

Heraldic Device Consultation Sheet

(PLEASE PRINT)

Client/Submitter Information

Legal name:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Phone (Best Contact): (Home, Cell, Work)

E-mail:

Gender: M F

Date of birth:

Do you have a registered name? Y N If yes, list:

Do you have a profile established on Northshield.org? Y N

Device Badge

New Change Resubmission Date of Return: Reason for Return:

Other (specify):

Local Group Name: Local herald: MDA:

Consulting herald: MDA:

Consultant's Phone (Best Contact): (Home, Cell, Work)

Consultant's E-mail:

Client File Notes (for consulting herald use only):

SCA Name (existing or proposed):

- New (with device submission)
- Already Registered - When and in what kingdom:
- In Process - When and in what kingdom:

Heraldic Design:

What is your favorite number and why?

There are three tincture classifications: 1) colors, 2) metals and 3) furs.

There are five colors: Azure (blue), Gules (red), Purpure (purple), Sable (black) and Vert (green).

There are two metals: Argent (silver or white) and Or (gold or yellow).

There are two basic fur types, of which there are color/metal variations:

Ermine fur (metals with color spots & colors with metal spots)

Vair fur (bell shaped quadrants composed of equal parts color and metal).

METALS (Pick 1)

- Argent (white)
- Or (yellow)

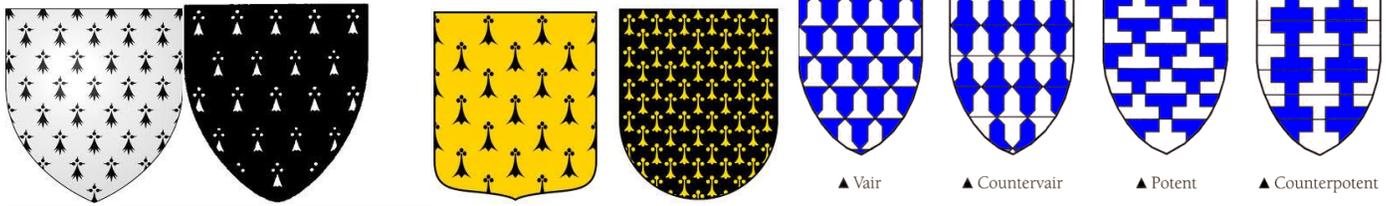
COLORS (Pick 1 to 3)

- Azure (blue)
- Gules (red)
- Purpure (purple)
- Sable (black)
- Vert (green)

FURS (Pick 0 to 2)

- Ermine (white/black spots)
- Erminois (yellow/black spots)
- Counter-ermine (black/white spots)
- Pean (black/yellow spots)
- Ermine variant (specify colors)

- Vair (blue/white bell shapes)
- Vair variant (specify colors)
- Potent (blue/white "T" shapes)
- Potent Variant (specify colors)



Ermine Counter Ermine Erminois Paen Vair Counter Vair Potent Counter Potent

Charges (Objects client is interested in):

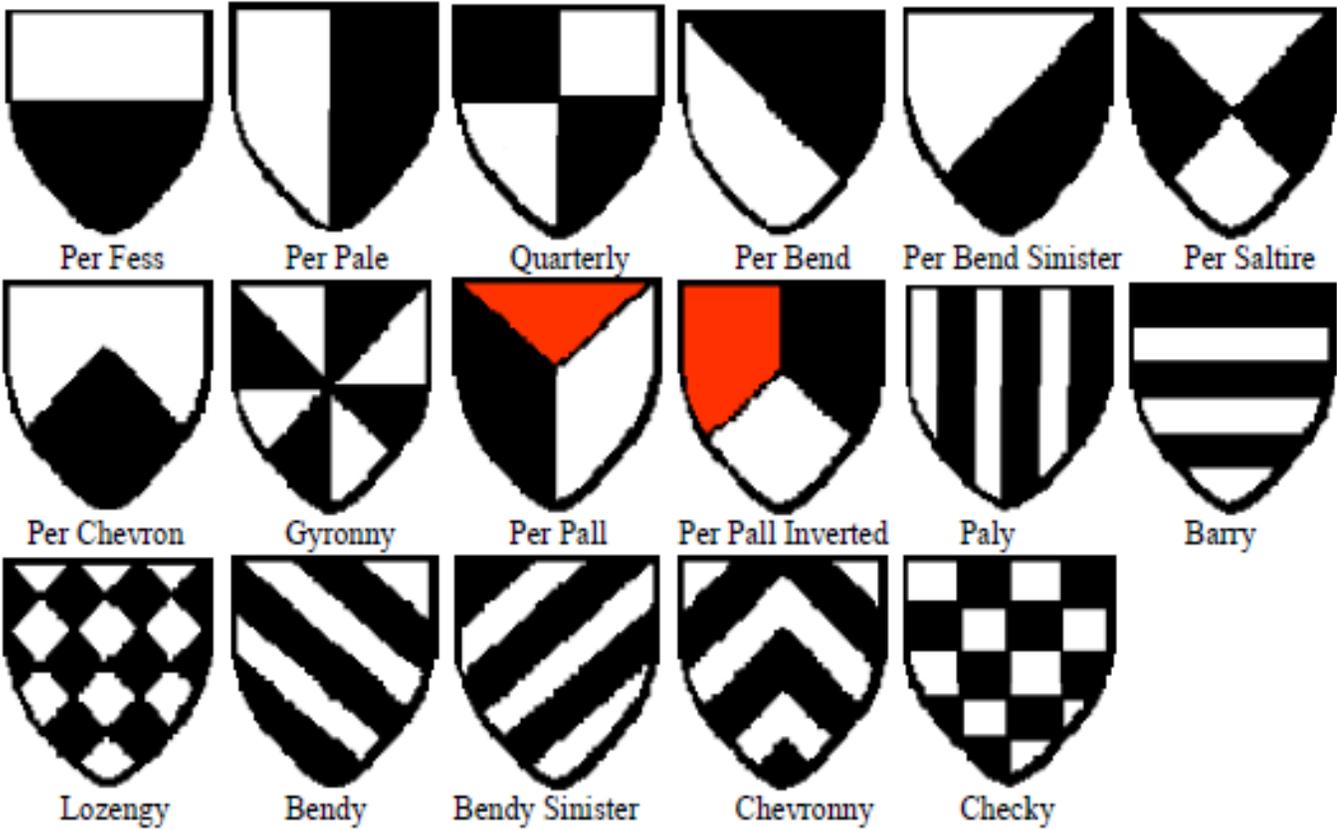
Select up to three from each following category and list them below. Indicate top choice in each section and why:

