

Practical Heraldry for the Self-Isolator

Week 5 Topic: Local Government Arms 1.

Scottish Regional Councils 1973-1996

Scotland's local government was completely reorganized in 1973, leading to a flurry of petitions for arms for the NINE Regional Councils, the THREE Island Councils which were unitary Authorities, and the 53 District Councils. The system only lasted until 1996 at which point it was all redrawn into 32 Councils instead. Of course this meant more heraldry! Each local authority tries to capture something of its history and sometimes geography. Local heraldry contains the whole history of Scotland.

We will begin with the nine Regional Councils which existed from 1973-1995.

Each of the eight Regions (Strathclyde, by far the largest Region, somehow never got around to it) was allocated an heraldic template:



The template consists of a shield supported on the sinister by an unicorn and crowned with the coronet agreed for Regional Councils: a circlet richly chased, from which are issuant four thistles leaved (one and two halves visible) Or.

The Councils are distinguished both by their choice of dexter supporter and, of course, by the charges of the shield, which all but one chose to display on a St Andrew's Cross.



Borders Region:

Dexter Supporter: A Border Knight

Azure, a saltire Argent, surmounted at the fess point by an inescutcheon Gules, fimbriated Or, and charged with four bar-ulets wavy Argent between in chief a salmon naiant and in base a ram's head cabossed Proper, a bordure counter-compony of the First and Second.

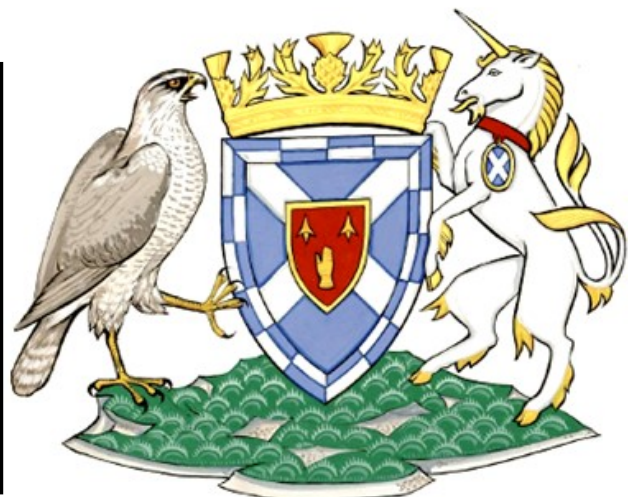
The charges try to capture the River Tweed and its fishing as well as the sheep-farming in the area.

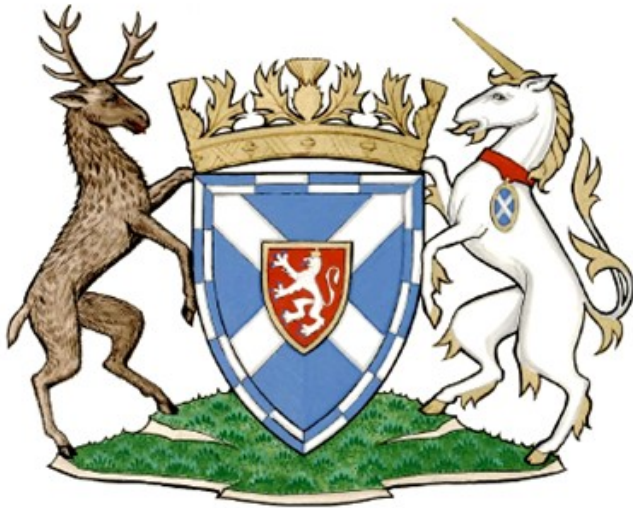
Central Region:

Dexter Supporter: A Goshawk

Azure, a saltire Argent, surmounted at the fess point by an inescutcheon Gules, fimbriated Or, and charged with two cal-traps in chief and a dexter mailed gauntlet paleways in base all Or, a bordure counter-compony of the First and Second.

