

Audaces

juvat

fortuna

BOWEN of Clwyngwair. 1591.

THE BOWEN COAT OF ARMS

ARMS: Quarterly; 1st and 4th, az., a lion rampant or between eight bezants;

2nd gu. a chevron or between two knots in chief, and 3rd a lion rampant or in base.

CREST ON ARMS: A lion rampant or, holding in the paws a knot as in the arms.

MOTTO: "AUDACES FORTUNA JUVAT" meaning "FORTUNE FAVOURS THE BRAVE".

"By the use of a certain coat of arms, you assert your descent from the person to whom those arms were granted, confirmed or allowed".

In the earliest times heraldry had three chief uses; the martial, the symbolic and the decorative.

We have seen how a knight went into battle in his coat of arms, bearing his shield upon which his arms were depicted; his helmet might bear a crest. The trappings of his charger were often decorated with the rider's armorial bearings. His Lady would bear them embroidered on some part of her dress. With the decline of chivalry and the Feudal System, the martial use of family arms also declined. We do not lead our own retainers into battle now, nor do they bear our arms upon any portion of their equipment; each regiment has its own badges and colours. As the martial use of personal armorial bearings declined, the other two uses became increasingly important. The symbolic use was from the first closely bound up with the martial. Arms were symbolic of leadership, of land-owning, of rank and nobility. A man who possessed arms was one of the ruling class. He was "nobilis" and known. A man who possessed no arms was "ignobilis" or not known, and unworthy of notice.

Very early in the history of armory we find armorial bearings being used upon seals. An heraldic seal was more than a mere signature. The seal itself was highly artistic, and it implied far more than a signature can. It showed that the owner was a man of rank, and proclaimed his identity far better than any other device. The use of armorial seals on documents also began to decline as ability to read and write developed, until now it is only upon comparatively rare occasions that an ordinary person affixes his seal to anything official.

The decorative use of heraldic ensigns has always been wide and extensive. Our forbears realized far better than many of us do today the great value and wide applications of armorial bearings from the artistic standpoint. Armory is without doubt, one of the most beautiful handmaids of art. How much more enchanting our surroundings might be today in this often dismal world, if the

THE BOWEN COAT OF ARMS (cont)

artistic value of heraldry were better realized.

Our BOWEN Coat of Arms is indeed beautiful to behold. At the top you see the lion rampant, holding a knot. KNOTS are a distinct class of devices born as badges. They were originally intended to convey the idea of a monogram. Our knot is called the "BOWEN KNOT." THE BOWEN'S KNOT is a name which is given to a knot known as the "Tristram" or "True-Lover's" knot.

Pugin says; "The lion rampant is the emblem of magnanimity".

The main part of the coat of arms takes the lion and the bezants from the shield and uses them as the 1st and 4th quarters. The 2nd and 3rd quarters are separated by a chevron; with two Bowen Knots in the 2nd quarter and a lion rampant in the 3rd one.

The motto is on the scroll just below, "AUDACES FORTUNA JUVAT" meaning "FORTUNE FAVOURS THE BRAVE".

The bottom scroll tells that the coat of arms belongs to the Bowens of Llwyngwair in the year of 1591.

A person or family rightfully displaying their family coat of arms, announces to the world two things: (1) They have identified their family clan. It brings to remembrance noteworthy family struggles, successes and failures: the family's past, present and future. Your coat of arms represents an appraisal of how well you bear your name. (2) The bearings of arms helps to bring into view your family status, your gentile attainments and family loyalties.

Colouring on the arms;	az (azure) blue, depicted by horizontal lines.	or gold or yellow, depicted by small dots /silver
	gu (gules) red, depicted by perpendicular lines.	tincture; coloring including two metals, gold and /

