn, King Robert sent James Douglas and Robert Keith as scouts to observe the approach of the English:

*Soon they saw the great army, where shining shields had such sheen, and basnets were  
burnished (so) bright that (they) reflected the sun's great light. They saw so many embroidered  
banners, standards, pennons, and spears, so many knights on horseback, all brilliant in their  
clothing, so many and such broad divisions, that took so much space as they rode that the large  
stand boldest host in Christendom, and the greatest, would be cast down to see their enemies in  
such numbers and so equipped to fight. (Barbour: Book 11: 428)*

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Commemorating the 700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Glen Trool between Scotland and England. The Lion Rampant banner leads the procession, followed by Bruce Heraldry Flags, the Saltire, and the St. George Cross.

Standards are long tapering flags containing armorial badges and mottos; pennons are smaller flags, originally flown from lances. Both are still used today.

There are many other mentions of heraldry in "The Bruce." Read or re-read the epic poem and see how many you can find!

### Bibliography:

Barbour, John. "The Bruce." (An Epic Poem.)(Edited and translated by A.A.M. Duncan.) Edinburgh: Canongate Books Ltd., 1997.

Gayre of Gayre and Nigg, Lt.Col. Robert. Heraldic Standards and Other Ensigns. London and Edinburgh: Oliver and Boyd, 1959.

Innes of Learney, Sir Thomas. Scots Heraldry. First Pub: London and Edinburgh: Oliver and Boyd, 1934; Revised Ed. Pub by: London: Johnston and Bacon, 1978.

## Bruce Heraldry – Part I – Blue Lion Issue – September 2009

By Thomas Allen Bruce, CSTJ, FSA Scot

Though heraldry has its roots in antiquity, including in the standards borne before the Roman legions as they marched into battle, as it is known today, depicting shields with distinctive designs, heraldry began in the early 12<sup>th</sup> Century. The Bayeux Tapestry, a unique record of the invasion of Britain by the Normans, depicts only the most basic symbology on a few flags and shields, and what appears to be symbols on the shields are likely actually reinforcing materials. In the next century after the Battle of Hastings in 1066, as armor became heavier and helmets enclosed more of warrior's faces, it became necessary to have a way of identifying an armored warrior, and distinctive colorful designs began to be placed on a cloth cover over his chest armor- a "Coat of Arms." The convention of depicting armorial devices on a shield also began during this time in the late 11<sup>th</sup> and early 12<sup>th</sup> Centuries.

It may well be that "flying heraldry" that is, armorial flags, predated the use of armorial surcoats and shields.

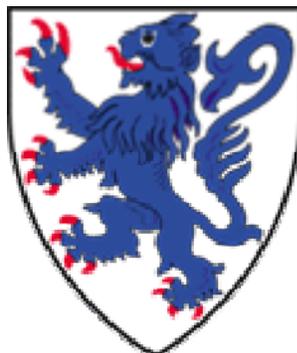
Often the shield is the only armorial symbol. Indeed, it is still possible today to obtain a Scottish Grant of Arms that includes no other devices besides a shield. Therefore, the design of each shield is distinct. The devices outside the shield if included at all will have meanings of their own, but it is still possible today to identify the owner of a Coat of Arms simply from the design of his shield.

Heraldry also had a civil as well as martial use from the beginning, as seals, usually employing armorial symbology, were used to sign important documents. It became the law in Scotland that each freeholder was required to have a Coat of Arms and seal.

Once again it must be stated that Armorial Bearings are owned by individuals. There is no such thing as "Family Arms." The convention that the Arms of family members are similar came about because younger brothers desired to show their familial connections by having Arms based on those of their fathers, but rendered unique by the addition of distinct devices. Those Arms, though similar, are personal to each individual. Arms described here should not be adopted and used merely because of a claim of genealogical connection to or descent from their owners.

As you may recall from earlier articles in this series, the "blazon" of a Coat of Arms is its legal description. The blazon is in a mixture of Old French, Latin, and English, and is a sort of shorthand that makes the description of a specific Coat of Arms easily understood by employing simple language that has very precise meaning. The background of the shield is described first; then the major divisions of the shield; then the minor divisions of the shield; then figures upon the shield. Then comes the parts outside the shield again described in specific ways. An artist familiar with the rules of blazon can paint a Coat of Arms accurately from the blazon.

