

The Bodine Family Crest (Coat of Arms)

From Ronny Bodine

There are any number of crests for the Bodine family depending on whom you believe. Bear in mind that a crest or more correctly an armorial coat of arms was adopted by a family and registered by that country's heralds. The Bodine family traces back to France and so one would have to consult Armorial General de la France, dating to 1738, or Riestrap's General Armorial, that country's authority on coats of arms. In the United States there are three main Bodine families. One is that of Jean Bodin and his wife Esther (or Hester) Bridon, another is Jean Bodin and his wife Maria Crocheron, both families of which settled on Staten Island, NY and the Bodines of Orange County, New York.

In the United States there are some coats of arms companies that sell Bodine arms, but these have been created by them for profit. There has never been a true coat of arms associated to the name Bodine, but there has for "de Bodin." Referring to Mary Elizabeth Sinnott's 1904 genealogy which included the Bodine family, she depicts a coat of arms which is identified as that of "Le Boudin." This is based upon the then belief that the Bodines descended from the family of la Boudain, traced back by an early 20th century genealogist named Gustav Anjou, who "created" genealogies for his wealthy clients. If the facts did not fit, he created the facts. He took the family of Jean Bodin who arrived in England in 1677 and attached them to the la Boudain family and so assigned their coat of arms. Total fiction.

Attached below are depictions of three coats of arms: the left one presented by Mrs. Sinnott in her book; the middle one that of Bodin of Orléanais and Brittany; and the right one as that of Boudaan of Amsterdam, Utrecht, Holland. The images are somewhat blurred as I have enlarged them from very small illustrations. Note that they are all the same, indicating it is the same family, just in different locations. Historically speaking, this is the closest one can come to a coat of arms. But neither can be attributed to the three Bodine families in America, as the ancestry of none can be traced in France to a family bearing the arms.