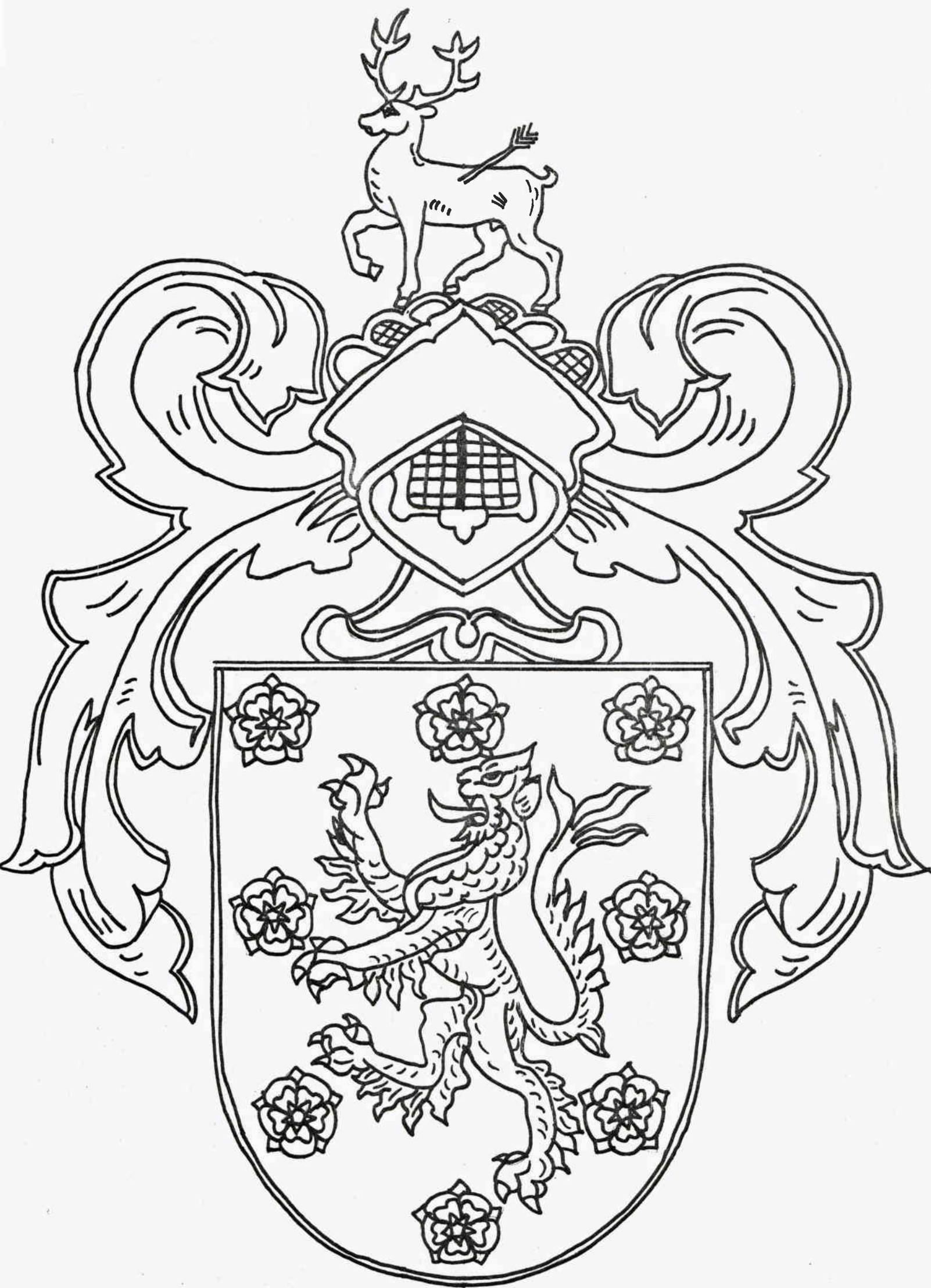
General Armory 942.9 D2n

Bowen Memorial

Glossary of terms used in Heraldry 929.6 Pa

Armorial Bearing 942 D24

Belnap Gen



Bowen

THE BOWEN SHIELD

All through history, men in combat have adopted and used various types of shields to protect them from injury and death. Various civilization adopted different shaped shields. The early Greek favored a round shield, the Romans the oblong and the Crusaders used a tapered shield. The shield was shortened in length as the centuries wore on, gradually evolving to the modern shapes seen today. As the art of Heraldry developed, the shield was used as a foundation of the coat of arms. In many instances noted families chose the shape of shield which most appealed to them.

When more and more warriors began using the shields, and the ordinaries and sub-ordinaries were not sufficient to give variety to every man a distinct coat of arms, numerous "charges" were introduced, and these comprised almost every common object, and many imaginary and fabulous devices, from "the highest things celestial, to the lowest things terrestrial; animals of every description, birds, fishes, serpents, were charged upon the shields of the mediaeval warriors, and each took that creature best fitted to his estate, or whose nature and quality did in some measure quadrate with his own, or whereunto himself was in some respect in quality like, or wished to be resembled unto."

