

# The College of Arms – vodeći svjetski heraldički autoritet

# The College of Arms – the leading heraldic authority

## Uvod

Za vrijeme svog znanstvenog usavršavanja na Institute for Medieval Studies u Leedsu, kao i u Institute for Historical Research u Londonu, autor ovoga teksta imao je priliku osobno posjetiti College of Arms, vodeći svjetski heraldički autoritet duge povijesti u njegovom sjedištu u Londonu. Ljubaznošću dr. sc. **Clivea Cheesmana**, *Rouge Dragon Pursuivant*, imao se prilike pobliže upoznati s djelovanjem, poviješću i bogatom knjižnicom ove ustanove. Stoga bi autor u nekoliko riječi želio i hrvatskoj javnosti, ponajprije čitateljima „Grba i zastave“, predstaviti ovu značajnu heraldičku instituciju.

Kao što je vrlo dobro poznato heraldi se po prvi puta pojavljuju u zapadnoj Europu u vrijeme križarskih ratova i od kraja 12 stoljeća njihova je uloga sve više povezana uz vladarske dinastije i značajnije plemićke obitelji, magnate. U početku su djelovali kao glasnici i diplomati, ali i kao pripadnici vojske gdje je njihova uloga iz početka bila prepoznavanje vojnih zapovjednika pomoću simbola koji su nosili na zastavama, štitovima ili plaštevima. Naime, u to je doba bilo nemoguće prepoznati osobu prema njegovu licu jer su onodobni vitezovi nosili kacige koje su im prekrivale cijelo lice. S vremenom su heraldi na organiziranim viteškim turnirima postali stručnjaci za grbove, ali i za ceremonijalna pitanja, što je vremenom dovelo i do velikih kraljevskih ceremonija.

Razvoj upotrebe i potreba za razlikovanje pojedinih obiteljskih ili grbova pojedinaca dovelo je do nastanka kompliciranog heraldičkog sustava, koji je zahtijevao od engleskih kraljevskih heralda (*Heralds of the English royal household*) vođenje detaljnih i kompliciranih popisa grbova i genealogije engleskih plemićkih obitelji. Nastojeći spojiti mnoštvo zapisa koje su stvarali mnogobrojni kraljevski heraldi engleski kralj **Richard III.** (1452.-1485.) podijelio je 1484. godine ispravi engleskim kraljevskim heraldima, kojom je jasno naznačeno djelovanje novonastale kraljevske institucije, *The College of Arms*, kao jedinog heraldičkog autoriteta za Englesko kraljevstvo smještenog u Londonu. Novom kraljevskom ispravom od 1555. godine, engleska je kraljica **Marija** (1516.-1558.) i njezin suprug **Filip Španjolski** (1527.-1598.) potvrdili su povlastice *College of Armsu* i darovali mu novu zgradu u Londonu na mjestu gdje se i danas nalazi.

Danas su heraldi *College of Armsa* pod direktnom upravom kneza Norfolka (*Duke of Norfolk*), koji je nasljedni *Earl Marshal*, a imenuje ga engleska kraljica pismenim patentom koji je potvrđen veliki pečatom Ujedinjenog Kraljevstva.

Kao što su bili tijekom proteklih stoljeća, i danas su heraldi odgovorni za velike državne ceremonije, kao što je krunidba novog vladara, otvorenje novog saziva Britanskog parlamenta ili državnički pogrebi. Kraljevski su heraldi također odgovorni za organizaciju godišnje procesije viteškog **Reda podvezice** (*The Order of the Garter*), kao i za uvođenje novih plemića u gornji dom Britanskog parlamenta, Kuću lordova (*House of Lords*). U takvim prigodama članovi *College of Armsa* nose svoje tradicionalne grimizne odore ukrašene kraljevskim znakovljem.

Osim ovih ceremonijalnih dužnosti članovi *College of Armsa* imaju vrlo konkretne heraldičke zadatke. Tako oni ispituju prava pojedinaca na korištenje obiteljskih grbova, ali i dodjeljuju nove grbove uglednim i zaslužnim građanima Ujedinjenog Kraljevstva. Na zahtjev svojih stanaka istražuju



## Introduction

*During his internship at the Institute for Medieval Studies in Leeds and in the Institute for Historical Research in London, the author of this paper had chance to visit personally the College of Arms, the leading world heraldic authority of long history, in its seat in London. Courtesy of Dr. Clive Cheesman, Rouge Dragon Pursuivant, he had chance to find out a bit more on the activities, the history and the rich library of this institution. Therefore, the author would like in a few words to present this important heraldic institution to the Croatian public, and first of all to the "Grb i zastava" readers.*