The charges refer to the Battle of Bannockburn—it was clap-trap technology which saved the day—to Clackmannan's gauntlet and the goshawk of the Drummonds.





Dumfries and Galloway Region:

Dexter Supporter: A Stag Proper

Azure, a saltire Argent, surmounted at the fess point by an inescutcheon Gules, fimbriated Or, and charged with a lion rampant Argent crowned Or, a bordure counter-comony of the First and Second.

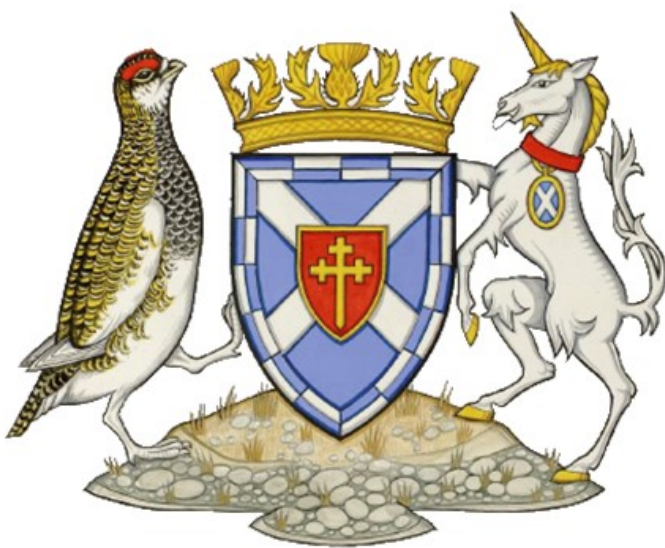
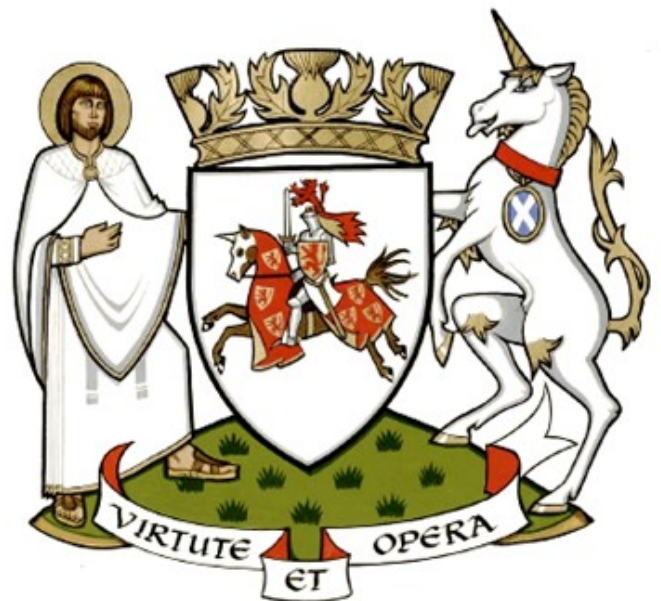
The only charge is the crowned Lion of Galloway.

Fife Region:

Dexter Supporter: St Servanus vested Argent

Argent, a knight armed at all points on a horse at full speed, in his dexter hand a sword erect, all Proper, his surcoat Argent, on his sinister arm a shield Or, charged with a lion rampant Gules, the visor of his helmet shut, over which on a wreath of his liveries with a mantling of the Fourth doubled of the Third, is set a lion rampant, issuing out of the wreath, of the Fourth, the caparisons of the horse of the Last, fimbriated of the Third, and thereon six shields of the Last, each charged with a lion rampant of the Fourth.

St Servanus founded Culross Abbey. The armed knight is the crest of the Duke of Fife.

