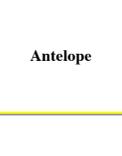


A	
<p>Acorn</p> 	<p>The sign of the acorn represents independence, strength and antiquity in its bearer. The acorn is usually vert (green) but it can also be other colors.</p>
<p>Ailetts</p> 	<p>A small shield attached to the shoulder of an armed knight. Also known as emerasses. It is a symbol of one who was a knight banneret.</p>
<p>Allerion</p> 	<p>Signifies one who having been maimed and lamed in war, was thus prevented from fully asserting his power. An eagle without a beak or feet, and with wings expanded, their points turned downward. (Denoting imperialists vanquished and disarmed)</p>
<p>Allocamelus</p> 	<p>An allocamelus is a creature with the head of a donkey joined to the body of a camel. Some referred to it as an ass-camel. Although extremely uncommon, it is believed to represent patient perseverance.</p>
<p>Altar</p> 	<p>A tall circular pedestal, generally borne inflamed. Represents glory, burning devotion and spirituality.</p>
<p>Anchor</p> 	<p>The anchor is the emblem of salvation, hope, and religious steadfastness. It is a frequently used symbol for the coat of arms of a family with a seafaring tradition. Thus, it is a common figure in English armory and for some families along the coasts of Scotland.</p>
<p>Angel</p> 	<p>The angel is always shown in full aspect, with the wings extended and the point up. It represents the bearer of joyful news. It also symbolizes dignity, glory and honor. The symbol of an angel may also indicate missionary work of supporting others</p>
<p>Ant</p> 	<p>The symbol of the ant traditionally signified one who was a strong laborer, wise and provident in all his affairs. The ant is one of the few insects used in heraldry. It is usually depicted with an anthill. Also known as Emmet.</p>
<p>Antelope</p> 	<p>Earlier arms usually depicted the heraldic antelope, a mythical animal that has little resemblance to an antelope. It was drawn with the body of a stag, the tail of a unicorn, a tusk at the tip of the nose, and two straight horns that were serrated on one side. With the heraldic antelope is grouped the ibex, which belongs to the goat-tribe, because it looks very similar.</p> <p>With this description it is little wonder that the antelope signifies harmony, political shrewdness, and peace. The antelope has also been used occasionally as an emblem of purity and fleetness. Later arms depicted a more natural looking antelope.</p>

	
<p>Antlers</p> 	<p>Antlers represent strength and fortitude. <i>See also HORNS</i></p>
<p>Anvil</p> 	<p>The symbol of the anvil born on a shield or coat of arms is a symbol of honor. It may indicate that the first bearer was a smith.</p>
<p>Annulet</p> 	<p>The annulet is a plain ring. As a closed circle, it is symbolic of continuity, wholeness, and fidelity. It also signified that the bearer had royal favor and protection. The Romans are said to have worn a ring as a sign of knighthood. The annulet may have been used to indicate that the bearer had the superior qualities of a knight. In some circles an annulet represented riches. Also, on English arms an annulet was sometimes a sign of the fifth son.</p>
<p>Ape</p>	<p>The ape is considered a symbol of sin, malice, craftiness and lust. It has been suggested that the symbol was to serve as a reminder to the bearer of one's morals, ethics and religion and that he bore a moral obligation to conquer all sins.</p> <p>The ape is not a very common symbol in heraldry but when it is found it is usually "collared and chained," with the collar encircling its waist rather than its neck.</p> <p>The Fitzgerald crest has an Ape.</p>

	
<p>Apple</p> 	<p>Apples symbolize liberality, felicity, peace, and salvation. All kinds of fruit were considered to be symbols of God's kindness and a symbol of the goodness of providence.</p>
<p>Arch</p> 	<p>May be single or double, i.e. springing from two of three pillars. Symbolizes a governor or magistrate.</p>
<p>Arm</p> 	<p>Arm - bare (naked) represents an industrious person, one who believes in and engages in hard work.</p>
<p>Arm in Armour</p>	<p>Represents a person who has served as a leader or has the qualities of leadership. A person fit for high deeds.</p>

	
<p>Arrow</p> 	<p>The arrow is said to be a weapon "destined for avengement." Arrows symbolize martial readiness. If depicted with a cross, is represents an affliction as the result of war. In the case of Polish armory, bows and arrows signify a man resolved to challenge himself to the utmost in battle, and who is prepared to fight to the death if necessary.</p>
<p>Ass</p> 	<p>Represents patience and humility. The ass may also be associated with one who fulfills their Christian duty.</p>
<p>Axe</p> 	<p>Execution of military duty. <i>See also BATTLE AXE</i></p>
<p><b>B</b></p>	
<p>Badger</p>	<p>The badger is an animal noted for his fierceness and courage in fighting to defend his home. The symbol of the badger represents bravery, perseverance and protection. It is more typically found in the armor of England than that of other nations.</p>

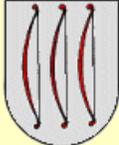
	
<p>Baguette</p> 	<p>Pledge of fidelity and faithfulness.</p>
<p>Bagwyn</p> 	<p>The bagwyn is an imaginary animal with a head drawn like a heraldic antelope, the body and tail of a horse and the horns long and curved backwards. It is thought to symbolize one who displays fierceness and bravery in the defense of king and country.</p>
<p>Balance</p> 	<p>Balances have traditionally been a symbol of fairness and justice. They were adopted as a symbol by the Company of Bakers in London and are still used today as a symbol of an unbiased court system.</p>
<p>Banner</p>	<p>The banner is a square flag painted or embroidered with arms. The size is proportioned to the rank of the bearer. It is a symbol of victory and self-assertion. Banners on the shield or as a crest often refer to a special military action where a flag, or possibly the bearer, was captured, or as an indication of gallant service. Banners may also indicate that a member of that family was once a standard-bearer. As a charge the banner is usually hung from the walls of a castle or carried by the figure of some type of animal. Banners are sometimes mistakenly referred to as flags or standards. The principle difference between a banner and a flag, standard or pennon etc. is that a banner is always square while the others are elongated.</p>

	<p>a nobleman of any rank from marquess to baron three feet, that of a knight banneret was still smaller.</p>
<p>Barnacle</p> 	<p>A barnacle, or pair of barnacles may represent one who was a farrier. It has also been suggested that it may represent one who was able to extract confession from the enemy</p>
<p>Barrel</p> 	<p>Barrels, or casks, were commonly used to hold beer or wine. It possibly symbolizes that the original bearer was a vendor of beer or wine, or an innkeeper. It occurs in the insignia of the BREWERS' and VINTNERS' Companies, as well as in the arms of a few families. It is often used as a pun on names ending in 'ton,' for example the crest of Hopton depicts a lion hopping on a tun. Also known as "Tun".</p> <p>A Cooper was a barrel maker.</p>
<p>Barry</p> 	<p>Represent military belt or girdles of honour.</p>
<p>Bar-Shot</p> 	<p>An instrument of war. Represents one who has used it in war, or one who has experienced the terror of such a weapon in war.</p>
	<p>The bat may was an intimidating heraldic symbol used to inspire fear in enemies. It is to be sable in color (black), displayed, with wings open and facing the observer. It is sometimes referred to by the old name rere-mouse. Quoted from Shakespeare's A Midsummer's Night Dream, "Some war with rere-mice for their leathern wings."</p>
<p>Baton</p> 	<p>A token of authority.</p>
<p>Battering Ram</p> 	<p>The battering ram is an ancient war machine that symbolizes determination, especially in war. The charge of a battering ram may have also been granted to someone who was greatly skilled in its use, or who was in charge of it during wartime. It does not resemble a real battering ram. Instead, it consists of a ram's head on the end of a log, with ropes encircling it and hooks attached to them, presumably to hold it up.</p>
<p>Bear</p> 	<p>The bear is the emblem of strength, cunning, and ferocity in the protection of kindred. A bear is also a symbol of healing and personal health and bravery. The bear is usually muzzled but not always. Sometimes only the paws of a bear are used as a symbol.</p>
<p>Beaver</p>	<p>The beaver denotes industry, perseverance and determination.</p>

	
<p>Bee</p> 	<p>The bee is a sign of industry, creativity, wealth, diligence and eloquence. The Egyptians used it as a symbol of regal power. In armory, it is used to represent well-governed industry. The bee is the most popular insect found in heraldry, and is usually shown with the beehive.</p>
<p>Bell</p> 	<p>Bells signify the power of church-bells to disperse evil spirits in the air and their summoning of guardian saints and angels. A hawk's bell denotes one who was not afraid to signal his approach in either peace or war. A Canterbury bell is a sign of pilgrimage.</p>
<p>Bend</p> 	<p>The bend is a broad, diagonal band across the shield representing either a scarf worn like a sash, or the shield suspender of a knight or military commander. Some claim it represents a scaling ladder. It has often been granted to those who have distinguished themselves as knights. The bend signifies defense or protection, and is a bearing of high honor.</p> <p>The bend sinister (extending from upper right to lower left) was once used on occasion as a mark of illegitimacy though this is not commonly the case.</p>
<p>Berries</p>	<p>Represent liberality, felicity and peace.</p>

