

Chief Okemos Council-Wide Camporee

May 19, 20, 21, 2006

Charlotte Michigan



Robin Hood

The Legend Continues

A collection to assist you in developing you own Coat of Arms for Knights and Squires who wish to attend this exciting event and participate in the games of the day.

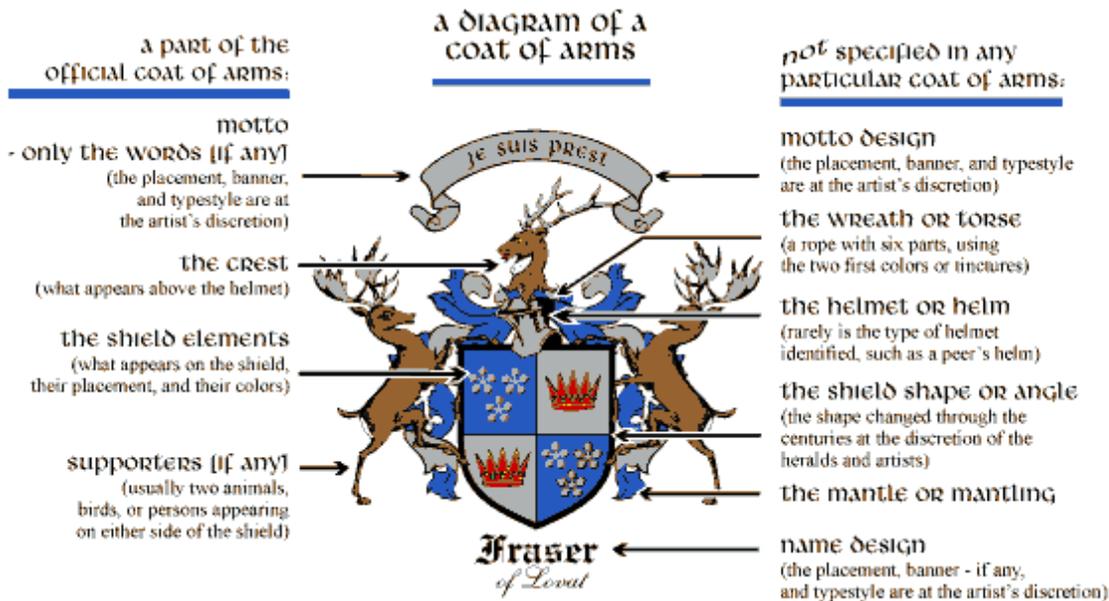
As Knights representing their Patrol, show themselves worthy and well qualified, duly and truly prepared at Prince Johns Tournament.

Are you prepared:

ARCHERY, JOUSTING, QUARTER STAFF, TUG OF WAR,
CASTLE CLIMB, LITTLE JOHNS LAYER AND MORE!

Heraldry & the Parts of a Coat of Arms

A *coat of arms* is a heraldic design used to distinguish individual families. This term is derived from embroidering the emblem of a knight on the surcoat which was worn over his armor. The knight, therefore, wore a *coat of arms*.



A Brief History of Heraldry

Between 1135 and 1155 A.D., seals show the general adoption of heraldic devices in Europe. Historians once theorized that a coat of arms enabled a knight to be recognized by his followers during battle. The coat of arms became hereditary just as a knight inherited the right to lead or the duty to follow another leader in battle.

Regardless of their origins, coats of arms became popular along with the tournament, which was developed in the mid-eleventh century in France. The tournament became a training ground for knights, and its pageantry became more elaborate as time passed. Some knights made their living roaming from tournament to tournament.

By 1400 A.D., bearing a coat of arms had become a prerequisite to participation in a tournament, and due to the importance of social standing in such pageants, a coat of arms also became a mark of noble status. In the early days, most coats of arms were assumed by the bearers and not "granted" by any authority.

The earliest coats of arms were fairly simple — bars or wavy lines, a lion rampant or an eagle displayed, or an arrangement of fleurs-de-lis. The designs became more complex as the years passed, and the practice of quartering or incorporating the arms of other families acquired through marriages developed.

The word “Heraldry” is derived from the German “heer” — a host, an army — and “held” — a champion. The term “blason,” by which the science of heraldry is denoted in French, English, Italian, and German, is probably derived from the German word “blazen” — to blow the horn. Whenever a new Knight appeared at a Tournament, the herald sounded the trumpet, and as the competitors attended with closed visors, it was his duty to explain the bearing of the shield or coat-armour belonging to each. This knowledge of the various devices and symbols was called Heraldry, and as the announcement was accompanied with the sound of a trumpet, it was termed “blazoning the arms.” Source: Burke, Bernard, *The General Armory of England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales* (Heritage Books, Inc., 1996).

A Brief Explanation of the Blazon of Arms

As depicted below, a “coat of arms” consists of several parts: the shield, the mantling, the helm, the wreath, charges, and the crest (note that not all arms have crests). The official, written description of the coat of arms is called the “blazon of arms.” The designs in our database are made *precisely in accordance with the registered description* (“the blazon of arms”). The blazon may seem like a foreign language, but it is simply a system of code words to denote colors, placement, and styling by using an economy of words.

Much of the printed design for a given coat of arms is more the artist’s preference or the style of a particular herald, and not a part of any particular blazon. The mantling and the banners for names and mottoes, for example, are not an official element of the blazon of arms. The helm, likewise, is not a part of the official blazon. Some historians attach a significance to the design of the helm or helmet as representative of a certain century or social status, but there are differences of opinion on this matter.



The blazon of arms for this coat of arms would be as follows:

Arms: “*Argent, a saltire azure, cantoned with four markings of ermine sable.*” (Silver or white shield with a blue saltire or ‘X’ and in four-equidistant places the marking of the ermine ‘fur’ in black.)

