

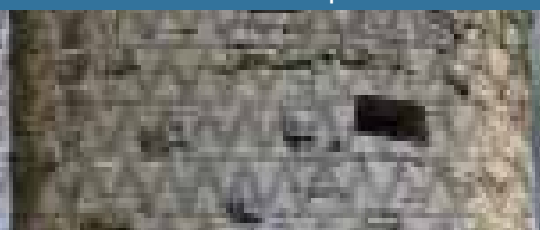


From the origins to the 15th century

GUARD ROOM



From left to right: coat of arms of the La Baume-Suze, Isnards and Asselin de Villequier families.



A ceiling and coats of arms

The French-style ceiling (with visible beams and joists) is a typical Renaissance ceiling. It is decorated with coats of arms, which were probably painted in the 19th century.

The noble families of the Ancien Régime are identified by their coat of arms. First used by knights in the 12th century, they later spread gradually to the clergy and civil society. The motifs and symbols on the coat of arms enabled easily identifying a lineage. The choice of motifs was frequently tied to family history.

The role of the coat of arms is first of all to prove social rank. It is featured on architecture, interior decoration or everyday objects, such as the plate-warmer presented below :



Detail of a plate-warmer representing the coat of arms of the Isnards and La Baume-Suze families, 19th century.

Coats of arms and families

The coat of arms of the La Baume family is found above the armor. “Or with three sable chevrons and an azure chief, charged with lion issant, armed, lampassé gules and a crown of or.” This describes a yellow blazon with three black chevrons topped by a blue part adorned with the upper half of the body of a white lion, which is showing its claws, sticking out a red tongue and wearing a yellow crown. The La Baume family was one of the most important families to live in the castle. They became its owners in 1426, and profoundly transformed the site (courtyard of honor, plaster decorations, etc.). The Marquise de Bryas, who was the last private owner, is their distant descendant.

In front, we find a blazon composed of two parts, with, on the right, the Isnards. “Or, with a saltire gules, cantoned with four azure eperon mullets”: yellow with a red cross surrounded by four blue five-pointed stars, with a circular opening in their center. The Isnards family succeeded the La Baume family. In 1792, Louis-Charles de La Baume was declared an émigré and the castle was placed in receivership. His sister Aldonce, who had become Marquise des Isnards by marriage, recovered the site in 1797. The family restored the castle (grand staircase, great hall) and remained the owner until 1919.

On the left is the blazon of the Asselin de Villequier family. “Azure with a chevron or accompanied by three burettes or”; that is, blue with a yellow chevron surrounded by three yellow burettes. The Asselin de Villequier family became allied with the Isnards family when Catherine de Villequier married Albéric des Isnards in 1862.



An object

Armor, the symbol of power

The three armor elements presented in this room probably date from the 16th century. Frequently used until the end of the Middle Ages, armor is still the symbol of the lord's belligerent power.

The pike, lance and helmet are decorated. Therefore, this armor was probably used as a representative symbol at tournaments, rather than for actual war.

The **helmet** is shaped like a warhead with a broadened base. Gilding around the nail heads gives them a floral aspect. A shaft at the front of the helmet was probably topped with a decorative plume that no longer exists.

The **breastplate** worn over the chest is connected by straps to two elements that protect the upper thighs.

The **partisan*** is fitted onto a handle that probably was originally from two to four meters long. Its base is carved with plant motifs and the coat of arms of the La Baume family, which is surrounded by lions and topped with a crown.

Glossary

Partisan : lance with one end divided into three parts, including a spearhead in the center flanked by two crescent moons.



To learn more about the various families and important figures in the castle's history, see Terminal 1 located in this room.