

A B C D E F

G HENRY'S H

HERALDIC

ALPHABET

I J K L M N

O P Q R S T

U V W X Y Z

Henry's
Heraldic
Alphabet

Henry's Heraldic Alphabet

Robert Jenkin

2013

written and illustrated

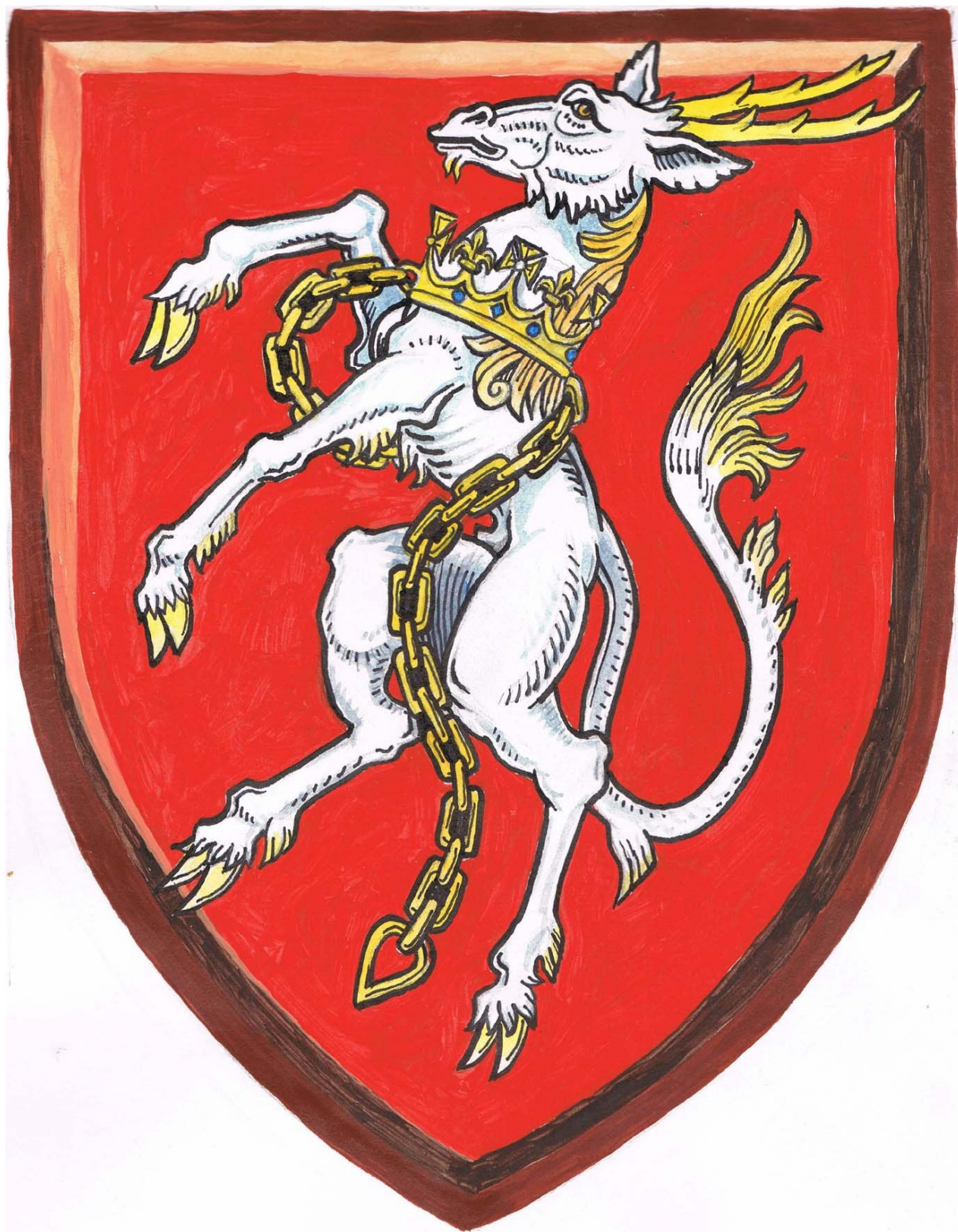
by Robert

for his grandson

Henry Griffin Jenkin

and his granddaughter Alice

with love



A is for Antelope
crowned and chained



B is for Boar
with a bristling mane



C is for Centaur
with kingly gait



D is for Dragon
grim and great



E is for Eagle
with lordly glance



F is for Fleur de lis
flower of France



C is for Griffin
blue and red



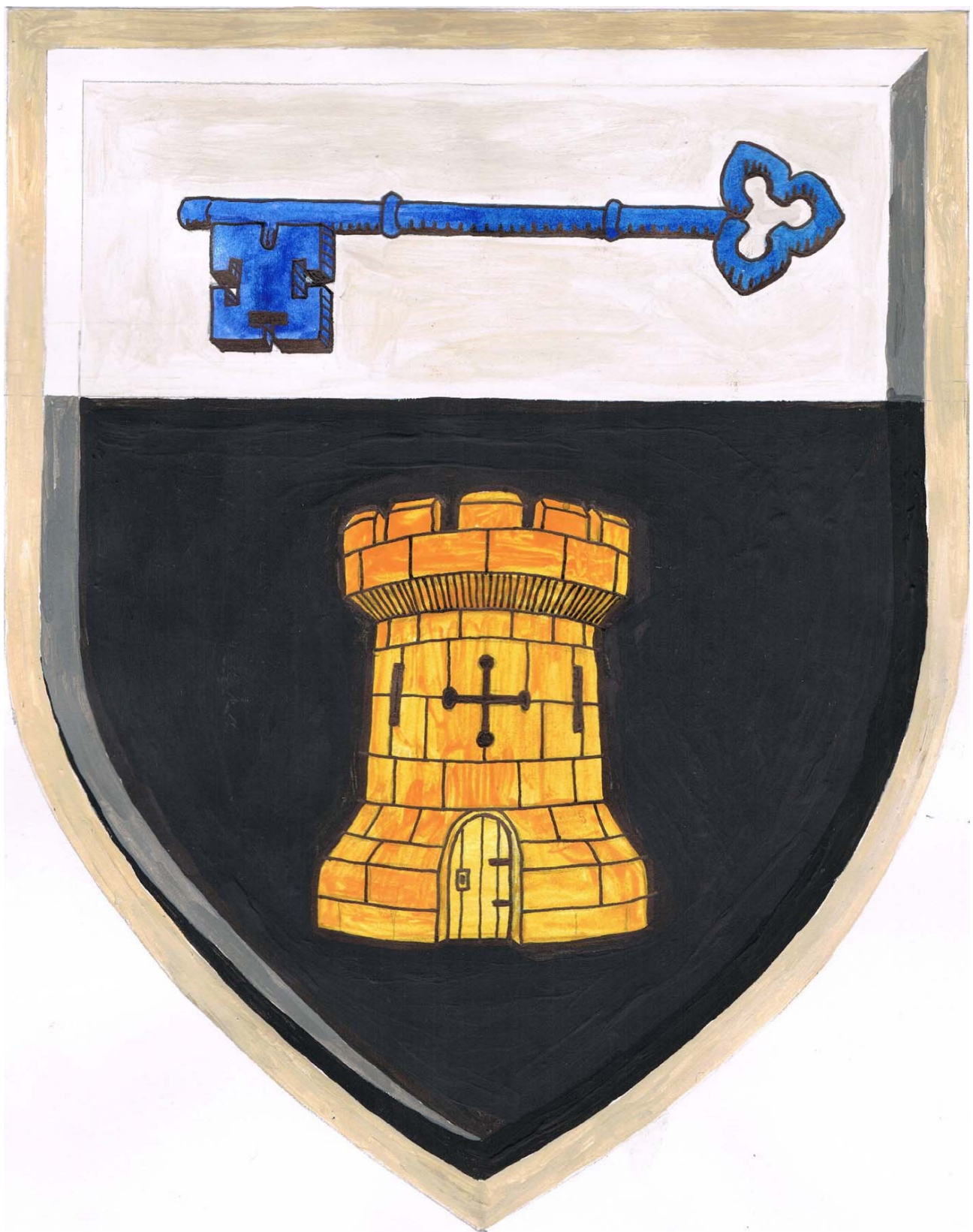
H is for Hawk
with wings outspread



I is for Ireland's
harp renowned



J is for Jewels
on a kingly crown



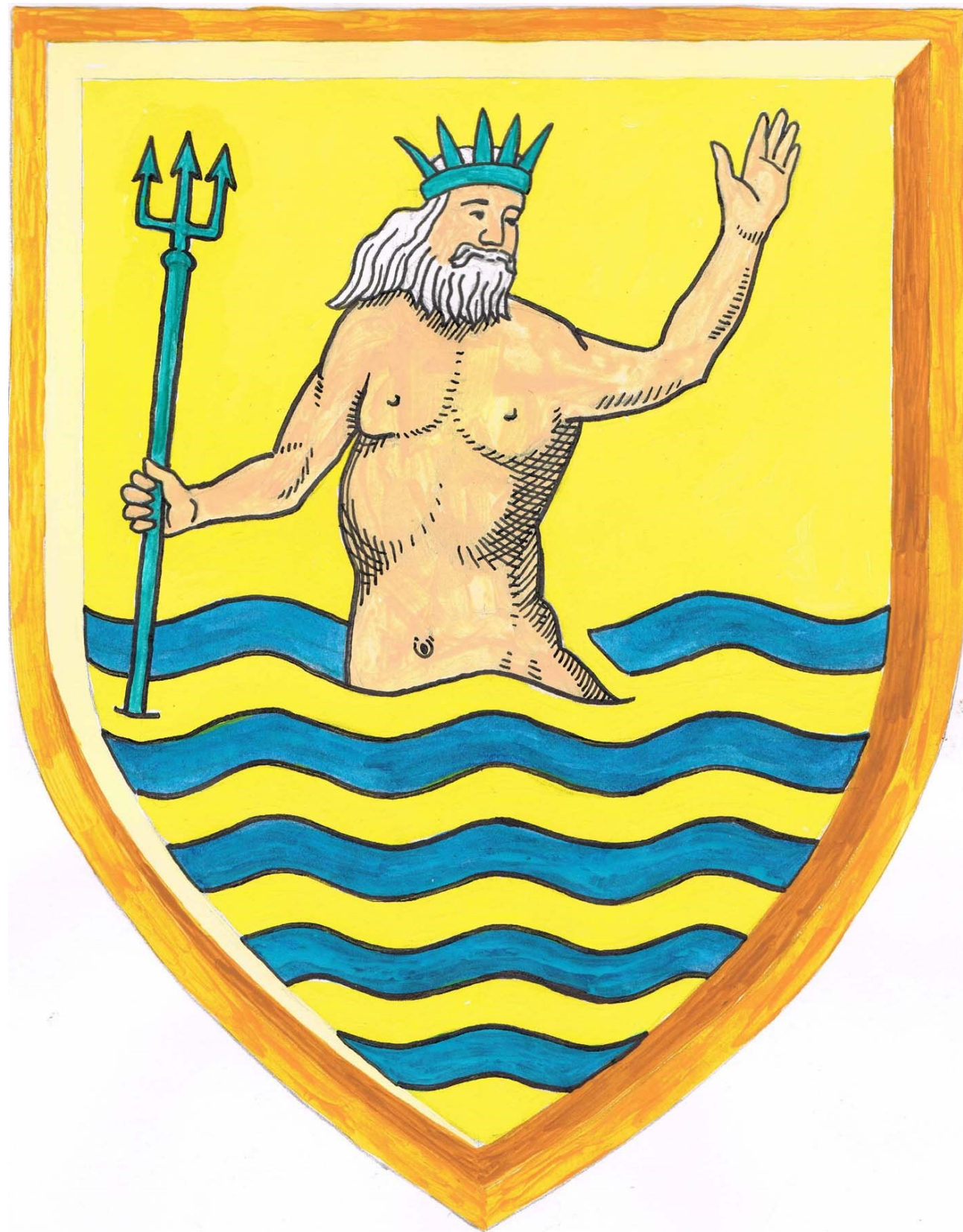
K is for Key
to the castle door



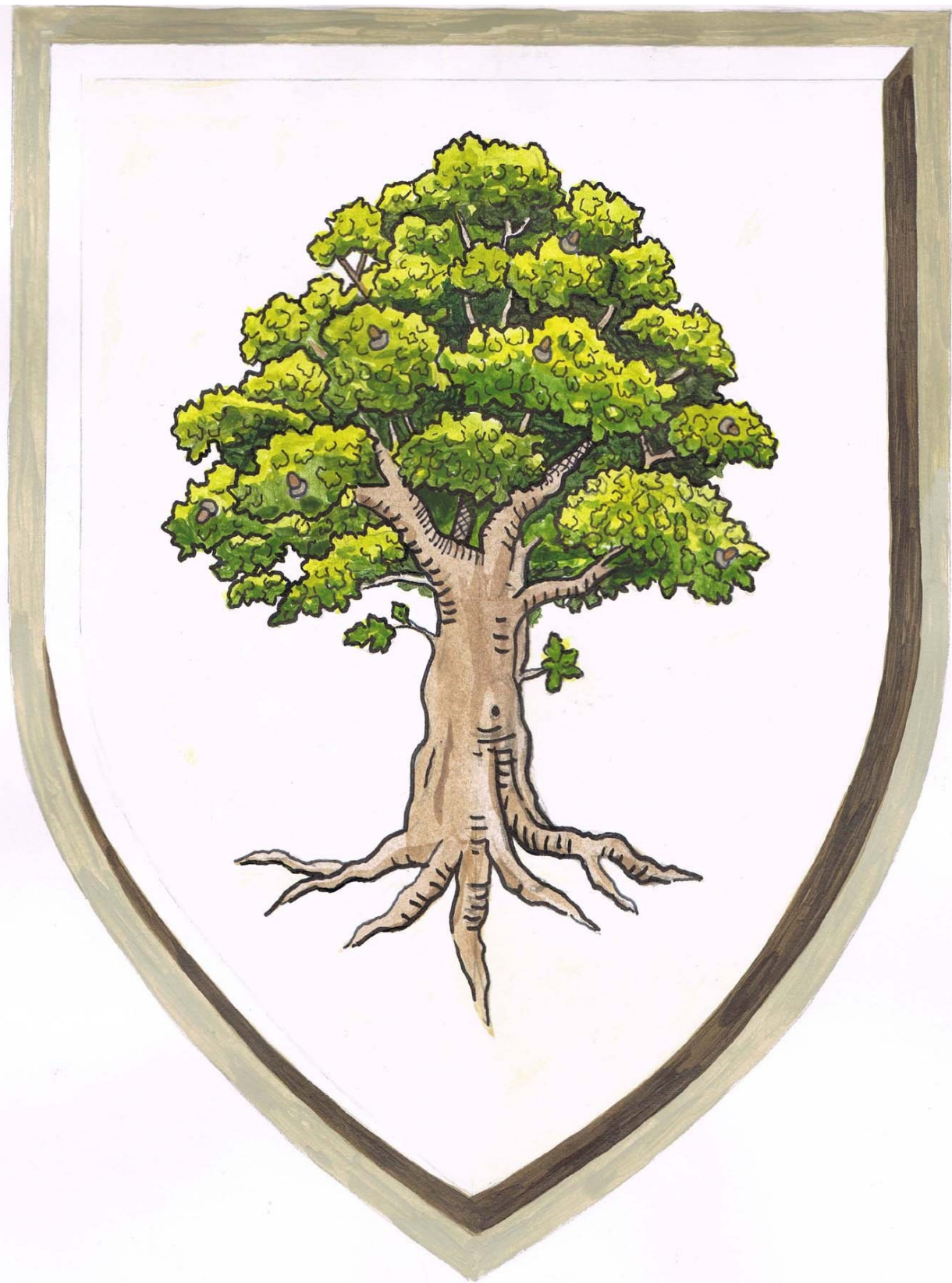
L is for Lions
who ramp and roar