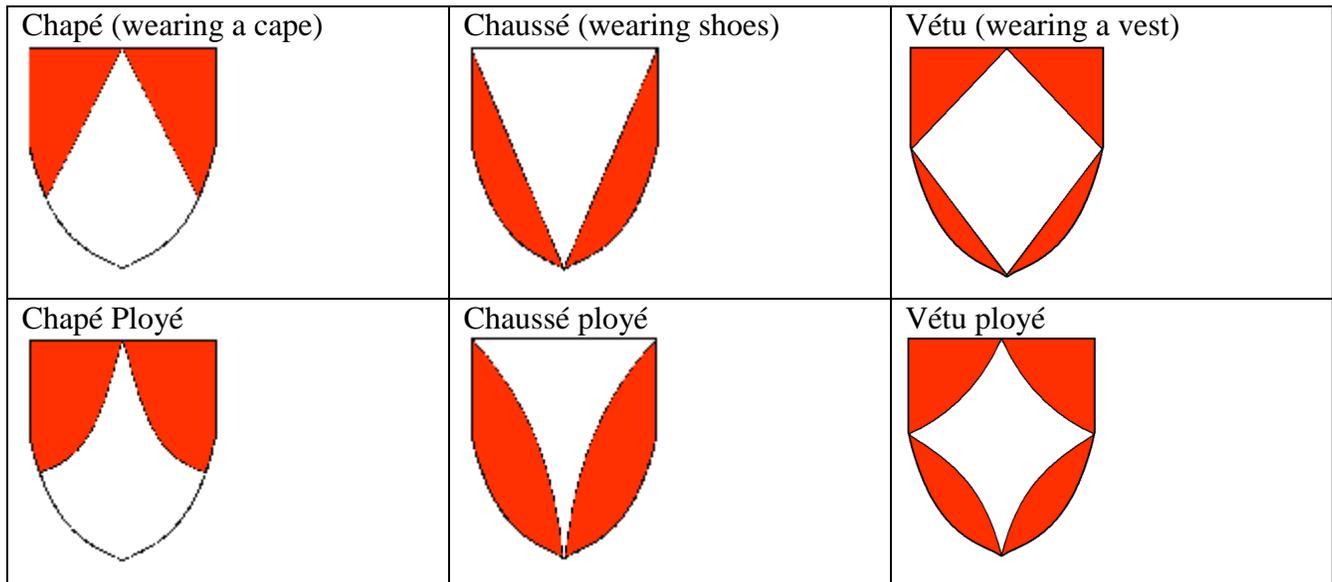
PLANTS (specify whole or leaf or other applicable portion)

ANIMALS (real or imaginary)

Field Divisions

The field can be one solid color or it may be divided into sections. These sections lay next to each other not upon one another. Please indicate the division(s) you find most interesting or pleasing and advise me if any you select have a special meaning to you:

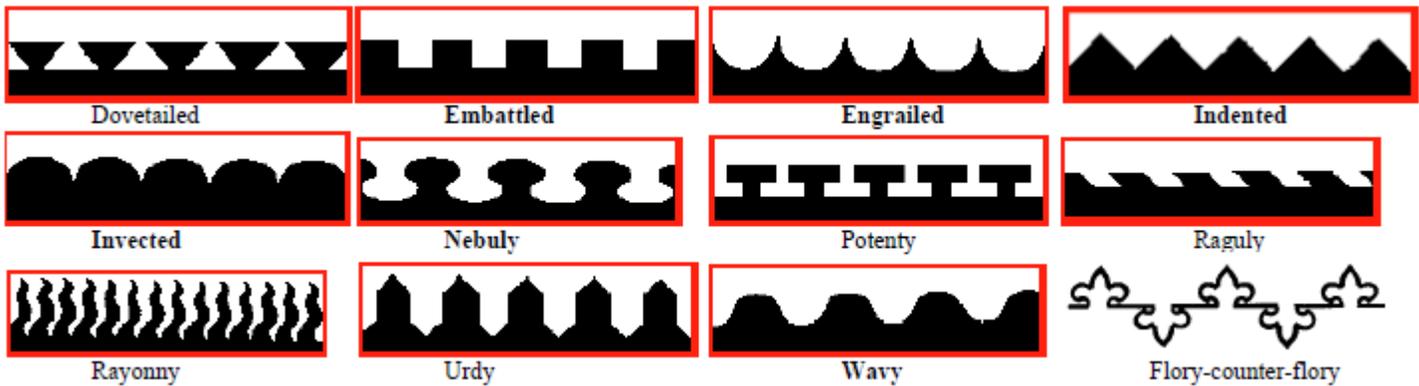




- Per Fess Per Pale Quarterly Per Bend Per Bend Sinister Per Saltire Per Chevron
 Gyronny Per Pall Per Pall Inverted Paly Barry Lozengy Bendy
 Bendy Sinister Chevronny Checky Chape' Chausse' Vetu Chape' Ploye'
 Chausse' Ploye' Vetu Ploye'

