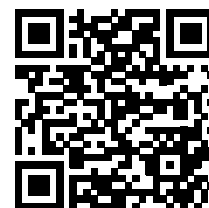


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Heraldic Visitations in England



In the _____, heraldry was more than just a way to identify knights on the battlefield. It became a complex system of _____ representing family heritage and social status. The _____, experts in heraldry, played a key role in this system. One of their main duties was to conduct _____. These were official inspections to ensure that the use of coats of arms was legitimate. Visitations were conducted periodically, mostly starting in the _____. During a visitation, a herald would travel to a region and examine the _____ used by the nobility and gentry. They checked records and sometimes held _____ to resolve disputes over armory.

The visitations helped in creating detailed _____ of arms, which were essential for maintaining order in the heraldic system. Through these records, we can now trace many family lineages back to medieval times. The heralds also ensured that the designs were unique and followed the rules of _____ art. This was important because arms were not only a matter of pride but also had legal implications. Inaccurate or unauthorized use of arms could lead to serious consequences.

These visitations declined in the _____, as heraldry became less connected to its martial origins. However, the impact of these visitations is still felt today. Many _____ in England can trace their heritage through the coats of arms recorded during these times. The visitations contributed significantly to the study of _____ and the understanding of medieval society. They show us how heraldry was intertwined with the social and legal fabric of the time.

genealogy 17th century arms families visitations 15th century heralds
symbols heraldic courts registries Middle Ages