*As it is well known, the heralds appear in the Western Europe in the period following the Crusades and since the end of 12th century their role is ever more linked with the ruling dynasties and important noble families, the magnates. In the beginning they acted as messengers and diplomats, but also as members of the army, where their role was since the very beginning the recognition of military commanders using the symbols of the bore on the flags, shield and robes. Namely, in the period it was impossible to recognize a person according to his face, since the period knights wore helmets covering it all. In time, the heralds became experts for these symbols in the organized tournaments, but also responsible for the issue of ceremony, eventually leading to large royal ceremonies as well.*

*The development of the use and the need for differentiation of family or individual coats of arms lead to a complicated heraldic system, requiring from the Heralds of the English royal household maintenance of detailed and complex lists of arms and genealogies of English noble families. In effort to combine many records produced by numerous royal heralds, the English King Richard III (1452-1485) issued a document to them in 1484, establishing and prescribing working modes of the new royal institution, the College of Arms situated in London, as the solely heraldic authority for the English Kingdom. With a subsequent royal document of 1555 the Queen Mary (1516-1558) and her husband Philip of Spain (1527-1598) confirmed the privileges of the College of Arms and granted it a new building in London, in the same place it is situated today.*

*The heralds of the College of Arms are today under direct government of the Duke of Norfolk, who is hereditary Earl Marshal, named by the English Queen with a written patent sealed with the great seal of the United Kingdom.*

*As in the previous centuries, the heralds are also today responsible for the large state ceremonies, such as the coronation of the sovereign, opening of the new assembly of the British parliament or the state funerals. The royal heralds are also responsible for the annual procession of the knightly Order of the Garter and for the installation of the new noblemen in the upper house of the British Parliament, the House of Lords. In such occasions*





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obiteljsku povijest i genealogiju s ciljem utvrđivanja prava nošenja i korištenja grba. Jedan od njihovih glavnih zadataka je utvrđivanje autentičnosti i jedinstvenosti pojedinog grba u svrhu nemogućnosti plagiranja i dubliranja pojedinog grba. Iako je *College of Arms* dio domaćinstva britanske kraljevske dinastije (*Royal Household*), ipak njegovo djelovanje nije financirano iz državnog proračuna, stoga njegovi članovi naplaćuju određenu pristojbu koja i nije tako neznatna.

### Ustrojstvo The College of Armsa

Još od svoga osnutka u drugoj polovini 15. stoljeća članovi *College of Armsa* ustrojeni su po strogoj hijerarhiji. Najviša titula je „kralj heralda“ (*King of Herald, King of Arms*), a rang ispod njih su „heraldi“ (*Heralds*). Najniži u hijerarhijskom poretku su „mlađi heraldi“ zvani *Pursuivants*. Ukupno postoji svega trinaest kraljevskih heralda od toga tri „kralja heralda“, šest „heralda“ i četiri „mlađa heralda“. Njihov je broj ustanovljen, te se nije mijenjao, od druge kraljevske potvrde iz 1555. godine. Titule nisu nasljedne, te pojedini heraldi uspinjući se u hijerarhiji preuzimaju titule svojih prethodnika.

Glavar reda i prvi od trojice engleskih „kralja heralda“ je *Garter King of Arms*. Ime je dobio prema Redu podvezice (*Order of Garter*), a tu je službu ustanovio engleski kralj **Henrik V.** (1388.-1422.) godine 1415 prije nego li je isplivao u rat koji se u to doba vodio u Francuskoj.

Hijerarhijski ispod njega nalazi se *Clarenceux's King of Arms* koji je jedan od dvojice „provincijalnih kraljeva“ (*provincial kings*), ali je po rangu viši. Još od šesnaestog stoljeća njegova se nadležnost prostire južno od rijeke Trent. Služba *Clarenceux's King of Arms* se po prvi puta spominje 1420. godine, a službeni grb koji i danas koristi, je s početka 16. stoljeća.

Treći po redu od „kraljeva heralda“ je *Norroy & Ulster King of Arms*. Nakon smrti sir **Nevillea Wilkonsona** 1940. godine služba *Ulster King of Armsa* je objedinjena sa *Norroy King of Arms*. U njegovu nadležnost spada šest provincija u današnjoj Sjevernoj Irskoj, ali i one u Engleskoj sjeverno od rijeke Trent.

