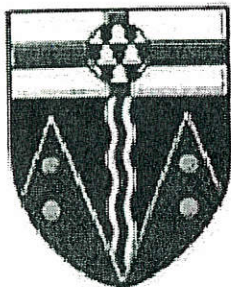




Manitoba



Northwest Territories



Yukon



Prince Edward Island

Observe the traditional design elements. What do you think they symbolized for the people who chose to wear them? Below is a list of some elements you may want to include in your designs.

The Language of Heraldry

Heraldic Colors:

- Yellow or Gold - Generosity
- White or Silver - Peace & Sincerity
- Black - Constancy (& sometimes Grief)
- Blue - Loyalty & Truthfulness
- Red - Military Fortitude & Magnanimity
- Green - Hope, Joy & sometimes Loyalty
- Purple - Royal Majesty, Sovereignty & Justice

Heraldic Animals:

- Bear - Protectiveness
- Bee - Industriousness
- Camel - Perseverance
- Dog - Loyalty
- Double Eagle & Eagle - Leadership & Decisiveness
- Dragon - Defender of Treasure
- Falcon or Hawk - Eagerness
- Fox - Cleverness
- Griffin (part eagle, part lion) - Bravery
- Horse - Readiness to Serve
- Lion - Courage
- Pelican - Generosity & Devotion
- Raven - Constancy
- Snake - Ambition
- Stag, Elk or Deer - Peace & Harmony
- Tiger - Fierceness & Valor
- Unicorn - Extreme courage
- Wolf - Constant Vigilance

Heraldic Symbols:

- Axe - Dutiful
- Bridge - (signifies a governor or magistrate)
- Crescent - Enlightenment
- Crosses - Christian sentiments
- Crown - Authority
- Fire - Zeal
- Flaming Heart - Passion
- Fleur-de-lys (stylized Iris flower) - Purity (associated with France)
- Hand - Faith, Sincerity & Justice
- Heart - Sincerity
- Horns & Antlers - Fortitude
- Lightning - Decisiveness
- Moon - Serenity
- Oyster Shell - Traveler
- Ring - Fidelity
- Scepter - Justice
- Star - Nobility
- Sun - Glory
- Sword - Warlike
- Tower or Castle - Fortitude & Protectiveness

Common Design Features (heraldic terminology):









- Bend - a diagonal stripe
- Chevron - an upside-down "V"
- Chief - broad stripe across top of shield
- Dexter - the righthand side of the shield (from its user's perspective)
- Ermine - a white fur pattern (with black tail tips)
- Fess - broad horizontal stripe through center
- Pale - broad vertical stripe through center
- Passant - an animal shown walking
- Rampant - an animal standing on hind legs
- Sinister - the lefthand side of the shield (from its user's perspective)








Other important design details:

Besides simple fields of color, a coat of arms may contain other design motifs, such as checkerboards, polka dots, or fur patterns. One traditional design rule is that two solid-color fields shouldn't appear side by side unless one of the two is "metallic". Even this "rule" has been broken by many famous and historical coats of arms.






3

HERALDIC BEASTS

| Name | Meaning | Image | Irish Example |
|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Lion | Fierce Courage. In Ireland the Lion represented the 'lion' season, prior to the full arrival of Summer. The symbol can also represent a great Warrior or Chief. |  | Lawlor Dillon Condon |
| Tiger | Fierceness and valour |  | |
| Fish | Of Regal origin, one of high nature. In Ireland the Fish is associated with the legend of Fionn who became the first to taste the 'salmon of knowledge'. The Celtic 'Otherworld' was often a place of water, a lake or sea, where would dwell Gods represented by fish. |  | Roche O'Neill |
| Bear | Fierce Protection |  | McKee |
| Wolf | Perseverance in siege or effort |  | Callaghan Wilson |
| Leopard | Valiant and enduring warrior |  | Wheeler Price Rice |
| Horse | Readiness for duty |  | O'Halloran Rush |
| Bull | Valour and magnanimity |  | Buckley |
| Boar | Fierce fighter, fights to the death. In Ireland the boar is one of the most popular charges. The meat of the boar was considered to be food of the Celtic Gods. The symbol of | | Hanley Sweeney |

| | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| | the boar was worn in battle as a charm against injury. |  | |
| Boars Head | Hospitality |  | Pierce Healy |
| Conies (Hares and Rabbits) | Peace-loving |  | Gaffney |
| Fox | Wise defence, wisdom |  | |
| Dog (Talbot, Greyhound) | Courage, fidelity, loyalty |  | Allen Gaffney |
| Dolphin | Affection, charity |  | O'Regan |
| Tortoise | Invulnerability |  | Conlon |
| Griffin | Valiant soldier - to the death, Vigilance. In Ireland the worship of the sun in pre-Christian times was often represented by the Griffin. It later became a symbol of gold - 'yellow light'. |  | Lowe Griffin |
| Dragon | Valiant defender |  | McGillycuddy |
| Stag, Buck or Deer | Skillful, Politic, lover of harmony. In Ireland the Stag was one of the most ancient of charges and was regarded as the most handsome. The Stag represents the very ancestors of the Celtic race. |  | Green Hennessy |
| Snake. | Wisdom. In Ireland the Snake was a symbol of fertility and renewal, and also, because of its forked tongue, was associated with lightning and the |  | Donovan Hayes O'Dea |

HERALDIC BIRDS

| Name | Meaning | Image | Irish Example |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Martlet/Swallow | One who has been dispossessed of land. Sign for fourth son. In Ireland the Martlett was the bird of perpetual movement. |  | McGill McCoy |
| Eagle | Protector, a person of action, noble nature, power, strength. In Ireland the eagle, along with other birds, was regarded as one of the 'demons of the air' and was thus a very popular and powerful charge. |  | Harrison Dunne |
| Peacock | Beauty, pride |  | |
| Swan | A musical person, poetry, harmony In Ireland the Swan was regarded as the bird that bore the spirit of a dead Celtic Chieftain sway to the next life. |  | Sinnott |
| Dove | Love, Peace. In Ireland the Dove was regarded as the bird of God. |  | Nash Sheehan |

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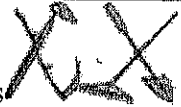



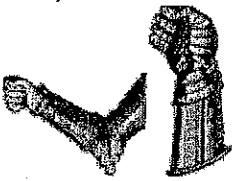


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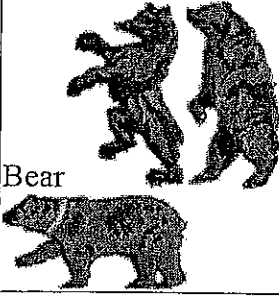

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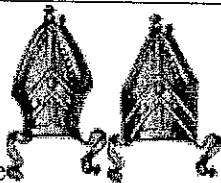



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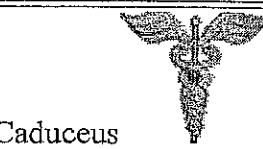

heraldic symbols and their meanings as suggested by some historians:


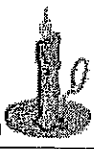


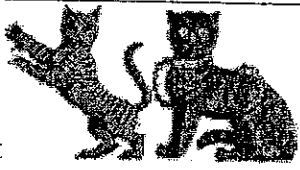


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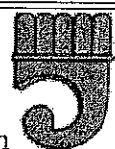

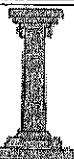

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| Acacia Branch or Leaves | Eternal and affectionate remembrance |
| Acorn | Antiquity and strength. |
| Agricultural Tools  | Labouring in the earth and depending upon providence; see also Scythe and Sickle |
| Alisaunder (Similar to laurel) | Peace and/or triumph. |
| Allerion (Mythical creature, similar to an eagle, but without beak or claws) | Strength of will and authority of mind. |
| Anchor  | Hope; religious steadfastness |
| Angels (See <u>Sample Angels</u>) | Dignity, glory, and honour; missionary; bearer of joyful news |
| Annulet  (finger ring) | Fidelity |
| Ant | Great labour, wisdom, and providence in one's affairs |
| Antelope (heraldic)  | A mythical animal with the body of a stag, the tail of a unicorn, a tusk at the tip of the nose, tufts down the back of the neck, chest, and thighs (usually represented with two straight horns serrated on one side) |
| Antlers | Strength and fortitude |
| Anvil | Honour; emblem of the smith's trade |
| Apple | Liberality, felicity, and peace |
| Arm (or Hand) in Armour or  Embowed | A person with qualities of leadership |
| Arm, Naked | An industrious person |
| Arrow or Dart | Readiness (for battle); if depicted with a cross, represents an affliction |
|  | Patience and humility |
|  | Execution of military duty |