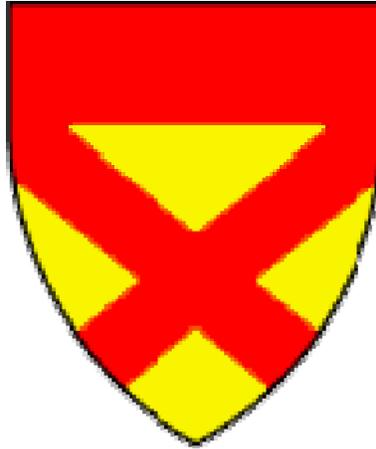
The Family of Bruce was involved with the use of Heraldry from the very beginning. The earliest Bruce Arms on record are those of Bruce of Skelton, blazoned as "Argent, a lion rampant Azure armed and langued Gules." That is, a blue lion rampant, with red tongue and claws, on a silver background. These Arms date to soon after the Conquest, when the first Bruce was granted the lands of Skelton, but the use of the blue lion as a symbol probably dates to a time before systematic heraldry as we know it today. It is certain that the use of a lion as a symbol is a very ancient idea, and many families originating in Scandinavia and their descendants in what is now France and the Low Countries used the lion as their symbol. (Nisbet: 267)



The Arms of Adam de Brusee,  
Lord of Cleveland and Skelton in the  
11<sup>th</sup> Century

## FAMILY OF BRUCE INTERNATIONAL

The first Bruce of Annandale in Scotland was granted that important border zone by King David I in 1124, and thereafter bore the Coat of Arms devised for his wife's family, who were descended from the ancient Lords of Annandale: "Or, a saltire and chief Gules." That is, a gold background with a red St. Andrew's cross and a red stripe across the top of the shield. (Sometimes the background was Argent in the early days.)



Arms of the Lord of Annandale in the 12<sup>th</sup> century

The personal Arms of King Robert I were: "Or, a saltire Gules, on a chief Argent a leopard Azure." That is, a gold background, with a red St. Andrew's cross, and a silver stripe across the top with a blue lion depicted with his back paws on the ground, and his front paws up, facing the viewer. (By convention, a lion in this position is known in heraldry as a "leopard.")

King Robert's Arms, then, were a unique combination of the Arms of the Bruces of Skelton and of Annandale.

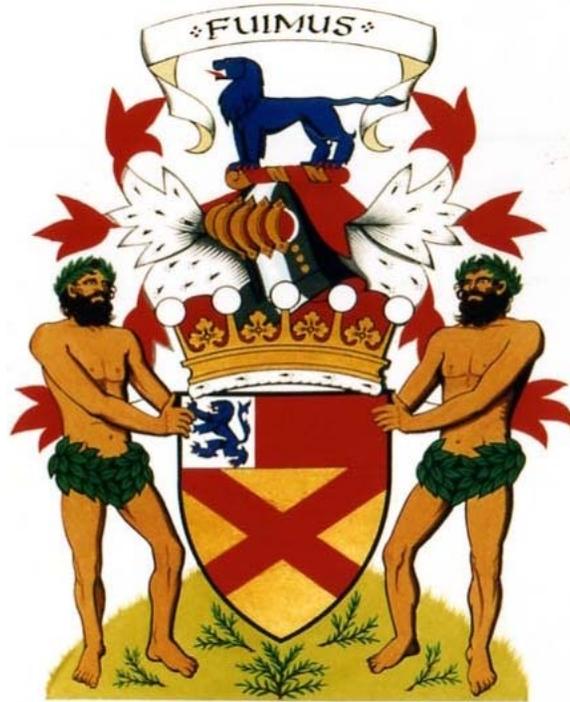
It can readily be seen from these descriptions that the symbols contained in the Arms of the Chief of the Family of Bruce, as they are used today, employing the blue lion and the red St. Andrew's cross, date to very early times. The convention in Scotland is that cadets within a family, that is, people descending from younger sons, are assigned Arms that are based on the Arms of the Chief, with added differences.

