

Heraldry Symbols

Shields and coats of arms were often covered in shapes, symbols, pictures and colors. Here's a selection and their meaning.

'Lions'

It also represented ferocity, strength and bravery and they were often golden.

'Parts of the Body'

Parts of the body were used to symbolise particular strength.

The Heart was used and represented stories of valour in some cases, and arms and legs were the most common. Arms and what they held could often show a family trade such as farriers.

'Birds'

The eagle was the queen of birds and represented and from early times represented empires and had holy connotations having been associated with the Roman Emperors, especially the black eagle.

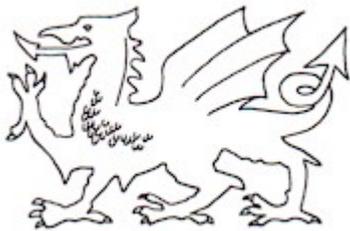
'The Rose'



It was considered royal but also an emblem of secrecy, of goodness and sweet-smelling as well as softness, yet surrounded by evil and danger represented by the thorns.

'The Fleur de Lis'

Otherwise known as a heraldic Lily this old symbol has long been associated with the royal French Family and was then used by the English as a way of claiming the French kingdom. It has appeared in a number of forms and interestingly one legend states that it started out life as three frogs back to back.



'The Dragon'

The Dragon was believed to have a scaly body, wings, to breathe fire and live in deep dark caves. They were the deadliest serpents and people loved to be thrilled by such unknown beasts and Dragons were the most dramatic.

'The Unicorn'

The unicorn represented magical purity.

'Buildings'

Castles and towers appeared on shields from the beginning of heraldry and represented power and strength. But as economy grew across the world populations, cities or towns would use other structure to symbolise wealth and trade, such as mills, mines and spas.

'Transport'

Showing a fleet of ships on your coat of arms was an obvious nod to a military power.

Online Resources for Heraldry

<http://heraldryforkids.com/heraldry-activity-sheets.html>

<https://wiki.kidzsearch.com/wiki/Heraldry>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8uY-ktechWc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aiJCqjvVpec>

<http://www.themcs.org/kidsheraldry.htm>

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/easter/preparing-for-easter-adventure-quests/our-guide-to-heraldry/>