

LIEBHABER-BIBLIOTHEK
ALTER ILLUSTRATOREN
IN FACSIMILE-REPRODUCTION.

V. Bändchen.

Virgil Solis'
Wappenbüchlein.

Nürnberg
bei
Virgil Solis

1555.



München
bei
Georg Hirth

1882.

INTRODUCTION

This volume is a facsimile copy of Virgil Solis *Wappenbüchlein*, or Heraldry Booklet. It was originally published in Nuremberg in 1555 and reprinted in Munich in 1882.

Virgil Solis (1514-1562) was a prolific printmaker and book illustrator. Though little is known about his origins or training, from 1540 until his death he and his workshop created over 2000 prints and drawings. Among his works that have come down to us are a complete set of playing cards from 1544 and the current volume, his Heraldry Booklet.

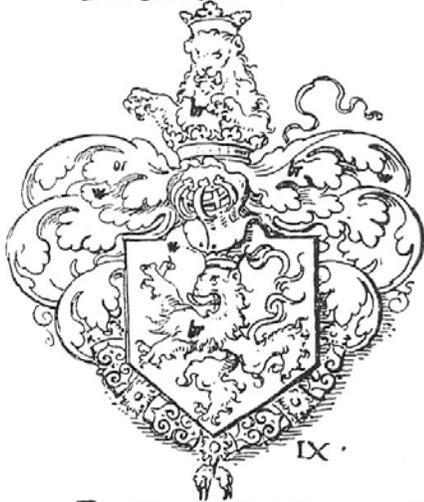
Perhaps more accurately termed a roll of arms, the *Wappenbüchlein* for the most part follows the same general pattern of other rolls of arms of the period. It begins with the arms of the Papacy, followed by cardinals, archbishops and bishops of the church. A new section opens with the arms of the Holy Roman Emperor, various major European kingdoms, followed by those of the Electors and nobility of the Empire. This is followed by lesser kingdoms, both real and fictional (*e.g.*, India, Africa, Barbary), and Duchies, Counties, and lesser nobility. An interesting page contains both the “First Three Coats of Arms in the World” and the arms of the Three Wise Men who were believed to have brought gifts to the infant Jesus, Caspar, Balthasar, and Melchior. This is followed by a page of the arms of eastern kingdoms (mostly attributed or fictional arms), including Babylon, Nineveh, and Bethlehem, but also Jerusalem, which for nearly 200 years during the Crusades was indeed a kingdom.

Drawn and published before Petra Sancta’s system of hatching had been developed, all of the arms contained in the *Wappenbüchlein* are tricked; that is to say, letters are used to note the various tinctures. Page 48 of the book describes the tinctures assigned to each letter in both German and Latin. “b” is azure, or blue; “w” is argent, or white; “g” is or, or gold; “gr” is vert, or green; “r” is gules, or red; “br” is brown; and “f” is flames proper, or mixed red and gold. Black is completely inked in and is therefore not tricked.

It is hoped that the student of heraldic art and practice will find this facsimile volume of Renaissance heraldic art both useful and interesting.

David B. Appleton
November 2005

KHVNIGR^o V^o D^o MANA^o
HISPANIA ENGE LANDT



PORTV GAL

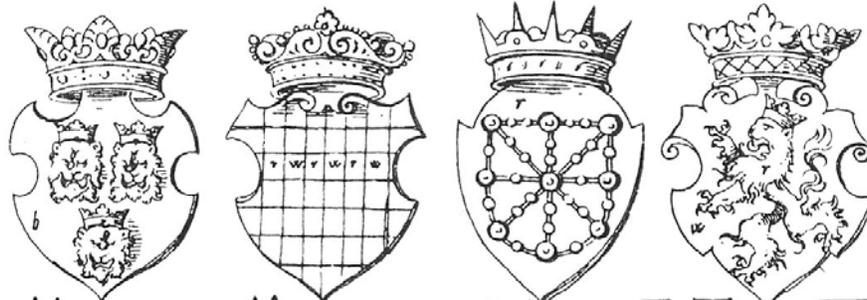


NEAPOLIS

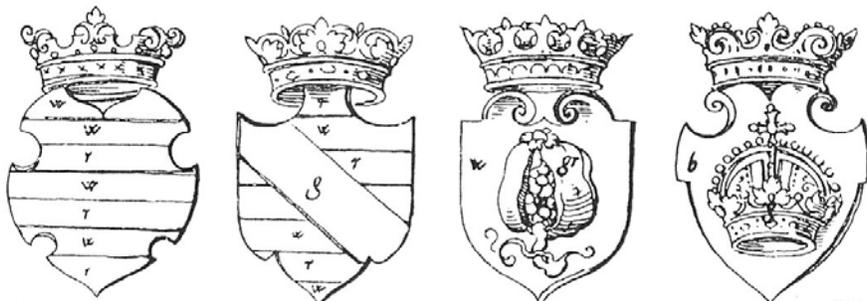


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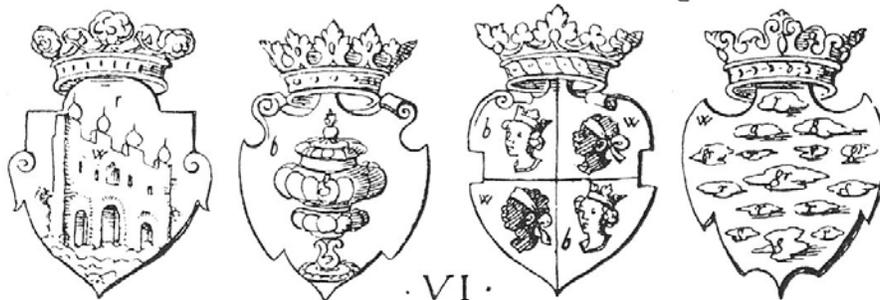
DALMACIĒ. CROACIĒ. NAVERN. LEON.



MAIORCA. MINORCA. GRANATE. TOLETE.



VALENTIA. GALICIE. ALGESIER. XV INSL.



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