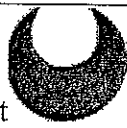

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|  Axe (Also Halbert, Halberd, Hatchet) | |
| Baguette (gem ring) | Fidelity |
|  Banderole | See Banners |
| Banners (See banderole) | Refer to special action in which bearer was captured, or a reward for valiant service |
| Bar, Barry, or Barrulet | "One who sets the bar of conscience, religion, and honour against angry passions and evil temptations" acc. to Guillim |
| Barry Wavy | Troubles keep us in continuous exercise and reminders of providence (as waves in a storm at sea) |
| Bat | Awareness of the powers of darkness and chaos. |
| Baton | Token of authority |
| Battle Axe (See Axe) | Execution of military duty |
| Bay Leaves | Poet or victor's laurel |
|  Beacon (Also Lantern or Lighthouse) | One who is watchful, who gave the signal in time of danger |
|  Bear | Strength, cunning, ferocity in the protection of one's kindred |
|  Beaver | Industry and perseverance |
| | Efficient industry |








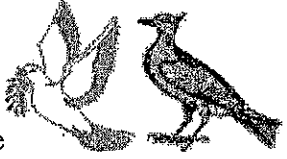
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| Bee |  | |
| Bells |  | Power to disperse evil spirits; a hawk's bells denotes one who was not afraid of signalling his approach in peace or war |
| Bend/Bendy |  | Scarf or shield suspender of a knight commander; signifies defense or protection |
| Berries | | Liberality, felicity, and peace |
| Bezant/Byzantine Coin (Also Besant; Gold Roundle) | | Worthy of trust of treasure. |
| Billet/Billettee | | Bricks or letters (correspondence); one who obtained credence, knowledge, and faith in his words and deeds; one who is secret in one's affairs. |
| Birdbolt (See Arrow) | | Small arrow with blunt head. |
| Bishop's Mitre |  | Authority |
| Blasted | | Tree without leaves, withered |
| Boar |  | Bravery; fights to the death |
| Boar's Head |  | Hospitality |
| Bonacon (See Bull) | | Bull with horse's tail and short mane. |
| Bomb (Mortar piece) |  | One who has dared the terror of such a weapon in battle |
| Bones (crossed thighbones) | | Mortality |
| Book (See Sample Books and Bibles) | | If open, manifestation; if closed, counsel |
| Border | | Difference between relatives bearing the same arms; also an augmentation of an honour |







| | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bourdon |  | See pilgrim's or palmer's staff -- knob at upper end, point at bottom, hook near top |
| Bow |  | Readiness (for battle) |
| Bow and Arrow | | War, power, ability to hit a target |
| Braced | | Interlaced |
| Bracket |  | May be single or double; right angle-shaped support, as in a shelf support |
| Bridge |  | Governor or magistrate |
| Broom Plant | | Humility |
| Buck |  | One who will not fight unless provoked; peace and harmony |
| Buckle |  | Victorious fidelity in authority |
| Buglass (purple quatrefoil) | | Hope and joy. |
| Bull/Buffalo |  | Valour, bravery, generosity |
| Bull's Head |  | Valour, bravery, generosity |
| Bull's Horns | | Strength and fortitude |
| Butterfly |  | Psyche or Soul |
| Cadences (Marks of Cadences) | | Used to differentiate the heirs in a family.. see Marks of Cadency web page |
| Caduceus |  | Homeopathic medicine; medical profession; balance and the union of opposing forces |
| Caltrap |  | |



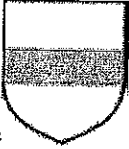
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| Candle (Lamp) | Light, life, and spirituality. |
| Camel | Docility, patience, and perseverance |
| Cannon and Cannon Balls  | One who has dared the terror of such a weapon in battle |
| Candle (Lamp)  | Light, life, and spirituality |
| Canton | As in a flag borne at the top corner of the shield; reward from the sovereign for performance of eminent service |
| Cap of Maintenance  | Granted to British peers and Scottish feudal barons (see "Chapeau") |
| Carnation | Admiration |
| Carpenter's Square | Conforming one's actions to the laws of right and equity |
| Castle (Tower/Chateau)  | Safety |
| Cat (Also Wildcat or Lynx)  | Liberty, vigilance, forecast, and courage |
| Catherine Wheel  | One prepared to undergo great trials for the Christian faith |
| Centaur | Eminence in the field of battle |
| Chains | Reward for acceptable and weighty service; with crowns and collars, this suggests the bearer bore the chain of obligation or obliged others because of services done |
| Chapeau (See also "cap of maintenance") | Granted to British peers and Scottish feudal barons |
| Chaplet (Floral)  | Usually with green leaves and four roses: the crown of joy and admiration |



| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chequy | Constancy |
| Cherubs & Cherubim (See Sample Angels) | Dignity, glory, and honour; missionary; bearer of joyful news |
| Chess Rook | Strategic thinking |
| Chevron  | Protection; Builders or others who have accomplished some work of faithful service |
| Chief | Top one-third of the shield; signifies dominion and authority; often granted as a special reward for prudence and wisdom or successful command in war |
| Chough (Cornish Crow)  | Strategist in battle; watchful for friends |
| Church (See Sample Churches) | Religion; faith; community |
| Cinquefoils  | Hope and joy |
| Civic Wreath (of oak leaves and acorns) | One who saved a fellow citizen's life or shown patriotism in defense of one's native land |
| Clarion  | Ready for war |
| Claw of a Bird | Note the preyer that has been preyed upon |
| Clouds | Mystery, obscured truth |
| Cock (male bird)  | Courage and perseverance; hero; able man in politics |
| Cockatrice (small serpent) | Terror to all beholders |
| Column  | Fortitude and constancy; with serpent coiled around it, wisdom with fortitude |
| Comet  | Unknown |
| Compass | Direction |



| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Compony or Gobony | Constancy |
| Cornish Chough (crow, raven; See "chough") | Strategist in battle; watchful for friends; divine providence |
| Cornucopia (horn of plenty)  | The bounty of nature's gifts |
| Cottice/Cotice (bendlet) | Scarf or shield suspender of a knight commander; signifies defense or protection |
| Coupeaux  | (Hills - usually three) Unknown; may be purely an artistic device |
| Crane (Stork) | Close parental bond; Vigilance if holding a rock |
| Crescent  | One who has been honored by the sovereign; hope of greater glory (horns to the chief) |
| Cresset (See "Beacon") | One who is watchful, who gave the signal in time of danger |
| Crosier/shepherd's crook  | The shepherd's watchfulness; Christian faith; pastoral authority; also Episcopal jurisdiction and authority |
| Cross (See <u>Examples</u>) | Faith; Christianity; Service in the Crusades |
| <i>Cross (Celtic)</i> | Unity of heaven and earth |
| <i>Cross (Constantine's; Labarum)</i> | Good omen; Christ; Christianity |
| <i>Cross Crosslet</i> | Signifies the fourfold mystery of the cross |
| <i>Cross Crosslet Fitchee</i> | A combination of cross and sword; unshakeable faith |
| <i>Cross Flory</i> (<i>Patoncee</i>) | (cross flowered at each end) One who has conquered |
| <i>Cross Formee (Pattee)</i> | Military honour |
| <i>Cross (Maltese)</i> | Blessings; badge of Knights Hospitalier |
| <i>Cross Moline</i> | The mutual converse of human society (said to represent a millstone) |
| <i>Cross Raguly</i> | Difficulties encountered |
| <i>Cross Roucy</i> | Faith |
| Crossed thighbones | Mortality |
| Crow (See also "Chough") | Strategist in battle; watchful for friends; |



| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | divine providence |
| Crown (See Examples) | | Royal or seigniorial authority |
| Crown (Mural) | | Defender of a fortress, token of civic honour; one who first mounted the breach in the walls of a fortress |
| Crown (Naval) | | One who first boarded an enemy's ship; distinguished naval commander |
| Crown of thorns | | Adversity |
| Cup (often covered) |  | Office of the king's butler |
| Cushions |  | Authority |
| Cygnets (young swan) | | Where gorged with a crown around its neck, signifies dignity |
| Cypress | | Death and eternal life thereafter |
| Dagger or dart |  | Justice and military honour |
| Dawle (black quatrefoil) | | Hope and joy |
| Decrescent |  | One who has been honored by the sovereign; hope of greater glory (crescent with horns to the sinister) |
| Deer |  | One who will not fight unless provoked; peace and harmony |
| Dice | | Constancy |
| Dog |  | Courage, vigilance, and loyalty |
| Dolphin |  | Swiftness, diligence, salvation, charity, and love |
| Dove |  | Loving constancy and peace; the Holy Spirit; with an olive branch in its bill, it signifies a harbinger of good tidings |