Lines of Division

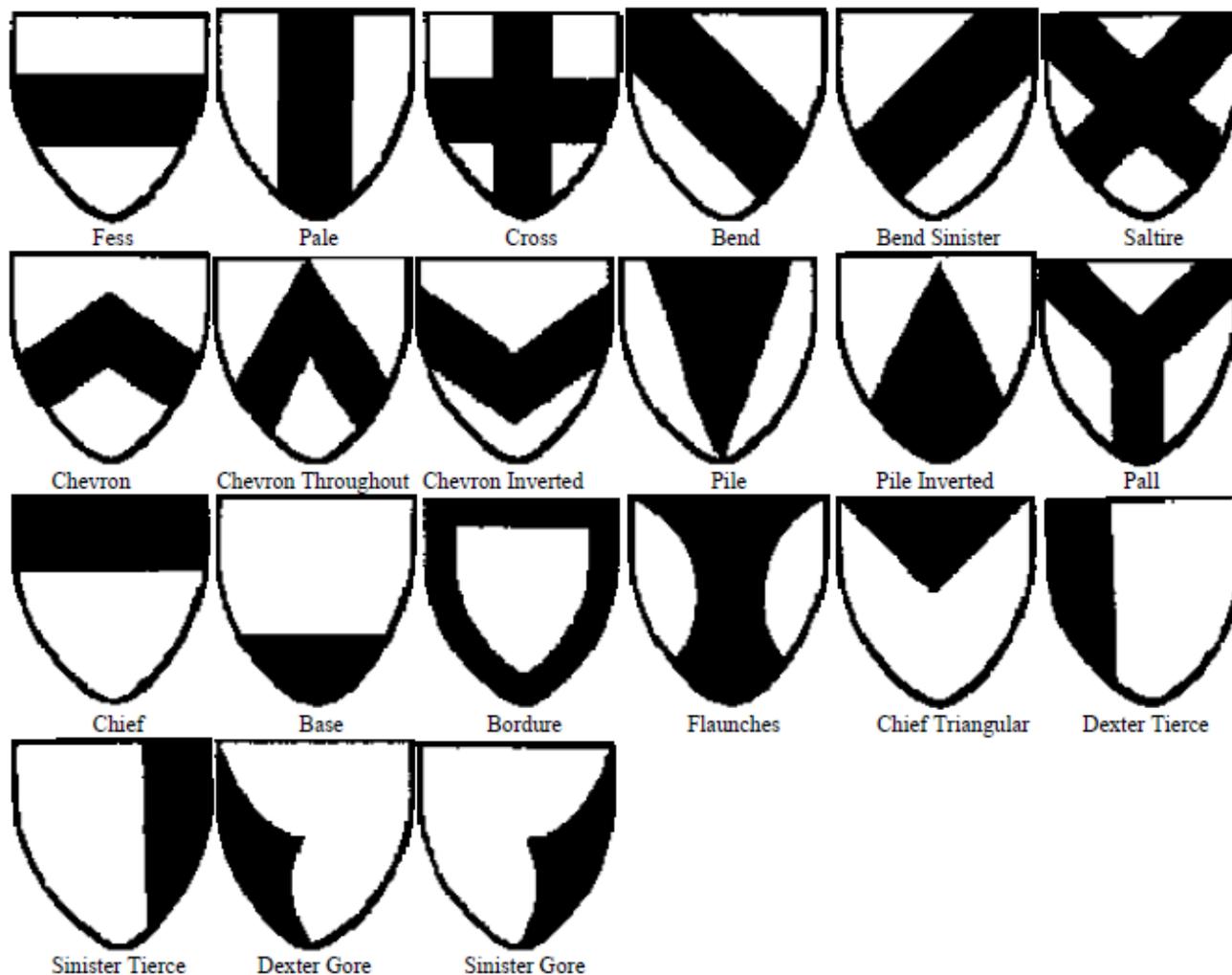
The lines used to create the field divisions can be plain (straight) or complex (follow a pattern). Please indicate the line(s) you find most interesting or pleasing and advise me if any you select have a special meaning to you. The complex lines available for use are:



- Dovetailed Embattled Engrailed Indented Invected Nebuly Potenty
 Raguly Rayonny Urdu Wavy Flory-Counter-Flory

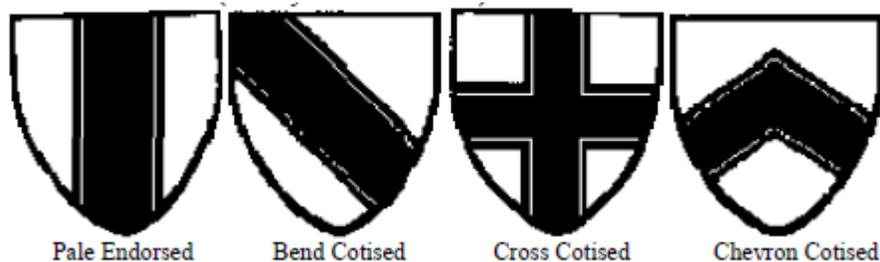
Charges

Charges are the objects that lay on top of the field (whether it is one area or divided into sections). Ordinaries are one of the primary types of charges used in heraldry. These are wide bands or sections of tinctures. Most (but not all) of these can have other charges placed upon them. Please indicate the ordinaries you find most interesting or pleasing and advise me if any you select have a special meaning to you:



- Fess Pale Cross Bend Bend Sinister Saltire Chevron Chevron Throughout
 Pile Pile Inverted Pall Chief Base Bordure Flaunches Chief Triangular
 Dexter Tierce Sinister Tierce Dexter Gore Sinister Gore

Some ordinaries (if they are two-sided) can have additional small bands flanking them. In some cases the small bands can be used alone. Bendlets Chevronnels



- Pale Endorsed Bend Cotised Cross Cotised Chevron Cotised

Geometric shapes are a second key type of charges used in heraldry. These may be solid or voided (hollow). Please indicate any you find interesting or pleasing and advise me if any you select have a special meaning to you. Examples of these are:



Delf Billet Lozenge Mascle Mullet Roundel Annulet

Delf Billet Lozenge Mascle Mullet Roundel Annulet Voided

Other:

Creatures are a third central type of charges utilized in heraldry. There are three categories of creatures: beasts (actual animals such as boars, bears, bulls, birds, wolves, coney, deer, fish, etc), monsters (mythological critters such as unicorns, dragons, wyverns, griffins, sea-beasts, etc) and humanoids (people, sea-folk, angels, etc). These creatures are placed on the shield in specific, stylized positions. Please indicate the posture(s) below you find most interesting or pleasing (although not all positions apply to all possible creatures, don't worry about what creature is depicted for right now) and advise me if any you select have a special meaning to you.



