

The SHRIEVALTY ASSOCIATION

The Armorial Bearings



College of Arms,
London

The Badge



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The Shrievalty Association is to be granted armorial ensigns. The fees have been paid and the design of the arms approved by the granting Kings of Arms which means that they may now be used and enjoyed. The Association, although only twenty years old, has been accorded two privileges. It has been granted supporters to its arms a comparatively rare privilege, but rarer still, the Home Secretary has advised the Queen that it will be in order for her to issue her Royal Licence and Authority for the Association to incorporate the Royal Crown in its arms and badge. There are a number of Institutions which have been honoured by being allowed to use the style 'Royal' but very few indeed who have been licensed to use the Royal Crown.

The arms are based on the badge of the Association, that is the swords of Mercy (*curtana*, with the point cut off) and Justice, both of which are carried at the Coronation of a Sovereign, crossed in saltire but above them is now the Royal Crown and there is an ermine border to symbolise the judiciary. The crest is the well-known symbol of Justice. A blindfolded lady, holding the sword and scales of justice.

The supporters refer to England (the lion) and Wales (the dragon). Each supports a cross potent fitchy. The cross is taken from the attributed arms of King Edgar, in whose reign the Office of Sheriff is held by some to have been instituted. The 'crutched cross' itself symbolises the sword of justice and the noble aspirations of the early crusaders who helped the sick and poor and fought for Christ.

The badge is much as it has always been, but has now been given colours and been ensigned with the Royal Crown.

The official blazon of the arms is as follows:-

Arms: Azure two Swords in saltire Argent hilts pommels and quillons Or that in bend couped at the point in chief the Royal Crown proper all within a Bordure Ermine.

Crest: Upon a Helm with a Wreath Or and Azure a demi-female figure affronty proper vested Argent garnished Or her Eyes obscured

by a Blindfold Gules holding aloft in her dexter Hand a Sword Argent hilt pommel and quillons also Or and in her Sinister Hand a Pair of Scales Gold

Mantled: Azure doubled Or.

Supporters: On the dexter side a Lion rampant Or armed and langued Azure resting the exterior paw on a Cross Potent fitchy Or and on the sinister side a Dragon rampant Gules armed and langued Azure resting his exterior claw on a Cross Potent also fitchy Gold.

Badge: Two swords in saltire Argent hilts pommels and quillons Or that in bend couped at the point charged upon an Oval Azure environed by a Wreath composed of Oak Leaves Gold with in chief and in base a Tudor Rose Gules upon Argent barbed and seeded proper and in the flanks two Leeks in saltire also proper the whole ensigned by the Royal Crown proper.

The use of the arms is controlled by the Laws of Arms not by the Council of the Association. Basically, these ordain that the arms may be borne and used on a Common Seal, official stationery, publications, such as *The Shrievalty News*, certificates and the like. They may also be displayed on souvenirs such as plates, medallions glasses and so forth. They may not be used by High Sheriffs who have no personal arms, as they appertain to the Association and not the Office of High Sheriff.

The Council may allow the badge to be used more freely and doubtless, in due course, the new badge will be used in much the same way as the present badge.

I shall be very happy to answer any queries regarding the use of the arms or badge. Please address these to me at the College of Arms, Queen Victoria Street, London, EC4V 4BT.

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