



For over half-a-century the Midland Bank displayed on cheques, statements and other documents, as well as on premises, a device in the form of a shield, which was regarded as a symbol of the origin and growth of the Bank. In this device were included elements from the arms of the cities of London and Birmingham, and use of it seems to have begun after 1899, when the London and Midland Bank, as it then was, absorbed the City Bank. During the ensuing years, several versions of the shield were used, though it appears that they were not in true heraldic form.

Under guidance from Chester Herald, the Bank, in June 1952, addressed a Memorial to the Earl Marshal for a grant of Letters Patent which would permit the use of a Coat of Arms. To this end the shield device was replaced by one conforming with the principles of heraldry, a crest and supporters were added, and an associated distinctive badge designed. After approval by Garter King of Arms, a Grant was made by the three Kings of Arms, embodying the Coat of Arms which is now used by the Bank.

Heraldry uses a language of its own by which every detail in a coat of arms can be described precisely. The Letters Patent includes a blazon, or formal heraldic description of the Coat of Arms, and for the Bank this is as follows:



*The
Coat of Arms
of the*

**Midland
Bank**



The Badge

Within a circlet of bezants a griffin
segrant Or.



The Blazon

Quarterly 1st and 4th azure a bend of lozenges conjoined Or 2nd and 3rd per pale indented of the last and gules over all a cross also gules thereon in chief a sword erect proper, hilt and pomel of the second and in fesse a mural crown between four ermine spots gold. *And for the Crest:* On a wreath of the colours issuant from a mural crown proper a dragon's wing gules bezantee.

Supporters: On the dexter side a dragon and on the sinister side a griffin argent each collared and with chain reflexed over the back Or.

THE MOTTO - "Vis Unita Fortior" - has long been that of the Bank, and may be translated as "Strength united is yet stronger."



The House Symbol

In July 1965 the Midland Bank adopted a new house symbol. This is a stylised version of the badge and is used on all official publications, displays and premises.



The Letters Patent of the Kings of Arms granting the armorial bearings

The Coat of Arms, Badge and Motto illustrate the history and purpose of the Bank. It was founded in 1836 in Birmingham, and in 1891 the Head Office moved to London. Largely by absorbing other banks and uniting them into one organization, a branch system was established providing a country-wide banking service. Thus the shield bears symbols corresponding to those on the Coats of Arms of the cities of London and Birmingham: the red cross and the sword are from the arms of the City of London, and the quarterings are from those of Birmingham, whence also are derived the crown and ermine. As supporters, the dragon is from the arms of the City of London, and the griffin is the traditional guardian of treasure. On the crest, the dragon's wing again is from the City of London, but for the Bank it is marked with gold bezants, representing gold coins or treasure. The badge, with griffin and bezants, likewise represents the banking service.