

Zeitschrift: Archives héraldiques suisses = Schweizer Archiv für Heraldik = Archivio araldico svizzero : Archivum heraldicum

Herausgeber: Schweizerische Heraldische Gesellschaft

Band: 118 (2004)

Heft: 2

Artikel: Memory of Diana in Prince William's arms

Autor: Humphery-Smith, Cecil R.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-761640>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 18.08.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

Memory of Diana in Prince William's arms

CECIL R. HUMPHERY-SMITH

A new coat of arms designed to mark Prince William's coming of age was unveiled last year.

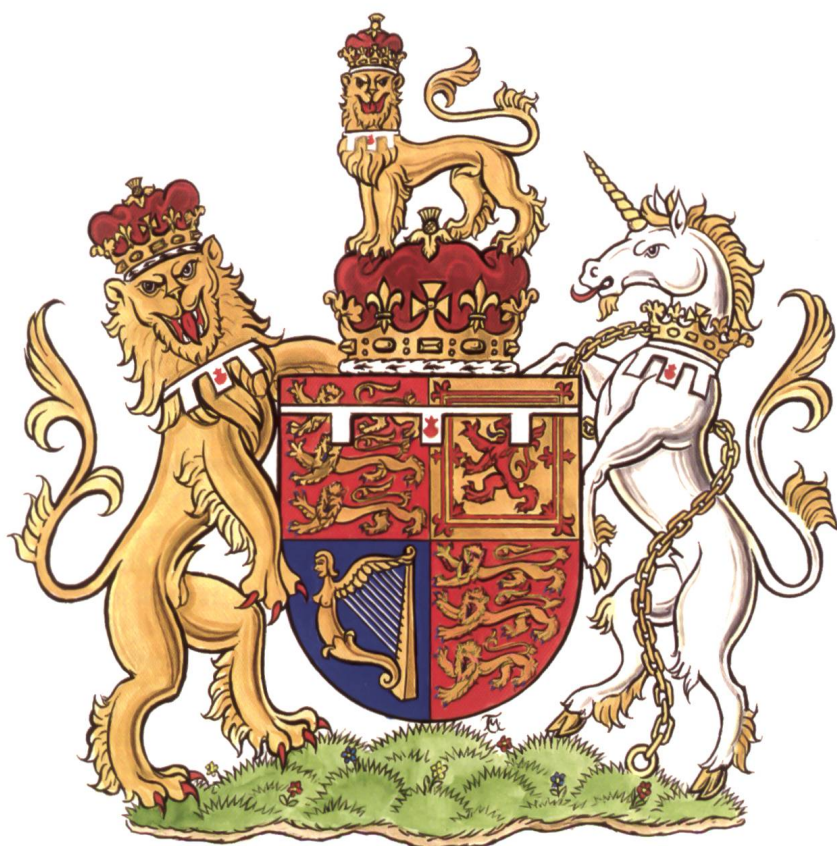
Arms chosen for the 19-year-old Prince draw on the Royal Arms used by the Queen and the Prince of Wales and, unusually, contain a tribute to his mother Diana, Princess of Wales in the shape of a small red escallop shell. Not since the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries has such commemoration been seen.

The shell, which derives from the Spencer coat of arms, was used by Diana and has been incorporated in the design at Prince William's

insistence. The escallop motif has been borne by the Earls Spencer since the 16th century and was a popular symbol for medieval pilgrims.

It appears four times: in the centre of the three-pointed label which adorns the shield, on the necks of the lion and unicorn and on the lion device above the shield.

Prince William, as heir apparent to the Heir Apparent, will be the Queen's only grandchild to be given a three-pointed label on his arms. They identify the children of a monarch while five-pointed labels are used for grandchildren.



Arms of Prince William
Artwork by Tom Meek



Arms of Prince Henry «Harry»
Artwork by Tom Meek

The design was approved by Prince William, his father, Prince Charles, and the Queen.

Peter Gwynne-Jones, Garter Principal King of Arms, responsible for Royal Heraldry, said: «It is a welcome innovation to incorporate maternal symbols into the Royal Family's arms and it is something that Prince William wanted to do. In the fullness of time, Prince William's arms will change but a precedent has been set that others in the Royal Family may follow.»

It is perhaps extraordinary that on this occasion the cross of St. George does not appear on

any of the label tabs. Traditionally, it has appeared to represent the claim to the English throne. The simple representation from the maternal arms, seems to be a departure to satisfy the public mood rather than heraldic precedence.

Address of the author: Cecil R. Humphery-Smith, O.B.E.
Saint Michael's
Allan Road
Seasalter, Kent, CT5 4AH,
Great Britain