



Clan MONYPENNY

ARMS

Gules, three cross crosslets fitchée issuing out of as many crescents Argent

CREST

A figure representing Neptune, namely a naked man, bearded Proper, crowned with an antique crown Vert, bestriding a dolphin naiant Or, finned gules, in waves of the sea Argent and Azure, holding in his sinister hand, bridling the dolphin Gules, and in his dexter hand a trident Azure

MOTTO

Imperat aequor (He rules the sea)

Despite the attractive simplicity of the explanation, this name has nothing whatsoever to do with coinage. Nisbet states that the ancient arms bore a dolphin and from this he conjectured that the Monypennys may originally have been knights from the Dauphinate region of Auvergne in France. The name Magnepenine appears in Normandy towards the end of the twelfth century, and Manipeniand Manipenyn are later found in English documents. The family acquired lands of Putmullin, later called Pitmilley, from the prior of St Andrews at the beginning of the thirteenth century. John Monipenny appears on the Ragman Roll, rendering homage for his lands to Edward I of England in 1296. He may also be the same John Monipenny who was one of the ambassadors to Edward III of England in 1336. The possible connection of the Monypennys with France was re-established in the fifteenth century, when William Monypenny acquired land in France and appears to have resided there for the latter part of his life. In 1447 he was granted a safe conduct to negotiate the marriage of Princess Eleanor of Scotland to the son of the king of France. He had clearly risen to prominence in his adopted country, where he was honored with the title of 'Baron and Lord of Conquersault'. He was sent, along with John Kennedy, Provost of St Andrews, on a long mission to Rome via Denmark and Castile. He presumably performed his tasks satisfactorily as he was created Lord Monypenny by James II sometime prior to 1464. The title became extinct when his son, Alexander, died without male issue. Isabel Monypenny, a daughter of the Baron of Pitmilley, was the mother of Cardinal Beaton, the last cardinal and primate of Scotland before the Reformation. David Monypenny of Pitmilley was a distinguished lawyer at the turn of the nineteenth century. He became Solicitor General in 1811 and was thereafter elevated to the Bench with the title of 'Lord Pitmilley'. The Monypennys of Pitmilley, who no longer bear the dolphin on their shield, are still prominent in Fife.

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