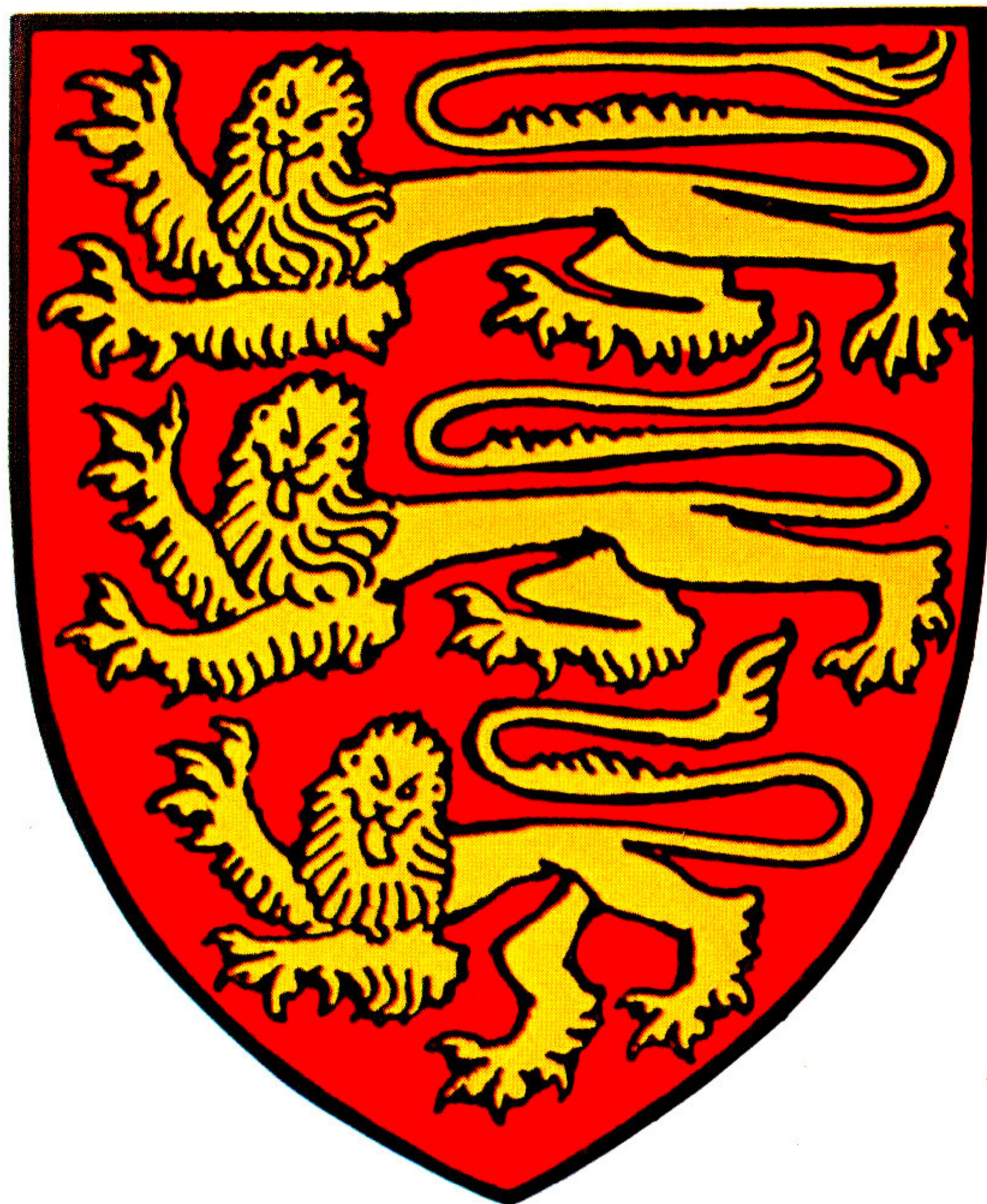


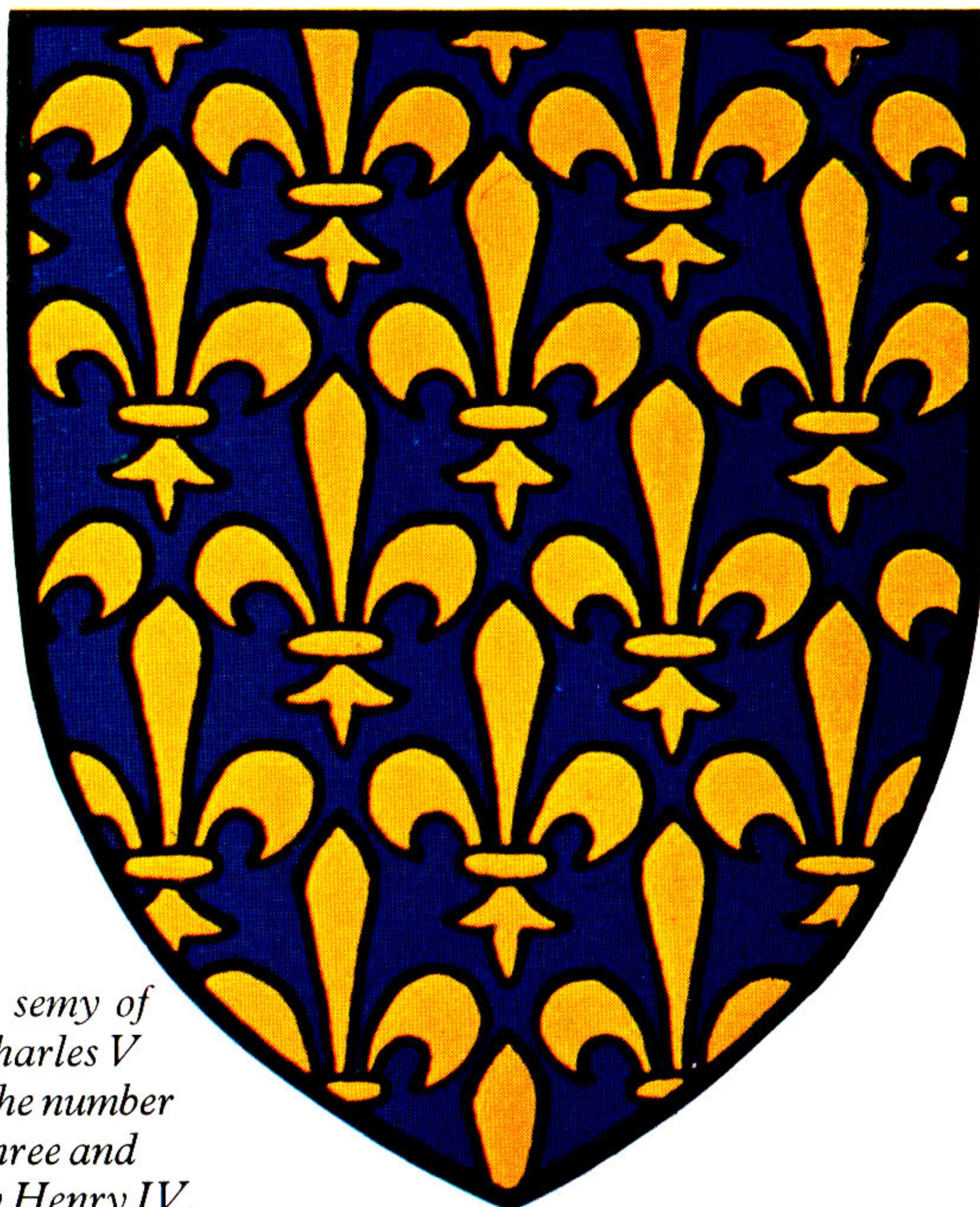
# THE ROYAL ARMS – RICHARD I to ELIZABETH I

Geoffrey, Count of Anjou, who was the second husband of Maud, daughter of King Henry I, and thus the ancestor of those Kings of England called Plantagenet, bore golden lions on a blue shield. It is related in a chronicle that when he married in 1127 his father-in-law gave him a shield on which were little lions. When he died in 1151 he was commemorated by a splendid enamel, still to be seen in the museum at Le Mans in Normandy, which shows him bearing a blue shield on which four golden rampant lions

at the birth of heraldry the lion was the favoured beast of the English royal family. It is not therefore surprising that when Richard I had a new Great Seal struck sometime after 1195 it showed him on horseback with a shield on which three lions passant guardant are clearly depicted. The arms of England had been devised and have remained unaltered ever since. The proper heraldic description of the arms is: gules, three lions passant guardant in pale or. That is, on a red shield three golden lions walking along,



*Left: the arms of England, 'Gules three lions passant guardant or' as first used by Richard I and by all subsequent sovereigns.*



*The arms of France (ancient): 'Azure, semy of fleurs-de-lys or'. Charles V of France reduced the number of fleurs-de-lys to three and this was followed by Henry IV.*

are visible, a further two probably being hidden by the curve of the shield. There is no evidence that Henry II, Geoffrey's son, used this coat of arms so we cannot say that the coat was hereditary and therefore true heraldry.

Henry's son John (later to be King John) used a seal as Lord of Ireland and Count of Mortain on which two lions are depicted on his shield, and John's elder brother Richard is shown on his first great seal, cut when he came to the throne in 1189, as bearing a lion rampant on his shield. As only one half of his convex shield is visible we do not know whether there was another lion on the other half of the seal.

There is an equestrian seal extant of William FitzEmpress, who died in 1163, younger brother of Henry II, which clearly shows a lion on the shield and on the horse trappings.

William Longespee, Earl of Salisbury, the bastard son of Henry II, bore his grandfather Geoffrey's coat. This is still to be seen, beautifully sculptured, on his tomb in Salisbury Cathedral.

Then there are the two golden lions passant guardant on a red shield which were borne by Henry, Count Palatine of the Rhine, in 1195. Henry was the son of Henry II's daughter Maud. From these evidences it seems clear that



*Edward III who claimed the throne of France, quartered the French royal arms with his own.*