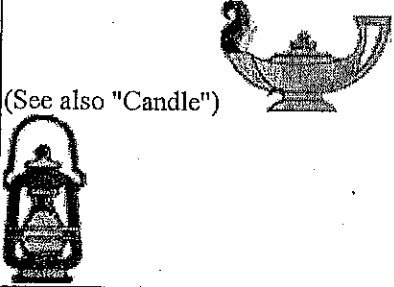


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|  | |
| Dragon (See Examples) | Valiant defender of treasure; valour and protection |
| Drops (Guttees)  | One who has endured torrents of liquids, as in battle, depending upon the color of the liquid. Yellow: gold Blue: tears Green: oil White: water Black: pitch or tar Red: blood |
| Drum  | Ready for war |
| Duck  (Also Teal) | Person of many resources |
| Eagle (See Examples) | Person of noble nature, strength, bravery, and alertness; or one who is high-spirited, ingenious, quick-witted, and judicious; "True magnanimity and strength of mind" acc. to Guillim. If wings "displayed," it signifies protection |
| Eagle with two heads | Conjoining of two forces |
| Elephant | Great strength, wit, longevity, happiness, royalty, good luck, and ambition |
| Enfield | Mythical beast said to have protected fallen chieftains' bodies for proper burial |
| Ermine Spot  | Mark of dignity |
| Escallop (scallop shell). | Traveller to far places or victorious naval commander |
| Escarbuncle  | Supremacy; brilliant gem |






| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Escutcheon or small shield, alone, with no charges | Defense |
| Escutcheon of Pretence | (Small shield in center of primary shield.) Claim of a prince to sovereignty; or marriage to an heiress of the family |
| Estoile (star with six wavy points)  | Celestial goodness; noble person |
| Eye | Providence in government |
| Falcon (Hawk) (See Examples) | One who does not rest until objective achieved |
| Fasces  | A bundle or rods tied together around an axe, with the blade projecting out; Symbol of a magistrate's authority and the judiciary. (It appears on the reverse side of the U.S. Liberty-head dime.) |
| Feathers | (usually ostrich feathers) Sign of obedience and serenity |
| Fer de moline (millrind) | Center of the millstone, by which it is turned |
| Fess/Fesse  | Military belt or girdle of honour; represents readiness to serve the public |
| Fetterlock | Victory; one who has taken prisoners or rescued prisoners of war |
| Fife | Ready for war |
| Finger, pointing | Direction; correct route |
| Fire (See also sample Firefighting Symbols) | Zealousness |
| Fish | A true, generous mind; virtuous for himself, not because of his heritage; also unity with Christ, spiritual nourishment |
| Flag or Pennant | Refers to special action in which bearer was captured, or a reward for valiant service |
| Flanchi/flasque/flanches (Also flaunches) | Given by a king for virtue and learning |
| Fleece (lamb's) | Ancient honour from the knightly order of the Fleece of Gold |
| Fleur-de-lis (See Examples) | Purity; light; floral badge of France; represents sixth son as mark of difference |


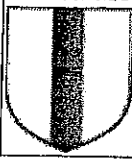

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| Flint stone | Readiness for zealous service |
| Flowers | Hope and joy |
| Fountain | Usually a roundle, crossed with wavy bars of blue and white; represents water, a spring |
| Fox | One who will use all that he/she may possess of wisdom and wit in his/her own defense |
| Fraises | Strawberries; usually refers to the cinquefoil |
| Fret (saltire through  a mascle) | (Also, fretty or latticework) Persuasion |
| Fruit | Felicity and peace |
| Fusil  (narrow lozenge) | Travel and labour |
| Fusil of Yarn (yarn with the spindle) | Negotiation |
| Galley | See Ship |
| Gannet (duck without beak or legs) | One who has to subsist by virtue and merit |
| Garb (wheatsheaf) | The harvest of one's hopes has been secured |
| Gauntlet | Armed for the performance of martial enterprise |
| Gavel | Justice; legal authority |
| Gem or Jewel | Supremacy |
| Gillyflower (tawney quatrefoil) | Hope and joy |
| Globe | Worldliness; world travel |
| Goat | One who wins through politics rather than war |
| Gobony or Gobbony | Constancy |
| Goose | Resourcefulness |
| Gorged (around neck) | High dignity |
| Grapes | Liberality, felicity, and peace; also, association with wine-making |
| | Noble and home-bred |





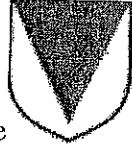
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| Grasshopper  | |
| Grenade | One who has dared the terror of such a weapon in battle |
| Greyhound | Courage, vigilance, and loyalty |
| Griffin | (Head, wings, and talons of an eagle with the body of a lion); Valour and death-defying bravery; vigilance |
|  Gyronny | Unity (six- or eight-part division of the shield) |
| Hammer | Honour; emblem of the smith's trade |
| Hand | Pledge of faith, sincerity, and justice; two right hands conjoined represent union and alliance |
| Hand, red | Mark of a baronet |
| Hare | One who enjoys a peaceable and retired life |
| Harp | Well-composed person of tempered judgment; contemplation; mystical bridge between heaven and earth |
| Harpy (virgin's face, neck and breast with the body of a lion) | Ferocity under provocation |
| Hart (male deer) | Peace and harmony |
| Hawk (Falcon) | One who does not rest until objective achieved |
| Hawks' lures: | One who is fond of the highest pursuits, such as hunting and falconry |
| Hazel branch or leaves | Hope and joy |
| Head (Human) | Honour; if the head of a "blackamoor" or Moor, refers to deeds of prowess in the Crusades |
| Heart, Flaming | Intense, burning affection |
| Heart, Human | Charity and sincerity |
| Hedgehog | "Provident provider" acc. to Sloane Evans |
| Helmet | When depicted on the shield, denotes wisdom and security in defense; strength, protection, invulnerability |
| Hind (female deer) | Peace and harmony |
| Holly | Truth |