	
<p>Bezant</p> 	<p>The bezant was the coin of Byzantium (Constantinople). It is represented by a gold roundel (a plain gold circle). It is thought that the bezant, was introduced into armory at the time of the Crusades. It represents justice and equal dealing among people. The sign of the bezant is borne by those deemed worthy of trust and treasure.</p>
<p>Billet</p> 	<p>The billet represents a letter folded for transmission. It has the form of a brick-shaped rectangle and it occurs more frequently with many small billets on the field. It is thought to indicate one who whose words and deeds were deemed trustworthy. It has also been suggested that lawyers and men of letters often adopted the sign of the billet.</p>
<p>Bird</p> 	<p>Birds of all tinctures (blackbird, bluebird, red bird) represent the peace and affection of home and family.</p>
<p>Bishop's Mitre</p>	<p>Church Authority.</p>

	
<p>Black Moor</p> 	<p>Represented by a dark-skinned head. It is often used as a crest. The Blackmoor indicates one who fought in the crusades with deeds of prowess - or "took the head" of many of the enemy. <i>See also MOOR</i></p>
<p>Boar</p> 	<p>The boar is the symbol of bravery. A champion among wild beasts, it encounters enemies with nobility and courage, and, thus, has come to signify the traits of bravery and perseverance. The boar is a fierce combatant when at bay and ceases fighting only with its life. Therefore it was given only to those considered fierce warriors.</p> <p>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 the boar was worn in battle as a charm against injury.</p>
<p>Boar's Head</p> 	<p>Represents hospitality, or one who is hospitable.</p>
<p>Book</p>	<p>If open, the book signifies manifestation. If it is closed, it signifies counsel. Books are also considered a symbol of learning. The bible is frequently mentioned as the book represented in the crest or arms, though it would not appear any differently than a regular book.</p>

	
<p>Bordered</p> 	<p>The bordure is, as it sounds, a fairly wide border around the outside of a shield. It is usually a mark of cadency, signifying a younger son or brother. It also symbolizes an augmentation of an honor.</p> <p>Except in England a wavy border is a mark of illegitimacy. In Scotland the bordure compony (border with 16 pieces) serves the same purpose. These were not considered to be marks of dishonor. It was carried over from the days when it was necessary to distinguish the rightful heirs from others who might have some claim to the family title and fortune. In some instances it was borne when a natural son had succeeded by bequest to the estates of his father.</p>
<p>Bows</p> 	<p>Represents readiness for Battle.</p>
<p>Bracket</p> 	<p>May be single or double; right angle-shaped support, as in a shelf support.</p>
<p>Bridge</p>	<p>Represents a governor or magistrate.</p>

	
<b>Broom Plant</b>	
	The broom plant is a symbol of humility. A sprig of this shrub was chosen as the badge of the royal house of Plantagenet, who are said to have derived their surname from the circumstance of one of their ancestors having worn a branch of broom in his helmet, either by way of penance, or in token of humility.
<b>Buck</b>	
	Represents a male deer. Indicates one who is skillful but will not fight unless seriously provoked. Once fighting becomes necessary the stag is said to down its enemy. It is also a symbol of peace and harmony - an individual who is politic and a lover of harmony. In Ireland the buck or stag was one of the most ancient charges and was regarded as the most handsome. It also represents the very ancestors of the Celtic race. <i>see also STAG</i>
<b>Bucket</b>	
	Though their appearance is quite different, the function and symbolic meaning of a water-bouget and a bucket are similar. The charge of a bucket was conferred on those who had supplied water to an army or a besieged place. The bucket is merely the more modern way of transporting water. The common well bucket is usually the type born in arms, but they can also be hooped or have feet.
<b>Buckle</b>	The buckle signifies self-defense and protection, as well as victorious fidelity in authority. Buckles may be square, round, or rectangular in shape.

	
<b>Bull</b>	
	A bull, also referred to as an ox, in a coat of arms, on a crest or a shield, represents valor and magnanimity, bravery and generosity. The horns represent strength and fortitude. The calf is an ancient heraldic symbol traditionally associated with the characteristics of patience, submissiveness and self-sacrifice.
<b>Bull's Head</b>	
	Bulls' heads are perhaps more commonly found than the animal itself. Generally the horns are blazoned of a different tincture. Represents valor, bravery, and generosity.
<b>Butterfly</b>	
	<b>Psyche &amp; Freedom</b>
<b>Caduceus</b>	
	<b>C</b>  Symbolizes medicine.
<b>Caltrap</b>	A caltrap or galtrap, and sometimes a cheval trap, was an ancient military instrument with four points, arranged so that when it was

	
Camel	
	The camel signifies temperance, patience and indefatigable perseverance. In ancient times it may have been used as a sign of royalty and dignity.
Candlestick	
	Represents light and life and spirituality.
Cannon	
	The cannon is a symbol well bestowed on those who have dared their terrors in sieges and battles. <i>See also GRENADES</i>
Cap of Maintenance	
	Granted to British peers and Scottish feudal barons (see "Chapeau")
Cartwheel	Symbol of a cartwright or cart maker.

	
Castle	
	The castle has often been granted to one who has faithfully held a castle for his sovereign, or who has captured one by force or stratagem. The castle symbolizes spiritual power and vigilance on the watch as well as home and safety. <i>See also TOWER</i>
Cat	
	A symbol of a great cat, or a cat-a-mountain, which refers to a wildcat, puma, or mountain lion. It signifies liberty, vigilance and courage. There is also a separate reference to a spotted cat. Cats are most common in Scottish or Irish arms.
Catherine Wheel	
	The most common heraldic wheel is the Catherine-wheel. According to legend, St. Catherine of Alexandria publicly confessed to being a Christian at a feast held by the Roman emperor Maximus. When she refused to renounce her faith, she was beaten and imprisoned. An attempt was made to tear her apart on a spiked wheel, but it fell apart and she was unharmed. The Catherine-wheel is the emblem of one who is prepared to undergo great trials for the Christian faith. <i>See also WHEEL</i>
Celestial Crown	
	As with all crowns, the Celestial crown is an emblem of victory, sovereignty, and empire. It is a visible sign of success, thus the term "crowning achievement," and its significance as the decoration of the ultimate level of rank and power, makes bearing the crown a great honor. Crowns are also sometimes symbols of God, as He is considered by some to be the "King of all."
Custom	Customs are well known creatures that are half-man and half-beast. A custom provides a hand and arm in called a customer.

	<p>the field of battle.</p>
<p>Chain</p> 	<p>Chains are a symbolic representation of reward for acceptable and weighty service. Chains are often accompanied by crowns and collars or sometimes with a portcullis (castle gate). This would suggest that the owner of that symbol is chained by a sense of obligation to the people that he serves or rules. For this reason, chains and collars are also marks of honor for sheriffs and mayors, and formerly, for knights</p>
<p>Chameleon</p> 	<p>Represents one who is adaptable to the surrounding and his circumstances.</p>
<p>Chaplet</p> 	<p>A chaplet is a wreath without stems or ribbon, made of green oak, laurel or other leaves, with four roses. It is a symbol of fame. It is also known as the crown of joy and admiration.</p>
<p>Cherub</p> 	<p>Represents dignity, glory and honor. May also depict a missionary or the bearer of joyful news.</p>
<p>Chess Rook</p>	<p>A chess-rook is also called a castle, and may have been granted to those who had captured or defended castles. It may also have</p>

	<p>rook.</p>
<p>Chevron</p> 	<p>The chevron represents the roof of a house, derived from the French word 'chevron' meaning rafter. It signifies protection. The chevron was granted to those who had participated in some notable enterprise, had built churches or fortresses, or had accomplished some work requiring faithful service.</p>
<p>Chimera</p> 	<p>The chimera is a very odd looking creature with the head and breast of a woman, the forepaws of a lion, the body of a goat, the hind-legs of a griffin (the legs of a lion and claws of an eagle) and the tail of a dragon. It is similar to the sphinx. It is said to be cunning and to mislead its enemies because of the woman's head and breast, and then to attack with ferocity.</p>
<p>Chief</p> 	<p>The chief is a broad band across the top one-third of the shield that stands for authority and domination of will. The chief has often been granted as a special reward for prudence and wisdom, as well as for successful command in war</p>
<p>Cinqfoil</p> 	<p>A 5-petaled flower. Represents hope and joy.</p>

