

Practical Heraldry for the Self-Isolator

Week 4—Insignia of Office in Heraldry

A small number of people in Scotland are allowed to display their arms with the insignia of the office they hold. Sometimes, this can also involve impaling their personal arms with the arms of their office, in which case the personal arms occupy the *sinister* (right) hand side of the shield. Some of these offices are hereditary as we will see.



Governor of Edinburgh Castle.

Impales his arms with those of the Castle and has a sword and a key with the Castle on the handle in saltire behind the shield.



Lord Lyon King of Arms

Impales his arms with his Office and Two Azure batons tipped Or in saltire: the dexter one powdered with ("semée of") thistles, rose, harps and fleurs-de-lys Or, for Lord Lyon, the sinister one *semée of* thistles and St Andrew's crosses Or as King of Arms of the Order of the Thistle.



Lord Justice General

The head of the Scottish Judiciary, a combined post with Lord President, bears two swords in saltire behind his shield while in office.



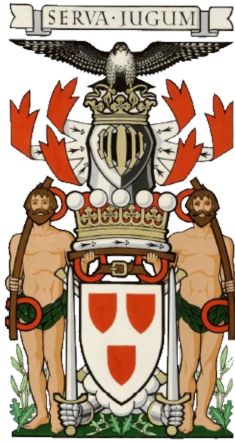
On a full version of Letters Patent granting or matriculating arms, all the heralds and pursuivants have their arms displayed on crossed batons.



If the Deacon of an armigerous Incorporated trade, in this case the Cordiners in Glasgow, is armigerous (i.e. has a grant of arms from the Lord Lyon) (s/he may impale the arms during year of office.



Some offices are hereditary, in which case their shields are sometimes simply displayed, as on these versions by Mark Dennis, on the office-bearer's insignia, in both of these cases as the bearers are "Keepers" of Castles, the crossed insignia are an ornate key and a baton.



The **Earl of Erroll** (*left*) is the Hereditary Lord High Constable of Scotland: the insignia of his office are the two batons in saltire (crossed) behind his shield and the two arms coming out of a cloud to hold up a sword on each side.



The **Duke of Argyll** (*right*) has a baton Gules powdered with thistles Or, as Hereditary Master of the Royal Household in Scotland and a sword for the hereditary office of High Justiciar of Scotland). He carries his baton when on duty as does Lord Erroll.



Left: the **Earl of Lauderdale**, Hereditary National Flag Bearer of Scotland. In this case the insignia are nothing less than two representations of the National Flag of Scotland in saltire behind his shield.



Right: The **Earl of Dundee**, Hereditary Royal Standard Bearer of Scotland. His insignia are two representations of the Royal Standard of Scotland in saltire behind his shield.

In this photograph, you can see in the distance the two Earls bearing their flags before the Lord High Commissioner of the Church of Scotland, the Princess Royal, in 2017.



Have a go at drawing a Scottish royal herald's tabard.

Also, four nobles in Scotland have "Private Pursuivants". The two tabards which follow for completion are respectively Endure Pursuivant to the Earl of Crawford and Garioch Pursuivant to the Countess of Mar.