Rampant



Salient



Sejant



Passant



Statant



Couchant



Dormant



Displayed



Close



Wings Addorsed



Volant



Segreant



Naiant



Erect



Tergiant



Cabossed



Coupéd



Erased

Rampant Salient Sejant Passant Statant Couchant Dormant

Displayed Close Wings Addorsed Volant Segreant Naiant Erect

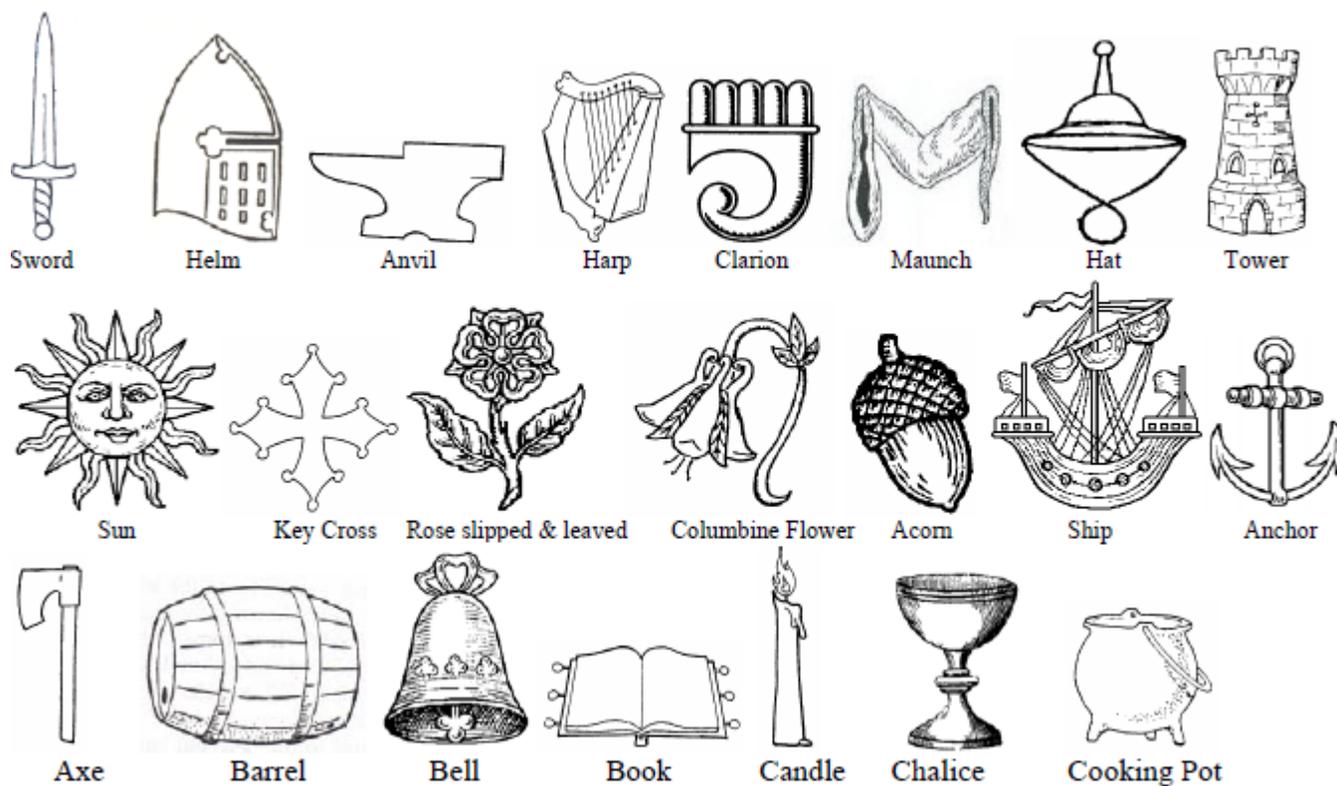
Tergiant Head Cabossed Head Coupéd Head Erased Other (specify):

Features such as wings may be applied to creatures that do not normally bear wings. Also, partial creatures may be created such as half lion half fish and advise me if any you select have a special meaning to you. Indicate interest in

adding wings to a non-winged creature

creating a hybrid creature

Items and artifacts are the fourth main type of charges utilized in heraldry. This category includes, but is not limited to, objects such as weapons, armor, tools, musical instruments, clothing, towers, suns, crosses, flowers, ships, etc. Please indicate any objects which may have special meaning or interest for you. You are **not** limited to items displayed below:



NOTE: A lot of modern heraldry books and websites try to associate meanings with colors or objects in heraldry. For the most part this did not occur in period but was created during the revival of the chivalric age during the Victorian Era. In the Middle Ages and Renaissance the tinctures and charges selected were done so for significance to the bearer, not because a particular element had a particular meaning. Each person gave their own meaning to the elements they used.

Restrictions

So that everyone may have a heraldic design unique to themselves, devices cannot be too similar to one another. Therefore, if your heraldic design is too like a design already registered you'll need to make alterations to the design. Additionally, certain charges are forbidden or restricted from use and there are some charges that are reserved for particular use. Amongst the items that are forbidden are: swastika & fylfot <Nazi Party>, flaming cross (cross of fire or cross on a flame) <KKK>. Amongst the objects restricted from use are: a cross coupé gules on argent <Red Cross Symbol>, Papal Cross, Hand of Glory (hand on a flame or producing flames), pentacle & pentagram, Tudor Rose (rose that is partial red and partial white). Amongst the things that are reserved for special use are: crowns, coronets, charged escutcheons, charged cantons, laurel wreaths, white belts & baldrics, pelican in its piety, chapeau, chaplet of roses, two straight trumpets in saltire, orle/annulet of chain, wreath of roses.

Note: While chaplets and wreaths of roses are restricted, the use of single roses or multiple roses not clustered together is fine.

Default Postures, Proper Tinctures, and other armory design tools are indexed at <http://heraldry.sca.org/primer/index.html>

Period Rolls of Arms may be viewed to get ideas. A list of these Rolls may be found on the last page of this file.

