

Heraldry for Self-Isolators—Week 2

Day 4—Canting Arms



The Queen's grandfather, the 14th Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne, was granted the little shield in the middle as an HONORABLE AUGMENTATION (or special decoration) by his son-in-law, King George VI in 1938. If you look at the arms themselves you will see LIONS and BOWS which are a pun on the Strathmore's family name:

BOWES-LYON.



This kind of visual pun in a coat of arms is called CANTING ARMS—the arms “singing out” the name of the owner. The French call them “talking arms” - *armes parlantes* - but the idea is the same.

Rotten joke alert: “Why do heralds not pun? They just cant.”

Another famous example comes from Spain: here are the arms of the region of Castile and León:



Sometimes the “joke” has been lost over the years through words falling into disuse or just changing in pronunciation. Would you have guessed that these arms were canting? Another name for the cinquefoil is “FRAISE”, like the French for strawberry.

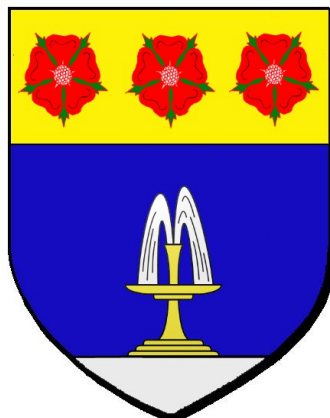
So these arms belong to a **FRASER**.



Canting Arms are close relatives of the REBUS like this one, the property of the 16th cent. Abbot Islip of Westminster.



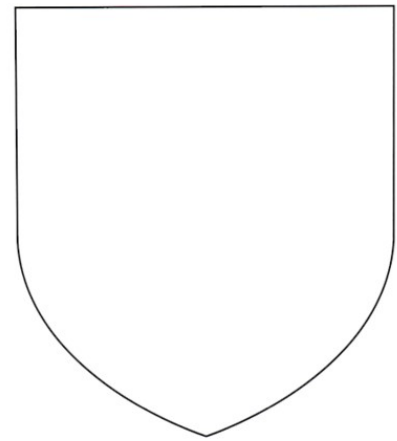
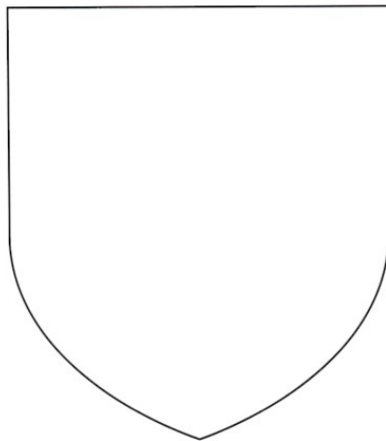
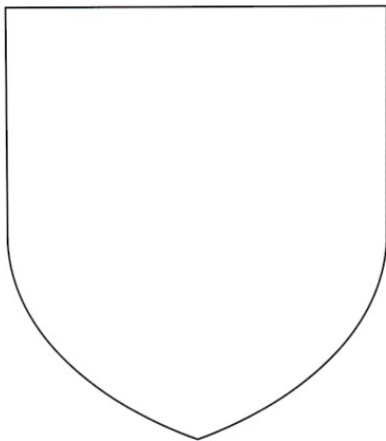
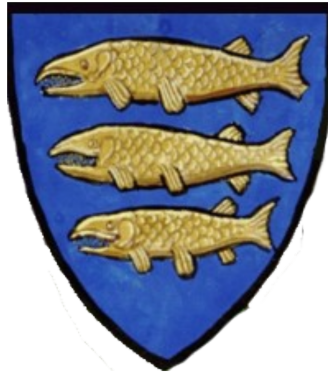
Berwick's arms show a bear and a wych-elm—hence Ber-wick



The French town of Fontenay-aux-Roses.

CANTING ARMS

Have a go at guessing the family names of the owners of these arms



Now have a go at designing canting arms in the shields above for people called:

MILLER

GREENSHIELDS

HORNE

There are no right or wrong answers!