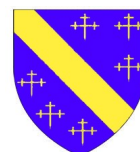


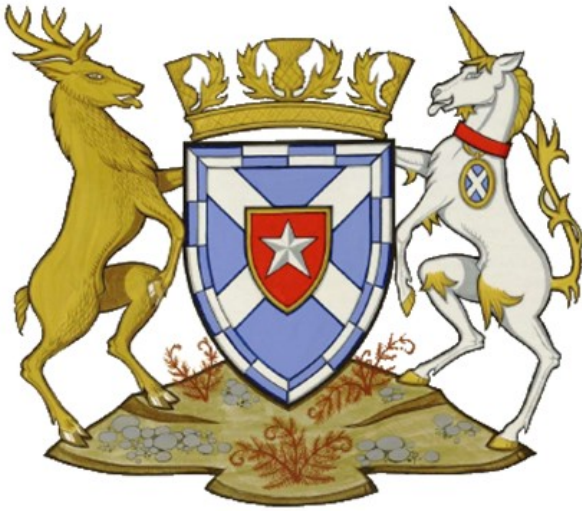
Grampian Region:

Dexter Supporter: A Ptarmigan Proper

Azure, a saltire Argent, sur- mounted at the fess point by an inescutcheon Gules, fimbriated Or, and charged with a cross-crosslet fitchee Or, a bordure counter-comony of the First and Second.

The cross fitchée or fitchy is taken from the arms of the ancient Earldom of Mar.



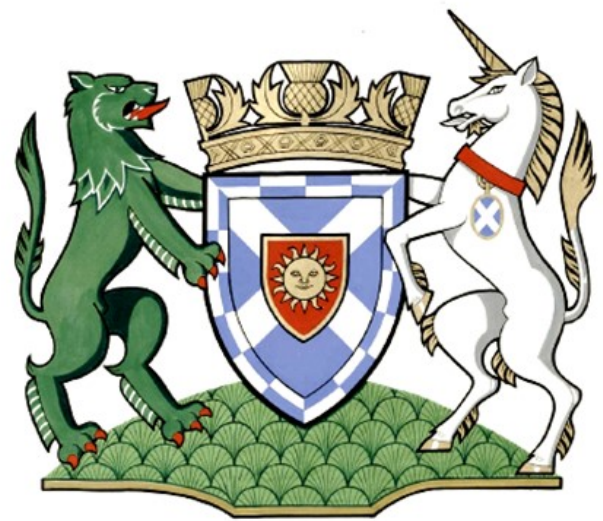


Highlands Region:

Dexter Supporter: A Stag Or

Azure, a saltire Argent, surmounted at the fess point by an inescutcheon Gules, fimbriated Or, and charged with a star Argent, a bordure counter company of the First and Second

The only charge is star of Moray.



Lothians Region:

Dexter Supporter: A lion rampant Vert, armed and langued Gules

Azure, a saltire Argent, surmounted at the fess point by an inescutcheon Gules, fimbriated Or, and charged with a sun in splendour Or, a bordure counter-company of the First and Second.

The only charge is the sun, taken from the arms of Ker, Marquess of Lothian.



Tayside Region:

Dexter Supporter: An Angus Bull Proper

Azure, a saltire Argent, surmounted at the fess point by an inescutcheon Gules, fimbriated Or, and charged with a fleur-de-lys Argent and in chief a bar wavy of the Last, a bor-dure counter-company of the First and Second.

The fleur-de-lys is taken from the arms of the City of Dundee and the bar wavy symbolises the River Tay.

Today's Task

Strathclyde Region—marked 1 on the map—was in terms of population the same size as all the other Regions put together. It contained the birthplace of William Wallace, the Stewart Kings, Robert Burns, John Logie Baird and countless other people very important to the country's history. Perhaps it was the huge choice of possible symbols which made it too hard for Strathclyde to agree on a coat of arms so why not design one for it now? Colour in the arms below and decide on one or two symbols to put in the little shield in the middle to complete the arms. You will need to choose a supporter too to stand opposite the unicorn.

