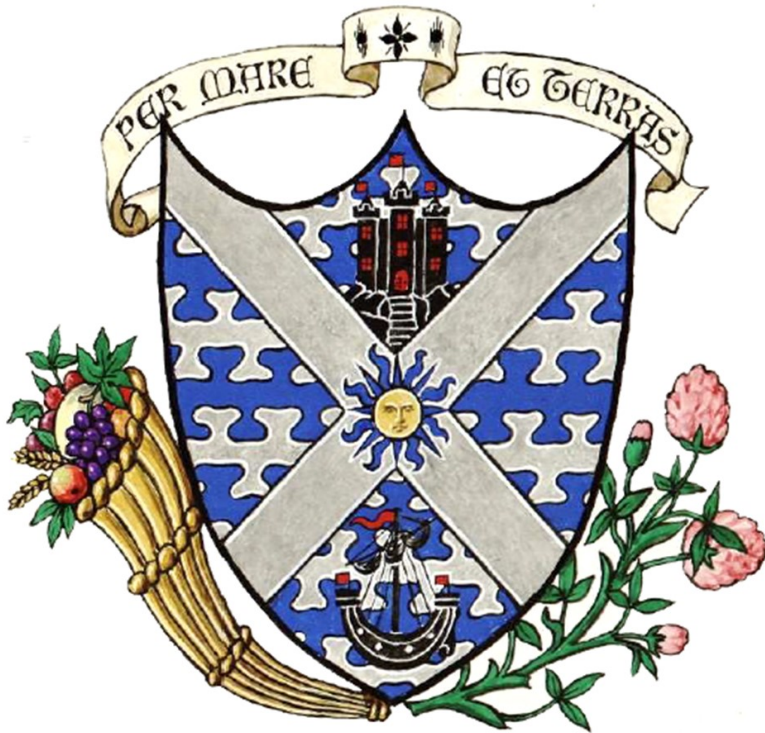


Practical Heraldry for the Self-Isolator

Week 7C— Heraldic Supporters 3

Heraldic Supporters are, as we have seen, very rare. It is even rarer to have supporters which are INANIMATE OBJECTS—what the French would call *soutiens*. There are some splendid ones in the Lyon Register nonetheless.



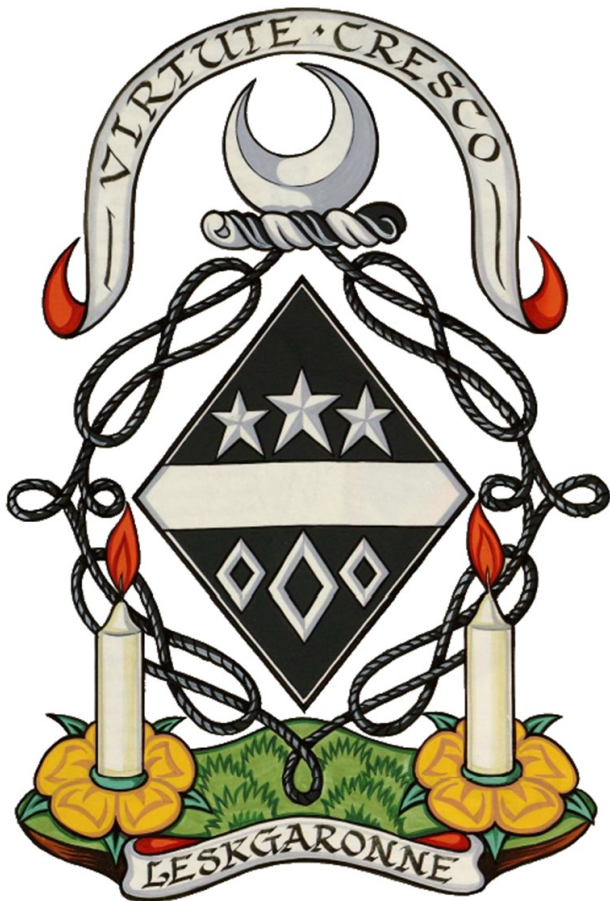
The Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce and Manufacturers recorded arms in 1952 with *soutiens* – inanimate supporters.

Dexter, a cornucopia, sinister a spray of red clover all Proper.

The arms of Campbell of Inverneil and Ross are unusually supported by a single *soutiens* - in the form of a lymphad sails furled and oars in action Sable flags and pennon flying.

The painting dates from 1875 when the Herald Painter was Thomas Brown (who confusingly was succeeded in 1880 by an artist of the same name) so we may reasonably suppose he was the painter of these arms.





Matriculated in 1968 for Madam Anne Leask of Leask, these soutiens, or inanimate supporters, are roses with candles and are not described as supporters at all in the blazon, merely part of the compartment but as a compartment is used to carry supporters, there is little doubt that the candles are such.

Here is a very strange one, but great fun: Heriot Watt College (now University), granted in 1958 and presumably painted by Herald Painter, Nora Mary Gordon.

The blazon makes clear that the brickwork is the *compartment* while the supporters are: a beam-engine, frame Sable, cylinder, fly-wheel and beam Vert, the cylinder and wheel garnished Gules, the piston rod and garnishing of the beam Argent, guiding rod Gules garnished Argent.



