



The Wurtz Coat of Arms

The German surname Wurtz can derive from three distinct sources. Firstly, the name can derive from an occupational source, from the type of work a man once did or the profession he pursued. In this instance, the name is traceable to the German term "Wurzkrämer", frequently abbreviated to "Wurz" which denoted one who sold condiments and vegetables. (This term is traceable to "Wurze" which was translated literally as 'spice, condiment, flavouring, seasoning'). During the Middle Ages it was common practice to identify a person with the type of work he did and to refer to him in this manner. The "Wurzkrämer" either had a small premises

where he sold his vegetables or else he sold straight from his farm or vegetable plot. Secondly, Wurtz can be of local origin, deriving from the name of the dwelling place or locality where the original bearer once lived or held land. In this instance, the surname is derived from the known named Wurzburg which is situated in the Odenwald region. Hence the name Wurz and Wurtz came to denote one who was either a resident or native of Wurzburg. Thirdly, Wurtz can derive from a nickname source, from a personal or physical characteristic of the original bearer. In this instance, and thus denoted one who was of small stature. An early instance of this surname occurs in the "Württembergische Viertelsjahrhefte für Landesgeschichte"; one Conrad de alt Wurtz (the elder Conrad Wurtz) is listed therein as being a citizen of Horkheim in 1370.

Blazon of Arms: Play of six or and azure. (Six bands alternating of "or" (gold) and "azure" (blue)).

Translation: Or (gold), denotes Elevation of Mind. Azure (blue), denotes Loyalty and Truth

Crest: Three ostrich plumes proper. (Representing nobility)

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