

Heraldry

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Abstract

Heraldry flourished during the Middle Ages especially during the 11th until 14th century. It was originally meant to identify soldiers in medieval warfare and battles. The introduction of a full-faced helmet used by knights and soldiers during combat has made it difficult and almost impossible to recognize one soldier with another. Various symbols started to appear on their shields and armours as a mean of self-identification. Later, heraldry developed with the rise of Chivalric Code and was often seen paraded during tournaments – a mock fight or competition between knights. Noble families took this opportunity to proudly display their coat of arms as a symbol of prestige, strength, honour and social standing in society. This presentation will discuss on the components of heraldry during medieval times, heraldry for women and modern adaptation of this age-old tradition.