	<p>Also known as a rest, it is thought to represent a spear's rest, symbolizing one's preparedness for war.</p>
<p>Cloud</p> 	<p>The cloud, the symbol of the ethereal heights of heaven, represents mystery and the quality of higher truth.</p>
<p>Cock</p> 	<p>As the herald of dawn, the cock is symbolic of the sun. It is also a bird of great courage in battle that will fight, if necessary, to the death. Therefore, it is an emblem of a hero, one who battles with perseverance and courage. The cock is also used as a Christian image of the resurrection.</p>
<p>Cockatrice</p> 	<p>The cockatrice is the king of serpents, with the head and legs of a cock, the wings of a dragon, and a scaly body, also like a dragon, that ends in a long barbed tail. It is sometimes referred to as a basilisk, of which legends say was produced from an egg laid by a nine-year-old cock, and hatched by a toad on a dunghill. Its breath and sight were so poisonous that they would kill all who came within range. Thus, the cockatrice is a potent symbol of terror to all beholders.</p>
<p>Cockfish</p>	<p>The cockfish is drawn very much as it sounds with the head and upper-body of a cock terminating in the lower-body and tail of a fish. It is said to represent one who performed heroically in a battle at sea.</p>

	
<p>Columns</p> 	<p>Columns symbolize fortitude and constancy. It also implies that its bearer supports others who are weaker. A serpent coiled round a column signifies wisdom with fortitude.</p>
<p>Comb</p> 	<p>The comb is the common attribute of certain mythical female beings such as lamias, sirens, and mermaids, whose usual pose is with mirror and comb in hand. It may have sometimes been given to those who were said to have fought or resisted the temptations of such dangerous types. If a comb is shown alone, it more often refers to a wool-comb or the combs used in the textile industry and may represent one who toiled in that industry.</p>
<p>Cordon</p> 	<p>A cordon is the silver cord that encircles the arms of widows. Its institution has been attributed to Anne of Bretagne, widow of Charles VIII, King of France, "who," says Ashmole (Order of G., p. 126), "instead of the military belt or collar, bestowed a cordon or lace on several ladies, admonishing them to live chastely and devoutly, always mindful of the cords and bonds of our Saviour Jesus Christ; and to engage them to a greater esteem thereof, she surrounded her escutcheon of arms with the like cordon." The special is used to distinguish the arms of widows from those of wives. Later on, knights would wear a cordon on their armour to signify lost comrades. On a Coat of Arms it is thought to represent an admonishment to live chastely and devoutly</p>
<p>Cornet</p>	<p>The crown is an emblem of victory, sovereignty, and empire. It is a visible sign of success, thus the term "crowning achievement," and its significance as the decoration of the ultimate level of rank and power, makes bearing the crown a great honor. Crowns are also sometimes symbols of God, as He is considered by some to be the "King of all."</p>

	
<p>Cornucopia</p> 	<p>Depicts thankfulness for the bounty of nature's gifts. Abundance and plenty.</p>
<p>Crab</p> 	<p>The crab is a symbol of great strength and power in gripping and holding. The claws of a lobster are also symbols of prodigious gripping and holding power in its bearer.</p>
<p>Crane/Herron/Stork</p> 	<p>According to legend, cranes lived in a community where individual members took turns standing watch. The sentry crane held a stone in one claw so that if it dozed, the falling stone would wake the bird. The crane is a symbol of vigilance, justice and longevity, but nevertheless, there are instances where the crane is shown asleep with its head under its wing, still maintaining its 'vigilance,' as the stone is termed. It also represents close parental bond. <i>See also Stork and Herron.</i></p>
<p>Crescent</p> 	<p>The crescent stands for one who has been "enlightened and honored by the gracious aspect of his sovereign." It is also borne as a symbol of the hope of greater glory. Crescents also represent the moon that lights the night sky for travelers, though it does not resemble the shape of a crescent moon very closely. In English arms it was also a mark of cadency signifying the second son</p>

	
<p>Crosier</p> 	<p>Represents one who was a high official in the church or an Archbishop.</p>
<p>Cross</p> 	<p>Represents faith and the Church.</p>
<p>Crossbow</p> 	<p>Readiness for battle or war.</p>
<p>Crow</p> 	<p>A crow signifies a settled habitation and a quiet life. Also known as the Cornish Clough. <i>See also RAVEN</i></p>

	<p>The crown is an emblem of victory, sovereignty, and empire. It is a visible sign of success, thus the term "crowning achievement," and its significance as the decoration of the ultimate level of rank and power, makes bearing the crown a great honor. Crowns are also sometimes symbols of God, as He is considered by some to be the "King of all."</p>
<p>Crown of Thorns</p> 	<p>Represents one who has suffered adversity.</p>
<p>Cup/Chalice</p> 	<p>Indicates one in service to the sovereign.</p>
<p>Cushion</p> 	<p>Cushions on one's arms are considered marks of authority. They actually appear to be quite ancient symbols, especially in Scottish heraldry.</p>
<p>Cypress Tree</p>	<p>The cypress tree is the symbol of death and eternal life thereafter.</p>

	
	<p>D</p>
<p>Dagger</p> 	<p>The symbol of victory, justice, and military honor.</p>
<p>Decrescent</p> 	<p>A crescent with horns to the sinister (backwards). Represents one who has been honored by the sovereign. A hope of greater glory.</p>
<p>Dice</p> 	<p>Symbolizes constancy, wisdom, verity probity, and equity.</p>
<p>Dolphin</p>	<p>The dolphin is an emblem of safe travel, as well as kindness and charity, particularly to children. It is also believed to represent swiftness, diligence, salvation and love. Older heralds considered it the king of fish, just as the lion was king of the beasts and the eagle was king of the birds.</p>

	
<p>Double Headed Eagle</p> 	<p>Symbolic of the protector . Also the joining of two forces.</p>
<p>Dove</p> 	<p>The dove is a symbol of the soul and of the Holy Spirit. It signifies peace, gentleness and purity. In armory, the dove signifies loving constancy and peace. In heraldry the dove is always depicted with a slight tuft on its head, possibly to distinguish it from a wood-pigeon, which is very much like it. A dove is often shown with an olive branch in its beak, representing the harbinger of good tidings. The dove is frequently found in the arms granted to Bishops. In Ireland the Dove is regarded as the bird of God.</p>
<p>Dragon</p> 	<p>A dragon is supposed to have a keen sight, which enables it to guard treasures well. It is also said to be the most valiant of creatures; therefore, the dragon is a symbol of a most valiant defender of treasure. Dragons were perceived as powerful, protective, and fearsome, and they were valued for their warlike qualities</p>
<p>Drum</p> 	<p>War Drum</p>
<p>..</p>	<p>Symbolic of one who has endured torrents of liquids as in the course of battle. The type of liquid is determined by the color of the</p>
	<p>Azure (blue) = tears Vert (green) = oil Argent (white or silver) = water Sable (black) = tar or pitch Gules (red) = blood <i>SEE also GOUTTES</i></p>
<p>Duck</p> 	<p>Ducks can elude their enemies in many ways, either by flying, running, swimming or diving for cover; therefore, they are a symbol for a person of many resources. Ducks may be referred to by many names such as drake, mallard, teal, eider-duck, moorhen, and sheldrake. <i>See also GANNET and MARTLET.</i></p>
<p>E</p>	<p>E</p>
<p>Eagle</p> 	<p>The eagle symbolizes a man of action, occupied with high and weighty affairs. It was given to those of lofty spirit, ingenuity, quick wit, speedy in apprehension and judicious in matters of ambiguity. The wings signify protection, and the gripping talons symbolize ruin to evildoers. The eagle is believed to represent a noble nature, strength &amp; bravery. The eagle is also associated with the sun. As a Christian symbol, the eagle represents salvation, redemption and resurrection.</p> <p>In Ireland it was regarded as one of the "demons of the air", making it a very powerful symbol.</p>
<p>Eastern Crown</p> 	<p>The eastern or antique crown was believed to represent the crown worn by Oriental princes. Thus it was given to those had distinguished themselves in service in the East and it is also often born by merchants, the association being that they are like the magi.</p>
<p>Elephant</p>	<p>The elephant, its head or tusks, is considered a symbol of huge strength and stature, wisdom, courage, longevity, happiness, royalty, good luck, and ambition.</p>

	
<p data-bbox="321 254 383 275">Enfield</p> 	<p data-bbox="493 338 1377 380">The enfield is a mythical beast with the head and ears of a fox, chest of a greyhound, forelegs of an eagle, body of a lion, and hind legs and tail of a wolf. It is said to have protected a fallen chieftain's body until proper burial.</p>
<p data-bbox="321 464 383 485">Ermine</p> 	<p data-bbox="743 554 1122 575">Ermine - White fur with Black spots. Denotes Nobility.</p>
<p data-bbox="321 674 383 695">Ermines</p> 	<p data-bbox="748 764 1117 785">Ermines-Black fur with white spots. Denotes Nobility</p>
<p data-bbox="321 905 383 926">Escallop</p>	<p data-bbox="480 884 1388 955">Before the days of heraldry the symbol was the emblem of St. James, the patron saint of pilgrims and consequently the scallop became a badge worn by all pilgrims attached to hook or hat. In armory it signifies a soldier who had made long journeys or voyages to far countries, or gained great victories. It is an emblem of safe travel. It is also an emblem of fidelity because its shells, once separated, can never be rejoined.</p>

