

A Very Basic Introduction

This article is meant to be printed on a single page and handed out to new folk interested in Heraldry – so ignore this page.

For credits' sake:

Text was from [Queen Carol's Guide](#), and used with permission of Carol. I don't know which version of the guide it came from.

The images from the original article in [Queen Carols' Guide](#) were a) low resolution, and b) did not scan well (older scanning technology when this was put together originally). I ended up re-formatting the whole document to what is shown here.

The images came from:

Eowyn Amberdrake's article: [Heraldry for Scribes](#) (the images of the ordinaries)

Fox-Davies, [A Complete Guide to Heraldry](#), (everything else, except the badge of the heralds)

Mikhail of Lubelska (Middle), Herald's badge (I removed the colors)

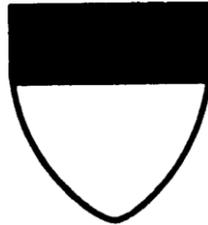
Hirsch von Henford, Golem Herald, Summer 2016



CHEVRON



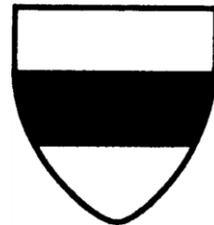
LION



CHIEF



EAGLE



FESS



TREE

The Display of Heraldry on banners, shields, and surcoats is part of everyone's image of the Middle Ages. But besides adding to the medieval atmosphere, heraldry serves to identify people and groups. This means that each heraldic device must be unique.



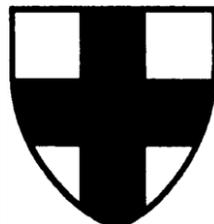
ROSE

This uniqueness is achieved by combining backgrounds (FIELDS) and shapes (CHARGES). There are millions of possibilities – and some of the best ones haven't been used yet.



SALTIRE

Heraldry uses a limited set of clear, bold TINCTURES. They are the colors: azure (blue), gules (red), sable (black), purple (purple) and vert (green), and the metals: Or (gold or yellow) and argent (silver or white). There are also "furs" which combine two tinctures, and are more complex.



CROSS



SUN IN SPLENDOR

Since it is easier to see things which contrast with their backgrounds, the rules of heraldry state that colors must be placed on metals and metals must be placed on colors. This guarantees that charges do not blend into the field.



FLEUR-DE-LYS

ORDINARIES are very simple charges that form broad stripes across the field. Other CHARGES are stylized versions of everyday objects, beasts, and birds. Charges can be used in multiples, or in combination with other charges. They can be placed directly on the field or on ordinaries. The combination of fields, charges, and tinctures results in the final, unique device.



BEND SINISTER

When you are ready to design your own device, or if you simply want to know more about Heraldry, look up one of the people wearing a vert tabard with crossed trumpets Or, or visit a Heraldic Consultation Table. The College of Heralds will be happy to help you.



BEND



CROSS BOTTONY



PALE



MAUNCH



BORDURE



COLLEGE OF HERALDS