*Bibliography: Nisbet, Alexander. "A System of Heraldry." First pub 1722; repub., with a new introduction by Sir Malcolm Innes of Edingight, Lord Lyon King of Arms, by Edinburgh: T. and A. Constable, 1984.*

## FAMILY OF BRUCE INTERNATIONAL

### The Arms of the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, Chief of the Name of Bruce – Part II – Blue Lion issue – January 2010 By Thomas Allen Bruce, CSTJ, FSA Scot Lieutenant to the Chief

The following description of the Armorial Bearings of the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine will analyze his entire armorial achievement part by part, as matriculated the 10<sup>th</sup> of May 1978 in Lyon Register.



The Achievement of Arms of the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine

**As a reminder, Arms are personal property and only used by the Armiger.**

#### THE SHIELD.

Blazon: Or, a saltire and chief Gules, on a canton Argent a lion rampant Azure armed and langued of the Second.

An heraldic convention is that the colors or tinctures in heraldry are only mentioned once in a blazon. Additional figures colored the same as the ones mentioned earlier in the blazon are named "of the first," "of the second," etc.

As has been mentioned in earlier articles, one of the origins of heraldry followed from the need to be able to recognize heavily armored men, when their entire body including their face was completely enclosed. Also, armorial flags and surcoats enabled both friend and foe to recognize the leaders of the medieval battlefield. This was especially important when on the attack.

"Twice armed is he who gets his blow in first." Another convention of early heraldry then, following from its use in warfare, was that the figures used must be very distinctive and easily recognized.

Lord Elgin's Arms are a combination of the Arms of Bruce of Skelton and Bruce of Annandale, with the main part of the Arms being those of Bruce of Annandale with the Bruce of Skelton Arms in the dexter corner of the chief. "Dexter" in heraldry means the right side of the Arms if one is the bearer of the Arms; seen on the left side as the viewer. "Sinister" is the left side of the bearer, right side of the viewer.

## FAMILY OF BRUCE INTERNATIONAL

### THE CREST.

Blazon: On a wreath of the colors a lion statant tail extended Azure armed and langued Gules.

An armorial crest is the device that sits or stands on top of the helmet. Crests are comparatively modern, and were, in the early times of their origins, constantly being changed. One person in those days might use more than one crest; for example there might have been one for war, and one for the tournament. After a period of time the heralds began to standardize and limit the practice.

One of the conventions about crests is that a crest should be able to be modeled in three dimensions, and should be able to be worn on top of an actual helmet once so modeled. Crests were actually worn in medieval tournaments to aid in identification of the participants.

Crests in Scotland have traditionally been used as badges. Indeed that is what they are called in early Scottish armorial documents. The incorrect employment of the word "crest" when "Achievement of Arms" is what is actually meant, referring to a complete Coat of Arms with shield, helmet, crest, and other parts, probably came about from the custom of employing the crest as a badge. The familiar clansman's crest badge, consisting of the Chief's crest within a buckled belt, probably originated from the practice of a Scottish leader using the crest as a badge for his followers.

Prior to the late seventeenth century in Scotland a crest was only granted to a person of "tournament rank," so there was prestige in being entitled to a crest. This probably added to the allure of using the crest as a badge. (Innes of Learney: 19)

In the Thistle Chapel at St. Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh there is a three dimensional version of Lord Elgin's crest, above his stall as a Knight of the Thistle. Just outside the Thistle Chapel flies a banner of his Arms. As you will recall from previous articles, a banner is a square flag composed of the figures contained on the shield part of an Achievement of Arms, just as if it was a square shield.



Lord Elgin's Achievement of Arms displayed on the wall above his stall in the Thistle Chapel



Lord Elgin's banner shown in St. Giles Cathedral just outside the Thistle Chapel

## FAMILY OF BRUCE INTERNATIONAL

### Bruce Heraldry – Part III – Blue Lion Issue – September 2010 Thomas Allen Bruce, CStJ, FSA Scot

In previous articles in this series, we have discussed the “pronominal Arms” that are the basis of the Arms granted or matriculated to individuals having a common surname. We also mentioned that the various members of a family will receive “differenced” Arms based on those pronominal Arms, showing their relationship to other armigers in the same family and to the Chief of the Name or Clan, but with individualized colors or charges that make each Scottish Achievement of Arms unique. In this article we will describe the ways in which Arms are differenced.