All beasts, birds, and other creatures placed upon the shield are called "charges"

The lion ranks first among the animals employed in heraldry, and he is supposed to symbolize "nobleness of nature, courage and generosity." The lion is born on most Royal shields. The sovereigns of England have borne lions as far back as we have authentic record of their armorial bearings. The Royal shield of Scotland bears the well-known tressured lion, as does the royal shield of Wales. The BOWEN line extends back into Welsh Royalty and the GRIFFITH line goes back into English Royalty.

The lion is said to represent command and monarchical dominion. He is born in various attitudes, each having a particular signification, and of various colours not natural to him. The variations of colour have been evidently made for distinction and the gold lion of England and Wales and the red lion of Scotland were equally honourable.

The "charge" chosen for the BOWEN shield was "The Lion Rampant" He stands erect on his two hind legs, with one of his forelegs elevated; his tail is also represented elevated. The early heralds considered that the natural and proper attitude for the lion, was rampant and preparing to make a spring towards his prey. The lion on the shield is a symbol of strength and courage.

THE BOWEN SHIELD (cont)

The "BEZANTS" on the shield first represented money, denoting the fact that at that time the owners of the shield were wealthy or had much land. These bezants were made of round pieces of metal. Later they were changed from the round bezants to what is now called the "ROSE OF LANCASTER" so called in honour of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster. The use of the Rose as a political emblem may be traced to the wars between the rival Houses of York and Lancaster, the former of which used the device of a white rose, while the red one was the badge of the other, and those came to be blazoned occasionally as the "Rose of York and Lancaster" respectively. They were said to have been first assumed by John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster and his brother Edmund, Duke of York. (JOHN OF GAUNT being one of our direct ancestors).

In relation to the "HELMET" and the shield, the helmet should overlap the shield, thus assuming the position when worn by man on horseback. In England and Wales the Royal Helmet is featured frontal with visor closed.

The "MANTELING" on the helmet was worn by the medieval warrior to protect his helmet and other parts of his metallic armor from the sun. It's outer surface produces the dominant color of the arms. It's inner surface, the subservient color. Mantelings are generally shown as long and stringy; It is generally thought that heraldic artists wished to depict a lambrequin torn and cut in many battles.

On top of the helmet, the torse (or wreath) (as described in the crest paper) is used to secure the crest.

Burkes Landed Gentry Vol 2 942 D2bug

Belknap Gen

Heraldry, Ancient and Modern 942 D2hav

Bowen Memorial



QUI + MALE + COGITAT + MALE + SIBI

Bowen

THE BOWEN CREST

BOWENS OF LLYNGWAIR, PEMBROKE, WALES

BOWENS OF KITTLE HILL AND SWANSEA, GLAMORGAN, WALES

---Az a stag ar with an arrow stuck in back and attired or.---

---A stag statant, vulned in the back with an arrow. ppr ---

---Stag statant with torse below.---

Motto; "Qui male cogitat male sibi"

A crest is a figure or device, originally of even greater honour than coats of arms, worn by heros and by soldiers of superior military command. The crest was worn upon the helm or helmet, that the bearer might be distinguished in an engagement, and that notice might be taken of his valorous actions. It is evident, that with the armour that was worn in the middle ages, it was necessary for warriors to have some distinguishing mark, whereby their friends and enemies might know them. The crest was generally made of wood or stiffend leather. When the crest was not in use, it was placed on a torse.

The TORSE, sometimes called "The Wreath" represents the fastening devise which secured the crest to the top of the helmet. Two pieces of cloth, each with it's separate tincture twisted together so as to show six alternating metal and color sections. These two tinctures were often used in the great houses. " A torse (or wreath) of colors."

Our own Richard Bowen, born about 1580, of Swansea, Glamorgan, Wales, and came to America in 1638, where he settled in Swansea, Bristol, Mass, raised his family and finally died in Rehoboth, Bristol, Mass, On 4 Feb 1674/5, had carved on his tombstone at Rehoboth, a stag pierced with an arrow, with the motto; " Qui male cogitat male sibi" Richard must have been extremely proud of his heritage and the BOWEN CREST, just as our generation should be today.

MOTTOES did not always express one's noblest aspirations, but the battle cry of the individual warrior.

Crozair's General Armory 929.8 C8873

Fairbank's Crests 1963 942 D24f

Family Crests 942 D24fb

Heraldry, Ancient and Modern 942 D24av

Bowen Memorial

Belknap Org.