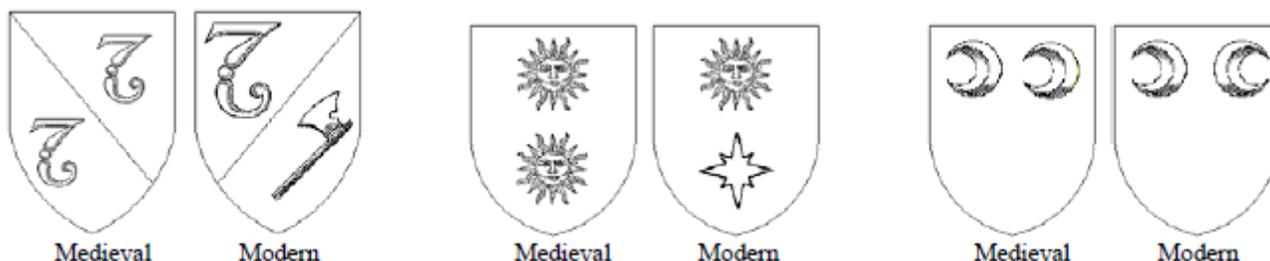
Proposed Blazon:

Style and Symmetry

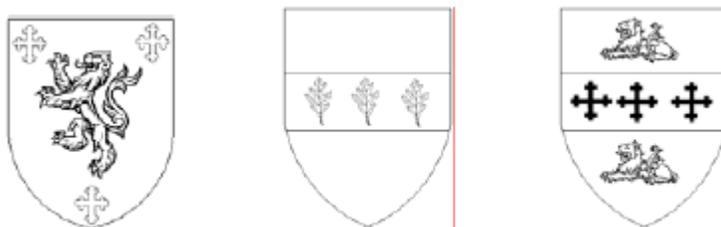
The style of drawing for period heraldry was static and two-dimensional. Charges were drawn to fill as much space as possible.



In period the viewpoint of symmetry differs from the modern perspective. Charges most commonly were all the same type and size and usually they all faced in the same direction.



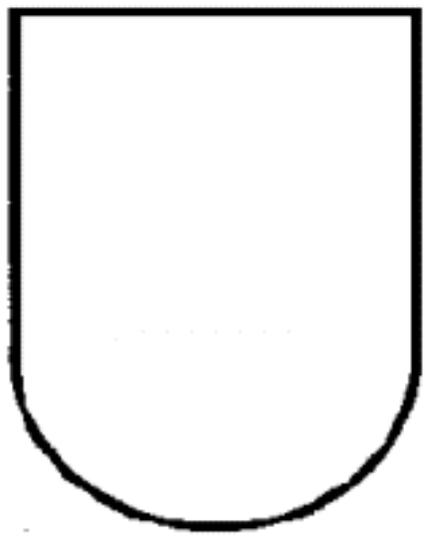
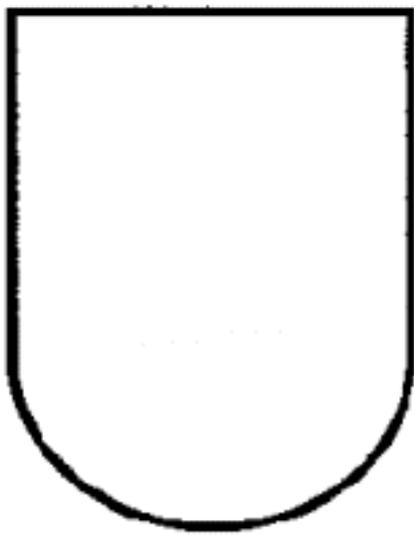
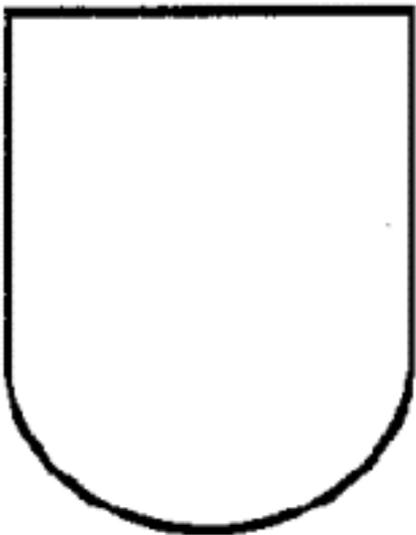
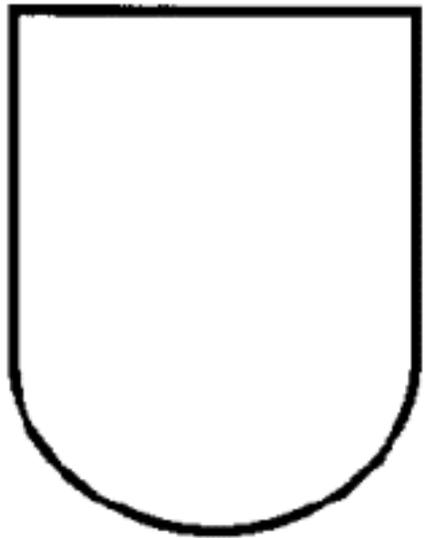
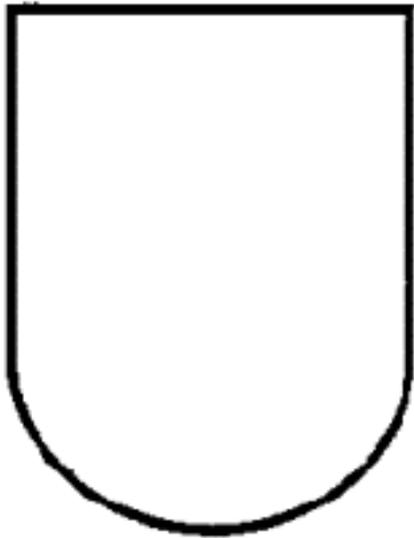
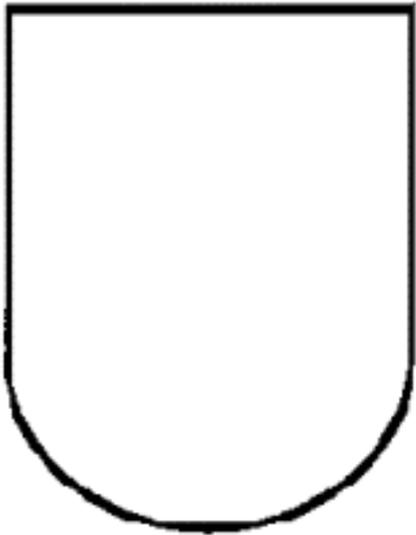
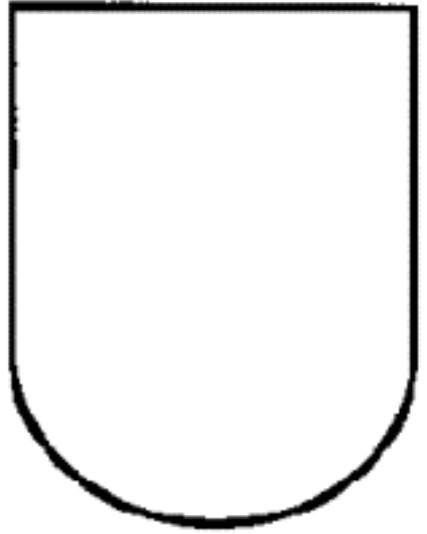
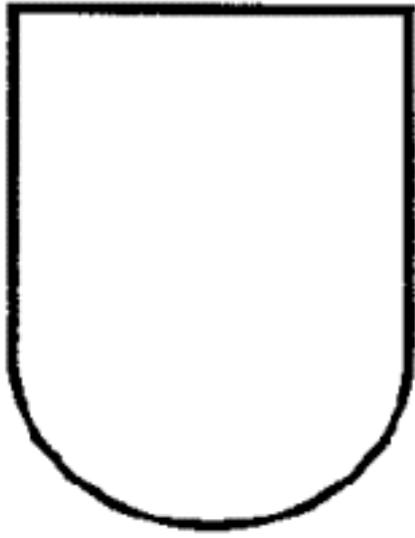
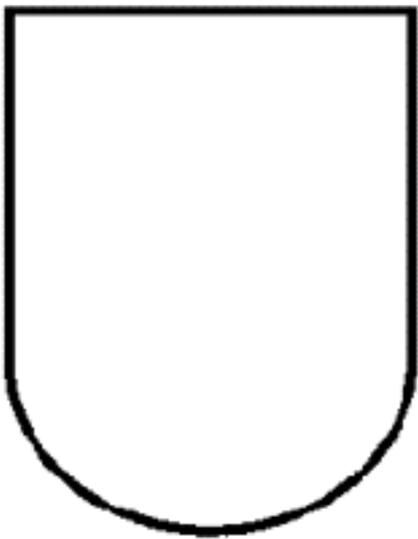
Many times a central charge was surrounded by smaller, secondary charges. Additionally ordinaries were often charged and/or surrounded by other charges.