M is for Martlets
who sing in a tree



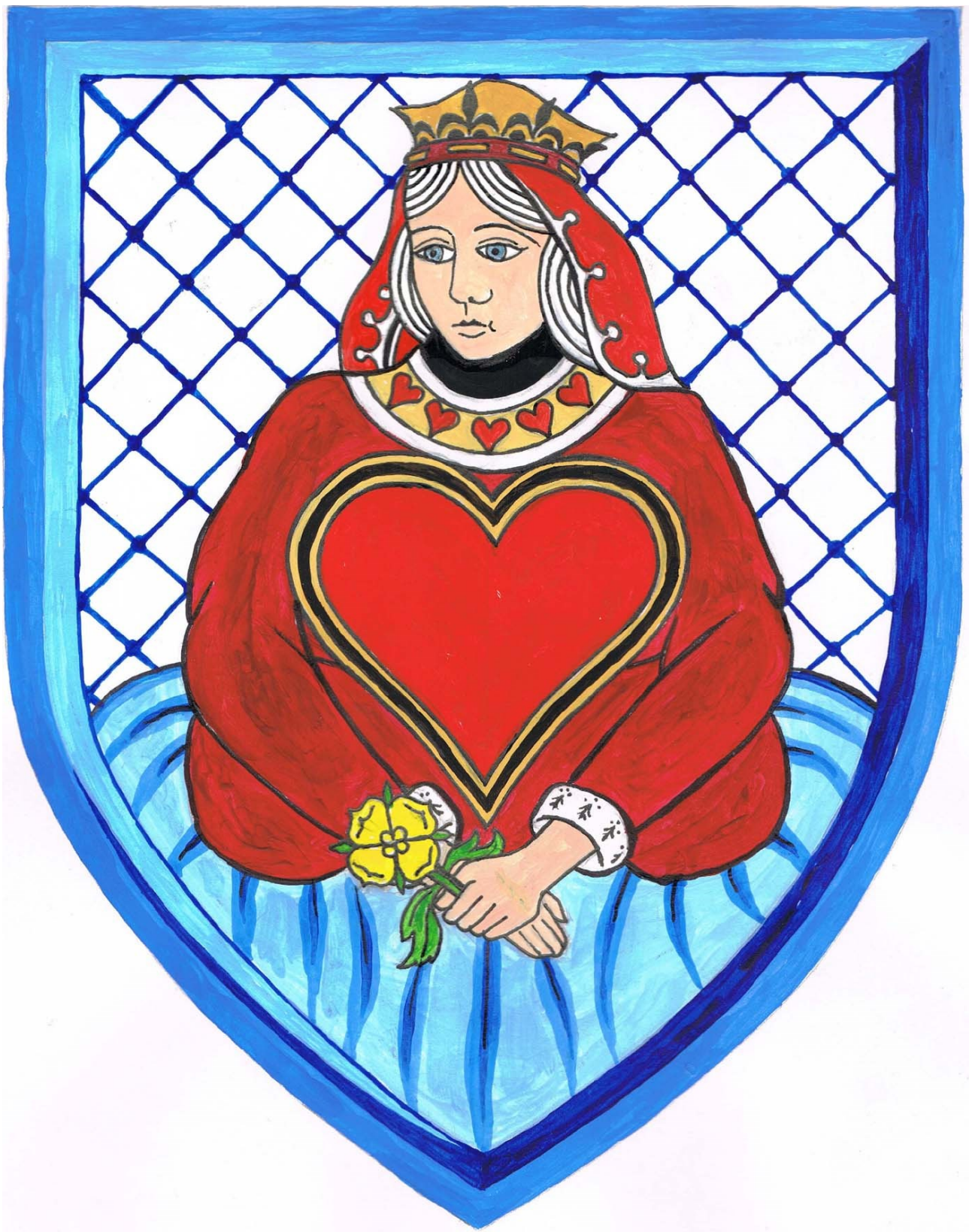
N is for Neptune
king of the sea



O is for Oak Tree
that grows in a wood



P is for Pegasus
fearless and good



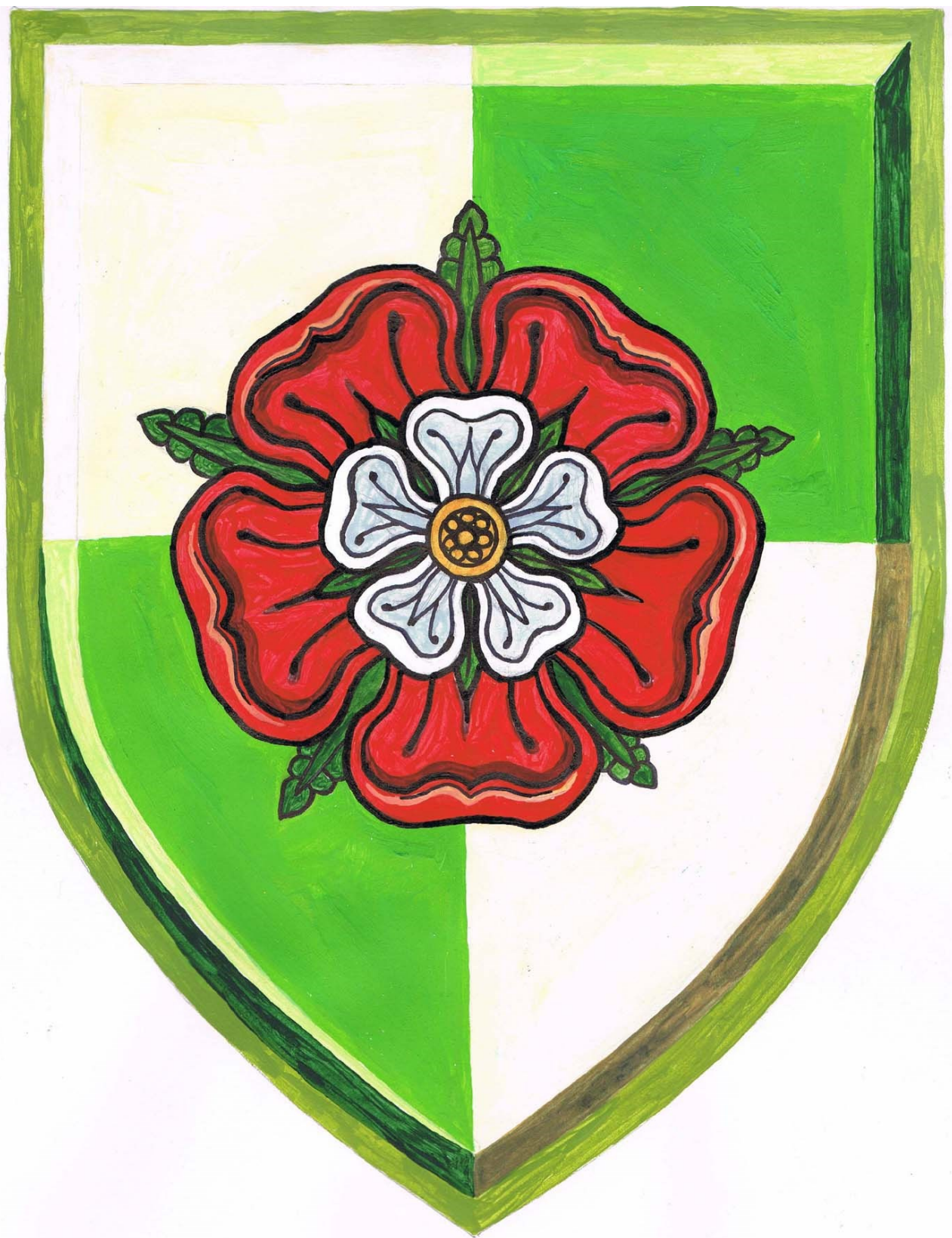
Q is for Queen
with a gentle heart



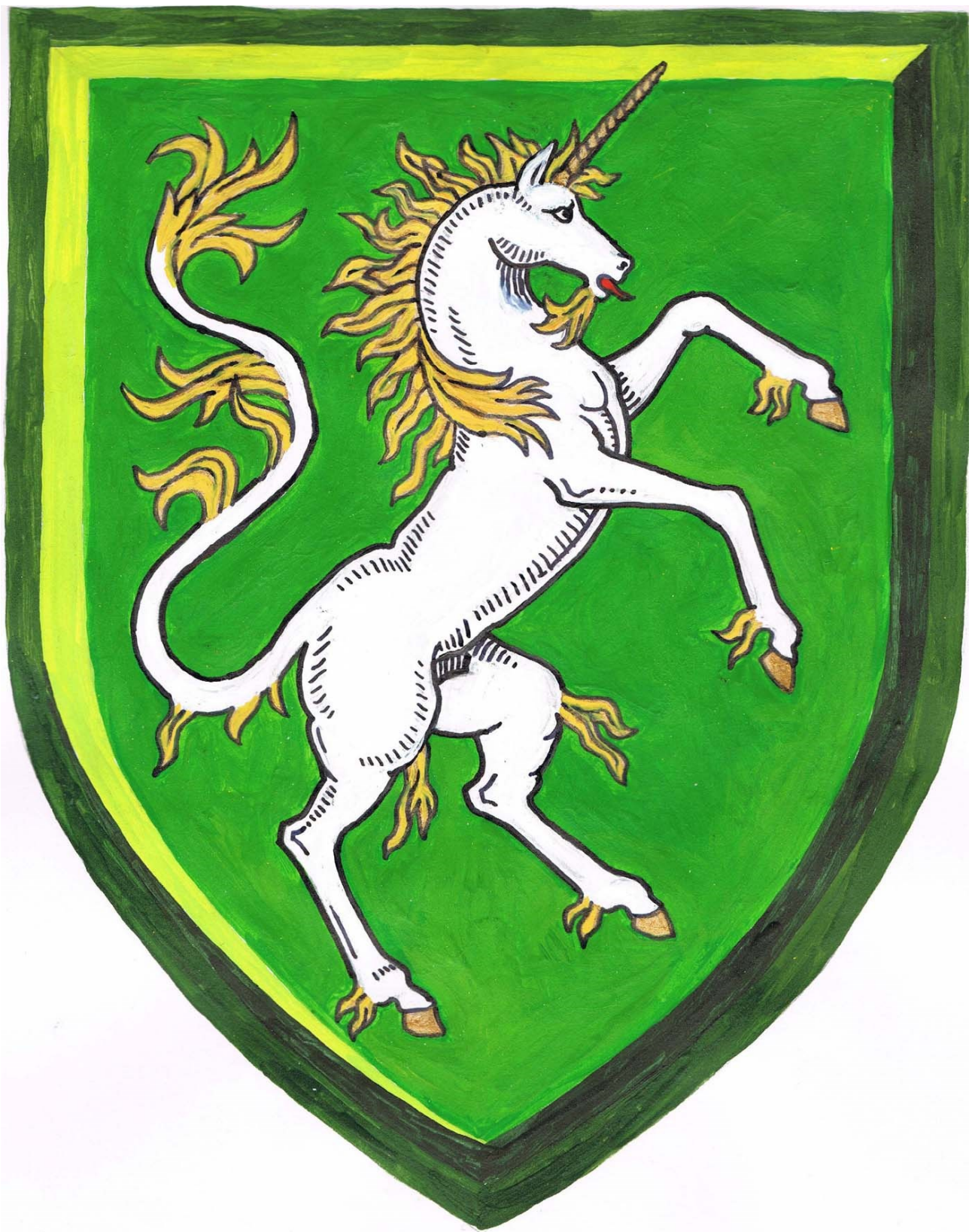
R is for Rainbow
where rain-clouds part



S is for Swan
with snowy breast



T is for Tudor Rose
regal crest



U is for Unicorn
quick to fight



V is for Viper
with venemous bite



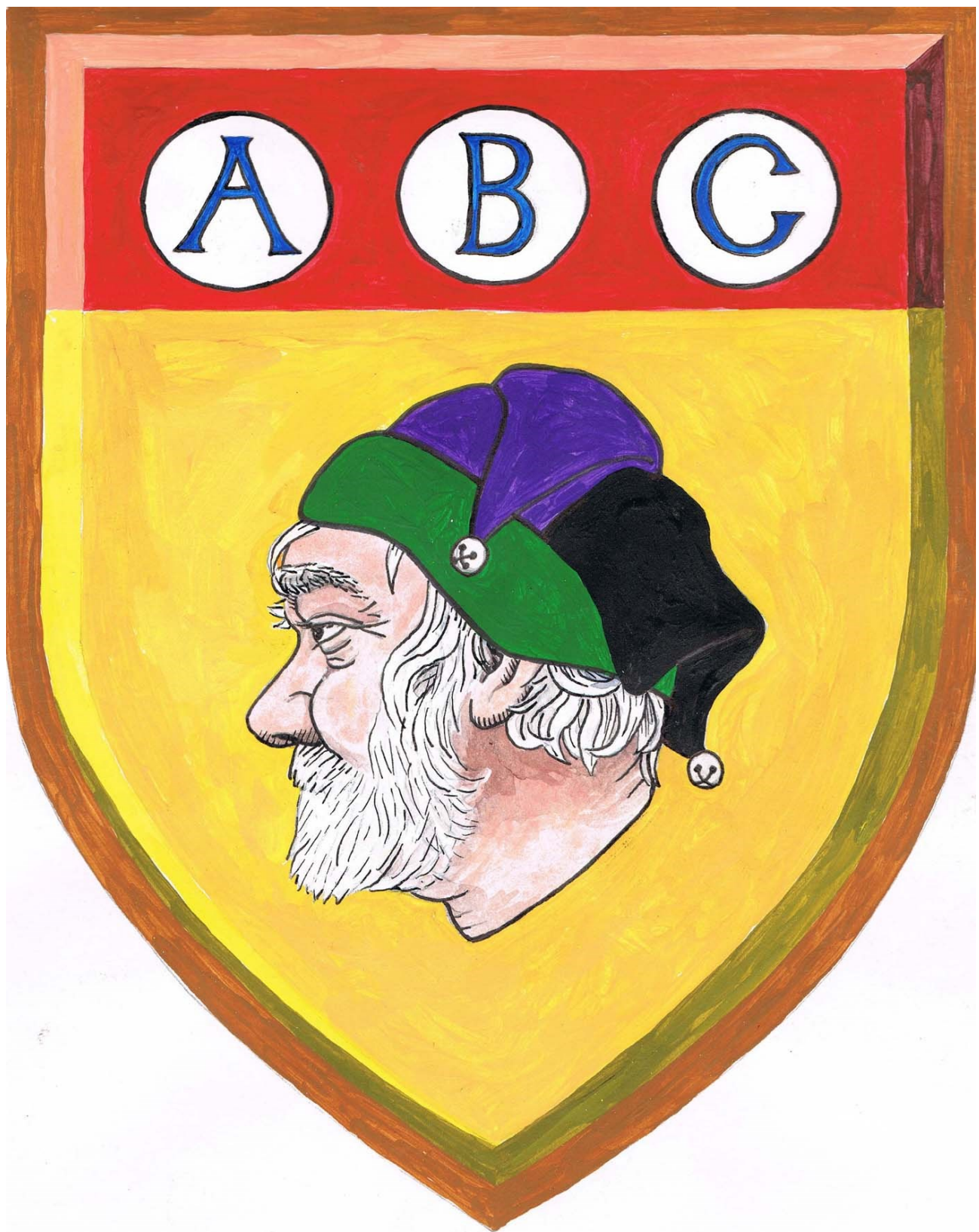
W is for Wyvern
guarding a grail



X is a Saltire
on a ships sail



Y is for Yale
with gold rondels



Z is for Zany
with cap and bells

Heraldry:

In heraldry there are seven main colours. Five are the tinctures purpure (purple), sable (black), vert (green), gules (red) and azure (blue) and two are the metals, or (yellow or gold) and argent (white or