There are three main ways that Scottish Arms are made to be unique, or “differenced:” change of color or tincture; addition of charges; and addition of borders. These may also be combined.

Perhaps the earliest differencing method was change of tincture. Recall that one of the conventions of heraldry is that color is placed on metal, or metal on color, but not metal on metal or color on color. Remember also that there are two heraldic metals, gold and silver or Or and Argent, and it will then become clear that a Coat of Arms which had gold as its original metal could be easily changed to depict silver as its metal, thus making the new Arms similar but still different and unique.



Annandale Arms difference with a change of metal – Silver (Argent)

Early Bruce Arms in Scotland were blazoned as “Or, a saltire and chief Gules.” A simple change would be “Argent, a saltire and chief Gules” and indeed this simple difference appears to have been used by various branches of the Family in early times.

A change of color, instead of or in addition to a change of metal, can also be an armorial difference, though often a change of color might indicate a relationship based on proximity in location rather than a blood relationship. The heads of several families who live or once lived in the old Bruce Lordship of Annandale therefore use the saltire and chief of the Bruces, but in different colors. (Nisbet: Vol. 1, 132-133.)

A second major method of differencing is to add additional figures, or “charges,” to the basic field of the shield. An example of Bruce Arms using this method is the Arms of Lord Aberdare, which added a gold martlet, which is a strange little heraldic bird with no feet, to the Bruce pronominal Arms. Lord Aberdare’s Arms are then blazoned as: “Or, a saltire Gules, on a chief of the Second a martlet of the First.”



Baron Aberdare Arms

## FAMILY OF BRUCE INTERNATIONAL

Another simple example of Bruce Arms with an additional figure added for a difference would be the addition of a mullet, or five pointed star, to the Arms of Bruce of Airth in early times and subsequent use of mullets by various Bruces descended from Airth, including Bruce of Kinnaird.

As a subset of adding charges for difference there also can be a change of outline of figures on the shield. A Bruce example would be the Arms of Bruce of Newton, which used Argent as their metal, and which depicted the chief with a lower border "embattled," or drawn like the ramparts of a castle. Thus the blazon for the arms of the early Bruces of Newton: "Argent, a saltire Gules, a chief embattled of the Second."

Special mention must be made here of the use of a canton in the Arms of our Chief. The canton in Lord Elgin's Arms is not used as a difference, but rather as a convenient way of combining the ancient Arms of Bruce of Skelton with the Arms of Bruce of Annandale. The Arms of the Earls of Kincardine do the same thing, but in a different way. The combination of Skelton and Annandale in those Arms is done by "quartering," which depicts a shield divided into four parts, with one set of Arms in the first and third quarters, and the others in the second and fourth quarters. (Innes of Learney: 55.)



Arms of Bruce of Annandale  
Or (Gold)



Arms of Bruce of Skelton  
Argent (Silver)



Arms of the Earl  
Combination of Skelton  
and Annandale Arms

The heir to a Coat of Arms, while his father is still living, uses those Arms with the addition of a "label," which is a mark that is placed over the shield as a temporary difference, and which is then removed when the Arms are inherited. This method of labeling should not be confused with the addition of charges for differencing, because differencing is permanent, and will be inherited by each heir in succession, while a label is considered to be temporary.



Armorial Banner  
depicting a "label"  
which is used by  
Charles, Lord Bruce, the  
eldest son of our Chief

## FAMILY OF BRUCE INTERNATIONAL

The third common method for differencing Arms is the addition of a border. In Scotland this method is much used for differencing Arms within close-knit families, and is done according to a certain set pattern of borders composed of colors and metals. A border may also be used in combination with other differences. An example of the use of a border for difference within the Family of Bruce is the Armorial banner used at The Gathering in Edinburgh in 2009 by the Honourable Adam Bruce, second son of our Chief. The banner depicts the Arms of the Chief within a gold border.



