

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.

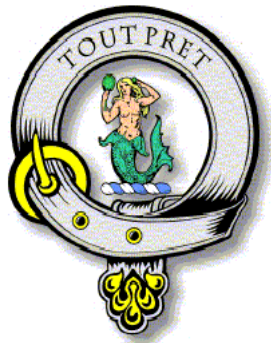


Figure 3

- The **Demi-Savage** was the old crest of the Stewarts of Atholl, granted in 1475 by King James III of Scotland to the first Stewart Earl of Atholl to commemorate a successful raid against the last Lord of the Isles (Figure 4). In the course of time, it came into the Murray family when the heir to the Tullibardine line married the heir to the Earl of Atholl and was allowed to take that title. The Murray's retained the Demi-Savage and associated motto as part of the title, Earl of Atholl, which in 1703 became the Duke of Atholl. The motto "Furth Fortune and Fill the Fetters" is old Scots and means "have faith and go forth against your enemies, have good fortune, and return with

hostages and booty." The Demi-Savage and the motto are engraved on the keystone over the main entrance of Blair Castle, Blair Atholl in the County of Perth.



Figure 4

**Which Crest Badge to Wear**—Although the clan was allowed all three crest badges, sometime in the late 1960's or early 1970's, the Lord Lyon King of Arms declared the Demi-Savage 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-Savage. 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 to the Lord Lyon Court, requesting the continued use of the Demi-Savage as the clansman's badge. Eventually in the 1980's the Lord Lyon modified the original decision, allowing use of the Demi-Savage crest badge. Following this reversal the Chief decided that the Demi-Savage should be *the* crest badge used by members of his Clan. The Lord Lyon approved this decision in 1993.

Rev 8/07

# Murray Clan Society

## Heraldic Arms and Badges

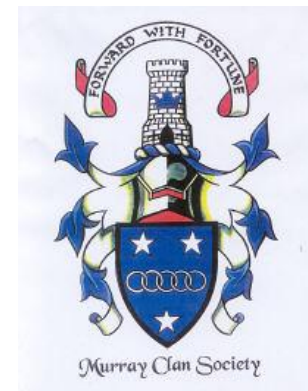


Figure 1

### Clan Heraldic Arms

On 15 May 1990 the Court of Lord Lyon granted to The Murray Clan Society our armorial ensign or heraldic arms (Figure 1). An armorial ensign is the design carried on a flag or shield. The Lord Lyon's declaration reads:

"We, Malcolm Rognvald Innes of Edingight, Commander of the Royal Victorian Order, Writer to Her Majesty's Signet, Lord Lyon King of Arms, send Greeting: Whereas, Keith Murray-Hetherington, Convener, for and on behalf of The Murray Clan Society having headquarters at Blair Castle, Blair Atholl in

the County of Perth, having by Petition unto Us of date 28 October 1988 Shewn; THAT the said Society was established in Edinburgh in January 1962; THAT the objects of the said Society are to promote social links among people bearing the name Murray, and to stimulate interest in the history, culture and traditions of the Clan; AND the Petitioner having prayed that there might be granted unto him for and on behalf of The Murray Clan Society such Ensigns Armorial as might be found suitable and according to Laws of Arms, KNOW YE THEREFORE that we have Devised, and Do by These Presents Assign, Ratify and Confirm unto the Petitioner for and on behalf of The Murray Clan Society, the following Ensigns Armorial, as depicted upon the margin hereof, and matriculated of even date with These Presents upon the 14<sup>th</sup> page of the 75<sup>th</sup> Volume of Our Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland, VIDELICET: 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 Gules) with a 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; IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF We have Subscribed These Presents and the Seal of Our Office is affixed hereto at Edinburgh, this 15<sup>th</sup> day of May in the 39<sup>th</sup> Year of the Reign of Our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth the Second, By the Grace of God,

of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and of Her Other Realms and Territories, Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith, and in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety."

## 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), for Atholl, and the butcher's broom (gaigbhealaidh), 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 **Peacock** was the old crest of the Murray's and the peacock's head still appears as the crest of Lord Arbuthnott whose arms also show a Murray connection. It is significant that Lord Arbuthnott held Bothwell Castle late into the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The crest (Figure 2) is the peacock's head and neck proper accompanied on either side by two arms from the elbows proper and vested in manches azure doubled argent with the motto "Praite," meaning "Ready."



Figure 2

- The **Mermaid** is depicted very early in heraldry. As Murray means people who came from or lived by the sea, the Council of Clan Chiefs designated this crest (Figure 3) to be worn by Murray clansmen or clanswomen. On the crest