

Hi KKC Extended Family!

28 August 2022

I hope your summer is going well and as it cools off, able to get outside more and enjoy the fall.

This letter/post is over a month late and my apologies for that. I wanted to answer a question Tina had about the Coat of Arms, but more of that in a moment. I also started working on updating the website at the same time and hoped to announce the update and some other things at same time. Sadly, I got too ambitious and my website creating experience too novice, so will have to break it up into smaller bites.

Anyway, Tina asked, “what does the crest mean?” Good Question!! The Kolb-Kulp-Culp Family Book of 1936 (the Kulp Family brown binder, more on that next time) only speaks to its origin, which is:

“Bartholomaus Kulp and his nephew Arnold Kulp were honored with a Coat-of-Arms November 20<sup>th</sup>, 1578; presented by Elector Ludwig of the Palatinate.” (See this link: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philipp\\_Ludwig,\\_Count\\_Palatine\\_of\\_Neuburg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philipp_Ludwig,_Count_Palatine_of_Neuburg)).

This was information supplied to the Kulp History Committee in the 1930s by the German Historian, Carl Leo Kulp of Darmstadt, Germany, whose collection of Coats of Arms is the Third Largest in Germany, comprising 40,000 specimens.



But, actually deciphering the elements is a different story. Here is what I found out:

In heraldry, a charge is any object or figure placed on the shield. The actual Kulp family crest is the divided (geteilt) shield (two sections with a crown on top and three gargoyles(?) on the bottom). Helmets were commonly placed on top of the crest. Open helmets were reserved for nobility, while burghers, town folk, typically were allowed a closed helmet (like ours). Mantling is drapery tied to the helmet above the shield. Commonly occurring animals were the lion and eagle, but we have a horse or Pegasus (flying horse) (See <https://www.heraldryandcrests.com/blogs/news/german-heraldry>)

According to a website, Genes Reunited Blog (<https://www.genesreunited.co.uk/blog/genes-reunited-blog/archive/2013/11/7/what-the-symbols-on-coats-of-arms,-family-crests-and-seals-mean>), the following could be general meanings to the charges on a coat of arms:

Gold: Generosity and elevation of the mind

Blue: Truth and Loyalty

Horse: Readiness for all employments for king and country.  
(Or, is it a Pegasus, Horse with blue wings?): Poetic genius and inspiration; the messenger of God)

Top half of crest - Crown: (meaning not listed)

Bottom half of crest - Gargoyles (?) with rings (almost like a door knocker): (meaning not listed)

So if you have some time, google coats of arms to dive much deeper into this detailed and fascinating subject. And if you find out what charges are in the bottom half of the crest are or anything else, please let me know.

Thanks, till next time. Have a safe and wonderful rest of your summer!

Jack Oberholtzer, Secretary KKC Family Reunion

Some other resources:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electoral\\_Palatinate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electoral_Palatinate)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Counts\\_Palatine\\_of\\_the\\_Rhine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Counts_Palatine_of_the_Rhine)

<https://europeanheraldry.org/germany/electoral-houses/house-wittlesbach/electors-palatine/>

[https://history.fandom.com/wiki/Electorate\\_of\\_the\\_Palatinate](https://history.fandom.com/wiki/Electorate_of_the_Palatinate)