silver). Where the field (background colour) is a tincture, the charge (emblem or design) appearing on it should be a metal and where the field is a metal the charge should be a tincture. Shields designed according to these rules were easier to recognise both at a distance and in the heat of battle. However certain charges, particularly humans and demi-humans, but also features as diverse as ships and rainbows, were generally coloured realistically and designated 'proper'. These may appear on either a metal or a tincture.

Arms were and are granted by Kings and Queens. A full 'coat of arms' often includes supporters on either side of a shield, a motto below and a helm and crest above. Arms have remained a source of pride and have been handed down through many generations. Richard III established a Royal College of Arms to manage English heraldry and this continues to the present day, supervising new grants and protecting old ones. Exact descriptions of arms in heraldic language are called blazons.

Shields were worn on the left side and most heraldic beasts face to the bearers' right, since facing to the bearers' left in battle would have meant turning their backs towards the enemy. A charge that faces to the bearers left faces right when seen from the front. This is understandably rare in heraldry and is described in blazons as 'to sinister'. Surprisingly, six charges on the even numbered pages of this book do face to sinister, perhaps confronting the adjoining charge on the odd numbered page.

A *Gules, an antelope rampant argent, accorned, hooped and crined or and royally gorged with crown and pendant chain of the same*

Henry V's royal standard at the battle of Agincourt displayed a white heraldic antelope with the head of a tiger and nose-tip horn of a heraldic dragon. At that time it was thought in England that antelopes were fabulous and dangerous beasts with razor-sharp serrated horns that could fell trees. Henry VI is now believed to have preferred heraldic antelopes to the red roses attributed to Lancaster in later heraldry. The antelope depicted here is less alarming than traditional heraldic ones. We now know antelopes much better, and as Boutell put it in the 1870s: "heraldic animals of every kind ... must approach as near to Nature as a ... conventional rendering of natural truth will admit."

B *Vert, a boar passant argent, armed or and langued gules*

Richard III's badge was a white boar and two white boars support his royal coat of arms. Betrayed by the Stanleys at the Battle of Bosworth Richard was surrounded and killed by Henry VII's men. No English King has died in battle since, and Richard was the last of the Plantagenets.

