

Heraldry in Lancaster Castle

Shield of the week

This is the shield of the Holt Family. The following three members were High Sheriffs of Lancashire in:

1575 - Francis Holt, of Grislehurst, Esq

1620 - John Holt, of Stubley, Rochdale

1640 - Robert Holt, of Castleton

The heraldic description is as follows:

Argent, on a bend engrailed Sable three fleurs-de-lys of the field

The heraldic terms used here are explained as follows:

Argent: silver often shown white

Bend: an ordinary, a diagonal band across the shield (top left/bottom right as viewed). Its diminutive is a bendlet or a cotise if it is really narrow. A bend cotised is bordered on either side by a narrow cotise

Engrailed: a dividing line with semi circular bites taken out from the field side

Sable: black

Fleur-de-lys: a very common charge, representing a stylised lily

The Shire Hall is home to the Arms of the Sheriffs of Lancashire dating back to 1160 to the current day. Also to be seen in the Shire Hall are the Arms of the Constables of Lancaster Castle dating back to 1261, and the Arms of the Sovereigns of England dating back to Richard I in 1189.

We will feature a different shield each week explaining the heraldic description. We are also starting to build up a [gallery](#) of the shields which go to make such a magnificent collection in the Shire Hall





The Holt Family Shield - High sheriffs of Lancashire in -
1575 - Francis Holt, of Grislehurst, Esq
1620 - John Holt, of Stubley, Rochdale
1640 - Robert Holt, of Castleton

<http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/resources/ps/castle/index.htm>

Now I think Lancashire County museums

<http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/education/museums/lancaster/castle.asp>