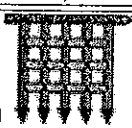



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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Horns | Strength and fortitude |
| Horse (<i>See also Seahorse</i>) See Sample Horses | Readiness for all employments for king and country |
| Horseshoe | Good luck and safeguard against evil spirits |
| Hourglass | Flight of time; mortality |
| Housemark | Presumably adopted by the bearers as forms of unique identification of European homes |
| Huitfoil  (double quatrefoil) | Mark of cadency for the ninth son |
| Human Head | Honour (if the head of a Blackamoor, it refers to deeds of prowess in the Crusades) |
| Humetee | Describes an element that does not touch the sides of the shield |
| Hunting Horn | One who is fond of the chase, of high pursuits |
| Hydra (dragon with seven heads) | Conquest of a very powerful enemy |
| Increscent/Increment | One who has been honored by the sovereign; hope of greater glory (crescent with horns to the dexter) |
| Inescutcheon | See "Escutcheon of Pretence" |
| Ivy Leaves | Strong and lasting friendship |
| Inkhorn or Inkwell | Art of writing and educated employment |
| Jessamine (white quatrefoil) | Hope and joy |
| Jessant de lis | With a fleur-de-lis shooting out, i.e., from the mouth of a leopard or lion; Represents dominion over France. |
| Keys | Guardianship and dominion |
| Knight (especially on horseback) | The soul guiding the body; man's journey through life |
| Labarum (Constantine's Cross) | Good omen; Christianity |
| Label  | Indicates first-born. See <u>Marks of Cadency</u> |
| Ladder (Scaling Ladder) | One who was fearless in attacking; if against a tower, be on guard against spiritual and corporeal enemies |
| Lamb or Ewe | Gentleness and patience under suffering |
| Lamb carrying staff or banner | Faith; innocence, bravery, gentleness, |




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| with a cross (paschal lamb) | purity, resolute spirit |
| Lamp/Lantern  (See also "Candle") | Light, life, and spirituality |
| Lance or Javelin | The perfection of martial affairs; emblem of knightly service; devotion to honour |
| Laurel Leaves | Peace and/or triumph |
| Leg | Strength, stability, and expedition |
| Leopard or Ounce | Valiant and hardy warrior who enterprises hazardous things by force and courage |
| Leopard's head swallowing a fleur-de-lis (jessant) | Represents the lion of England swallowing the lily of France |
| Letter (i.e., A, B, C) | May represent great battles or tournaments beginning with that letter |
| Level | Equity and upright action; virtuous person |
| Lightning Bolt | Swiftness and power |
| Lily | Purity; see "Fleur-de-lis" |
| Linden branch or leaves | Hope and joy |
|  Lion (See <u>Sample Lions</u>) | Dauntless courage |
| Lion, heraldic | Bravery, strength, ferocity, and valour |
| Lozenge or Lozengy  | Constancy |
| Lunel (Four crescent moons facing each other) | One who has been honored by the sovereign; hope of greater glory |
| Lure (hawk's) | One who is fond of the highest pursuits, such as hunting and falconry |
| Lymphad | See Ship |
| Lyre | Contemplation; tempered judgment |




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| Man | Various meanings |
| Marigold | Devotion and piety |
| Martlet  (footless swallow) | Symbol of the fourth son (mark of difference); may signify one who has to subsist by virtue and merit, not inheritance |
| Mascle  (hollowed out lozenge) | Persuasive |
| Mastiff | Courage, vigilance, and loyalty |
| Matches | (Usually in a roll and fired) Possible reference of one who has dared the terror of such a weapon in battle |
|  Maunch (lady's sleeve) | "For my lady's sake" |
| Mermaid | Eloquence |
| Millpick | Miller's tool |
| Millrind  (or millstone) | The mutual converse of human society; miller's tool |
|  Mitre (Bishop's) | Authority |
| Mole | Unknown |
| Monkey | Unknown |
| Moon | Serene power over mundane actions |
| Moor/Saracen/Turk | Dates back to the Middle Ages when it was considered an honor to take a Moor's head |
| Moor fowl or Moor-cock | Association with the law or the legal profession |
| Mortar Piece | One who has dared the terror of such a weapon in battle |
| Mount/Mound (See "Coupeaux") | (Rounded terrace at base of the shield) Unknown; may be purely an artistic device |






