

Use of Ermine Spots and Ermine Fur

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The heraldic tincture of ermine and its variants is a very period motif. So is the use of ermine spots as heraldic charges. Many folks utilize this element in their heraldry, but when they go to create display they may be uncertain how things relate to the restriction on ermine noted in the sumptuary laws of the kingdom. Let's clear up the confusion.

Who may utilize ermine? According to current Kingdom Law in *Appendix III: The Sumptuary Laws of Calontir* within the section entitled AIII-302 CLOAKS, it states: "ERMINE trim and mantling on cloaks is reserved exclusively for the Royal Family and Peers of the Realm." This is the only restriction in Calontir concerning ermine.

By current interpretation of the sumptuary laws, this limitation deals only with cloaks. One should not trim or mantle (collar) their cloak with ermine fur or ermine-appearing material unless they are part of the Royal Family or a Peer of the Realm. However, such trim may be utilized on other garments, just as was done in period (such as on sideless surcoats).

The same applies to the use of ermine spots as decoration on garments. So if a gentle has ermine or an ermine variant as a tincture of their heraldry, or has ermine spots as charges on their coat-of-arms, they are allowed and encouraged to utilize it for display purposes, subject to this minor limitation of trimming cloaks.

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