Another feature noted in period was the use of strewn charges (semy).



Information drawn from: CREATING A HERALDIC DEVICE by Baron Modar Neznanich, Volk Herald



Things to Consider and Avoid

Ten Armorial Cliches

1. **Mixed Charges**

SCA heraldry often uses many different kinds of charges. In medieval heraldry, this is unusual. The majority of "core style" heraldry used either one type of charge, or an ordinary and a group of identical charges. If you absolutely must use two kinds of charges (besides ordinaries), make one of them central and another peripheral.

2. **Too Many Colors**

"Core style" heraldry usually uses two or three tinctures. Designs that incorporate four or more tinctures are rare.

3. **Unusual divided Fields or Charges**

Most arms in the Middle Ages and Renaissance consisted of a solid-colored field with one or more charges upon it, each of a solid color. However, a significant minority of arms used a field, or charges, that were divided into more than one color in some fashion. When this was done, the two halves of the field or charge almost always had good contrast. Light colors (like white and yellow) have good contrast with dark colors (red, black, green, blue, and purple). So a field divided into white and blue parts has good contrast between the parts. A field divided in black and blue does not. Fields divided in two parts were much more likely to have high contrast than low contrast in period.

4. **Modern Geometric Elements**

Modern heraldry books list a wide variety of ordinaries and fancy lines of division which often get used in SCA heraldry. Many of them are either unknown or extremely rare in medieval heraldry. The only line treatments that are at all common in medieval heraldry are embattled, wavy, indented, and engrailed. The rest are very late-period inventions. Use medieval line treatments and divisions.

5. **Modern Symmetry**

Modern people tend to make designs which incorporate tension. Designs that make the shield look like it's divided into two opposing halves (for example, putting a white moon on black and a gold sun on blue), or which display a number of charges rotating around a central point, are using modern symmetry. The only time tension shows up in "core style" heraldry is when two identical animals are shown facing each other. Otherwise, avoid it.

6. **Detailed Depictions of Charges**

Heraldry is designed to be easily reproduced by anyone who sees the arms. Thus, heraldic swords are usually drawn like swords, without being specifically identified as claymores, scimitars, or seaxes (for example). A lot of period heraldic art is not sufficiently detailed to distinguish between a deer, a moose, and a caribou. Objects and animals should be relatively generic in appearance.

7. **Non-Heraldic Charges**

The number of charges used in "core-style" heraldry was pretty small. Avoid non-western animals and motifs. Remember that many designs found in medieval art were not used in medieval heraldry. If possible, find a book of medieval (not modern) heraldry and see what kinds of charges are used in it. Use medieval charges in your arms.

8. **Interacting Charges**

In "core style" heraldry, charges are usually not arranged so that they touch or cross each other. Avoid designs in which one thing pierces, encircles, or supports another. Each charge should be able to stand on its own.

9. **Upside-Down Charges**

"Core style" heraldry almost never has upside-down objects or designs. Be careful, because "upside-down" is sometimes different to medieval people. Generally, the "business end" of any item points up. Scallop shells (like the ones on a Shell Gas sign) have the scallop at the bottom. Put your charges right-side-up according to medieval standards.

10. **Occupational Heraldry**

SCA people often want to include elements from their SCA occupations in their arms--for example, a bard will include a harp, or a fighter a sword. This is done from time to time in period armory (especially by artisans and merchants), but it's much more common in the SCA than in real life. In particular, avoid using an animal that's holding a tool of your trade. Heraldic animals have their own jobs, and don't have time to do yours as well. Maintained charges aren't hugely uncommon in medieval heraldry, but the maintained charges usually weren't occupational in nature.

ARGENT SNAIL'S ARMORY INSTA-BOING CHECK LIST

I. Does the submitter have an SCA name?

You cannot register a piece of armory without a name. The name can be registered or submitted before the armory is submitted, or it can be submitted when the armory is submitted; but there must be a SCA name to attach the armory to.

II. Is the submission dark on dark, or light on light?

This is commonly known as the color on color, metal on metal rule. You cannot put color on color, or metal on metal. For instance, you cannot have a sable (black) charge on an azure (blue) field. However, even items that are not in true heraldic tinctures must follow this rule. For instance a chipmunk "proper" is brown. Brown is dark. Therefore, it must be on a metal (light) field. Caucasians proper are considered metal, and must be on a dark field. Furs are generally treated by the most dominant color. Ermine has a white or silver background so is treated as a metal. Counter-Ermine has a black background so is treated as a color.

