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The Meanings Behind the Symbols

or...

What does it mean if your coat of arms bears a red boar's head?

[The pieces of artwork shown on this page are available individually for US\\$ 10.00 each.](#)


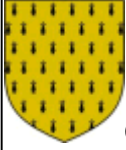
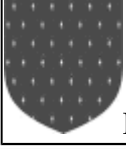
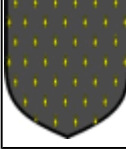
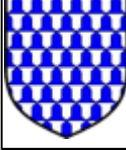
Please note that the following descriptions and meanings are gleaned from a variety of sources, some of which disagree on those meanings. The most commonly accepted meanings are given, but scholars vary in their opinions concerning the reliability of *any* "commonly held" historic meanings for coats of arms and crests.









For examples of the different positions for heraldic animals, see our ["Sample Lions In Heraldry"](#) page.

COLORS	<i>Even the colors can have special meaning in a "family crest" or coat of arms:</i>
Gold (Or)	Generosity and elevation of the mind
Silver or White (Argent)	Peace and sincerity
Red (Gules)	Warrior or martyr; Military strength and magnanimity
Blue (Azure)	Truth and loyalty
Green (Vert)	Hope, joy, and loyalty in love
Black (Sable)	Constancy or grief
Purple (Purpure)	Royal majesty, sovereignty, and justice
Orange (Tawny or Tenne)	Worthy ambition
Maroon (Sanguine or Murray)	Patient in battle, and yet victorious

[\(Popular Ways of Dividing Shields Shown Here\)](#)





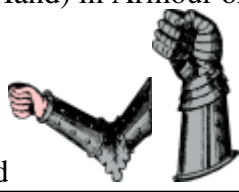

FURS	<i>The mere fact that a shield or crest contains furs suggests a mark of dignity. Usually the fur coat of the weasel is represented.</i>
Ermine	







		White with black spots.
Erminois		Gold with black spots.
Ermines		Black with white spots.
Pean		Black with gold spots.
Vair		Blue and white bell-shaped objects.








Heraldic Lines and Ordinaries:	
	Clouds or air
	Sea or water
	Earth or land
	Earth or land
	Fire
	Water
	Difficulties that have been encountered
	Walls of a fortress or town (also, fire)

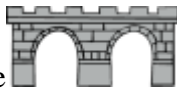









The following are some of the more common heraldic symbols and their meanings as suggested by some historians:








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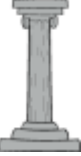




Acacia Branch or Leaves	Eternal and affectionate remembrance
Acorn	Antiquity and strength.
Agricultural Tools 	Labouring in the earth and depending upon providence; see also Scythe and Sickle
Alisaunder (Similar to laurel)	Peace and/or triumph.
Allerion (Mythical creature, similar to an eagle, but without beak or claws)	Strength of will and authority of mind.
Anchor 	Hope; religious steadfastness
Angels (See Sample Angels)	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
Ass	Patience and humility
Axe  (Also Halbert, Halberd, Hatchet)	Execution of military duty
Baguette (gem ring)	Fidelity
	See Banners





 Banderole	
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
 Bee	Efficient industry
 Bells	Power to disperse evil spirits; a hawk's bells denotes one who was not afraid of signalling his approach in peace or war
	Scarf or shield suspender of a knight commander; signifies defense or protection





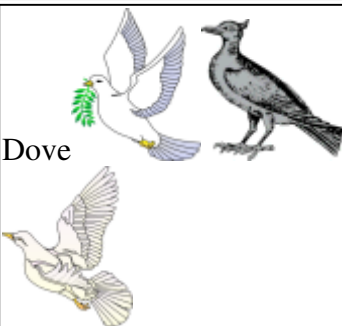



 Bend/Bendy	
Berries	Liberality, felicity, and peace
Bezant/Byzantine Coin (Also Besant; Gold Roundle)	Worthy of trust of treasure.
Billet/Billettee	Bricks or letters (correspondence); one who obtained credence, knowledge, and faith in his words and deeds; one who is secret in one's affairs.
Birdbolt (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
	Governor or magistrate