C *Azure, a leonine sagittary passant to sinister proper*

According to Nicholas Upton a lion-centaur was the emblem of King Stephen, who usurped the English crown from the Empress Matilda in the twelfth century. Stephen's coronation in 1135 began a bitter war that lasted nearly twenty years. Eventually it was agreed Matilda's son Henry II should be crowned King when Stephen died. There is little if any contemporary evidence suggesting that a centaur was Stephen's heraldic emblem, but it was certainly assigned to him by English heralds in the fifteenth century. Among the explanations they advanced for it was the success of Stephen's archers in the civil war.

D *Or, a dragon segreant purpure, armed and langued gules*

The dragon was an emblem often used by medieval English kings. Richard I is said to have displayed a dragon standard on the third crusade and Henry III ordered a dragon standard to be made to mark his coming to Saint Peter's Church in Westminster: "of red silk sparkling all over with gold, the tongue of which should be made to resemble burning fire". The legendary King Arthur is also said to have displayed a dragon banner and accordingly when Henry VII named his first son Arthur he chose a dragon as one badge of his new Tudor dynasty.

E *Argent, an eagle facing sinister azure, its wings displayed and inverted, armed and langued gules*

Eagles are the largest and most powerful predatory birds in Europe; in falconry they were reserved for the exclusive use of kings and emperors. As ancient Roman emperors gave eagle standards to their victorious legions, so medieval Holy Roman Emperors often employed heraldic eagles in their arms, particularly two headed 'imperial eagles', often as a supporter. Eagles were seldom seen in royal English heraldry, except when Mary, daughter of Henry VIII, married Prince Philip of Spain, who then became the King of England. His royal arms contained three eagles, were supported by a fourth, and were impaled (depicted side by side) with Mary's.

F *Azure, a fleur de lis or*

The fleur de lis, a stylised lily, was sacred to the Virgin Mary and from the twelfth century till the fourteenth the royal arms of France consisted of more than twelve gold fleurs de lis 'scattered' on a blue field. From 1376 their number was reduced to three. The reign of France's last King ended in 1830. In 1870 a constitutional monarchy was again proposed and heir apparent Henri, Count of Chambord, was invited to accept the throne. He refused, however, unless the government would change the tricolore of modern France back to the three gold fleurs de lis. The government chose to retain the tricolore.

G *Or, a griffin segreant to sinister, per fess azure and gules, armed and langued gules and taloned azure*

Edward III's signet ring portrayed a griffin, and it was he who first claimed to be rightful king of England, Normandy and all of France. Because of this he quartered Norman-English lions with French fleurs de lis in England's arms, a quartering retained by English monarchs until the end of the French Revolution. Edward pursued his claim in France and English longbows won him victories at Crecy and Poitiers. Henry V was the next English king to be victorious in France, especially at Agincourt. He married a French princess, Katherine, and their son Henry VI was crowned in England and in France, though French armies inspired by Joan of Arc eventually defeated the invading English ones. Here Edward's Griffin is divided per fess (in half horizontally) in order to combine the red lion of Narnia and Scotland with the blue eagle of Carle the Viking. These emblems were adopted by the author as a boy.

H *Sable, a falcon argent rising with wings displayed and inverted, armed or and langued gules*

It is believed that Fulk V, Count of Anjou, whose name meant 'falcon', bequeathed a white hawk emblem to England's Plantagenets. Fulk's son was Geoffrey, who inherited Anjou, conquered Normandy and married Matilda, daughter of Henry I of England and dowager empress of Henry V of Germany. Then, whether by right of birth or conquest, Geoffrey and Matilda's son Henry II went on to rule an Angevin empire consisting of England, half of France and most of Ireland. He was the first Plantagenet, and founder of an English dynasty that lasted for three centuries, but probably he always saw France as his real home. He married Eleanor of Aquitaine and when he died was buried beside her, along with their son Richard I and their son John's wife Isabel, at Fontevraud Abbey in Anjou.

I *Vert, a harp or stringed argent*

The harp is an old emblem of Irish royalty. Its field here is green, Ireland's national colour. In English heraldry its field has been blue since Henry VIII declared Ireland a kingdom again in 1541, with him as king, of course. Earlier English kings were styled 'Lords of Ireland', a title Henry II first applied to his ten-year-old son John. Successive Popes supported English rule in Ireland, but only until 1534 when Henry VIII declared himself her spiritual as well as temporal ruler. Most Irish still preferred the Pope, and fought the English for four centuries for their religious freedom and home rule.

J *Purpure, Saint Edward's Crown proper*

'Saint Edward's Crown' is the most treasured piece of regalia in the English Crown Jewels. It is a sixteenth century version of Saint Edward's original crown, supposedly worn by English kings from the eleventh century. The modern crown was reconstructed for Charles II after Oliver Cromwell destroyed the original. Where it appears above Victoria's stars in the coat of arms of Australia, Saint Edward's crown is blazoned as 'imperial', though in New Zealand's arms it is not. Edward the Confessor, second-to-last Saxon king of England, died in 1066 and was canonised by Pope Alexander III in 1161. Henry II asked for this, in return for England's support of Alexander during a disputed papal election two years earlier.

K *Sable, a tower or, in chief argent a key azure*

Many kings and queens and some crown princes have been imprisoned in castles. Edward II died in captivity at Berkeley, and Richard II is believed to have starved to death while under lock and key at Pontefract. Eleanor of Aquitaine was confined in several English castles by her husband Henry II, and Anne Boleyn was imprisoned and executed in the Tower of London by Henry VIII. Henry VI also died in the Tower, presumably at the command of Edward IV, whose only sons were later held there too and subsequently disappeared, making their uncle Richard's title to the throne a more straightforward one.

L *Gules, two lions passant guardant or, armed and langued azure*

These are the arms of modern Normandy and are supposed to have come to England with Norman William the Conqueror. They were also used by his sons William II and Henry I. While Henry II is considered to have used just one gold lion, his son Richard I 'The Lionheart' and all successive English kings and queens have used three.

M *Argent, three martlets gules*

Martlets are heraldic birds with no visible feet. They appear frequently in French and English heraldry and represent a restless search for education and adventure. When Henry III redesigned Westminster Abbey as a new and magnificent tomb for Saint Edward the Confessor, his heralds devised as Edward's coat of arms five gold martlets surrounding a gold cross on a blue field. These arms were based on a design they found on one of Edward's Saxon coins. Richard II also venerated Saint Edward, and in his royal arms impaled the cross and martlets heralds had attributed to Saxon King Edward with the quartering of French fleurs de lis and Norman lions.