	
<p data-bbox="310 1255 399 1276">Escarbuncle</p> 	<p data-bbox="480 1318 1388 1375">The escarbuncle is a symbol of supremacy. In ancient warfare iron bands stemming from the center and radiating outwards were used to strengthen the shield for better protection in battle. Over time the pattern made by these bands was adopted as a charge and called in heraldic terms an escarbuncle. It is also a representation of a brilliant gem.</p>
<p data-bbox="321 1465 383 1486">Estoile</p> 	<p data-bbox="480 1507 1388 1564">The estoile symbolizes honor, achievement and hope. It also symbolizes celestial goodness and one who is noble. In some cases, a star may represent a falling star and denote a divine quality bestowed from above, whereby men "shine in virtue like bright stars on the earth." Stars with wavy points are emblems of God's goodness. .</p>
<p data-bbox="321 1612 383 1633">Eye</p> 	<p data-bbox="786 1703 1081 1724">An eye signifies providence in government.</p>
<p data-bbox="927 1822 943 1843">F</p>	
<p data-bbox="321 1854 383 1875">Faces</p>	<p data-bbox="480 1850 1388 1883">The fasces consists of a bundle of polished rods bound around a battle-axe. It symbolized one who may have been in control and had the power over life and death.</p>

	
<p>Falcon</p> 	<p>The falcon or hawk signifies someone who was hot or eager in the pursuit of an object much desired and did not rest until the objective was achieved. It is frequently found in the coats of arms of nobility, from the time when the falcon played an important social role in the sport of kings and nobles. <i>See also HAWK</i></p>
<p>Feathers</p> 	<p>Feathers are a very common charge in heraldry, which is not surprising considering that during a tournament helmets were more frequently ornamented with feathers than with family crests. Consequently, the plume, which is a grouping of five feathers, became the actual, inheritable family crest for many families. Feathers signify willing obedience and serenity of mind.</p>
<p>Fer de Moline</p> 	<p>A fer de moline, or mill-rind is the iron clamp in the center of a grindstone that provides support and is used to turn it. It represents industry and purpose and may also have been used as the sign of a miller. It is sometimes referred to as a "miller's cross." <i>See also MILLRIND</i></p>
<p>Fess</p>	<p>The fesse is a broad, horizontal band across the center of the shield that represents the military belt and girdle of honor of a knight. It signifies that the bearer must always be in readiness to act for the well being of the people.</p>

	
<p>Fetter Lock</p> 	<p>Some state that the fetterlock is a device for hobbling horses while others say that it is a handcuff or a prisoner's bolt. Whichever it is, it is an emblem of victory. It may have represented someone in the Middle Ages who had taken his enemy prisoner, or who could, by either his prowess or his charity, redeem any of his fellow soldiers ransomed in captivity. It is also referred to as a shackbolt, shackbolt or manacle.</p>
<p>Fireball</p> 	<p>The symbol of the fireball was bestowed on those who had endured terror while under siege or in battle. It also may signify that the first bearer was an artilleryman, or that he had survived the danger of bombshells in battle. The cannon is a figure in more recent grants of arms with the same symbolic meaning. <i>See also GRENADE.</i></p>
<p>Fish</p> 	<p>Fish are symbols of prowess and fortitude. They are also symbols of the forces of industry and science, and emblems of the Christian faith of the bearer, especially in early coats of arms. A fish represents a true, generous mind and one who is virtuous of himself, not because of his heritage.</p> <p>In Ireland the Celtic "otherworld" was often a place of water, a lake or sea, where would dwell Gods represented by fish.</p>
<p>Flag</p> 	<p>A flag differs from a banner in that it is elongated while a banner is square. It represents a special encounter in which bearer was captured. Or can represent a reward for valiant service.</p>

Flames are held to signify zeal, as one may be consumed by zeal as by flames. Flames are also a symbol of passion, spiritual energy

	
<p data-bbox="315 254 391 275">Flaunches</p> 	<p data-bbox="483 323 1386 365">Flaunches are segments of a circle with a large diameter that project into the field from either side of the shield. They are always shown in pairs. Flaunches were granted by sovereigns as a reward for virtue and learning, especially for services as an ambassador.</p>
<p data-bbox="331 464 375 485">Fleam</p> 	<p data-bbox="493 527 1378 579">The fleam was the barber-surgeon's knife used for bleeding people to let the poison out of their systems in the belief that it would help them to recover from whatever ailed them. It is a symbol for a physician or surgeon. It may also represent one who was a farrier and would have bled horses to cure their illnesses.</p>
<p data-bbox="331 674 375 695">Fleece</p> 	<p data-bbox="672 758 1195 779">Represents an ancient honor from the Knightly Order of the Fleece of Gold.</p>
<p data-bbox="315 898 391 919">Fleur de Lis</p>	<p data-bbox="483 884 1386 936">Represents a stylized form of the lily. It is the floral badge of France and is known as the "flower of light." It may represent one who fought for France - or against France. It also became an emblem of political power in France. The fleur de lis represents the Virgin Mary. In Ireland the fleur-de-lis often has a Christian significance. It may also represent the sixth son. <i>See also LILY</i></p>

	
<p data-bbox="298 1262 407 1283">Fleur de Jessant</p> 	<p data-bbox="493 1341 1378 1373">A fleur de lis shooting out of the mouth of a leopard (lion). The leopard (lion) represents England while the fleur de lis represents France, signifying the dominion of England over France</p>
<p data-bbox="315 1472 391 1493">Flintstone</p> 	<p data-bbox="493 1551 1378 1583">Flint, or flintstone, and steel were the ancient components necessary for producing fire. They symbolize the bearer's readiness for zealous service.</p>
<p data-bbox="342 1682 363 1703">Fly</p> 	<p data-bbox="574 1761 1289 1772">The fly is a bearer of pestilence, and may have been adopted as a symbol to ward off evil and pestilence.</p>
<p data-bbox="315 1892 391 1913">Foot/Boot</p>	<p data-bbox="769 1892 1094 1913">Represents strength, stability and expedition.</p>

	
<p>Fortuna</p> 	<p>The Goddess of good fortune.</p>
<p>Fountain</p> 	<p>The heraldic fountain is a roundel, or a circle, crossed with wavy bands of blue and white. It represents a pool or spring of pure water and was a symbol of purification.</p>
<p>Fox</p> 	<p>The fox was a common symbol for the devil during the middle ages. One of the oldest tales about the fox describes it feigning death in order to trap fowl. Thus the symbol of the fox is a reminder of the devil tempting man and a warning to the bearer to stay alert and resist temptation. It is also a symbol of one who will use all his shrewdness, sagacity, wit or wisdom for his own defense.</p>
<p>Fret</p>	<p>The fret has been called the "heraldic true lover's knot". It signifies persuasion.</p>

	
	<p>G</p>
<p>Frog</p> 	<p>Also referred to as toads, tadpoles, or powets. Used occasionally in English heraldry, but not found in French heraldry. Represents rapid determination.</p>
<p>Fusil</p> 	<p>The fusil represents a spindle formerly used in spinning, and it is an ancient symbol of labor and industry. It may also symbolize travel. <i>See also YARN FUSIL.</i></p>
<p>Garb</p> 	<p>Wheat sheaf - Represents plentifulness, and achievement of hope. <i>See also WHEATSHEAF.</i></p>
<p>Gyronny</p>	<p>The gyronny is a decorative pattern that stands for unity. A gyron, sometimes also called an esquire, is a line that divides a shield into six or eight parts with alternating colors. A shield gyronny is frequent in Scottish arms.</p>

	
<p data-bbox="321 254 383 270">Gauntlet</p> 	<p data-bbox="667 338 1201 354">Gauntlets or armored gloves symbolize a man armed and ready to make war.</p>
<p data-bbox="326 464 378 480">Giraffe</p> 	<p data-bbox="483 527 1385 600">The medieval name for an ordinary giraffe was camelopard. It was a widely believed at that time that animals sometimes crossbred. It is likely that a crusader saw a giraffe for the first time and believed it to be a cross between a camel and a leopard. It is believed that the camelopard represented characteristics of both "parents", namely a valiant warrior that would patiently persevere to the end.</p>
<p data-bbox="334 674 370 690">Goat</p> 	<p data-bbox="493 743 1377 800">The goat is a symbol of practical wisdom and an emblem of a man who wins victories through diplomacy rather than war. It may also represent one who is willing to work hard for high honors. It was thought that the goat might be a representation of Christ, since both were partial to high places and had sharp eyes. A man bearing this symbol was thought to have God on his side.</p>
<p data-bbox="326 898 378 915">Gorged</p>	<p data-bbox="488 884 1380 919">An animal or bird is said to be gorged when represented with a crown or something similar around its neck. It is then blazoned as "gorged with a crown," etc. Also known as Collared, it represents high dignity. The unicorn of Scotland is gorged with a crown.</p>