III. Is the submission slot machine?

Armory is "slot machine" when there are three or more different charges in the same charge group. For instance "Or, a bell, book, and candle sable." is slot machine. "Argent, on a bend between a bell and a book azure, a candle Or." is not, because the candle is on the bend, thus not in the same charge group as the others.

IV. Is it marshaled armory?

Marshalling is a way of showing familial relationships. It was done in the middle ages, but we don't register it in the SCA. Therefore, the following arrangements are not allowed. First: you cannot have a field divided per pale with different charges in each half of the field, if there is a plain line of division. If the per pale line is "bumpity", then it is allowed. The same rule holds true for quarterly: Unless the same charge is in each quarter, there needs to be a bumpity line of division. The only exception is in the case of quarterly where quarters that are only a solid metal or color are also acceptable. For instance, "Quarterly sable and argent, in bend two eagles displayed Or," would not be considered marshaled arms.

V. Does it use a forbidden charge or group of charges?

There are a number of charges that no one can use. They are either presumptuous (claiming a mundane rank), or offensive. Examples of presumptuous charges include: Tudor rose, crowned shamrock, crowned rose. Examples of offensive charges include: the hand of glory, swastika, triskelion gammadion. Note: this list is not all-inclusive.

VI. Does it use a restricted charge that the submitter is not entitled to use?

There are a number of charges that only some people in the SCA can use. To have a crown or coronet on your device you must have been a king, queen, prince or princess or be a court baron or baroness. Only official SCA groups can have laurel wreaths on their devices (and they must have them). Only members of the order of Knighthood can use white belts or closed loops of chain; only members of the order of the Pelican can use a pelican in its piety in their armory. Note: this list is not all-inclusive.

VII. Is the submission too complex?

Our rule of thumb is that if the number of different types of charges plus the number of different tinctures used add up to more than eight, the submission is too complex. For instance, "Per bend sinister ermine and gules, a tiger rampant azure and a horse passant erminois, a bordure purpure semy of roundels argent ermined vert.", would be too complex with four different charges (tiger, horse, bend and roundels) and 6 tinctures (argent, sable (the tinctures in the ermine), azure, Or, purpure and vert).

VIII. Are the bumpity lines drawn big and bold and butch?

Medieval lines of division were drawn big and bold. Slim and elegant is not period for heraldry. In medieval heraldry charges were drawn to fill the space. Remember, the purpose of heraldry is identification from a distance.

IX. Are the charges drawn in their medieval form?

We register medieval, not modern, heraldry. We use a quill pen, not a fountain pen; a cart, not an automobile. All charges used must be items used in that form prior to the year 1600.

**HOW LONG DOES THE SUBMISSION PROCESS TAKE?
(Information on Submitting Names & Armory and the Time-Frame for Registration)**

by Modar Neznanich, Volk Herald (edited for current Northshield practices)

While no one is required to register their name and device, most people feel that it is courteous to do so. By recording the information in the official SCA Armorial and Ordinary listings, it helps to reduce the chances of confusion or offense caused by inappropriate names and armory, and will hopefully prevent others from using the same name and device as you. In some kingdoms, members are restricted from receiving scrolls for awards or fighting in Crown Tourney unless they have registered a name and/or device.

The SCA has organized a registration service through which members may submit their proposed names and armory for approval, and when achieved, be officially recorded. This service structure is known as the College of Arms.

There is a small submission fee to utilize the service. Check with your local or kingdom heralds concerning the appropriate amount.

Local Level

A member of the populace, working with their local herald, determines a name and/or device they would like to register.

Appropriate submission forms are filled out, copied and prepared as needed. The local herald can provide the appropriate information for the requirements on submission forms. Some groups/kingdoms may ask for more copies than others as they need/keep extra copies.

After the forms are completed, the following is turned in to the Kingdom Submission Herald:

- A) the submission forms
- B) 1 copy of any needed documentation (one for the local office, the rest are for the Kingdom Herald's Office and the Society/Laurel Herald's Office)
- C) a check or money order written out to the Kingdom in the appropriate amount (to cover the submission fee). Checks to the Kingdom Office are made out to: **SCA, Inc - Northshield College of Heralds**. Do not submit cash.

You should keep a copy of the following:

- A) one set of your submission forms
- B) one copy of any documentation

Note that the reason you should keep an uncolored line-drawing version of device submissions on file is that it is useful if a scribe or other artisan needs to get a copy of a device to make a scroll or other item. Copies made from colored forms can be difficult to work with. It is also nice to have a "back-up" copy, just in case something happens to a submission.

Sidenote:

It is the client's responsibility to submit directly to the Kingdom Office. The Northshield Herald's Office would prefer that you go through your local office whenever possible to ensure your forms are correctly completed and to obtain advice. However, with the current ruling by the SCA Board of Directors that groups below the status of Barony are not required to have a local herald, some groups do not have a herald and hence members of those group's populace must submit directly to the Kingdom Office. Additionally the Kingdom Heraldic Submissions Officer and/or their staff may run a consulting table at an event or war, where they will take submissions directly.

If you are submitting directly to the Kingdom Office, make checks or money orders to pay for the submission fee payable to:
SCA, Inc - Northshield College of Heralds

Be sure that you include the correct number of copies needed by the Kingdom Office.