U slijedu hijerarhije *College of Armsa* dalje dolazi šest „heralda“. Najstariji herald bio je *Chester Herald*, čiju je službu utemeljio kralj **Edward III.** (1327-1377), no od vremena kralja **Henrika VIII.** (1509.-1547.), ta je služba ukinuta. Obnovio ju je kralj **Edward VIII.** (1936.-1972.) nakon što je 1911. godine imenovan Princom od Walesa. Od tada je *Chester Herald* u pratnji prinčeva od Walesa. Herald i službeno ne koriste grbove, što je privilegija „kraljeva heralda“, nego koriste bedževe.

Drugi po redu je *Lancaster Herald* koji je oduvijek bio u pratnji knezova Lancastera (*Dukes of Lancaster*). Zanimljivo je da je poznata točna godina i okolnosti nastanka ove službe. Naime, njegova se služba prvi puta spominje 1347. godine kada je *Lancaster Herald* objavio opsadu francuskog grada Calaisa u Stogodišnjem ratu. U vrijeme vladavine engleskih kraljeva **Henrika IV.** (1399.-1413.), **Henrika V.** (1413.-1422.) i **Henrika VI.** (1422.-1461.) *Lancaster Herald* je bio „kralj heralda“ pod čijom su jurisdikcijom bile sjeverne engleske pokrajine.

*Richmond Herald* se pojavljuje između 1421. i 1485. godine, a kralj **Henrik VII.** (1485.-1509.) uvrstio ga je u *College of Arms*.

*Somerset Herald* je dugo bila privatna služba koja se prvi puta spominje 1448. godine. U 16. stoljeću jedno je vrijeme opet po privatna služba kneza Richmonda i Somerseta (*Duke of Richmond and Somerset*).

Službu *Windsor Herald* utemeljio je kralj **Edward III.** (1327.-1377.), te je ona od 1419. godine kontinuirano bila unutar *College of Armsa*.

Posljednji među heraldima je *York Herald* koji je u početku bio službenik grofa **Edmunda od Langleya**, kneza Yorka, koji se prvi puta spominje 1385. godine. Od doba kralja Richarda III. (1483.-1485.) u službi je *College of Armsa*.

Na hijerarhijski najnižem stupnju nalazi se četvero „mlađih heralda“. Službu *Bluemantle Pursuivanta* utemeljio je kralj **Henrik V.** (1413.-1422.) kao ispomoć glavaru Reda



Garter KoA



Clarenceux's KoA



Norroy&Ulster KoA



Chester Herald



Lancaster Herald



Richmond Herald



Somerset Herald



Windsor Herald



York Herald

the members of the Colledge of Arms wear their traditional crimson uniforms ornamented with royal symbols.

Beside those ceremonial duties, the members of the *College of Arms* have particular heraldic tasks. Thus, they investigate person's right to bear family arms, but also they grant the new arms to reputable and meritorious citizens of the United Kingdom. On their customer's request they investigate family histories and genealogy to determine the right of bearing and using a coat of arms. One of their primary tasks is determining authenticity and uniqueness of particular arms to prevent plagiarism and duplication. Although the *College of Arms* is part of the *Royal Household*, its activities are not financed from the state budget, so their members charge certain fees for their services that may not be insignificant.

### Organization of the College of Arms

Since the establishment in the second half of 15th century, the members of the *College of Arms* are organized in a strict hierarchy. The highest offices are named the *Kings of Herald* or the *Kings of Arms*. Under them are the *Heralds* and the lowest in the rank are the subordinated heralds titled *Pursuivants*. There are total of 13 royal heralds: 3 *Kings of Arms*, 6 *Heralds* and 4 *Pursuivants*. The number is established and has not been changed since the second royal charter of 1555. The titles are not hereditary and individual heralds are raising in the hierarchy taking the titles from their predecessors.

The head of the order and the first among the three English *Kings of Arms* is the *Garter King of Arms*. The title is named after the *Order of garter*, and the office is established by King **Henry V** (1388-1422) in 1415 before he sailed into the war he lead at the time in France.

Second in line is the *Clarenceux's King of Arms*, one of the two provincial kings, but is ranked higher than the other one. Already since 16th century his domain is the region south of the *Trent River*. The office is first mentioned in 1420.

The third is the *Norroy & Ulster King of Arms*, responsible for the six provinces of Northern Ireland and England northern of Trent.

