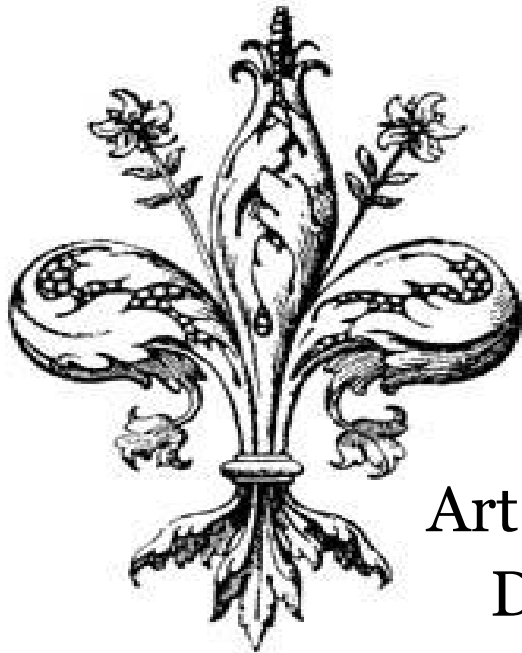


Fleur de Lys

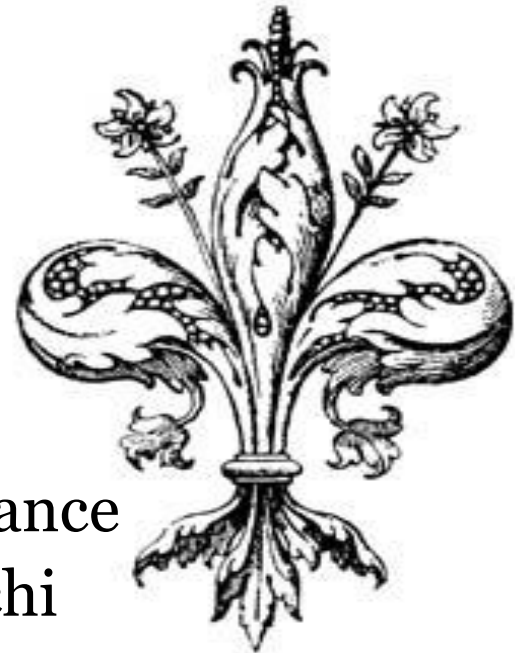
Religious Symbol

Vs.

Royal Symbol



Kaitlin Figaro
Art & Society in France
Dr. Dudley Marchi



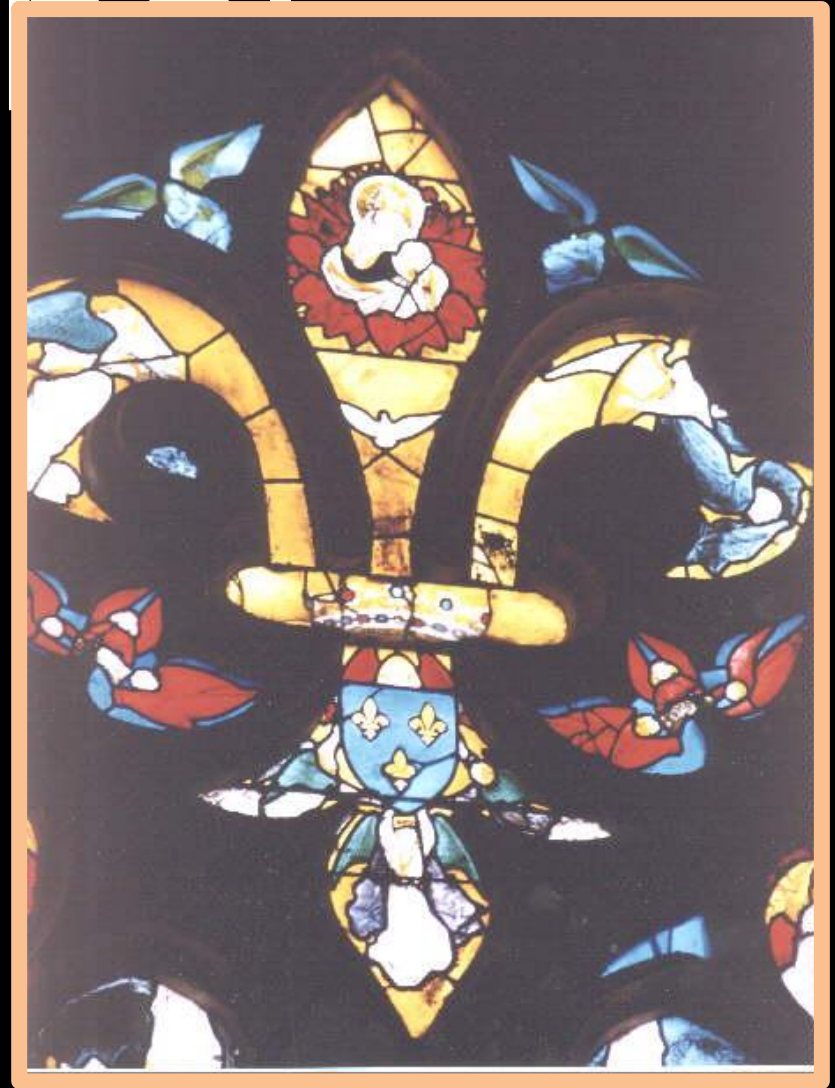
Introduction

- The Fleur de Lys is a very popular symbol in fashion today, but this hasn't always been its primary purpose. The stylized lily flower is both a religious and royal symbol used still today. It refers to the Virgin Mary as a pure, white lily flower; Mary is a "lily among thorns". It is also used as the French symbol of royalty. The New Orleans Saints football team marks their territory with it, and people walk around with it blazed across their T-shirts. Such a popular symbol deserves some historical recognition.

- The Fleur de Lys has been used by Carolingian and Capetian Kings, French painters, tattoo artists, and clothing designers as a beautiful, aesthetic symbol. Since the High Middle Ages, French Kings have used the Fleur de Lys as a symbol portraying royalty. This is based on the religious stronghold of the symbol and also its historical symbolism. According to legend, an angel brought the lily flower from heaven itself to Clovis, King of France, at his baptism. Clovis was the first Christian King to unite France under one religion, so this symbol's connection to his baptism is very important. The Fleur de Lys has been branded on war soldiers' uniforms and Kings' crowns, capes, and scepters. This symbol has had a lasting effect as a stylish symbol, a boyscout patch, and sport's logos, but this symbol integrates spirituality and history into the world daily.

Religious Symbol

- Stylized Lily {Iris?} flower
- Virgin Mary
- 14th century with the Trinity



Bourges cathedral, 15th c

The Annunciation Triptych c.
1425, Robert Campin



Lilies

Fleur de Lys

Virgin Mary

Royal Symbol



The French Crown Jewels, Musee de Louvre

- Purely decorative
- High Middle Ages
- Appears on coins and seals
- Traces back to Mesopotamia
- Clovis's baptism



The Fleur de Lys was used throughout royal portraiture and as a religious symbol in French art.

Fleur de Lys in fashion



fashion