CANTING ARMS



BELL



GED

A Ged is a pike



ARMSTRONG



TURNBULL



GALLIE



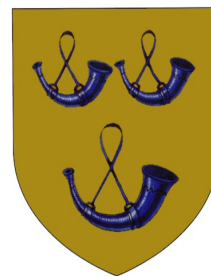
MILLER

Might use a mill wheel



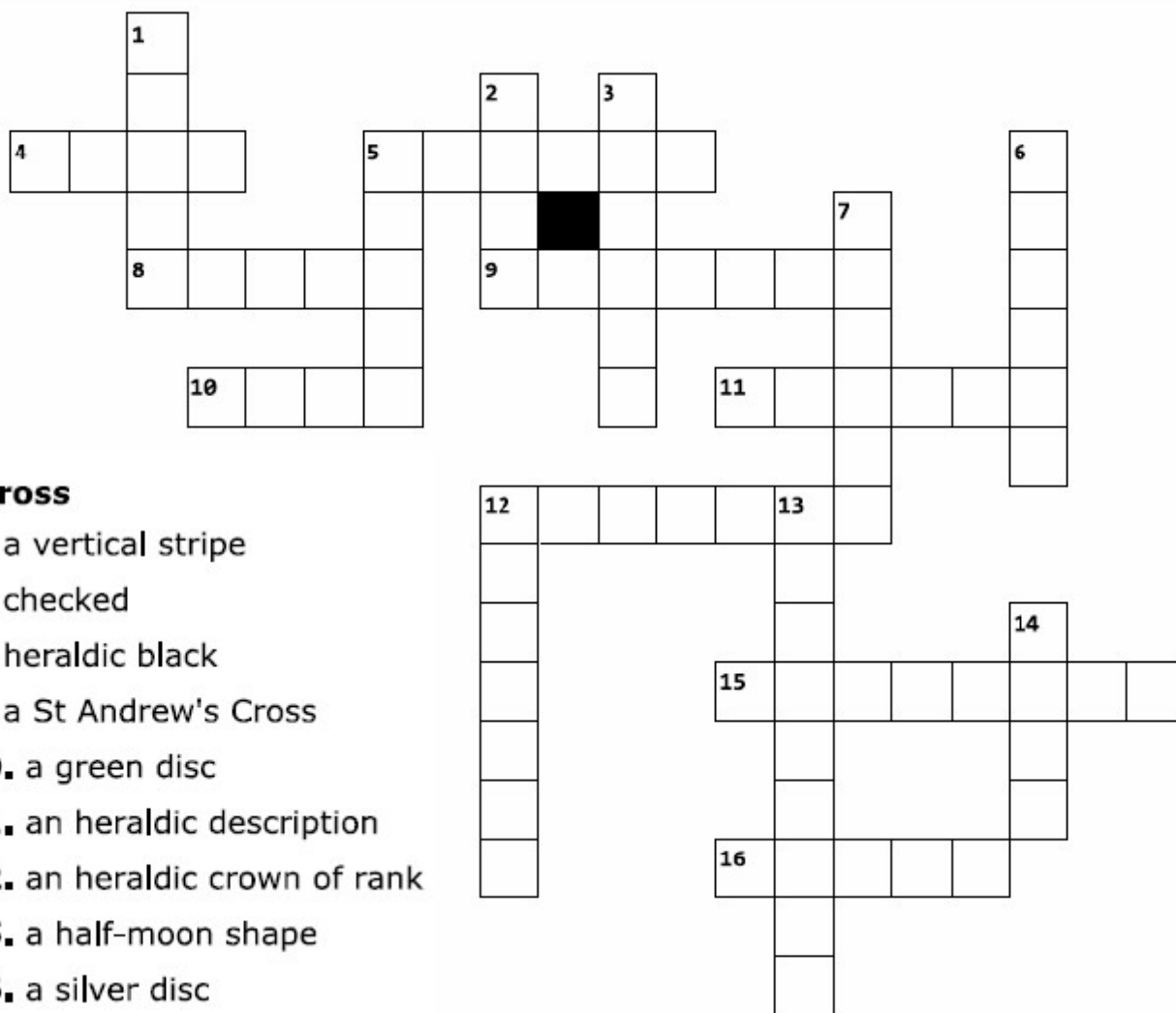
GREENSHIELDS

An actual Canadian grant



HORNE

Horne of Stirkoke



Across

- 4. a vertical stripe
- 5. checked
- 8. heraldic black
- 9. a St Andrew's Cross
- 10. a green disc
- 11. an heraldic description
- 12. an heraldic crown of rank
- 15. a half-moon shape
- 16. a silver disc

Down

- 1. heraldic red
- 2. a horizontal stripe
- 3. an heraldic star
- 5. a 3D object at the top of a coat of arms
- 6. an heraldic fur
- 7. a gold disc
- 12. arms which pun on the name
- 13. semi-circular bites out of the line
- 14. a diagonal stripe

Some heraldic anagrams:

- Mac Rantings
- Fenced firing
- Earl ripest
- Castor foam
- Cuts nitre
- Conked routes
- Avenged runaway tzar
- Presto spur

Can you work them out in three minutes?



Here are three heraldic horrors for you to colour in.

Top left: a WYVERN or two-legged dragon.

Top right is a COCKATRICE or wyvern with a cockerel's head

Left: A GRIFFIN—the result of a marriage between a lion and and eagle.

Solutions to Yesterday's Puzzles