Then there are the *Heralds*. The highest among them is *Chester Herald*, the office established by King **Edward III** (1327-1377), but in the time of **Henry VII** the office was discontinued. It was re-established by King **Edward VIII** (1936-1972) when he was titled *Prince of Wales*. Since then *Chester Herald* is accompanying *Princes of Wales*. The heralds do not use coats of arms as symbols of their office, but the badges instead.

The second herald is the *Lancaster Herald*, once counted among the *Kings of Arms* and always accompanying the *Dukes of Lancaster*. It is interesting that the exact year and circumstances of establishment of the office are known. It is mentioned in 1347 when *Lancaster Herald* announced the siege of French city of Calais in the *Hundred Years War*. In the period of kings **Henrik IV** (1399-1413), **Henrik V** (1413-1422) and **Henrik VI** (1422-1461) *Lancaster Herald* was a *King of Arms* with the jurisdiction for the northern English counties.

*Richmond Herald* appears between 1421 and 1485. King **Henrik VII** (1485-1509) installed him into the *College of Arms*.

*Somerset Herald* was for a long time a private office first mentioned in 1448. In 16th century it was again a private office of the *Dukes of Richmond and Somerset*.

The office of the *Windsor Herald* was established by King **Edward III** (1327-1377) and it was since 1419 continually part of the *College of Arms*.

The last among the heralds is the *York Herald*, initially an officer of Count **Edmund of Langley**, Duke of York, first mentioned in 1385. It was added to the *College of*





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podvezice. Prema jednom tumačenju ime ovoga „mlađeg heralda“ (*Bluemantle* = plavi ogrtač) proizlazi iz njegove ceremonijalne dužnosti nošenja ogrtača glavara Reda Podvezice koji je bio plave boje.

Službu *Portcullis Pursuivant* uveo je kralj **Henrik VII.** (1485.-1509.) vrlo vjerojatno ubrzo nakon što je preuzeo englesko prijestolje.

*Rouge Croix Pursuivant* dobio je svoje ime prema crvenom križu Svetoga Jurja sa bedža Reda Podvezice. Čini se da je on najstariji od četiri „mlađa heralda“ iako je prvo spominjanje ove službe bilo 1418. godine u doba vladavine kralja **Henrika V.** (1413.-1422.).

Zadnji po redu je *Rouge Dragon Pursuivant* za čiju službu znamo točan dan kada je utemeljena. Zbilo se to na dan krunidbe novog engleskog kralja **Henrika VII.** (1485.-1509.), 29. listopada 1485. kao uspomena na dotadašnji kraljevski bedž, „crveni zmaj od Cadwalladera“.

### Tko danas i kako može dobiti potvrdu svoga grba

Danas je *College of Arms* vodeća heraldička institucija i jedan od autoriteta koji može podjeljivati grbove ili potvrđivati već postojeće grbove privatnim i pravnim osobama ne samo unutar Ujedinjenog Kraljevstva nego i iz svih zemalja Britanskog *Commonwealtha* koji priznaju britanskog vladara (trenutno kraljica **Elizabetu II.**) za svog suverena. Osoba može zatražiti podjeljivanje grbovnice s novim grbom ili potvrđivanje starog obiteljskog grba, što je u praksi vrlo komplicirano. Naime, nakon što ovlaštena osoba *College of Armsa*, najčešće jedan od „mlađih heralda“ uvidom u registre grbova koji sežu do sredine 15. stoljeća, ustanovi da grb za koji kandidat potražuje potvrđivanje, uistinu postoji, te da je u neko doba bio potvrđen određenoj osobi, kandidat mora dokazati mušku silaznu liniju svojih predaka od osobe kojoj je grb potvrđen u davnim vremenima. To je izrazito zahtjevno jer je potrebno provesti vrlo detaljna genealoška istraživanja s podacima o datumima rođenja i smrti svih osoba u toj muškoj silaznoj liniji. Ovo zahtjeva podosta vremena, a osobito ako kandidat potražuje potvrđivanje vrlo starog obiteljskog grba.

