

the baronies of Duffus, Petty, Balvenie, and Aberdour in the northeast of Scotland, as well as the lordships of Bothwell and Drumsargard and a number of other baronies in lower Clydesdale. Sir Archibald, per the English property law of *jure uxoris*, Latin for "by right of (his) wife" became the legal possessor of her lands.

### Which Crest Badge to Wear

Although Murrays were permitted to wear either the mermaid or demi-man crest badges, sometime in the late 1960's or early 1970's, the Lord Lyon King of Arms declared the demi-man crest badge inappropriate. Since his decisions on heraldic matters have the force of law in Scotland, all the manufacturers of clan badges, etc., ceased producing the demi-man. There was a considerable amount of feeling on this subject, especially in North America, and when the 10<sup>th</sup> Duke of Atholl assumed his position as Chief of the Murray Clan he appealed this decision and requested the continued use of the demi-man as the clan crest badge. Eventually in the 1980's the Lord Lyon reversed the original decision, allowing use of the demi-man crest badge. Following this decision, the Chief decided that the demi-man should be *the* crest badge used by members of his Clan. The Lord Lyon approved this decision in 1993. Today the demi-man and the motto "Furth Fortune and Fill the Fetters" is recorded in the Register of Arms of the Court of the Lord Lyon.

### Clan Heraldic Arms

On 15 May 1990 the Court of Lord Lyon granted The Murray Clan Society our armorial ensign or heraldic arms. An armorial ensign is the design carried on a flag or shield.

The Society arms are described on the 14<sup>th</sup> page of the 75<sup>th</sup> Volume of Our Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland, VIDELICT as: Azure, five annulets conjoined in fess Argent between three mullets of the Last. Above the Shield is placed an Helm suitable to an incorporation (VIDELICET: a Sallet Proper lined with a Gules)



Mantling Azure doubled Argent, and on a Wreath of the Liveries is set for Crest a tower Argent, masoned Sable, charged of a crest-coronet Azure, and in an Escrol over the same is this Motto "FORWARD WITH FORTUNE", by demonstration of which Ensigns Armorial the said Society is amongst all Nobles and in all Places of Honour, to be taken, numbered, accounted and received as a Society Noble in the Noblesse of Scotland.

# Murray Clan Society

## Clan Badges and Heraldic Arms

### Clan Badges

Prior to the advent of heraldry, Scottish clansmen and clanswomen wore badges to identify themselves. Clan badges were devices with family or personal associations which identified the possessor, not unlike our modern class rings, military insignias, union pins, etc. There was usually a reason for adopting a particular devise: sentimental, political, commemorative, or family association and it was more often generally recognized than heraldic arms. There are two types of clan badges: Plant Badges and Crest Badges.

### Plant Badges

Before there were crest badges, clansmen and clanswomen wore plant badges as a means of distinguishing themselves from members of other clans. Plant badge sprigs were worn on the bonnets, as are crest badges today. The plant badge had the advantages of simplicity and availability for use by servants, retainers, and others claiming

association with the owner but who could not display the heraldic arms.

The Murray Clan plant badges are the juniper (“aitionn” in Scots Gaelic) for Atholl and the butcher’s broom (“gaigbhealaidh” in Scots Gaelic) for Murray.



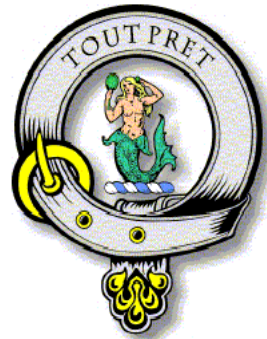
Today, clansmen and clanswomen may wear a sprig of plant badge pinned behind the clan crest badge on a man’s bonnet or a lady’s sash-badge brooch.

### Crest Badges

Under Scottish law, clansmen and clanswomen may wear their chief’s crest encircled with a strap and buckle bearing their chief’s motto or slogan. The encircled crest is called a crest badge. Through the years Murray Clan chiefs have had more than one crest or crest badge.

- The **mermaid** is depicted very early in Scottish heraldry. As Murray means people who came from or lived by the sea, the Council of Clan Chiefs designated this crest to be worn by Murray clansmen or clanswomen. On the crest is a mermaid holding in her dexter hand a mirror and in her sinister hand a comb, all proper, with the motto “Tout Prêt” for the chief-ship of the Name and Arms of Murray. The

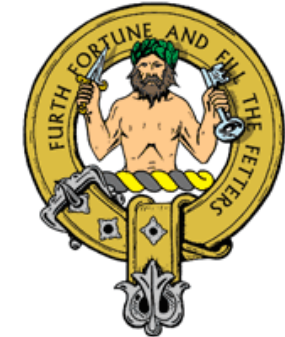
translation of “Tout Prêt” is “Quite (or Always) Ready.” The mermaid is traced back to the Lordship of



Balquidder. When the Murray’s assumed that title in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century, they adopted the mermaid as their crest badge.

- The **demi-man**, also known as the demi-savage, and the motto “Furth Forth and Fill the Fetters” was granted to the 1<sup>st</sup> Stewart Earl of Atholl by King James III of Scotland in 1475 to commemorate the Earl’s successful raid against John MacDonald II, Lord of the Isles. The crest and motto ceased to belong to the Atholl Stewarts when John Stewart, 5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Atholl (1563-1595), died without a male heir and the earldom reverted to the crown. In 1604 William Murray (1574-1627), 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Tullibardine, married heiress Dorothea Stewart of Atholl. When petitioned, King Charles I (1600-1649) agreed to revive the earldom of Atholl in favor of Lord Tullibardine’s children by Lady Dorothea. Thus, in 1629 William’s and Dorothea’s eldest son, John

(1607?-1642), became the 1<sup>st</sup> Murray Earl of Atholl. Then in 1703 a descendent, and another John Murray (1660-1724), was created the 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of Atholl “with remainder



falling heirs male of his own to the heirs male of his father”. The demi-man and the motto are engraved on the keystone over the main entrance of Blair Castle.

- The **peacock** is the crest of Clan Arbutnott but is sometimes sold as a Murray Clan crest badge. It is not. The convoluted story of how it became associated with the Murrays begins when Philip de Arbutnott (1330-1400) married Margaret Douglas, daughter of Sir James Douglas of Dalkeith (d. 1420), who was a chief ally of Sir Archibald Douglas, “the Grim” (1325-1400). In 1362 Sir Archibald married Lady Joanna de Moravia (charter Latin for Moray) who was the widow of Sir Thomas de Moravia. He had died of the plague the previous year in the Tower of London. Upon his death Lady Joanna became the heiress to the Moray properties at Bothwell and