

## COUNTY OF SUTHERLAND

The County of Sutherland has one Burgh, the Royal Burgh of Dornoch. The County town, Golspie, is not a Burgh.



### ROYAL BURGH OF DORNOCH

Argent, a horseshoe Azure, having seven horsenails Or.

Above the Shield is placed a mural crown masoned Proper, thereon a Helmet befitting their degree with a Mantling Azure doubled Argent, and on a Wreath of their Liveries is set for *Crest* a cat-a-mountain sejant Proper, holding in his dexter paw an escutcheon Gules charged with three mullets Or, and in an Escrol over the same this *Motto* "Without Feare".

(Lyon Register, xxviii, 41: 20 June 1929)

DORNOCH, the cathedral town of the old diocese of Caithness, was originally a Burgh of the Bishop of Caithness. In 1628, it was created a Royal Burgh by King Charles I, but with some reservation of rights to the Earl of Sutherland, the hereditary Superior.<sup>1</sup>

The arms are based on an old Burgh seal of which a 1786 impression is on record.<sup>2</sup> The silver and blue colours are those traditionally used by the town and the horse-shoe recalls the victory of William, Thane or Earl of Sutherland, over the Danes and Norwegians at nearby Embo in about 1259. In this battle, the Thane is said to have slain the Danish General with a horse's leg he had picked up on the battlefield, and there has grown up a tradition that, in honour of his triumph, the place was given the name Dorneich, being the Gaelic for a horse's foot or hoof; this, however, is not so, as the name Dornoch is mentioned in a Mandate of King David I dated about 1136.<sup>3</sup> The wild cat in the crest is the Sutherland crest and it holds a shield with the arms of the ancient Earldom of Sutherland. The motto is an English version of the French motto "Sans Peur" of the Earls of Sutherland; it appears on the fountain presented by Miss Georgina Anderson to the Burgh in 1892 and on the Carnegie Free Library which was opened in 1906.



### SUTHERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

Gules, on a fess Argent, between three mullets Or, a raven displayed Sable.

Below the Shield, which is ensigned of the coronet proper to a County Council, is placed in an Escrol this *Motto* "Dhuth Lean Do Dhuthchas Le Durachd".

(Lyon Register, xli, 68: 27 July 1957)

The County Council of THE COUNTY OF SUTHERLAND bears arms which are the arms of the ancient Earldom of Sutherland differenced by a silver fess with a black raven to recall the old connection with the Norse Jarls of Orkney whose territory came down to the County lands. The Gaelic motto—"Cling close to thy heritage with diligence"—was allowed, after some discussion, so that the western Celtic aspect of the County could be represented in the arms. This motto was suggested by the Rev. William MacLeod of Dornoch, who later became Convener of the County.<sup>4</sup> The wording on the plain seal adopted by the County Council in 1890 was entirely in Gaelic and, as well as the name of the County Council, included the words "Caidheal na Gaidheal an Gualaibh a Cheile" (Children of the Gael shoulder to shoulder).