S druge strane, mnogo je jednostavnije zatražiti podjeljivanje novog grba i grbovnice. Zakonska regulativa oko toga tko može potražiti podjeljivanje grba, prema riječima dr. sc. **Clivea Cheesmana**, vrlo je štura i neodređena. Osnovni je uvjet da kandidat mora biti državljanin Ujedinjenog Kraljevstva ili zemlja Britanskog *Commonwealtha* (bivše britanske kolonije) koji priznaju britanskog kralja za svog suverena. Ovo isključuje one zemlje koje su članice *Commonwealtha*, ali im britanska kraljica nije suveren, kao što su Indija, Pakistan i većina afričkih zemalja. Prvenstveno se to odnosi na Australiju, Novi Zeland i neke druge poglavito pacifičke otočne zemlje. Ovdje je potrebno napomenuti da građani Škotske, iako dio Ujedinjenog Kraljevstva čiji je suveren britanska kraljica, ne mogu tražiti od *College of Armsa* potvrđivanje starijih ili podjeljivanje novih grbova. Naime, tu funkciju za Kraljevinu Škotsku obavlja zaseban heraldički autoritet, *Court of the Lord Lyon*, smješten u Edinburghu. Kanada i Južna Afrika također imaju svoje odijeljene heraldičke urede. Drugi uvjet koji kandidat mora zadovoljiti jest pripadnost društvenom



Bluemantle Pursuivant



Portcullis Pursuivant



Rouge Croix Pursuivant



Rouge Dragon Pursuivant

*Arms in 1484 during King Richard III (1483-1485).*

The lower order in the *College of Arms* hierarchy is composed of the four *Pursuivants*. The office of *Bluemantle Pursuivant* was established by King **Henrik V** (1413-1422) as assistance to the head of the *Order of Garter*. The name of the office is said to come from his original duty to carry the cloak of the *Order of Garter* head, which was coloured blue.

The office of *Portcullis Pursuivant* was established by **Henrik VII** (1485-1509) soon after he took over the throne.

The *Rouge Croix Pursuivant* was named after the red cross of *St. George* from the *Order of Garter* badge. It seems that it is the oldest office among *Pursuivants*, mentioned already in 1418 during King **Henrik V** (1413-1422).

The last in the order is the *Rouge Dragon Pursuivant*, for which we know exact date of establishment. It was on the coronation of **Henrik VII** (1485-1509) on 29 November 1485, as memory to the previous royal badge, the red dragon of *Cadwallader*.

### Who and how can one get his coat of arms confirmed today

Today the *College of Arms* is the leading heraldic institution and one of the authorities that may grant new and confirm already existing arms to private and legal persons, not only within the *United Kingdom* but from all of the countries of the *Commonwealth* that recognize the *British king* (currently Queen **Elisabeth II**) for its sovereign. A person may request grant of armorial letter with a new coat of arms or confirmation of an old family arms, this being rather complicated in practice. Namely, after the official of the *College of Arms*, usually one of the *Pursuivants*, searching the registries reaching back to the mid-15th century, establishes that the coat of arms that is requested

for confirmation really exists and that it was granted to someone at some point, the candidate has to prove the male heritage line of his predecessors from that person who was granted the arms. That is rather complex, requiring detailed genealogic research with data on births and deaths of all his male descendants of that person. This is time consuming, especially if the required arms is rather old.

On the other hand, the request for a new coat of arms is much simpler. The basic condition is that the candidate is citizen of the *United Kingdom* or the countries of *Commonwealth* (former *British colonies*) recognizing the *British king* for its sovereign. This excludes those countries of *Commonwealth* for which the *British Queen* is not sovereign, such as *India*, *Pakistan* and most of the *Africa*. Therefore this includes mostly *Australia*, *New Zealand*, and some other mostly *Pacific* countries. However, the citizens of *Scotland*, even if it is part of the *United Kingdom*, can not request arms from the *College of Arms*, since *Scotland* has its own heraldic authority, the *Court of Lord Lyon*, with the seat in *Edinburgh*. *Canada* and *South Africa* have their own heraldic offices as well. The second condition that the candidate has to qualify is adherence to the social class of gentry (the class appears in the second half of 14th century, being the lower nobility), i.e. that the candidate is a true gentleman. As pointed out by Dr. **Cheesman**, the *British legislation* do not know of