	
<p data-bbox="326 1255 378 1272">Goutte</p> 	<p data-bbox="493 1272 1377 1423">Symbolic of one who has endured torrents of liquids as in the course of battle. The type of liquid is determined by the color of the drops:  Or (yellow) = gold  Azure (blue) = tears  Vert (green) = oil  Argent (white or silver) = water  Sable (black) = tar or pitch  Gules (red) = blood <i>See also DROPS</i></p>
<p data-bbox="326 1465 378 1482">Grapes</p> 	<p data-bbox="483 1535 1385 1577">Grapes are symbolic of good luck, felicity and peace. Fruit of all kinds was considered to be evidence of God's kindness and a symbol of the goodness of providence. They were sometimes associated with wine-makers.</p>
<p data-bbox="310 1675 394 1692">Grasshopper</p> 	<p data-bbox="699 1755 1166 1772">The grasshopper has been used to represent nobility and of wisdom.</p>
<p data-bbox="326 1900 378 1917">Grenade</p>	<p data-bbox="483 1885 1385 1942">The symbol of the fireball was bestowed on those who had endured terror while under siege or in battle. It also may signify that the first bearer was an artilleryman, or that he had survived the danger of bombshells in battle. The cannon is a figure in more recent grants of arms with the same symbolic meaning. <i>See also GRENADE.</i></p>



Greyhound



The dog is the emblem of faithfulness and guardianship. Dogs were considered loyal and temperate and the dog is a symbol of a skilled hunter. They are symbols of courage, vigilance and loyal fidelity. Sometimes dogs were associated with priests since priests were watchdogs against the devil. Dogs of different names may appear on coats of arms. The leverer or levrier is the oldest name; the talbot is an English hound. Also found are bloodhounds, greyhounds, mastiffs, spaniels and terriers.

Griffin



The griffin is a mythical creature, with the head, wings and talons of an eagle and the body and hind legs of a lion. It is thus composed of the most royal of the birds and the beasts. The griffin was thought to find and guard mines of gold and hidden treasures. It signifies valor, death-defying bravery, strength, vigilance, and perseverance. A male griffin has no wings but often has horns and a spiky tail. *Also seen spelled GRYPHON*

Gutte de Sang



Blood & suffering.

H

Hand



Pledge of faith, sincerity, and justice. In Ireland the open hand was used as a means of communicating through the ancient language known as "Ogham". The open hand may have also signified the sun.



Hand "Red"



This is the mark of a Baronet. In Ireland the open red hand is often a symbol of the Province of Ulster.

Hammer



The hammer is a symbol of force and dominance. It was considered an honorable symbol, because, in early times, iron was more precious to people than gold. For this reason the hammer may be born crowned. The double-headed hammer was the chief emblem of the Norse god Thor. The hammer is also one of the chief emblems of a smith, which may indicate that the first bearer of the arms was also a smith.

Harp



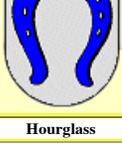
Signifies a well composed person of tempered judgment. It also represents contemplation and a mystical bridge.

Harpy

In Greek mythology, the harpy represented the spirit of the wind, particularly the hurricane. It is represented by a virgin's face, neck, and breast, the body of a lion and the wings and talons of a vulture or an eagle. The harpy is a symbol of ferocity under provocation

	
<p>Hawk</p> 	<p>The falcon or hawk signifies someone who was hot or eager in the pursuit of an object much desired. It is frequently found in the coats of arms of nobility, from the time when the falcon played an important social role in the sport of kings and nobles. <i>See also FALCON.</i></p>
<p>Hawk's Lure</p> 	<p>Hawk's lures indicate one who was fond of such noble pursuits as hunting and falconry. The lure was constructed using a pair of wings to resemble a bird. It was thrown into the air to help retrieve the hawk when it had flown too far afield after the quarry. Thus it also symbolizes a signal used to recall the absent from afar.</p>
<p>Heart</p> 	<p>The ancients regarded the heart as the mark of a person of sincerity, who spoke the truth. It is sometimes used in heraldry in this sense, but more often as an emblem of kindness and charity.</p>
<p>Heart in Flames</p> 	<p>Signifies ardent affection.</p>

	<p>The hedgehog, which is usually referred to as an urcheon in heraldic terms, is an ancient symbol of one who is a thoughtful provider.</p>
<p>Helmet</p> 	<p>When a helmet is on a shield, it represents wisdom and security in defense. It also signified strength, protection, and invulnerability</p>
<p>Hills</p> 	<p>Hills signify one who provides safety, refuge and protection. <i>See also ROCKS.</i></p>
<p>Hippograffe</p> 	<p>A hippogriff has the head, wings and fore-claws of a female griffin attached to the hind end of the body of a horse. It is said to symbolize one who displays great bravery in the protection of home and family.</p>
<p>Holly</p>	<p>Holly was used to adorn temples and sacred places and its name is derived from the word holy. Holly is an emblem of truth.</p>

	
Horn	
	Represents readiness and a summons to battle. May indicate one whose job it was to alert the army that battle was about to begin.
Horse	
	The horse signifies readiness to act for one's king and country or a readiness for duty. It is also a symbol of speed, intellect and virility.
Horseshoe	
	Symbolizes good fortune and a safeguard against evil spirits.
Hourglass	The hourglass is a symbol of the flight of time and is a reminder of man's mortality. Also called a sandglass

	
Hydra	
	A multi-headed dragon - Represents the conquest of a very powerful enemy. <i>See also DRAGON.</i>
	I
Increscent	
	This is the crescent with horns to the dexter which signifies one who has been honored by the sovereign and hope of greater glory.
Inescutcheon	
	When borne as a charge on an actual shield, the image of a shield signifies defense. In German and Scottish armory the inescutcheon bears the symbols of the paternal side, but in English heraldry it is used to carry the arms of an heiress wife.
	K
Key	The key is a symbol of knowledge and of guardianship, and of dominion. Two keys crossed is the emblem of St. Peter who held the keys to the gates of heaven, and this emblem is part of the insignia of His Holiness the Pope.

	
<p>Knights</p> 	<p>On horseback, represents a warrior. May also represent man's journey through life.</p>
	L
<p>Label</p> 	<p>The label was a decorative piece of fabric, usually silk. In heraldry, it is represented by a narrow band across the top of the shield, edged by another band from which three short bars hang down. In English arms a label was a mark of difference indicating that the bearer was the eldest son and heir.</p>
<p>Ladder</p> 	<p>The ladder is often a scaling-ladder and was a symbol of fearlessness in attack as the scaling of walls with ladders was an extremely dangerous tactic used in laying siege to a castle. It is also a symbol of resolution. The scaling-ladder has hooks on the ends to hook over the edge of a wall. The symbol may be a reminder to stand carefully on guard, especially against spiritual and corporeal enemies.</p>
<p>Lance</p>	<p>The lance is an emblem of knightly service and devotion to honor and chivalry. <i>See also SPEAR</i></p>

	
<p>Lamb</p> 	<p>The symbol of faith, innocence, bravery, gentleness, purity, resolute spirit. It is commonly displayed with the lamb bearing a flag or banner. <i>See also LAMB</i></p>
<p>Lantern</p> 	<p>A symbol of light, life and spirituality.</p>
<p>Leaf/Laurel</p> 	<p>In ancient times, Laurel leaves were thought to be remedies against poison, as well as tokens of peace and quiet. They are symbolic of triumph and fame, especially when it is gained after a long, inner struggle.</p>
<p>Leg</p>	<p>Symbolizes strength, stability and expedition.</p>

	
<p>Leopard</p> 	<p>The leopard is a symbol of a valiant and hardy warrior who braves dangers with enduring force and courage.</p>
<p>Level</p> 	<p>A sign of equity and upright action. Also represents a virtuous person.</p>
<p>Lightning bolt</p> 	<p>Signifies swiftness and power. Also the effecting of some weighty business with great clarity and force. <i>See also THUNDERBOLT.</i></p>
<p>Lion</p>	<p>The lion has always held a high place in heraldry as the emblem of deathless courage, and, hence, that of a valiant warrior. It is said to be a lively image of a good soldier, who must be "valiant in courage, strong of body, politic in council and a foe to fear." In Ireland it was the symbol of the great warrior chief.</p>

	
<p>Lizard</p> 	<p>The lizard is an ancient heraldic symbol signifying good luck.</p>
<p>Lozenge</p> 	<p>The lozenge is a symbol of honesty and constancy and it is also a token of noble birth. It signifies persuasion.</p>
<p>Lymphad</p> 	<p>Same meaning as ship and lymphiad - All of these symbols point to some notable expedition by sea, by which, perhaps, the first bearers had become famous. <i>See also SHIP</i></p>
<p>Lynx</p>	<p>The lynx is an ancient heraldic symbol indicating that its bearer was possessed of particularly keen sight.</p>