Crest: “*A lion’s head erased azure langued gules.*” (A lion’s head cut off at the neck with a flourish, in blue with a red tongue.)

Elements of a Coat of Arms



Shield: The colors and charges (lions, designs, etc. that appear on the shield) are a part of the

official blazon, but the shape of the shield is not. Shield shapes vary according to the geographical origin as well as the time period.





Helm: Not a part of the official blazon, the helmet varies with the bearer's rank, the century represented, or the herald's or artist's preference.



Wreath: Not a part of the official blazon, the wreath usually consists of the primary color and metal.



Mantle/Mantling: Not a part of the official blazon (except that sometimes the colors are specified), the design varies with the herald's or artist's preference. This is said to represent the cloth that hung from the wreath and protected the back of the head and neck, even though it may often be depicted more like the leaves of a plant.

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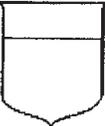
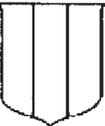
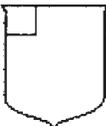
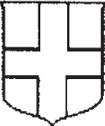
THE COLORS ON COATS OF ARMS

Color	Meaning	Image
Or (Gold)	Generosity	
Argent (Silver or White)	Sincerity, Peace	
Purple (Purple)	Justice, Sovereignty, Regal	
Gules (Red)	Warrior, Martyr, Military Strength	
Azure (Blue)	Strength, Loyalty	
Vert (Green)	Hope, loyalty	
Sable (Black)	Constancy, Grief	
Tenne or Tawny (Orange)	Worthwhile Ambition	
Sanguine or Murray (Maroon)	Victorious, Patient	

LINES ON COATS OF ARMS

Name	Meaning	Image
Nebuly Line or Water	Clouds or Air	 Wavy Line Sea
Embattled Line	Fire, Town-Wall	
Engrailed Line	Earth, Land	
Invecked Line	Earth, Land	
Indented Line	Fire	

SHIELDS ON COATS OF ARMS

Image	Name Meaning	Image	Name Meaning
	Chief Dominion, authority, wisdom, achievement in battle		Saltire St. Andrew's cross, signifying Resolution, Resolve
	Pale Military strength, fortitude		Pile represents wood used in bridge- building - signifies construction, building
	Bend Representative of a Knights scarf - signifies Defense		Canton Representative of a flag 'added' to the arms, and may contain a charge granted by a Sovereign
	Fess Signifies the Military Belt - represents Honour		Bordure Represents Honour, as used to differentiate between family members
	Chevron Represents the roof of a house - signifies Protection, faithful service		
	Cross Christian, one who had served in the Crusades		

HERALDIC BEASTS



Lion
Fierce Courage.



Bull
Valour and magnanimity



Tortoise
Invulnerability



Tiger
Fierceness and valour



Boar
Fierce fighter, fights to the death.



Griffin
Valiant soldier - to the death, Vigilance.



Fish
Of Regal origin, one of high nature.



Boars Head
Hospitality



Dragon
Valiant defender



Bear
Fierce Protection



Conies (Hares and Rabbits)
Peace-loving



Stag, Buck or Deer
Skillful, Politic, lover of harmony.



Wolf
Perseverance in siege or effort



Fox
Wise defence, wisdom



Snake.
Wisdom.



Leopard
Valiant and enduring warrior



Dog (Talbot, Greyhound)
Courage, fidelity, loyalty



Martlet/Swallow
One who has been dispossessed of land. Sign for fourth son.



Horse
Readiness for duty



Dolphin
Affection, charity



Eagle
Protector, a person of action, noble nature, power, strength.

Heraldic Plants



Fleur-de-lis
Sixth son



Oak Tree and Leaves, Acorns
Antiquity and Strength



Holly
Truth



Apples, Pears, Fruit
Freedom, Peace



Wheat Sheaf/Garb
Plentifulness, achievement of hope.



Red Rose
Hope, Joy. Symbol for the seventh son.



Trefoil/Shamrock
Perpetuity, longevity.



Quatrefoil/Primrose
Good tidings of Spring



Double quatrefoil
Sign of the ninth son



Cinquefoil
Hope, Joy



Escallop Shell
Successful commander, one who has made long journeys



Heart
Sincerity, truthfulness, charity



Hand
Faith, sincerity, justice



Red Hand
The mark of a Baronet.



Human Head
Honour



Crown
Regal or senior authority, heavenly reward



Finger Ring or Annulet
Fidelity. Sign of the fifth son.



Lozenge
Honesty, constancy, noble birth



Anchor
Hope



Ship, Lymphad,
Boat, Galley
Hope, a sea-faring tradition



Axe
Military duty



Tower
Grandeur, society, wealth



Cross
Of Christian significance. May also refer to families who engaged in the Crusades.



Crescent
Hope of glory, one who has been enlightened. Sign of the second son.



Maunch/Sleeve
A symbol of devotion, victory in tournament



Cross Moline
Eight son



Hunting Horn
A person of high or noble pursuits



Chain
A mark of honour and obligation



Label
First son



Arrows, Arrow-Heads
Military readiness, affliction



Helmet
Wise defence



Cushions
A mark of authority



Spear
Devotion to honour, knightly service



Torch
Zealousness, a signal service



Estoile (a star with wavy points)
God's goodness, superiority



Book
if open: Manifestation, if closed: Counsel



Mullet (5-pointed Star)
Divine quality bestowed by God. Sign of the third son.



Spear-head/Pheons
readiness for battle



Passion Nails
Poignant suffering



Horse-Shoe
Good Luck



Bell
Power to disperse evil



Sun
Glory, Splendour, Authority.