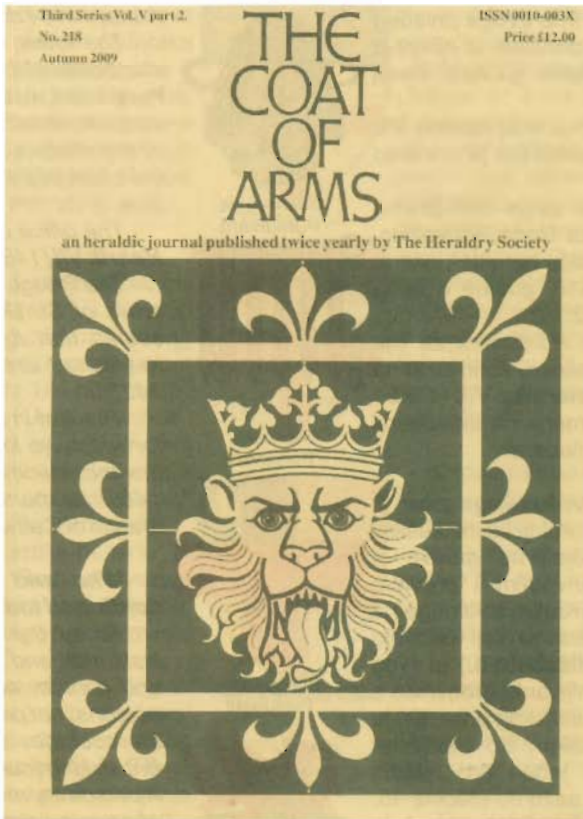


sloju *gentry* (društvena skupina koja se javlja u drugoj polovici 14. stoljeća, riječ je o pripadnicima nižem plemstvu), tj. da je kandidat istinski gentleman. Kako, prema riječima dr. sc. **Cheesmana**, britanski zakoni ne poznaju zakonsku odredbu o gentlemanu, kandidat jednostavno mora biti ugledan i kazнено neosuđivan građanin Ujedinjenog Kraljevstva. Osoba može biti znanstvenik, ugledni javni službenik, doktor ili bilo koja osoba s fakultetskim obrazovanjem. Ovdje je ipak potrebno naglasiti da dobivanjem grbovnice i obiteljskog grba, kandidat ne stiče nikakav plemićki status. To je pak u nadležnosti jedne druge kraljevske ustanove.

Kako teče procedura za dobivanjem obiteljskog grba i grbovnice? Nakon što je kandidat dokazao da je britanski građanin i gentleman, kandidat mora poslati pismeni zahtjev za podjeljivanjem novog grba i grbovnice, koji razmatra jedan od trojice „kraljeva heralda“, ovisno o mjestu prebivališta kandidata. Nakon što je jedan od „kraljeva heralda“ prihvatio kandidatovu molbu ocijenivši je prihvatljivom, kandidat se upućuje na jednog od četvorice „mlađih heralda“. Naravno da kandidat može predložiti elemente koje želi u svom novom obiteljskom grbu, ako se oni ne kose sa osnovnim heraldičkim pravilima. Nakon što se izradi skica novoga grba, zapravo započinje pravi posao. „Mlađi herald“ mora proučiti sve postojeće registre grbova koji se nalaze u *College of Arms* pokušavajući ustanoviti da li je prijedlog za novi grb originalan, tj. da nikada prije nitko nije koristio takav grb. Ovo je izuzetno zahtjevan posao jer registri grbova sežu od početka 15. stoljeća te ih ima izuzetno mnogo, što nije neobično ima li se u vidu bogata engleska heraldička tradicija.

Nakon što je ustanovljeno da je prijedlog za novi grb originalan i nikad korišten, jedan od „mlađih heralda“ izrađuje grbovnicu u kojoj je sadržan tekst s opisom grba kao i slika grba. Grbovnica je napisana na engleskom jeziku, kao što je i običaj gotovo od najstarijih sačuvanih registara grbova. Uobičajeno je da se slika grba nalazi u lijevom gornjem kutu dokumenta, a kandidat može tražiti i bedž s elementima svoga novoga grba. Slici grba pridaje se velika pažnja te se novi grb izrađuje prema svim pravilima heraldičke struke te se na njemu mogu nalaziti samo heraldički dopustivi elementi. Grbovnicu potpisuje jedan od „kraljeva heralda“, dok unos u novoga grba u registar grbova obavlja jedan od „mlađih heralda“. U registru grbova se nalazi cjeloviti tekst grbovnice i slika grbovnice. Naravno, bogato ukrašenu grbovnicu preuzima kandidat. Cijela procedura se naplaćuje, te za izradu i podjeljivanje grba i grbovnice kandidat mora platiti oko 4300 britanskih funti.