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| Mulberries | Liberality, felicity, and peace |
| Mule | Often borne by abbots and abbesses who have pastoral jurisdiction, but not real jurisdiction |
| Mullet  (Star) | Divine quality from above; mark of third son |
| Musical Pipes | Festivity and rejoicing |
| Oak Garb or Sheaf | The harvest of one's hopes has been secured |
| Oak Tree, Leaves, Bush | Great age and strength |
| Oak Tree/Bush with Acorns | Continuous growth and fertility |
| Olive Branch or Leaves | Peace and concordance |
| Orle | Circle of something; Preservation or protection |
| Ostrich/Ostrich plumes | Willing obedience and serenity |
| Otter | One who lives life to the fullest |
| Owl | One who is vigilant and of acute wit |
| Ox | Valour and generosity |
| Pale/Palet/Pallet/Paly  | Military strength |
| Palm Branch | Victory, justice, and royal honour |
| Palm Tree | Righteousness and resurrection; victory |
| Panther | Fierce, but tender and loving to children and will defend her children with her life |
| Parchment/Scroll/Diploma | Possible reference to academic or scholarly achievement |
| Parrot | Unknown |
|  Paschal Lamb | Faith, innocence, bravery, gentleness, purity, resolute spirit |
| Passion Nails | Token of poignant suffering undergone by the bearer |
| Pavilion | Readiness for battle |
| | Beauty, power, and knowledge |

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| Peacock |  | |
| Peacock Feather |  | Beauty, power, and knowledge |
| Pears | | Felicity and peace |
| Pegasus | | Poetic genius and inspiration; messenger of God |
| Pelican |  | Self-sacrifice and charitable nature; When feeding her young ("in her piety"), symbolizes the duties of a parent or parental love |
| Pen | | Art of writing and educated employment |
| Pennon or Flag | | Refers to some special action in which it was captured or as a reward for gallant service |
| Periwinkle (blue quatrefoil) | | Hope and joy |
| Pheasant | | Person of many resources |
| Pheon |  | Dexterity and nimble wit; readiness for battle |
| (Spear-head) | | |
| Phoenix | | Symbol of resurrection |
| Pig | | Fertility |
| Pike (Fish) | | A true, generous mind; virtuous for himself, not because of his heritage; also unity with Christ, spiritual nourishment. |
| Pile |  | Represents large pieces of wood used in building bridges; engineering skills, builder; May represent a pennon or flag |
| Pilgrim's Stave/ Palmer's Stave | | The shepherd's watchfulness; Christian faith; pastoral authority; also may refer to early pilgrimages to Jerusalem |
| Pillar | | Fortitude and constancy; with serpent coiled around it, wisdom with fortitude |
| Pincers | | Honour; emblem of the smith's trade |
| Pine | | Death and eternal life thereafter |
| Pine Cone | | Life |
| Pipes (music) | | Festivity and rejoicing |

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| Pitcher | Office of service |
| Plant | Hope and joy |
| Plow or Ploughshare | Labouring in the earth and depending upon providence |
| Plume of feathers | Sign of willing obedience and serenity of mind |
| Plummet | Equity and upright action; virtuous person |
| Pomegranate Fruit | Fertility and abundance |
| Poplar leaves | Hope and joy |
| Poppy (sanguine quatrefoil) | Hope and joy |
| Portcullis (castle gate)  | Protection in an emergency |
| Proboscides  | Elephant trunks; usually represented in pairs; the elephant symbolizes longevity, strength, royalty, dignity, patience, wisdom, happiness, and good luck |
| Quatrefoil (Primrose)  | Brings good tidings |
| Rabbit (Conie) | One who enjoys a peaceable and retired life |
| Rainbow | Good times after bad |
| Ram | Authority |
| Rat | Unknown |
| Ratch-hound (small hound) | Loyalty, courage, and vigilance |
| Raven | Divine providence |
| Ray or Rayonnee | Glory and splendour; fountain of life; intelligence and enlightenment |
| Rhinoceros | Ferocious when aroused |
| Rock | Safety and protection; refuge |
| Rose  | Mark of the seventh son; Hope and joy; see also meanings for specific colors of roses |
| Rose, Red | Grace and beauty |
| Rose, White | Love and faith |
| | Gold or yellow: bezants or byzantine coins (worthy of trust or treasure) White: plate (generosity) |

