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Heraldry is an important aspect of family heritage as well as all around us today by Mark White

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On the battlefield and through ceremonies werenâ€™t the only real times when coats of arms, family shields and family crests were displayed. They played an integral part of day to day life during the middle ages and beyond. Many everyday items and pieces of art had integrated heraldry. Letâ€™s take a look.

Tapestries and Embroidery

Tapestries were a typical way of decorating large indoor spaces during medieval times, as well as a strategy for displaying ones wealth. Heraldry was often found in tapestries, in addition to embroidered on everyday items. The Bayeux Tapestry is simply not a tapestry at all, but a lengthy embroidered cloth that tells the story of the Norman Conquest. This can be the beginning times of heraldry, something which show up in the tapestry. The Normanâ€™s all have family shields and banners though a number of other groups do not.

Around the House

As heraldry became increasingly popular and more commonplace, wealthy families began incorporating shields as well as the coat of arms into the dÃ©cor of castles, estates, and manors. Fireplace mantels, ceiling molding, the legs of one's dining room table - everything was fair game.

Books and Scrolls

Many documents authored by both clerical and secular scribes include heraldic items. These could be the real, documented arms of people who were rulers or local heroes. Many historical and religious figures also were depicted by using a family shield or coat of arms, which were related to the them either only in art or maybe even formally.

Heraldry Today

Today heraldry isn't less plentiful in daily life. Family crest plaques, genealogy and family history scrolls and embroidered coat of arms make wonderful additions to anyoneâ€™s home and foster a greater a feeling of family pride.

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