Honourable Adam Bruce marching with a Bruce Armorial banner with a Gold border

In Scotland today differences of whatever form are assigned by the Lord Lyon upon petition for a grant of new Arms or upon a petition to matriculate ancestral Arms. The direct heir to Arms will receive the Arms unchanged, but younger sons and other heirs will be assigned a difference. The Lord Lyon is the only authority who could ensure that each Coat of Arms is unique, because Lyon Court has the records of all Arms used in Scotland since the Lyon Register was begun in 1672.

In future articles, we plan to discuss further the Armorial Bearings of specific branches of the Family of Bruce.

### References:

Innes of Learney, Sir Thomas. Scots Heraldry. First Pub.: Oliver and Boyd, 1934; Revised Edition Edinburgh and London: Johnston and Bacon, 1978.

Nisbet, Alexander. A System of Heraldry. First Pub. 1722; New Edition Edinburgh: T. and A. Constable, 1984.

## Flying Heraldry – Blue Lion issue – February 2011 By Thomas Allen Bruce, CStJ, FSA Scot

Heraldry from earliest times has been associated with identification, including identification of friend or foe on a battlefield, as well as with authentication of documents. Heraldry uses colorful and easily remembered symbols so that even people unable to read can identify persons who display those symbols.

“Flying heraldry” is the term for flags that employ armorial symbology. Flying heraldry may well be the earliest use of armorial bearings. In this article we will briefly look at the several kinds of flying heraldry that are in use in Scottish Heraldry today.

The edge or area of a flag nearest the flagpole is called the “hoist.” The part furthest away from the flagpole, that is, the opposite end of the flag from the hoist, is the “fly.”

### THE BANNER

A square or rectangular flag depicting the designs on the shield of an Achievement of Arms and nothing else is known as a “banner.” The banner is today the most commonly seen armorial flag, and is available to every armiger, but in ancient times the banner was reserved for persons of very high rank.

Banners may be any size from six inches square for a table decoration to 25 feet square or more for flying from a high tower or the ramparts of a large castle. Specific sizes of banner may be set down according to their owner’s rank for a parade at a specific event. In general, a parade banner will be four feet square or less, because larger sizes are unwieldy. At a large Scottish Games or gatherings many banners will be seen in the opening parade.

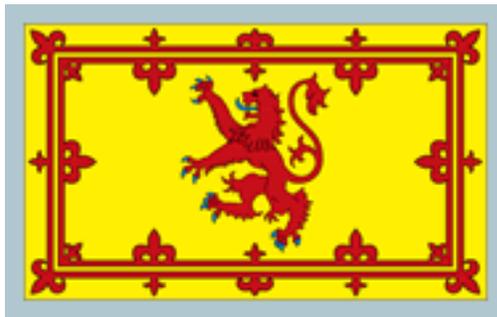
Often a banner is slightly higher than it is wide. This shape works out to display most armorial bearings to their best effect. Most banners meant for flying over a house will be square.

The banner indicates the personal presence of its owner. At gatherings the banner of the honored guest is raised as soon as he or she arrives on the field, and is lowered when he or she leaves. A smaller parade banner will be carried either by the owner or by an appointed banner bearer in parades and with the armiger when he or she goes on a “walkabout.”

On the medieval battlefield, the banner of the leader was kept covered until the beginning of a battle. As soon as it was unfurled the attack began. The banner was closely guarded against capture by the enemy, just as the colors of a regiment are today.

A type of banner known as a “livery banner” is often used as an inexpensive way to marshal an armorially based display. The livery banner is a flag made up of the main metal and the main color of the Arms, with the color running in a stripe from the hoist to the fly, along with a stripe of the same width of the metal. Livery banners may be swallow-tailed.

The familiar “red lion rampant within a double tressure flory counter flory” flag, often called the lion rampant flag, is the banner of the Monarch of Scotland. As with all other banners it traditionally indicates the personal presence of the Sovereign, and should not be flown in her absence.