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| Roundles  | Green: pomme (apple) Purple: golpe (wounded) Blue: hurt or wortleberry Black: pellet, ogress, or gunstone (cannon ball) Red: torteau (communion wafer or manchet cake) Tawney: orange (tennis ball) |
| Sabre (See Sword) | Justice and/or military honour |
| Saddle | Preparedness for active service |
| Salamander | Protection |
| Salmon (See Fish) | |
| Saltire  | (St. Andrew's Cross) Resolution |
| Savage/Saracen | Believed to be related to service in the Crusades |
| Scales | Justice |
| Scallop Shell | See "Escallop" |
| Sceptre | The emblem of justice |
| Scythe or Sickle | The hope of a fruitful harvest |
| Sea horse | Power of the water |
| Seal/Sea lion | Dauntless courage at sea |
| Seraphim | (angel with three pairs of wings) Dignity, glory, and honour; missionary; bearer of joyful news |
| Serpent/Snake/Lizard  | Wisdom |
| Shacklebolt | Victory; one who has taken prisoners or rescued prisoners of war |
| Shamrock | Perpetuity; floral device of Ireland; also see Trefoil. |
| Shield | When borne on the arms, represents the defender |
| Ship | Ancient sea voyages |
| Ship, Dismasted | Disaster at sea |
| Shuttle (Weaver's Shuttle) | Reference to the bearer's profession; i.e., textiles |
| Skull | Mortality |
| Snail | Deliberation and perseverance |
| Snake | Wisdom (see also Serpent) |

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| Spear/Pike | Honourable warrior; valiant knight |
| Spear-heads (Pheons) | Dexterity and nimble wit; readiness for battle |
| Sphere | Geographical or scientific reference |
| Sphinx | Omniscience and secrecy |
| Spider | Wisdom, labour, and prudence |
| Spur or Spur Rowel | Preparedness for active service; pressing onward |
| Square Symbols | Constancy |
| Squirrel | Lover of the woods |
|  Stag (Also Reindeer) | One who will not fight unless provoked; peace and harmony |
| Stag's Antlers | Strength and fortitude |
| Star (estoile or mullet) | Celestial goodness; noble person; Excellence |
| Steel | Readiness for zealous service |
| Stirrup | Preparedness for active service |
| Stool | Hospitality |
| Stork | Filial duty; close parental bond; If holding a rock, symbolizes vigilance |
| Sun | Glory and splendour; fountain of life |
| Swallow | One who is prompt and ready in doing business; also bringer of good news |
|  Swan | Poetic harmony and learning, or lover thereof; light, love, grace, sincerity, perfection |
| Sword/Dagger/Dart Sabre/Scimitar | Justice and military honour |
| Table | Hospitality |
| Tabor | Festivity and rejoicing; dangerous if aroused |
|  Talbot (hunting dog) | Courage, vigilance, and loyalty |
| Tent | Readiness for battle |
| Terrace | Unknown; May be purely an artistic device |

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| Tiger  | Fierceness and valour; resentment; dangerous if aroused |
| Torch | Life; zealouslyness; engaging in signal service; truth and intelligence |
| Tortoise | Invulnerability to attack |
| Tower | Safety and grandeur |
| Tree Trunk/Stump/Branch | New life sprouting from the old |
| Tree | Life and the mystical connection of the earth with heaven and the underworld |
| Trefoil or Shamrock  (three-leaved grass) | Perpetuity |
| Tressure | Preservation or protection (prominent in the arms of Scotland) |
| Tressure Flory Counterflory | Signifies the close and longterm alliance between France and Scotland |
| Trestle | Hospitality |
| Trident | Maritime dominion |
| Trumpet | Ready for war |
| Unicorn See Sample Unicorns | Extreme courage; virtue and strength |
| Vine | Strong and lasting friendship |
| Vol (Set of Wings)  | Swiftness and protection |
| Vulture | Purification and maternity; also, virginity (in Christianity) |
| Walnut Leaves | Hope and joy |
| Water Bouget  | One who carried water to an army or a besieged place |
| Wheat-Ears | Faithful |
| Wheat Garb or Sheaf  | The harvest of one's hopes has been secured |
| Wheel | Fortune; cycle of life |
| Wings | Swiftness and protection |
| Wolf | Reward from perseverance in long sieges |