	
	M
<p>Man's Head</p> 	Represents honor.
<p>Martlet</p> 	<p>This is a footless swallow. In England, it is the mark of difference symbol of the fourth son. It may also symbolize one who has been disposed of land and has had to subsist by virtue and merit and not by inheritance. The Martlet is a popular charge in the Netherlands. In Ireland it was known as the bird of perpetual movement. <i>See also GANNON and SWALLOW</i></p>
<p>Masle</p> 	<p>It is supposed to represent the links of chain armour and signified persuasiveness. A masle is an open lozenge, or a lozenge voided, and it is merely a lozenge with a smaller one removed from the inside. It is said to be a piece on which armor was fastened, and to represent a mesh of a net or the links of chain armour.</p>
<p>Manticora</p> 	<p>Also known as a manticora or mantegre. It has the body of a heraldic tiger and the head of an old man, with long spiral horns coming out of the forehead. It is said to represent one who is wise and honorable, but will fight with fierceness.</p>
	<p>The maunch represents a lady's sleeve. It became used in heraldry from the custom of the knights who attended tournaments wearing their ladies sleeves. The maunch was the symbol for a man whose heart had been captured by a maiden. It is a symbol of devotion, and it also symbolizes victory in tournament.</p>
<p>Mermaid</p> 	<p>The mermaid or merman is a favorite symbol for seafarers or anything related to the sea. The merman was also referred to as a triton and siren was occasionally an alternate name for mermaid. Both are symbols of eloquence. The mermaid is generally represented with the traditional mirror and comb in her hands. A melusine is a mermaid with two tails one on each side of her, commonly found in German heraldry.</p>
<p>Millstone</p> 	<p>A reminder of the mutual converse of human society. Also a miller's tool. <i>See also Fer de Moline.</i></p>
<p>Millpike</p> 	<p>Miller's tool.</p>
<p>Millrind</p> 	<p>The symbol of the Miller.</p>

	<p>The mirror is a symbol of the imagination and truth. It is often shown being held in the right hand of a mermaid.</p>
<p>Moon</p> 	<p>The image of the moon is a symbol of the goddess Diana and indicates, in its bearer, the serene power to endure mundane duties. It is also a symbol of the Virgin Mary.</p>
<p>Moor</p> 	<p>Represented by a dark-skinned head. It is often used as a crest. The Blackmoor indicates one who fought in the crusades with deeds of prowess - or "took the head" of many of the enemy. <i>See also MOOR</i></p>
<p>Moorcock</p> 	<p>The moorcock or heathcock is a mythical bird that has the head and body of an ordinary cock united with either the flat tail of black game, or two or more large tail feathers at right angles to its body. Represents one who achieves victory through stealth and cunning.</p>
<p>Moose</p>	<p>Represents strong and enduring in battle.</p>

	
<p>Mound</p> 	<p>Hills signify one who provides safety, refuge and protection. <i>See also ROCKS.</i></p>
<p>Mullet/Star</p> 	<p>5-pointed star. Represents divine quality bestowed by God. May also symbolize the third son.</p>
<p>Mural Crown</p> 	<p>The mural crown is plain gold circlet of battlements on a narrow rim. It signifies one that first mounted the breach in the walls of a town or fortress. It would also apply to the defender of a fortress.</p>
<p>Musical Instrument</p>	<p>Musical instruments are heraldic symbols that, in general, signify festivity and rejoicing. The bearers of these signs may have been musicians or ceremonial trumpeters. The flute-like clarion and the trumpet could signify the call to battle, or the mustering call for a crusade. They are suitable heraldic bearings for someone who would bravely follow such a sound into battle. <i>See also HARP, HUNTING HORN, TRUMPET.</i></p>

	
<p>Musimon</p> 	<p>A musimon is supposed to be a cross between a ram and a goat with the body and feet of a goat, the head of a ram, and four horns: two straight like a goat's and two curved like a ram's. It is believed to symbolize one in authority who leads with strength.</p>
<p>Nails</p> 	<p>Passion nails are borne as a reminder of poignant suffering that the first bearer of the arms underwent.</p> <p>The symbol of 3 black passion nails piercing a red heart was borne on the shield of Sir R. Logan who accompanied James Douglas to Jerusalem with the heart of Robert the Bruce.</p>
<p>Naval Crown</p> 	<p>The naval crown is gold and uniquely ornamented with alternating topsails and sterns of ancient galleys. It is awarded, in arms, to distinguished naval commanders or as a reward for service at sea.</p>
	<p>O</p>
<p>Opinicus</p>	<p>This is a mythological animal that has a griffin's head, neck and wings, a lion's body and a bear's (or camel's according to some references) tail. It is believed to represent perseverance and valor.</p>

	
<p>Orb</p> 	<p>Part of the monarch's regalia consisting of a ball surmounted by a cross, which symbolizes temporal sovereignty under the rule of Christ.</p>
<p>Ostrich</p> 	<p>The image of an ostrich is symbolic of faith and contemplation. It also represents willing obedience and serenity.</p>
<p>Otter</p> 	<p>The image of an otter denotes that its bearer possesses industry and perseverance, as well as an ability to return to moments of play. It also represents one who lives life to the fullest. The otter is most often found as a symbol in Scottish and Irish coats of arms.</p>
<p>Owl</p>	<p>The owl symbolizes one who is vigilant and quick-witted.</p>

	
<p>Ox</p> 	<p>Signifies bravery, valour, and generosity. The horns represent strength and fortitude. <i>See also BULL</i></p>
<p>P</p>	
<p>Pale</p> 	<p>The pale is a vertical band down the shield denoting great defensive military strength and fortitude. It has often been bestowed on those who have defended cities, supported the government of their sovereign, or stood strong for their country under stress.</p>
<p>Pallium</p> 	<p>As a device on a crest, the pall represents the ecclesiastical vestment called a pallium and is symbolic of archiepiscopal authority. It is often found in the arms of archbishops.</p>
<p>Palm Laef</p>	<p>Symbolizes victory, justice, and royal honor.</p>

	
<p>Palm Tree</p> 	<p>Symbolizes righteousness, resurrection, and victory. May also indicate that the bearer served or fought in a tropical country.</p>
<p>Panther</p> 	<p>The panther is said to represent a beautiful woman who is tender and loving to her young, and will defend them even with her own life. It is a symbol of bravery in defense of the weak. The heraldic panther has little resemblance to an actual panther.</p>
<p>Parrot</p> 	<p>The parrot or a popinjay, as it is termed in heraldry, may signify distinguished service in a tropical country.</p>
<p>Passion Nails</p>	<p>Passion nails are borne as a reminder of poignant suffering that the first bearer of the arms underwent. The symbol of 3 black passion nails piercing a red heart was borne on the shield of Sir R. Logan who accompanied James Douglas to Jerusalem with the heart of Robert the Bruce</p>



Peacock



In ancient times, it was believed that the flesh of the peacock would not decay. It was therefore used as a symbol of resurrection and immortality. It also represents beauty, power, and knowledge.

Pears



Symbolizes felicity and peace.

Pegasus



Pegasus, the legendary winged horse from Greek mythology, is said to signify exceeding activity and energy of mind, whereby one may mount to honor. It is also a symbol of fame, eloquence, and contemplation. The Pegasus may also represent poetic genius and inspirations. Some believed it symbolized a messenger of God.

Pelican in Piety

The female pelican was believed to wound her breast with her long, curved bill, drawing blood to feed her young. For this noble act, the bird became a symbol of piety, self-sacrifice, and virtue. It also symbolizes the duties of a parent or parental love.



Pheon/Arrowhead



The pheon is a cleverly designed arrowhead of ancient origin. It was particularly dangerous because it has a barbed inner edge that makes extraction difficult. It symbolizes dexterity and nimbleness of wit, as people with these traits are thought to be able to penetrate and understand complicated problems. *See also SPEAR POINTS and ARROWS.*

Phoenix



The phoenix is a symbol from Greek mythology representing immortality, resurrection and renewal. Legend states that it would live for 5 centuries. At the end of its long life, this legendary bird built a pyre of spice-wood in the desert. It ignited the pyre by fanning its wings in the heat of the sun, plunged into the fire and was burned to ashes. Three days later a rejuvenated phoenix rose out of the cinders, born again. The phoenix is also a symbol of love.

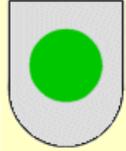
Pheasant

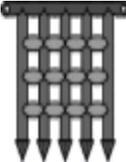
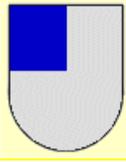


Suggests an individual of many resources.

Pile

The pile is a large piece of wood used by engineers in fortifications and bridge construction. The image of the pile was granted to military leaders for significant deeds, or to those who showed great ability in any kind of construction. In some instances it may represent a pennon or flag.