The Lion Rampant Banner is the banner of the Monarch of Scotland and is also referred to as the Queen’s Banner

# FAMILY OF BRUCE INTERNATIONAL

## PINSELS, PENNONS, GUIDONS, AND STANDARDS

The banner and the livery banner may be used by any armiger. The other flying heraldry, including pinsels, pennons, guidons, and standards, require specific authorization from Lyon Court.

### The Pinsel

This flag is authorized for Clan Chiefs and certain other dignitaries to be used by their appointed representatives in the absence of the Chief or dignitary. The name is obviously a Scottish version of the medieval "pennoncel." The flags are triangular, and depict the Chief's Crest Badge, plant badge, and motto.



Pinsel of the Rt. Hon. Earl of Elgin and Kincardine. Blue Lion Crest, Fuimus motto, and Rosemary plant badge

### The Pennon

The pennon, along with the guidon and standard, at one time indicated a "following," and was used in a military setting. Landowners in Scotland were required by law to possess armorial bearings, and the militia of Scotland in early days came to be made up of the tenants and neighbors of landowners, who are known as their "following."

The original pennon was a very small triangular flag flown from the lance of a knight, of whom it became the main flag, since a simple knight was not usually considered of high enough rank to use a banner. The pennon evolved to indicate a following, and not necessarily knightly status, then during the reign of Lord Lyon Robin Blair, the pennon came to be authorized for any armiger who applied for it.

Today's pennon is a long narrow flag four feet long, with the arms of its owner in the hoist, and the livery colors in the fly, with the owner's motto running down the length of the livery colors. The pennon may be triangular in shape, or may have a more rounded end, as its owner chooses.

### The Guidon

A guidon is assigned by Lyon Court to any armiger qualified for supporters, and for non-baronial lairds who have a following. The guidon is a long narrow flag eight feet long, and will include the armiger's crest and motto, as well as any badge the armiger may possess, especially if the badge is related to a particular land holding, as almost all badges in Scotland are. The guidon is rounded in the fly.

# FAMILY OF BRUCE INTERNATIONAL

## The Standard

The standard is the greatest of all flying heraldry, both in terms of their size, which varies according to rank, as well as in terms of the importance of their owners. Standards vary in size from 4 yards long for a knight to 8 yards long for the Monarch. Standards are reserved for the Chiefs of the greatest of Scottish clans and families, as well as for important dignitaries.



The Standard of the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine which depicts the Arms, the Crest twice, and the Motto "Fuimus"

Standards originally had the Saltire in the hoist, so that when they were flown in a tournament or on a battlefield the nationality of their owner would be immediately apparent, but today's standards usually have the owner's arms in the hoist, with the owner's crest and any badges in the fly, and with the owner's motto on transverse bands between the other figures. Standards today are usually hung with the hoist at the top and the fly hanging downwards; obviously it would take a large flagpole and high winds to make such a large flag fly smartly. A standard may sometimes also be carried horizontally in front of a procession of a Chief's clan or family in a parade. Standards usually have rounded swallow-tail flies.

Banners, especially the Queen's banner, are today often called "standards." This usage is technically incorrect, though it is explained by naval terminology, which calls any flag used for personal or national identification by that term.

Today's pennons, guidons, and standards are all designed along the same lines, but long ago, before heraldry came to be regulated, the designs of these flags were much more fanciful. A few of these old designs still exist. One of the most famous is the "Bellendaine Standard," which is the personal standard of the Duke of Buccleuch, Chief of the Scots. It is unusual in several ways. Despite being called a "standard," it is approximately eight feet long, the size of a guidon. One of today's conventions on all armorial flags is that animals and other figures face the hoist, and wording reads from the hoist to the fly, but on the Bellendaine Standard, while the figure of a stag (one of the Duke's crests) does face the hoist, the words run from the fly to the hoist. The Bellendaine Standard has been in use since before the days of Lyon Court, and, since it predates the law, it is grandfathered, and still in use today.

It is not uncommon for the terms "pennon, guidon, and standard" to be used interchangeably, especially in early chronicles. It's often impossible to tell precisely which is meant, and, indeed, smaller flags were often known as standards, and larger ones as pennons, long ago. The main thing that these three have in common is that all were originally used as "headquarters" flags, or in military settings, and all three are long and narrow in shape.