N *Per fess or and barry wavy of five azure and of the first, issuant from the topmost wave King Neptune proper, his sinister hand raised, wearing an Eastern Crown and carrying in his dexter hand a trident, both of the second*

Neptune is seldom seen in English Heraldry until the sixteenth century and appears here much as Rubens depicted him in *The Disembarkation at Marseilles*, which celebrates the second marriage of Henry of Navarre, King of France, in 1600. Neptune became more popular in English heraldry during the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, when British naval power was at its height. As one example he and his attendant triton are supporters of the arms of Liverpool. Initiation rites invoking Neptune's favour for more experienced sailors seem to have begun as early as the thirteenth century, and by the nineteenth often focused on 'crossing the line', which meant crossing the Equator. Those English-speaking sailors who had already done so were considered Sons of Neptune, while those who hadn't were called Pollywogs or Grif-fins.

O *Argent, an oak tree proper*

The oak is England's National Tree, standing for strength and for endurance, even in adversity. Tradition has it that two famous oak trees sheltered two defeated English kings. After his defeat at Towton by Edward IV, Henry VI sheltered underneath a tree that was then called 'the Kings Oak'. Nearly two centuries later, when Oliver Cromwell defeated Charles II at Worcester, Charles was forced to climb into the branches of an oak to hide from Cromwell's men. He then escaped, regained his kingdom, and the tree that he had hidden in became known as 'the Royal Oak.'

P *Purple, a Pegasus salient argent*

In early English Heraldry the Pegasus was not a common charge. However, the present coat of arms of the Inner Temple of London is a gold Pegasus salient (rearing upward but with both hind feet still on the ground) on a blue field, and these arms are known to have been in use as long ago as 1561. The Inner Temple was at first the home of England's Templar Knights. Granted the land on which to build their own Temple by Henry II, they based it on The Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem and consecrated it in 1185. The Templars were disbanded by the Pope during the fourteenth century, but not long after that students of law began to use their London Inner Temple as a school for English barristers, and so it has been used until the present day. Since World War Two the Pegasus in heraldry has sometimes been associated with airports and the Royal Air Force, and since the 1930s a red heraldic Pegasus has been a worldwide symbol of Mobil Oil.

Q *Argent, a trellis azure, issuant from base a demi Queen of Hearts proper charged with a heart gules edged or and tressured sable*

The first Queen Anne of England was Anne of Bohemia, wife of Richard II. Next came Anne Neville, wife of Richard III, whose first husband had been Henry VI's only son, Edward the Prince of Wales. This Edward might, if he had not been killed at Tewkesbury, have made Anne Neville a Lancastrian rather than a Yorkist queen. Henry VIII defied the Pope to marry Anne Boleyn and make her England's third Queen Anne, and Henry's fourth wife Anne of Cleves became England's fourth Queen Anne, though not for very long. James VI of Scotland had married Anne of Denmark, so when he also inherited the English throne she became England's fifth Queen Anne, and when their grandson James II became king his wife Anne Hyde became the sixth. Anne Hyde, the daughter of a commoner, was also mother of two English queens who ruled in their own right, first Mary Stuart, who shared the monarchy with husband William of Orange, and then Mary's younger sister Anne, the seventh Anne of England and the first to reign alone, also as monarch of Great Britain after the Union of England and Scotland in 1707. The Queen of Hearts depicted here is Anne of Rainbow Valley, with reference to New Zealand's Queen Anne chocolate box.

R *Per fess nebuly argent and sable, in chief a fess archy of the colors of the rainbow proper*

Rainbow Valley is the home of Henry Griffin's grandfather Robert. In heraldry the rainbow may stand for reconciliation, as it did in the biblical great flood, or as a bridge to heaven it may symbolise hope.

S *Azure, a Swan roussant to sinister proper, wings elevated and displayed, royally gorged with crown and pendant chain or*

The white swan of De Bohun appears on the standard of Henry IV. It came to him through Mary de Bohun, who he married before he took the throne from Richard II. Their son Henry V also used it, and as a de Bohun emblem it dates back at least as far as Bannockburn, the battle in which young Sir Henry de Bohun was famously killed in single combat while invading Scotland. Henry was among the leading knights in Edward II's English army, and when he saw the Scottish King, Robert the Bruce, Henry in heavy armour on his heavy horse levelled his lance and charged the lightly armoured lightly mounted Scottish King. Robert dodged Henry's lance, rose in his stirrups and delivered such a blow with his two-handed battle-axe that the unlucky Henry was instantly slain. The Scottish army then went on to rout the English one.

T *Quarterly argent and vert, a Tudor rose proper*

The Tudor Rose is a red rose supposedly of Lancaster surrounding and protecting a white rose of York. It was created by the Tudor dynasty to symbolise the marriage of Henry VII, who claimed to be the heir of Lancaster, to Elizabeth of York, eldest surviving child of Edward IV. While Edward's badge was certainly a white rose it is less clear that the House of Lancaster had ever previously adopted a red one, and the wars between Lancaster and York were not called 'Wars of the Roses' at the time they were fought. The Tudor Rose now symbolises England and the English monarchy. Elizabeth of York is the most recent common ancestor of all the English monarchs since Henry VIII. Three other queens, two of them reigning queens, have since been called Elizabeth. Though it is here referred to as a crest, a Tudor Rose is properly a badge.

U *Vert, a unicorn rampant to sinister argent, armed, unguled and crined or*

All monarchs of Great Britain have a unicorn and lion as supporters of their coats of arms; the lion is for England and the unicorn for Scotland. However Scottish kings like Robert the Bruce used lions too, and theirs were red. Since the Union of the Crowns all royal arms of British Monarchs have included one or more red Scottish lions alongside England's golden ones and in Scottish versions the red lion always takes precedence while Scotland's unicorn is crowned and stands to dexter with the English lion moved to sinister. A well-known rhyme has these supporters 'fighting for the crown'. It must be English; in a Scottish rhyme the unicorn would win. Only British monarchs and their heirs apparent can use British royal arms, and currently the first of these, in order of succession, are Charles Prince of Wales, William Duke of Cambridge, Prince George of Cambridge and Prince Henry of Wales. Charles has a different title in Scotland, where he is not The Prince of Wales but The Duke of Rothesay, whose coat of arms has only red lions and is supported by two unicorns.

V *Sable, a serpent erect or langued gules*

Heraldic serpents are associated with wisdom, and sometimes with renewal or eternity. However they have never been very popular as charges, presumably because the serpent in Genesis is deceitful and European snakes in general were seen as treacherous. As one example of this, after Henry of Navarre was ambushed and killed in a Paris street by a knife wielding assassin Rubens' painting *The Death of Henry IV and the Proclamation of the Regency* suggested he was killed by a snake.