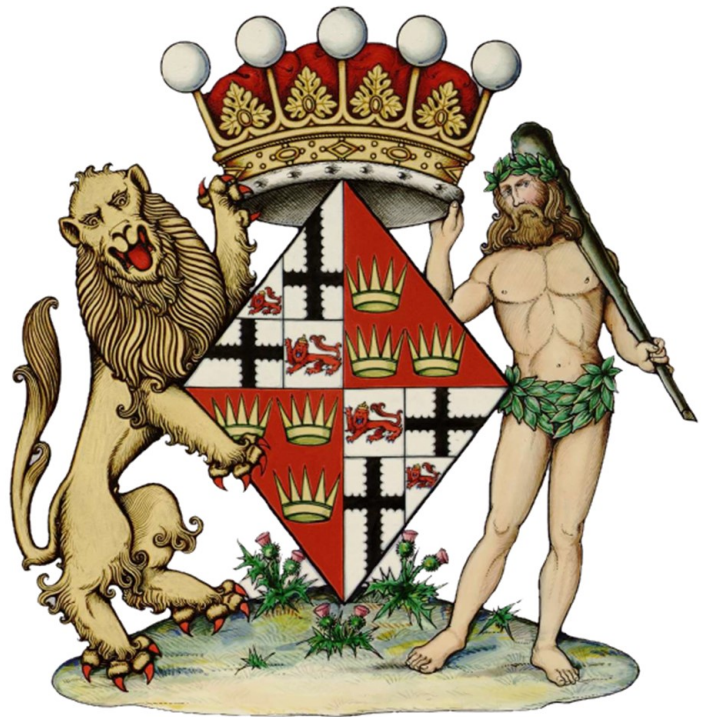
We finish our look at Heraldic Supporters with two splendid achievements which mix the categories the French like observe.

Here is a bridge between the human supporter (the **tenant**) and the beast – the **support**.

The Countess of Seafield in her own right matriculated arms in 1916, the work of herald painter, Graham Johnston.

The coronet is that of an Earl, the lozenge shield indicates a female armiger and the arms quarter Ogilvie and Grant.

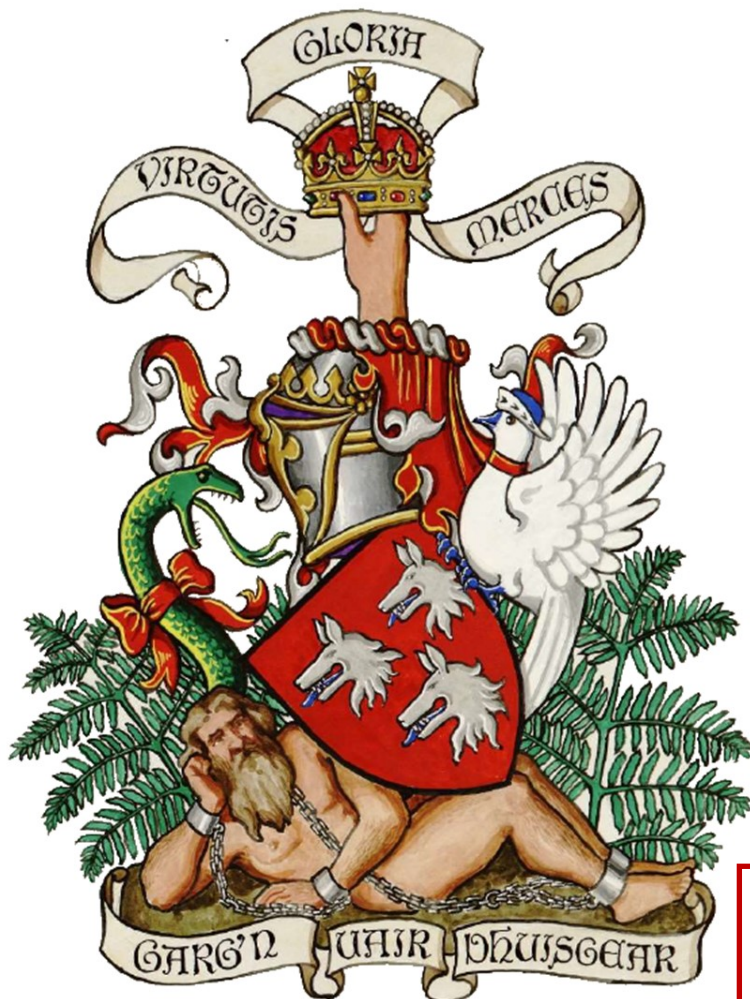
The supporters are an unmatched pair of a lion rampant and a “savage”.



Robertson of Struan Matriculated July 1954 when Nora Mary Gordon was Herald Painter.

"On a compartment embellished with bracken, being his proper badge-plant of the Clan Robertson, along with a monstrous man chained proper uniformly regarded as an honourable additament granted in commemoration of his ancestor having captured the murderer of King James I, are set for supporters dexter a serpent Vert gorged with a ribband bow-tied Gules, sinister a dove Proper beaked and membered Azure collared Gules on its head a chapeau Azure furred Ermine."

This is a splendid achievement and has not only a **tenant** in the form of the monstrous man but also two **supports** in the form of the serpent and the dove. This thus provides another good bridge between **tenants** (people) and **supports** - animals, birds and mythical beasts.



Final reminders:

In Scottish heraldry, we simply call all supporters “Supporters” and, despite the apparent profusion of the last three days, they remain RARE!