	
<p>Plate</p> 	<p>The plate is a white or silver roundle, a roundle being any circular charge of color or metal. It represents a silver coin found in Spain during the Crusades. The plate signifies generosity.</p>
<p>Pomegranate</p> 	<p>The pomegranate is a symbol of fertility and abundance. The association is derived from the fact that the pomegranate is a fruit composed almost entirely of seeds and was thought to reproduce itself prodigiously because of this.</p>
<p>Pomme</p> 	<p>Pomme or pomeis is the name given to a green roundle, a roundle being any circular charge of color or metal. The pomme represents an apple and signifies good luck. Most fruit was considered a token of good luck and symbolized the generosity of nature.</p>
<p>Portcullis</p>	<p>A portcullis is a great, barred, iron gate with spikes on the bottom, suspended over the main gate of a castle to be dropped before enemies could invade the castle. It signifies protection in an emergency, as it was used to guard the entrance to the fortress and could be suddenly lowered against a surprise attack. On a shield, a portcullis usually indicates that the bearer is a great defender in an emergency. It may also indicate that the original bearer operated the portcullis in a fort.</p>

	
<p>Proboscides</p> 	<p>Elephant trunks. The elephant, its head or tusks, is considered a symbol of huge strength and stature, wisdom, courage, longevity, happiness, royalty, good luck, and ambition.</p>
<p>Purse</p> 	<p>Denotes a frank and liberal steward of the blessings that God has bestowed</p>
	Q
<p>Quartered</p> 	<p>The quarter is a square in the right corner of the shield (or the left to the observer) that theoretically occupies 1/4 the shield's surface area, though it is usually slightly smaller than this. It is sometimes used as an augmentation of honor and it is also a mark used to distinguish the arms of one branch of a family from another, or that the name and arms of a family have been assumed where there is no blood descent. A canton in the left corner of the shield may be used as a mark of illegitimacy.</p>
<p>Quatrefoil</p>	<p>Quatrefoils have four leaves that are more circular and appear without the stem of a trefoil. The symbol of the quatrefoil was placed on churches to signify that the gospel, the harbinger of peace and immortality, was preached there. It was also the symbol of good tidings of spring.</p> <p>The double quatrefoil signified the ninth son according to British rules of inheritance.</p>

	
	<b>R</b>
<b>Rabbit/Hare</b> 	The hare was probably introduced into heraldry as a symbol for one who enjoys a peaceable and retired life. Also, since rabbits and hares reproduce prodigiously, they have become symbols for lust and great fertility.
<b>Rainbow</b> 	The rainbow is an ancient heraldic sign of peace, safe travel, and good luck. It also symbolizes good luck after bad. The proper colors of a heraldic rainbow are gold, red, green and silver.
<b>Ram</b> 	The ram is a symbol of authority and leadership. A person who bore such a device on his shield was supposed to possess all of the power and nobility that was attributed to the ram.
<b>Rat</b>	Symbolizes one who is cunning and determined.

	
<b>Raven</b> 	As the collector of bright objects, the raven stands as a symbol of knowledge. It is also an emblem of divine providence. This symbol also represents one who has derived little from his ancestors and, thus, has become the architect of his own fortunes. It also represents one of an enduring constancy of nature. The bringer of Death.
<b>Reeds</b> 	Reeds represent the just, who are said to "dwell on the riverbanks of grace." The reed is also one of the symbols of Christ's passion, as He was offered a sponge soaked in vinegar on the end of a reed. Bulrushes symbolize the multitude of faithful who lead a humble life and abide by Christian teaching. This symbol may also be granted to recall a memorable event that occurred near water where bulrushes were abundant.
<b>Rhinoceros</b> 	The rhinoceros fights with great ferocity when aroused, but never seeks combat. On a shield, the symbol indicates the same characteristics in its bearer.
<b>Rocks</b>	Rocks represent one who provides safety, refuge and protection. <i>See also HILLS</i>

	
<p>Rose</p> 	<p>The rose is a symbol of hope and joy; it is first among flowers and expresses beauty and grace. With a red blossom, it is a symbol of grace, beauty, and sometimes martyrdom. It is also a sign of the seventh son.</p>
<p>Roundel</p> 	<p>A Roundel is a circular image of a single color placed on the field of the shield. Roundles;  Gold: bezants or byzantine coins - One who has been found worthy of trust and treasure  White: plate - generosity  Green: pomme - apple  Purple: golpe - wounded  Blue - hurt or wortleberry  Black: pellet, ogress, or cannon ball  Torteau - red - communion wafer or manchet cake  Tawney - orange - tennis ball <i>See also BEZANT, GOLPE, HURT, ORANGE, PELLET, PLATE, POMME, TORTEAU.</i></p>
<p>Royal Crown</p> 	<p>The royal or imperial crown is an emblem of empire and sovereignty.</p>
	S
<p>Saddle</p>	<p>A saddle represents preparedness for active service. <i>See also SPURS and STIRRUPS.</i></p>

	
<p>Salamander</p> 	<p>The salamander signified a man of faith, and was also considered a sign of good luck. It usually appears as an ordinary garden amphibian or lizard which had the ability to walk within flames due to the magical milky substance it's skin exuded to make itself impervious to fire. Some legends claim that the salamander was an elemental creature of fire itself.</p>
<p>Salmon</p> 	<p>Fish are symbols of prowess and fortitude. They are also symbols of the forces of industry and science, and emblems of the Christian faith of the bearer, especially in early coats of arms. A fish represents a true, generous mind and one who is virtuous of himself, not because of his heritage.</p> <p>In Ireland the Celtic "otherworld" was often a place of water, a lake or sea, where would dwell Gods represented by fish.</p>
<p>Saltire</p> 	<p>The Cross of ST. Andrews.</p>
<p>Saracen's Head</p> 	<p>Represented by a dark-skinned head. It is often used as a crest. The Blackmoor indicates one who fought in the crusades with deeds of prowess - or "took the head" of many of the enemy. <i>See also MOOR</i></p>
<p>Scepter</p>	<p>The scepter is a symbol of justice and a chief emblem of royal authority. Frequently it occurs in the hand of a king or a saint.</p>

	
<p>Seadog</p> 	<p>The seadog is a symbol of port towns and the sailors that spent their lives upon the sea. It is included in the family of sea chimeras such as the mermaid and the Capricorn.</p>
<p>Seahorse</p> 	<p>The heraldic sea-horse is an imaginary creature that symbolizes the power of the water. It is an emblem of safe travel, particularly by sea.</p>
<p>Sealion</p> 	<p>Signifies dauntless courage at sea.</p>
<p>Serpent</p>	<p>The serpent is an emblem of wisdom and defiance. In Ireland, the serpent is often used as an emblem of St. Patrick. This is derived from the legend of St. Patrick clearing Ireland of snakes. They also considered it a symbol of fertility and renewal. Because of its forked tongue, it was also associated with lightning and the sun. Serpents also represent knowledge. There is nothing to distinguish a serpent or a snake from any of the other names given to it in heraldry such as cobra, adder, or bis. <i>See also PYTHON and SNAKE.</i></p>

	
<p>Shakefork</p> 	<p>The shakefork is also known as the dungfork.</p>
<p>Shakelbolt</p> 	<p>Signifies victory in war. <i>See also FETTERLOCK.</i> Some state that the fetterlock is a device for hobbling horses while others say that it is a handcuff or a prisoner's bolt. Whichever it is, it is an emblem of victory. It may have represented someone in the Middle Ages who had taken his enemy prisoner, or who could, by either his prowess or his charity, redeem any of his fellow soldiers ransomed in captivity. It is also referred to as a shackbolt, shackbolt or mancle.</p>
<p>Shell</p> 	<p>Signifies protection of providence.</p>
<p>Shepherd's Crook</p> 	<p>Also know as a Pastoral crozier - It is the emblem of a shepherd's watchfulness over his flock. It also denotes Episcopal jurisdiction and authority. <i>See also STAFF and STAVES</i></p>

	<p>Signifies a defender. <i>See also Escutcheon of Pretense.</i></p>
<p>Sickle</p> 	<p>The image of a sickle or a scythe expresses the hope of a fruitful harvest of things desired.</p>
<p>Skull</p> 	<p>Denotes mortality.</p>
<p>Snail</p> 	<p>Symbolizes deliberation and perseverance.</p>
<p>Snake</p>	<p>The serpent is an emblem of wisdom and defiance. In Ireland, the serpent is often used as an emblem of St. Patrick. This is derived from the legend of St. Patrick clearing Ireland of snakes. They also considered it a symbol of fertility and renewal. Because of its forked tongue, it was also associated with lightning and the sun. Serpents also represent knowledge. There is nothing to distinguish a serpent or a snake from any of the other names given to it in heraldry such as cobra, or an adder.</p>

	
<p>Spear</p> 	<p>Though the spear, the spearhead and the broken spear are all very similar symbols, they each have a distinct symbolic meaning. The spear, lance or tilting-spear is an emblem of knightly service and devotion to honor and chivalry. The broken spear is a symbol of peace. The spearhead, or javelin, is a deadly device of ancient origin said to represent dexterity and nimbleness of wit, a person able to penetrate and understand matters of the highest consequence. The spear is distinct in that it is always drawn with a sharp point for warfare, instead of blunt, as it would have been for a tournament. <i>See also LANCE.</i></p>
<p>Sphere</p> 	<p>Represents geographical or scientific reference, or one who engages in the study of the sciences.</p>
<p>Sphinx</p> 	<p>The sphinx, a mythological creature derived from the Egyptian figure is usually drawn with a lion's body, legs and tail and a woman's head and chest. The sphinx may also be shown with wings. It represents omniscience and secrecy.</p>
<p>Spider</p>	<p>Symbolizes wisdom, labor and providence in all affairs.</p>