It's not uncommon to see armorial flags misused in several ways at Scottish Games in the U.S. For example, besides the relentless misuse of the Queen's banner, I have several times seen the banners of Chiefs flown at games in their absence. Though we have no regulation of heraldry in the United States, it is common courtesy to refrain from using the armorial bearings of another. It is also a misuse and insult to heraldry to use it incorrectly. If you are going to do something, do it right!

Gayre of Gayre and Nigg, Lt. Col. Robert. Heraldic Standards and Other Ensigns. Edinburgh and London: Oliver and Boyd, 1959.

Innes of Learney, Sir Thomas. Scots Heraldry. First Pub. Edinburgh and London: Oliver and Boyd, 1934; Revised Ed. Edinburgh and London: Johnston and Bacon, 1978.

## **Liveries – Blue Lion Issue – February 2015**

**By Thomas Allen Bruce**

A Scottish blazon of Arms, when describing the Crest, will read: “On a wreath of the Liveries...” The “Liveries,” as meant in such a blazon, are the main metal and the main color on the shield of Arms. The liveries or “livery colors” can be deployed apart from the complete Arms for armorially based decorative effect.

One of the classic uses for the liveries is as racing colors. Our Chief, Lord Elgin, in his younger days, was a rally driver, and a great promoter of rally driving in Scotland, and his race car sported a paint scheme in his liveries of Or and Gules (Gold and Red.)

Lord Elgin is an enthusiastic user of heraldry, and has found several other ways to employ his liveries. He often uses a flag known as a “livery banner,” which is a flag in the two livery colors. A livery banner can be rectangular or swallow tailed, and can also be displayed as a livery pennant, in which case it will be triangular, tapering to a point in the fly. In the lawn tent at Broomhall in which the reception was held in June of 2014 were a number of Lord Elgin’s livery banners. [Illustration below] Even the flowers blooming around Broomhall during the 2014 celebration had blooms in Or and Gules.



Or and Gules (Gold and Red) Livery Banners are hung in the background at the reception at Broomhall in June 2014

Livery banners or pennants are much less expensive to have made up than are other armorial flags, so they are particularly useful when multiple flags are desired.

Just before the main celebration of the Bannockburn anniversary two Scottish gentlemen, Mr. Jim Singer and Mr. John MacDonald, made a week long walk across Scotland, from Aberdeen to Bannockburn, culminating in a gathering at Bannockburn the evening of the 21st of June. They brought soil from Aberdeen and scattered it on the field near the Bruce statue at Bannockburn, and Lord Bruce and his son Benedict laid a wreath at the cairn there. Lord Elgin had presented Mr. Singer with a livery pennant, which he proudly carried for the entire journey.

It is very traditional to dress followers and servants in uniforms in the livery colors. James Bruce of Kinnaird was ridiculed for dressing his servants in uniforms of Or and Gules, which are the same colors used by British royalty for their servant’s uniforms, but, of course, Kinnaird’s livery colors were in fact Or and Gules. In such cases today it’s customary to use a golden brown shade for Or and a maroon for Gules so that private liveries won’t mimic Royal ones.

Many of the dress uniforms of British Army regiments are in some combination of Or and Gules for the basic reason that those are the British Royal livery colors.

At the banquet for the 2006 gathering celebrating the Enthronement of King Robert the Bruce all the people who served the medieval style feast there were dressed in livery surcoats.

Even today employees on large estates in Scotland often have a polo shirt in the Laird’s liveries as a work uniform, with one of the badges associated with the Laird, or perhaps the Laird’s Crest badge, embroidered on the shirt. Vehicles used on the estate may also be painted in the liveries. Often the liveries may be part of the color scheme of the interior of an armiger’s house.

## FAMILY OF BRUCE INTERNATIONAL

The Broomhall Curling Club's badge is in the Elgin liveries [Illustration below] and Lord Elgin sports striped socks in his liveries. The Bruce tweed has stripes in the livery colors, as does the tie that Lord Elgin devised for the 2006 celebration. One of the badges for the Elgin Regiment is in the Or and Gules liveries.