W *Gules, a wyvern or to sinister armed and langued azure, holding in its sinister talon a grail argent*

The ancient battle standard of Wessex was a gold wyvern, and Harold Godwinson, last of the Saxon kings, raised it for the last time at Hastings, attempting unsuccessfully to defend his realm against William the Conqueror. A crowned gold wyvern on a scarlet field was also part of Denmark's royal arms from 1440 until 1972, and when Anne of Denmark became queen consort of England's first Stuart monarch James I in 1603, she briefly brought the Danish wyvern into English royal heraldry. Their first son Henry died aged just eighteen, meaning it was his younger brother who inherited the crowns of Scotland, England and Ireland, as Charles I, but then he lost the English civil war and was beheaded. The House of Stuart was restored with Charles II, but lost the throne when George I, Elector of Hanover, was declared Queen Annes heir by the English parliament. 'Bonnie Prince Charlie' (James II's grandson), led the Jacobite rebellion of 1745 against George II, but failed to win back the British throne. Some Scots stayed loyal but while Stuarts remained Roman Catholic they could not regain the loyalty of England's Protestant majority. The last Stuart to claim the English throne was Bonnie Prince Charlie's younger brother Henry, an Italian cardinal. This wyvern holds a grail as tenaciously as Stuarts held onto the Roman Catholic faith.

X *Purpure, on waves barry wavy of argent and the first a lymphad proper, oars in action, its unfurled sail and stern banner each of the second charged with a saltire gules*

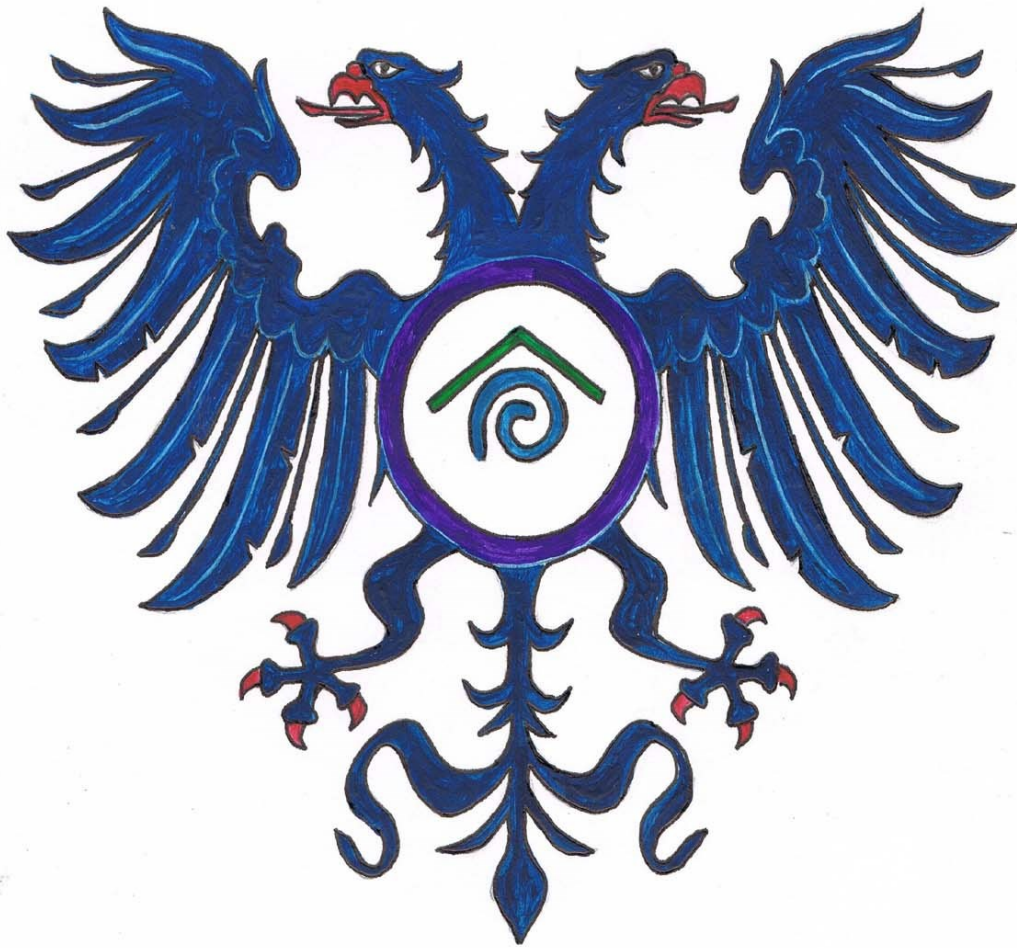
The lymphad is a medieval sailing ship and is a common charge in Gaelic heraldry; the word is from the Gaelic name for longship: 'long fhada'. New Zealand's arms have three black lymphads on a white pale. The sail and banner of this lymphad bear the red saltire arms of the Norman-Irish FitzGerald, who in the middle ages became Earls of Kildare. This emblem was not known as a Saint Patrick's Cross until the reign of George III, when it was added to the Union Jack; till then the Union Jack combined only the crosses of Saint Andrew and Saint George. The current Union Jack, with the disputable 'Saint Patrick's' cross, is seen in canton on New Zealand and Australian flags. Saint Patrick was a Roman Briton who learned Gaelic and became the most successful Christian missionary in Ireland. Afterwards he became the Irish patron saint, and ordinary crosses, seldom saltires, are still worn in his honour on Saint Patrick's Day. A later missionary, Henry Williams, adopted a similar approach in New Zealand. Henry, his brother William and his son Edward all became students of the Maori language. They printed an early Maori Bible in 1827 and in 1840 Henry and Edward wrote the Maori text of the Treaty of Waitangi, modern New Zealand's founding document. Maori went on to teach themselves and by the 1850s there were several Maori newspapers, one printed for an independent Maori King.

Y *Azure, a yale argent bezanty, accorned, hoofed, tusked and crined or*

The yale is a mythical creature resembling a large goat, but with tusks like a boar and horns which can be swivelled in any direction. Margaret Beaufort, mother of Henry VII, used two such yales as supporters.

Z *Or, a jesters head proper couped and habited in a jesters cap purpure and sable belled argent and edged vert, in chief gules three plates charged with the letters A, B and C azure*

Since childhood the author, Robert Jenkin, has enjoyed heraldic art. At fifteen he attached tiny historically correct heraldic shields to his collection of 'wars of the roses' knights. Training to be a teacher in his twenties he contrived to be commissioned to redraw the 'crest' of Wellington Teachers College, which, as he saw it, really needed help from him. Robert's grandfather and great great great grandfather were both called Henry Jenkin. If Henry as a name is redolent of royalty and aristocracy, and Robert Graves is right in saying those called Jenkin were at first the unexpected medieval English offspring of a Christmas mummer who for midwinter festivities had been disguised as Little John, then Henry Jenkin is a memorably democratic name, and Henry Griffin Jenkin is an even better one. Henry Jenkin the great great great great grandfather of Henry Griffin Jenkin was born in Cornwall in 1760 and died there in 1845.



*Argent, below a chevron vert a gorges azure
supporter: an imperial eagle azure armed and langued gules*