	
<p>Spur</p> 	<p>A crest or coat of arms with the device of a spur on it was awarded to a knight who had done magnificent deeds. In some instances the spur is winged. Spurs are more often termed 'mulletts of five points pierced,' which translates to five pointed stars with a hole in the center, or the part of the spur used to actually cut the horse. This was a dangerous implement, used by knights to stimulate their war-horses into action. It signifies preparedness or readiness for battle, pressing onward. <i>See also MULLET and STAR.</i></p>
<p>Squirrel</p> 	<p>The squirrel's habit of storing nuts to ensure a supply of food for the winter makes him a symbol of thrift, caution and conception, also a lover of the woods.</p>
<p>Stag</p> 	<p>Represents a male deer. Indicates one who is skillful but will not fight unless seriously provoked. Once fighting becomes necessary the stag is said to down its enemy. It is also a symbol of peace and harmony - an individual who is politic and a lover of harmony. In Ireland the buck or stag was one of the most ancient charges and was regarded as the most handsome. It also represents the very ancestors of the Celtic race. <i>see also STAG</i></p>
<p>Star/Mullet</p>	<p>Represents divine quality bestowed by God. May also symbolize the third son. The star symbolizes honor, achievement and hope. It also symbolizes celestial goodness and one who is noble. In some cases, a star may represent a falling star and denote a divine quality bestowed from above, whereby men "shine in virtue like bright stars on the earth." Stars with wavy points are emblems of God's goodness. <i>See also ESTOILE and MULLET.</i></p>

	
<p>Sun</p> 	<p>Denotes power and splendor.</p>
<p>Swan</p> 	<p>The swan is the ensign of poets and musicians. It symbolizes perfection, beauty, and grace. It also represents light, love, grace, sincerity and perfection. For a bearer of the swan it represents poetic harmony and learning. In Ireland the swan was regarded as the bird that bore the spirit of a dead Celtic chieftain to the next life.</p>
<p>Swallow</p> 	<p>One who is prompt and ready in the dispatch of his business. <i>See also MARTLET.</i></p>
<p>Swepe</p>	<p>Aka sling or ballista. Considered a formidable engine of warfare, similar to the catapult. It was an ancient means to hurl missiles against an enemy. It represents a fierce warrior.</p>



Sword

The sword is the emblem of military honor and should incite the bearer to a just and generous pursuit of honor and virtue in warlike deeds. It is also symbolic of liberty and strength. In the Middle Ages, the sword was often used as a symbol of the word of God. The sword (especially borne with flames) is also a symbol of purification. When borne with a cross in the same field, the sword signifies the defense of the Christian faith.

T



Talbot/Dog

The dog is the emblem of faithfulness and guardianship. Dogs were considered loyal and temperate and the dog is a symbol of a skilled hunter. They are symbols of courage, vigilance and loyal fidelity. Sometimes dogs were associated with priests since priests were watchdogs against the devil. Dogs of different names may appear on coats of arms. The leverer or levrier is the oldest name; the talbot is an English hound. Also found are bloodhounds, greyhounds, mastiffs, spaniels and terriers.



Thistle

The thistle is an ancient heraldic emblem of pain and suffering. It is the royal badge of Scotland.



Thunderbolt

The thunderbolt is an ancient heraldic emblem of sovereignty, power and speed. It is derived from the classic mythology in which the thunderbolt is the symbol of the Roman god Jupiter, or the Greek god Zeus. *See also LIGHTNINGBOLT.*



Torch/Beacon

The beacon was an alarm signal placed on high hills, church towers or city gates. On crests it is drawn as an elevated basket overflowing with flames. It was the watchman's duty to fire it if he saw that the next nearest had been fired or the enemy was approaching. Thus, the beacon signifies one who is watchful, or who gives the signal in times of danger. It may also be that the bearer was in charge of the warning beacons.



Torteau

A torteau is the name given to a red roundle, a roundle being any circular charge of color or metal. It represents the communion wafer or the cakes of bread eaten by crusaders before long battles.



Tower

The tower is very similar to a castle in that it was often granted to one who had faithfully held a castle for his sovereign, or who had captured one by force or stratagem. It is an emblem of grandeur and society. It is also a symbol of defense and of a steadfast individual. *See also CASTLE*



Tiger

The tiger signifies great fierceness and valor, and dangerous when enraged to combat. It also symbolizes one whose resentment will be dangerous if aroused. The tiger depicted in heraldry was the attempt of artists to portray an animal they had never seen and knew only by repute. Consequently, the heraldic tiger had the body of a wolf with a lion's tail and a mane, powerful jaws, and a long, pointed snout. It was referred to as a tyger to differentiate it from a regular tiger. A regular tiger was referred to as a Bengal tiger.

The tyger is sometimes shown staring into a mirror. This is based on the legend that the female tyger is a fierce and protective mother but has the fault of being easily hypnotized by her own reflection, thus allowing her children to be stolen by anyone holding a

	
<p>Treasureflory</p> 	<p>A tressure is two small borders in the outline of a shield, set close together, one within the other. The tressure symbolizes preservation or protection.</p> <p>If the tressure is decorated with flowers that look somewhat like the fleur de lis, inserted through the tressure it is known as a tressure-flory-counterflory. This is particularly associated with Scottish heraldry as it represents the close and long term alliance between France and Scotland.</p>
<p>Tree</p> 	<p>Symbolizes antiquity and strength. In Ireland the oak tree was the most noble of chieftain trees.</p>
<p>Tree Trunk</p> 	<p>A tree stump or tree trunk with sprouting leaves may be used as a symbol of regrowth and rebirth. It is an object of veneration.</p>
<p>Trefoil</p>	<p>Represents perpetuity and longevity. In Ireland Saint Patrick used the shamrock to explain the holy trinity, thus giving it Christian significance.</p>

	
<p>Trumpet</p> 	<p>Ready for the fray.</p>
<p>Turtle</p> 	<p>The tortoise signifies invulnerability to attack and is also symbolic of slow, but sure progress.</p>
U	
<p>Unicorn</p> 	<p>The unicorn is a mythical creature that has always been known as a symbol of purity and virtue. Thus it is sometimes used as a symbol of Christ. According to legend, the unicorn's horn has the power to heal sickness and purify water. Supposedly the unicorn could only be captured and tamed by a virgin. It would sense her purity and lay its head in her lap.</p> <p>The heraldic unicorn is drawn with the body of a horse, the tail of a heraldic lion and the legs and feet of a deer. It is a popular symbol in heraldry; sometimes the head alone is also found.</p>
V	
<p>Vair</p>	<p>Fur of nobility cloaking the inside of a coat.</p>



Vines



Represents strong and lasting friendship.

Vol



Symbolizes swiftness and protection.

Vulture



The vulture symbolizes death to ones enemies.

W

Water Bouget

A water-bouget is a bag made from the skin of a goat or sheep that was used for carrying water on military expeditions. Thus it is a symbol for one who carried water to an army or to a besieged place.



Weapons



Symbolizes one who is greatly skilled in battle.

Weasel



The weasel, stoat, martin, and the ermine are all very similar animals that can be found occasionally as heraldic symbols. The ermine symbolizes purity. This association comes from the legend that this small white animal preferred death to defilement. The martin is the vanguard of spring and represents one who brings good news.

Whale



According to legend, the whale was often mistaken for an island. Ships that anchored to its side were dragged down to destruction by a sudden plunge of the immense creature. In this way, the whale came to be used as a symbol of the Devil, and the whale's open mouth the open gates of hell.

Wheat Bundle

The garb or wheat-sheaf, signifies plenty and commendable hospitality in the bearer. It may also mean that the harvest of the bearer's hopes is secured.

	
<p>Wheel</p> 	<p>In the heraldic tradition, the wheel is used as an emblem of fortune and the cycle of life. <i>See also CATHERINE WHEEL.</i></p>
<p>White Rose</p> 	<p>The white rose expresses love and faith and in Christian symbolism, it signifies purity.</p>
<p>Wings</p> 	<p>Symbolizes swiftness and protection.</p>
<p>Wolf</p>	<p>The crest of a wolf has been granted to valiant captains who served loyally through long sieges or hard enterprises. It signifies valor and guardianship. Wolves were viewed as ferocious and merciless and it was thought that they could paralyze their enemies with a look before destroying them. The bearer of this symbol was one who was dangerous to assail or thwart and a deadly enemy to have.</p> <p>The head of a wolf is particularly common in Scottish heraldry.</p>

	
<p>Writing Pen</p> 	<p>Emblematic of the liberal art of writing and of learned employment.</p>
<p>Wyvern</p> 	<p>The wyvern or wivern is a mythical beast with the upper part of a dragon, two legs and a body that curves into the tail of a serpent. It symbolizes valor and protection. Also, the wyvern was supposed to have a keen sense of sight, which enabled it to guard treasures. The bearer of this symbol may have been a keen defender, or was thought to have slain a wyvern. It is also a symbol of vengeance or perseverance.</p>
<p>Y</p>	
<p>Yellow Rose</p> 	<p>The yellow rose is a symbol of absolute achievement.</p>