Zanimljivo je da grb mogu potražiti i pravne osobe (razne institucije ili gospodarska tijela, tvrtke), te se njima podjeljuje novi grb i taj se postupak



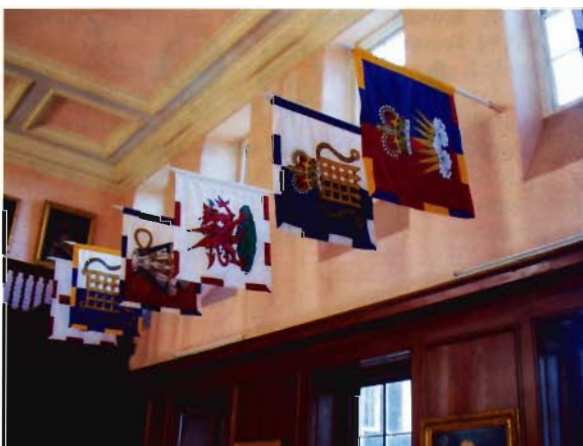
*category of gentleman, the candidate is therefore required simply to be a respectable and criminally unprosecuted citizen of the United Kingdom. The person may be a scholar, a respectable public official, a doctor or any other person with university degree. It should be pointed out that with the grant of arms the candidate does not receive any nobility status. That is in the jurisdiction of an other royal institution.*

*What is the procedure for granting a family arms and an armorial patent? After the candidate proves that he is a British citizen and a gentleman, he has to send a written request for a new grant of arms, that is considered by one of the three Kings of Arms, depending on the regional jurisdiction. After he approves the request, the candidate is directed to one of the four Pursuivants. Of course, the candidate may propose elements he wish to see in his new coat of arms, if they comply with the heraldic rules. After the draft of the new arms is made, the real work actually begins. The Pursuivant has to study all of the existing registers in the College of Arms, to establish is the proposal is original, i.e. that such arms was not used by anyone else before. That is a tedious work as these registers are abundant, not unusual considering the long English heraldic tradition.*

*After it is established that the draft is original and unused before, one of the Pursuivants prepares the armorial letter containing the blazon and the depiction of the new arms. The document is written in English, as it was done since almost the beginnings of the office. It is common that the depiction is in the top left corner, while the candidate may request also a badge with elements from the coat of arms. The depiction is made meticulously in accordance to heraldic rules, and may include only such elements as are heraldically acceptable. The document is signed by one of the Kings of Arms, while the new arms is inscribed in the registry by one of the Pursuivants. The registry contains the complete text of the armorial letter and the depiction. Of course, a richly decorated armorial letter is given to the candidate. The entire procedure is charged, and the production and grant of armorial letter costs about £4300.*

*The legal persons (various institutions and commercial bodies, companies) may also request an arms, and this procedure may cost up to £13750.*

*Finally, it should be reiterated that with the grant of arms, the candidate do not receive any noble status, while the coat of arms must*





## The College of Arms

naplaćuje oko 13750 britanskih funti.

Na kraju treba ponovo istaknuti da dobivanjem grba kandidat ne dobiva plemićki status, te da se grb mora dostojno koristiti poštujući sva heraldička pravila. *College of Arms* prema svojoj više od pet stotina godina dugoj tradiciji i ovlaštenjem od britanskog suverena, svojim autoritetom garantira jedinstvenost i heraldičku ispravnost svakoga grba.

### Nekoliko riječi o zgradi College of Armsa

Nakon nove potvrde o osnutku i pravima *College of Armsa* iz 1555. godine kraljevski su heraldi dobili novo zemljište na *Derby Placeu* u blizini katedrale Svetoga Pavla u Londonu, gdje se i danas nalazi. Nažalost, i palača *Derby Place* je izgorjela u velikom požaru koji je zahvatio London 1666. godine. Nakon prikupljanja donacija za novu zgradu, ona je izgrađena u vrlo kratkom roku već 1670. godine. Ovdje su uredi dobili kraljevski heraldi, kao i prostor za jedinstvenu knjižnicu koju ponajviše sačinjavaju registri grbova. Tu se nalazi i soba suda *Earla Marshal* (*Earl Marshal's Court*). Riječ je o glavnoj i najljepšoj sobi visokoj dva kata, sa galerijom za promatranje, u kojoj je stolovao *Earl Marshal* i donosio javne proglase o potvrđivanju novih grbova, ali i o oduzimanju do tada korištenih.

Neke manje dogradnje su na zgradi izvedene u drugoj polovici 19. stoljeća, i to prvenstveno na prozorima i krovu. Također je i dodana nova prostorija za čuvanje rastuće zbirke registara grbova. Nažalost tijekom njemačkog bombardiranja Londona 1940. godine i zgrada *College of Armsa* je doživjela znatna oštećenja. Unatoč drugačijim prijedlozima zgrada *College of Armsa* je detaljno obnovljena prema sačuvanim nacrtima i fotografijama, te se i danas nalazi na adresi *Queen Victoria Street*, London EC4, United Kingdom.