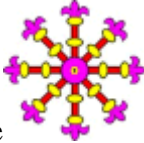



Bridge		
Broom Plant		Humility
Buck		One who will not fight unless provoked; peace and harmony
Buckle		Victorious fidelity in authority
Buglass (purple quatrefoil)		Hope and joy.
Bull/Buffalo		Valour, bravery, generosity
Bull's Head		Valour, bravery, generosity
Bull's Horns		Strength and fortitude
Butterfly		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		
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

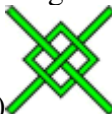

	performance of eminent service
Cap of Maintenance 	Granted to British peers and Scottish feudal barons (see "Chapeau")
Carnation	Admiration
Carpenter's Square	Conforming one's actions to the laws of right and equity
Castle (Tower/Chateau) 	Safety
Cat  (Also Wildcat or Lynx)	Liberty, vigilance, forecast, 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


 <p>Cinquefoils</p>	<p>Hope and joy</p>
<p>Civic Wreath (of oak leaves and acorns)</p>	<p>One who saved a fellow citizen's life or shown patriotism in defense of one's native land</p>
 <p>Clarion</p>	<p>Ready for war</p>
<p>Claw of a Bird</p>	<p>Note the preyer that has been preyed upon</p>
<p>Clouds</p>	<p>Mystery, obscured truth</p>
 <p>Cock (male bird)</p>	<p>Courage and perseverance; hero; able man in politics</p>
<p>Cockatrice (small serpent)</p>	<p>Terror to all beholders</p>
 <p>Column</p>	<p>Fortitude and constancy; with serpent coiled around it, wisdom with fortitude</p>
 <p>Comet</p>	<p>Unknown</p>
<p>Compass</p>	<p>Direction</p>
<p>Compony or Gobony</p>	<p>Constancy</p>
<p>Cornish Chough (crow, raven; See "chough")</p>	<p>Strategist in battle; watchful for friends; divine providence</p>
 <p>Cornucopia (horn of plenty)</p>	<p>The bounty of nature's gifts</p>
<p>Cottice/Cotice (bendlet)</p>	<p>Scarf or shield suspender of a knight commander; signifies defense or protection</p>
 <p>Coupeaux</p>	<p>(Hills - usually three) Unknown; may be purely an artistic device</p>
<p>Crane (Stork)</p>	<p>Close parental bond; Vigilance if holding a rock</p>
 <p>Crescent</p>	<p>One who has been honored by the sovereign; hope of greater glory (horns to the chief)</p>
<p>Cresset (See "Beacon")</p>	<p>One who is watchful, who gave the signal in time of danger</p>



 <p>Crosier/shepherd's crook</p>	The shepherd's watchfulness; Christian faith; pastoral authority; also Episcopal jurisdiction and authority
<p>Cross (See Examples)</p>	Faith; Christianity; Service in the Crusades
<p><i>Cross (Celtic)</i></p>	Unity of heaven and earth
<p><i>Cross (Constantine's; Labarum)</i></p>	Good omen; Christ; Christianity
<p><i>Cross Crosslet</i></p>	Signifies the fourfold mystery of the cross
<p><i>Cross Crosslet Fitchee</i></p>	A combination of cross and sword; unshakeable faith
<p><i>Cross Flory (Patoncee)</i></p>	(cross flowered at each end) One who has conquered
<p><i>Cross Formee (Pattee)</i></p>	Military honour
<p><i>Cross (Maltese)</i></p>	Blessings; badge of Knights Hospitalier
<p><i>Cross Moline</i></p>	The mutual converse of human society (said to represent a millstone)
<p><i>Cross Raguly</i></p>	Difficulties encountered
<p><i>Cross Roucy</i></p>	Faith
<p>Crossed thighbones</p>	Mortality
<p>Crow (See also "Chough")</p>	Strategist in battle; watchful for friends; divine providence
<p>Crown (See Examples)</p>	Royal or seigniorial authority
<p>Crown (Mural)</p>	Defender of a fortress, token of civic honour; one who first mounted the breach in the walls of a fortress
<p>Crown (Naval)</p>	One who first boarded an enemy's ship; distinguished naval commander
<p>Crown of thorns</p>	Adversity
 <p>Cup (often covered)</p>	Office of the king's butler
 <p>Cushions</p>	Authority
<p>Cygnets (young swan)</p>	Where gorged with a crown around its neck, signifies dignity
<p>Cypress</p>	Death and eternal life thereafter
 <p>Dagger or dart</p>	Justice and military honour
<p>Dawle (black quatrefoil)</p>	Hope and joy