[For devices: one color device form, one line-only device form. For names: one name form. Include 1 set of documentation copies for each device or name submitted]

Kingdom Level

The Kingdom Office collects all the submissions received from the local groups. Their job requires them to review all submissions, check for conflicts or other problems and, where possible, add additional documentation to assist in a submission's registration. Because this is a large number of items, the office has a staff of volunteers, knowledgeable in heraldry, who help review the submissions. These staff members are known as Commenters. On a regular basis (ideally once a month - but various factors can cause this to be a once every two months function), the Kingdom Office compiles what is known as an ILoI (Internal Letter of Intent). An ILoI is a list of all the submissions the Kingdom Office has received <since its last ILoI> and intends to register if possible. It is posted to a website for the staff of commenters within the Kingdom to review. Hence, it's name, Internal Letter of Intent. The commenters have 1 month to review the submissions, find conflicts, locate additional documentation and send comments on the submissions to the Kingdom Office. At the end of this month, when the Kingdom Office has received info from the commenters, the submissions are reviewed. Submissions with problems are noted, and a letter explaining the problem is sent to the local office that originated the submission. The submissions that are accepted as ready to send on, are prepared into a packet of forms to be sent to the Society Office and a listing known as an ELoI (External Letter of Intent) or just LoI (Letter of Intent) that lists the submissions the kingdom is sending to be registered if possible is created. The packet of forms and a copy of the ELoI are sent to the Society Herald's Office. An electronic copy of the ELoI is posted to a SCA Heralds webpage that the Herald Offices of the other kingdoms, plus those the Laurel-Sovereign-of-Arms has designated as staff and commenters can review. You may observe this process at <http://oscar.sca.org/index.php?action=137>.

The Kingdom Office will scan the forms it receives for the Kingdom files, sending a copy on to the Society Office. This includes:

- A) one set of your submission forms
- B) one copy of any documentation

The Kingdom Office gets to keep a portion of the submission fee to cover their cost of photocopies, postage, etc., and the rest is sent to the Society Office, when the submission is sent on. (If the device is returned at Kingdom level, the money stays at Kingdom level until the resubmission is sent in. It is then sent on with the resubmission. This is why you do not pay for a resubmission, **IF THE RESUBMISSION IS MADE WITHIN ONE YEAR OF BEING NOTIFIED OF THE SUBMISSION RETURN.**

Society Level

The Society Office (also known as the Laurel Office) collects all the submissions received from the Kingdoms. These submissions will be reviewed further, checked for any missed conflicts or other problems and, where possible, additional documentation will be located to allow the submission to be registered. Because there is a tremendously large number of items, the office has a staff of volunteers and a wide number of commenters, very knowledgeable in heraldry, who help review the submissions. These staff members and commenters, with the Laurel Officers, make up the SCA College of Arms. On a monthly basis the Laurel Office compiles the submissions (from the Letters of Intent of the various kingdoms) and lets the Society staff and commenters know which letters will be decided on during a particular Laurel Decision Meeting. The staff and commenters have 3 months to review the submissions, find conflicts, locate additional documentation and send comments on the submissions to the Laurel Office. This much time is needed because of the number of submissions that are reviewed. At the end of 3 months, when the Laurel Office has received information from the staff, the submissions are reviewed. Submissions with problems are noted and a letter explaining the problem is sent to the Kingdom Office, which in turn sends a letter explaining to the local office that originated the submission. Submissions which are accepted as free of conflicts and problems are registered and recorded in the official SCA Armorial and Ordinary listings. A letter is sent notifying the Kingdom Office which devices have been registered. These letters of notification both for accepted and returned devices are called LoARs (Letters of Acceptance and Return). Kingdom Offices, upon receiving these LoARs, in turn notify the local offices. [The archive of LoARs can be found [here](#).]

Synopsis of Submission Timeframe

Once a submission gets to the Kingdom Office, it usually takes 6-8 weeks for the Kingdom process to be completed. This includes processing the submission into an internal letter, the Kingdom Commenters checking it over and sending their comments to the Kingdom Office, then the submission being prepared into an external letter. Why the wide range of time? The process time is shorter if the submission arrives in time to go out with the current internal letter and the process is a little longer if the submission arrives just after the current internal letter has been sent out.

Once a submission gets to the Society Office, it usually takes 4-5 months for it to go through it's checks and balances at that stage. Again the time is shorter or longer depending on when it arrives at the Laurel Office. If it arrives in time to be placed in the current Laurel Decision Meeting listing, it is sooner, if it arrives just after the listing it will take placed on the next listing.

After the Laurel Decision Meeting on a particular Letter of Intent, it can then take 4-6 weeks for the results to be prepared and sent to the Kingdoms. Why so long? With 19 Kingdoms sending in submissions, this results in several hundred devices to be decided on each month. It takes time to prepare the letter of results, have it checked for any errors then produced.

So how long should it take for your submission to be processed? It depends. If everything goes exactly right at every stage, it can be done in six and a half months. If it just misses all the stages in the process, it can take about 9 to 10 months.

How good is this? Well, the English College of Arms takes almost 2 years to process a submission, they process only a few dozen devices during that time span and the fee for each device is around \$2000.00!

Submission Fees

NOTE: This information is date sensitive. As prices can and do change, it can be difficult to quote them in an article and keep it timely. Always check with your local or kingdom herald to verify the amount of submission fees.

At current time, in Northshield the fee is **\$5 per element**. Each of these is a separate element: name, device, badge.

Helpful Hints Concerning Forms

General Advice

Please make several copies of the blank submission forms before starting on your submission. Never use up your last blank form.

Before sending a submission in to Kingdom level, have it checked for conflicts and in the case of a name, for proper formation. This can save a lot of time and frustration.

Be sure you keep a copy of the submission (and documentation) for yourself. This way, if anything should happen to your submission, you do not have to start from scratch. For devices, be sure to keep a line-drawing uncolored copy of the design.

Device Form Advice

Create a line-drawing of your device then make the copies you need from this "master copy". It's okay to start with pencil lines to draw up the design but once it's finished, go over the outlines in black ink. (Think "coloring book" drawing.) This will make for quality copies of your design.

Once the copies are made, you are ready to color in the number of color copies you need. When coloring a device, avoid neon colors or pastel shades. The colors should be as close to true as possible. Do **not** use crayons or colored pencils and do **not** use a color printer (except to print a black and white line drawing) to generate your submission forms. The best thing to use is markers that don't smear or run. A good, inexpensive set of markers, called **Crayola Classic Markers** is excellent to use. Make sure it is NOT the washable variety.

Online Resources

Sometimes, the best way to get ideas about elements you may wish to include in your device is to look at period Rolls of Arms. There were lists, typically with images, of actual devices used by people in period and collected in various locations. Links to online repositories of such Rolls of Arms can be found as follows:

http://www.yehudaheraldry.com/rolls/index.php/roll_c/rolls

http://www.vikinganswerlady.com/Stars/Rolls_of_Arms.html

Be aware that the databases above may contain both period and modern Rolls. Be sure to avoid the modern ones.