Zanimljivo je napomenuti da se u knjižnici *College of Armsa* ne čuva samo izuzetno bogata zbirka registra grbova (od oko 750 svezaka, u kojima se nalazi nekoliko tisuća grbova), nego i bogata genealoška zbirka s mnoštvom obiteljskih stabala ne samo plemstva, nego zapravo i u većem broju pripadnika staleža gentryja, tzv. gentlemana. Osim toga tu se čuva i bogata heraldička zbirka sa heraldičkim priručnicima i stručnom literaturom ne samo iz anglofonskog svijeta, nego iz gotovo čitavog svijeta gdje postoji heraldička baština. Nažalost, knjižnica sa svojim zbirkama nije otvorena za javnost. Institucija izdaje i specijalizirani heraldički časopis, *The Coat of Arms*, koji izlazi dvaput godišnje i donosi članke iz heraldičke povijesti i prakse, te današnje zakonske regulative.

### Umjesto zaključka

Na kraju je potrebno naglasiti da je *College of Arms* jedan od rijetkih heraldičkih autoriteta koji svoje korijene ima u heraldičkoj baštini srednjovjekovne Engleske, i koji neprekinuto djeluje od svoga utemeljenja 1484. godine. S vremenom se njegova uloga i jurisdikcija mijenjala, ali uvijek su heraldi *College of Armsa* bili usko vezani uz engleske vladarske dinastije pod čijim su pokroviteljstvom djelovali od svoga utemeljenja. Čuvajući heraldičku tradiciju britanskih zemalja heraldi čuvaju i vlastiti identitet izrazito dugog trajanja.



*be used decently following all the heraldic rules. the College of Arms following its over five centuries long tradition and mandate by the British sovereign, by its own authority guarantees uniqueness and heraldic correctness of each granted coat of arms.*

### On the College of Arms building

*After the new charter on establishment and rights of the College of Arms of 1555 the royal heralds were granted a new site at the Derby Place near the St. Paul Cathedral in London, where they are still today. Unfortunately, the Derby Place Palace was burnt down in the great London fire of 1666. It was rebuilt already in 1670. The offices for the royal heralds*

*were set there, as well as the unique library consisting mostly of the registries of arms. There is also the hall of the Earl Marshal Court – the main and most representative room two stories high, with a balcony, where the Earl Marshal was publicly proclaiming new and withdrawing the previous coats of arms.*

*Some minor additions were made on the building in the second half of the 19th century, on the windows and the roof. A new room for the growing collection of registers of arms was added as well. Unfortunately, during the German bombing of London in 1940 the building was severely damaged. In spite of different proposals, it was renovated in accordance with preserved projects and photographs, and is still on the same address Queen Victoria Street, London EC4, UK.*



*It should be said that the library does not contain only an extraordinary collection of registries of arms (some 750 volumes, with several thousands of arms), but also a rich genealogic collection with many family trees, not only of nobility, but mostly of the gentry – the gentlemen. Besides, there is also a rich heraldic collection of manuals and scholar books not only from Anglophone world, but from the entire world where there is any heraldic heritage. Unfortunately, the library is not opened to public. The institution publishes a specialized heraldic journal *The Coat of Arms*, semi-annually printing the articles from heraldic history and practice, including the modern relevant legislation.*

### In stead of a conclusion

*Finally, it should be stated again that the College of Arms is one of only few surviving heraldic authorities; it has its roots in the heraldic heritage of the medieval England and acts continuously since its establishment in 1484. Its role and jurisdiction changed with time, but the College of Arms heralds were always closely tied with the English ruling dynasty, under which auspices they acted since their beginning. Preserving the heraldic tradition of the British countries, the heralds preserve also their own identity of exceptionally long duration.*

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- Intervju s dr. sc. Clive Cheesman (20.01.2010.)

*Illustrations and photos: Hrvoje Kekez, Wikipedia, The College of Arms web site*

Lijevo: H. Kekez s dr. sc. Cliveom Cheesmanom, *Rouge Dragon Pursuivant*, i gđom Florom Turner, savjetnicom za kulturu, znanost i školstvo pri veleposlanstvu Republike Hrvatske u Ujedinjenom kraljevstvu, 2010.

Left: H Kekez with Dr. Clive Cheesman, *Rouge Dragon Pursuivant* and Ms. Flora Turner, the Culture, Science and Education Officer at the Croatian Embassy in UK, 2010.