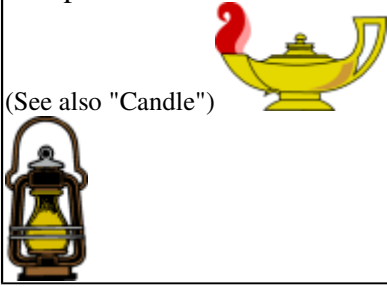

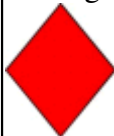
<p>Decrescent </p>	<p>One who has been honored by the sovereign; hope of greater glory (crescent with horns to the sinister)</p>
<p>Deer </p>	<p>One who will not fight unless provoked; peace and harmony</p>
<p>Dice</p>	<p>Constancy</p>
<p>Dog </p>	<p>Courage, vigilance, and loyalty</p>
<p>Dolphin </p>	<p>Swiftness, diligence, salvation, charity, and love</p>
<p>Dove </p>	<p>Loving constancy and peace; the Holy Spirit; with an olive branch in its bill, it signifies a harbinger of good tidings</p>
<p>Dragon (See Examples)</p>	<p>Valiant defender of treasure; valour and protection</p>
<p>Drops (Guttees) </p>	<p>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</p>
<p>Drum </p>	<p>Ready for war</p>
<p>Duck (Also Teal) </p>	<p>Person of many resources</p>
<p>Eagle (See Examples)</p>	<p>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</p>





	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	Zealousness


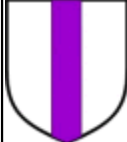



(See also sample Firefighting Symbols)	
Fish	A true, generous mind; virtuous for himself, not because of his heritage; also unity with Christ, spiritual nourishment
Flag or Pennant	Refers to special action in which bearer was captured, or a reward for valiant service
Flanchi/flasque/flanches (Also flaunches)	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
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
Grasshopper 	Noble and home-bred
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

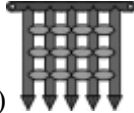



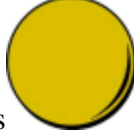

Helmet	When depicted on the shield, denotes wisdom and security in defense; strength, protection, invulnerability
Hind (female deer)	Peace and harmony
Holly	Truth
Horns	Strength and fortitude
Horse (<i>See also Seahorse</i>) See Sample Horses	Readiness for all employments for king and country
Horseshoe	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)
Humettee	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
Incescent/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 Marks of Cadency
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 with a cross (paschal lamb)	Faith; innocence, bravery, gentleness, 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 Sample Lions)	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
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
Mulberries		Liberality, felicity, and peace
Mule		Often borne by abbots and abbesses who have pastoral jurisdiction, but not real jurisdiction
Mullet		Divine quality from above; mark of third son




(Star)		
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
Peacock		Beauty, power, and knowledge
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  (Spear-head)	Dexterity and nimble wit; readiness for battle
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
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
Protection in an emergency	Protection in an emergency

 Portcullis (castle gate)	
 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 spendour; 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
 Roundles	Gold or yellow: bezants or byzantine coins (worthy of trust or treasure) White: plate (generosity) 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)
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
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
 Tiger	Fierceness and valour; resentment; dangerous if aroused
Torch	Life; zealousness; 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	Extreme courage; virtue and strength

See Sample Unicorns	
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 and/or hard industry
Woodbine Leaves	Love that does not injure that which it clings to
Woman	Various meanings
Wreath of laurel leaves and berries	Triumph
Wren	Freedom
Wyvern (Dragon with only two legs and armed tail)	Valour and protection
Yew	Death and eternal life thereafter

[Contact us](#)

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