

Heraldry

The White Rabbit, who first leads Alice down the rabbit-hole to start Alice's adventures, becomes the Herald who reads out the Queen of Hearts' accusation at the end of the book.

Alice

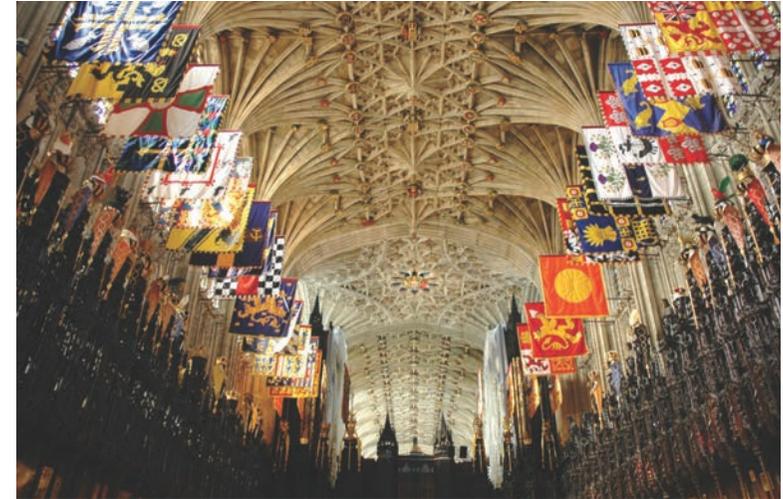


The King shows the Proclamation to the Herald. Margaret Tarrant (-1925).

Heraldry

Heraldry, with its shields and emblems, is characteristic of the mediaeval epoch, but its origins have been particularly traced to the Plantagenet era of the mid-12th century.

Eleanor



Emblems of the Order of the Garter at St George's Chapel, Windsor (founded 1348).

The origin of knightly heraldry has never been clearly established: the evidence from the first crusades is mainly negative and points to its development in Western Europe during the middle of the 12th century. Between 1140 and 1159 heraldic shields were depicted on seals in eight West European countries. The oldest known heraldic device in colour is an enamel plaque of Geoffrey d'Anjou, father of Henry II, at Le Mans in 1151. Heraldic shields are also evident in the contemporary depictions of his son, Richard the Lionheart (1157-1199) and his chief knight-at-arms William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke (1146-1219).

According to legend, the Order of the Knights of the Garter, whose emblems are displayed at St George's Chapel, Windsor, derived from the 12th century custom of King Richard I to tie garters around the legs of his knights, who subsequently won the battle while fighting in the Crusades inspired by the vision of St George the Martyr, accounting for their otherwise unexplained motto 'Honi soit qui mal y pense' ('Dishonour to those who

The story of *Alice in Wonderland* comes to a close with a chaotic court case against the Knave of Hearts, who wears royal livery and could represent any of the young Plantagenet princes, for the theft of the ‘tarts’, which could represent any of their romantic transgressions, such as with the ladies of Eleanor’s court, including her stepdaughter Alice. The indictment is read by the White Rabbit, now appearing in the part of a herald in elaborate heraldic garb representing the hearts suit of the pack of cards.

“ ‘Herald, read the accusation!’ said the King.

On this the White Rabbit blew three blasts on the trumpet, and then unrolled the parchment scroll, and read as follows:

‘Consider your verdict,’ the King said to the jury.

‘Not yet, not yet!’ the Rabbit hastily interrupted. ‘There’s a great deal to come before that!’

‘Call the first witness,’ said the King; and the White Rabbit blew three blasts on the trumpet, and called out, ‘First witness!’ ”

Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland, Chapter 11.

think evil of it’), which could well refer to Richard’s repeated expiation of his homosexual tendencies. In Cyprus, before marrying Princess Berengaria in 1191, Richard performed several public penances before the assemblage, promising not to repeat his ‘sins against nature’ (Markale, 1979, p. 59). On the other hand, he is also reputed to have had an illegitimate son, Philip of Cognac, with an unknown mother in the early 1180s. It does not seem entirely implausible that this earlier liaison was with Princess Alice (the half-sister of his rival King Philip Augustus), to whom he was engaged to be married at the time.



Some of the earliest known heraldic shields (~12th century).