A few armigers have liveries that for one reason or another are not the main metal and main color in their Arms, but that is unusual.

The familiar circular badge on the grilles of Bavarian Motor Works automobiles is actually a livery badge, in the Argent and Azure (silver and blue) liveries of the Dukes of Bavaria.

# FAMILY OF BRUCE INTERNATIONAL

## A Review of Heraldry – Blue Lion Issue – November 2011

Summarized by Deborah Bruce Gottlieb

Since the May 2007 Blue Lion, there has been a heraldry article in most issues. This series will continue, and this article is a review as we move forward. Each year, flying heraldry seems to be more prevalent with the armorial banners and other heraldry flags seen at various Scottish events. This would indicate there are many more individuals who have been granted their own Achievement of Arms through the Court of the Lord Lyon. It's interesting to identify the owners or armigers of these arms!

Heraldry was originated in medieval times in Europe as a method to identify persons, particularly on the battlefield. These individuals were often Royalty, Chieftains of clans and families, or high ranking individuals. Today, any Scot of good character and many Americans who can trace their descendants back to Scotland are qualified to apply for their Coats of Arms.

The Court of the Lord Lyon is the heraldic authority in Scotland. The Lyon Court deals with all matters relating to Scottish Heraldry and protocol, and maintains the Public Register of all Arms and Bearings in Scotland. The Lyon King of Arms office dates from the middle ages. The earliest official record of the appointment of a Lyon was made by King Robert the Bruce in 1318, but the office is older. [www.lyon-court.com](http://www.lyon-court.com).

Coat of Arms is also known as the Achievement of Arms. A full achievement can consist of supporters, mantling, a compartment, a motto (or battle cry), a helmet, a wreath, a crest, a badge, a banner, and more. The blazon is a written description of the Achievement and uses a combination of English, Latin, and Norman French, and often with abbreviations thrown in for good measure. It is important to note that an Achievement of Arms is to be used solely by the individual, township, or corporation and is comparable to a legally registered logo. The Shield of a Coat of Arms is sometimes all there is to the Arms.

Colors or tinctures are an integral part of heraldry and produce incredible visual effects. Within the definition of tinctures, there are five key colors (Gules/red, Azure/blue, Sable/black, Vert/green, and Purpure/purple), and two metals of Or/gold and Argent/silver. A number of heraldry rules are governed by the use of color. The main metal and color together are known as the "liveries" or the "livery colors". The Family of Bruce livery colors are Gules/red and Or/gold.

The Shield is a key element in the Achievement and its original purpose was to give protection in battle. The designs on the shield would convey the bearer's identity by means of the symbols adopted and associated with. It is possible to have a Coat of Arms that only consists of the Shield. There are many points and descriptions in the shield which will be covered in future articles.

The Crest is the armorial device that is depicted on top of the helmet in a complete Achievement of Arms. The crest usually arises out of a "wreath," which is a twist of cloth of the main metal and the main color of the Arms. The familiar modern metal badge worn in a Balmoral or Glengarry bonnet is a part of Highland dress. It has become standardized as the crest of the Chief of the Name or Clan, surrounded by a belt and buckle device. The buckled belt is intended to serve two purposes. It provides a place to set the Chief's motto, and it indicates that the wearer is not wearing his or her own crest, but that of his or her Chief. These badges are often called "Clan Crest Badges," or "Crest Badges," but the term "Clan Crest" is not quite correct, since, as mentioned, they depict the crest of the Chief, and the crest, as such, just as with his or her other Armorial Bearings, remains the personal property of its owner. When the badge of a crest surrounded by a buckled belt is used on letterhead or in a printed flyer, it must be accompanied by the disclaimer "An Cireann Ceann Cinnidh" which means "The Crest of the Chief." This removes any doubt that the printed representation of the crest is anything but a representation of the cap badge.

Flying Heraldry is the term for flags that employ armorial symbology. Flying heraldry may well be the earliest use of armorial bearings. The types of Flying Heraldry include the Banner, Pinsels, Pennons, Guidons, and Standards. The banner is today the most commonly seen armorial flag, and is available to every armiger. In ancient times, the banner was reserved for persons of very high rank.