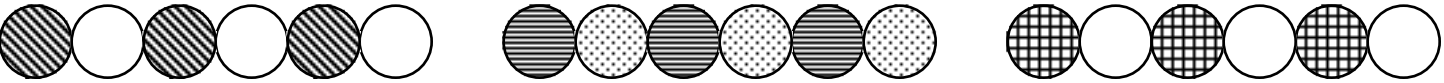


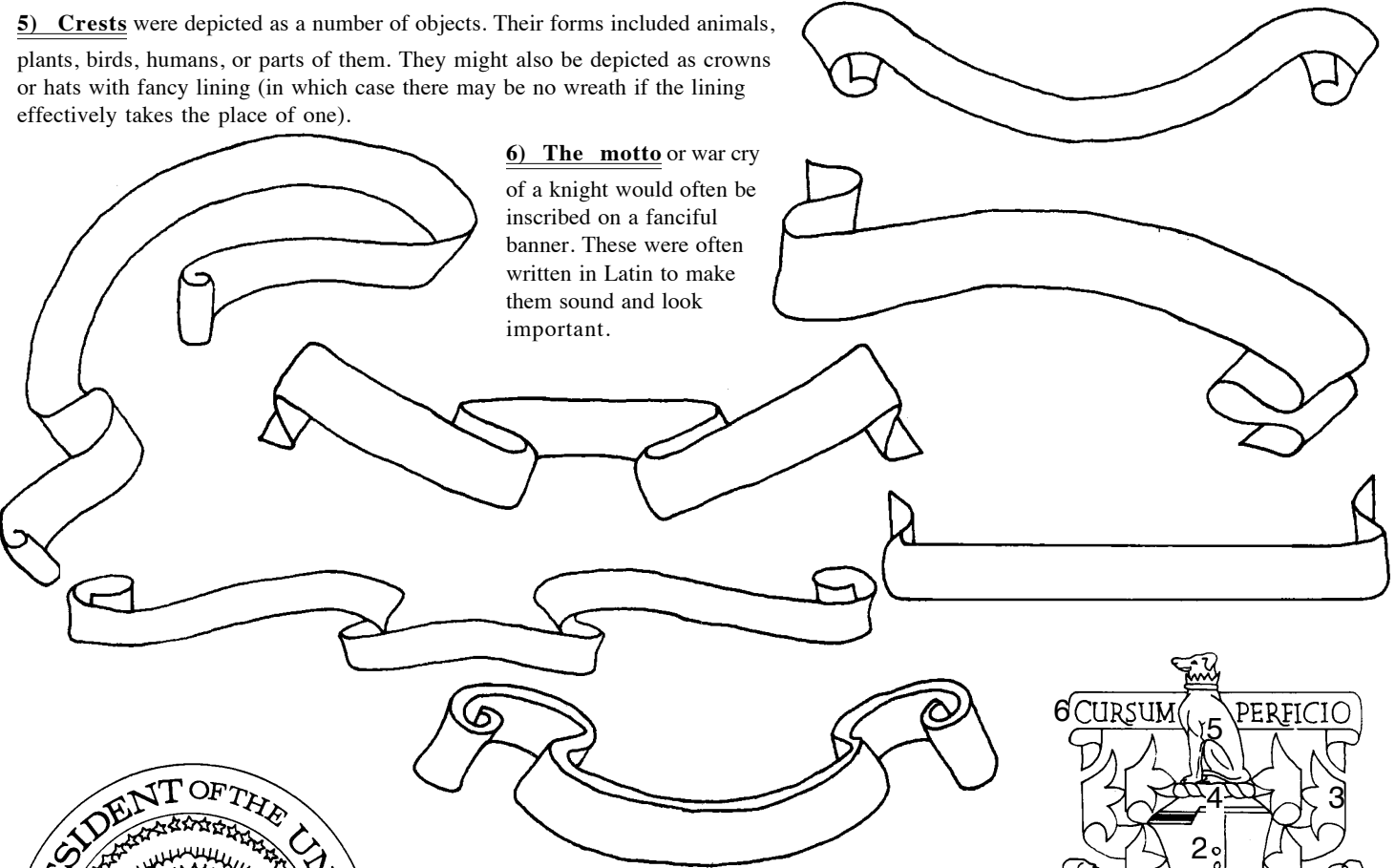
4) The **wreath** is considered to be made of two colored ribbons twisted together. It is depicted as six twists of alternating colors (see tinctures).



A further note on tinctures: Parts #1 (shield), #3 (mantling), and #4 (wreath) all follow the rule of tinctures. Plus, there is a color code for #2 (helms, crowns, hats and knots). The following items 5 through 8 on this list are primarily ornamental, and need not follow the same rules.

5) **Crests** were depicted as a number of objects. Their forms included animals, plants, birds, humans, or parts of them. They might also be depicted as crowns or hats with fancy lining (in which case there may be no wreath if the lining effectively takes the place of one).

6) The **motto** or war cry of a knight would often be inscribed on a fanciful banner. These were often written in Latin to make them sound and look important.



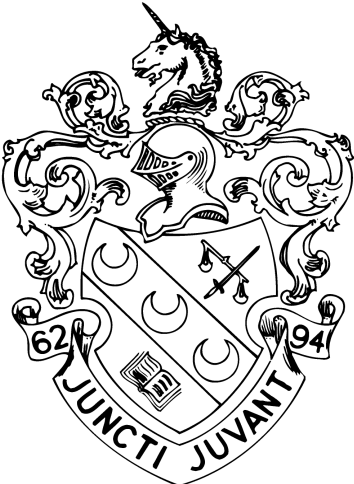
7) **Supporters** are normally depicted as humans, animals, or fanciful creations on either side of the shield. They are placed in a pose that seems to actively hold the shield in place.

8) The **compartment** is a base on which the shield and supporters rest. It is often depicted as a grassy mound.

Can you identify the parts of each of these Heraldic Devices?



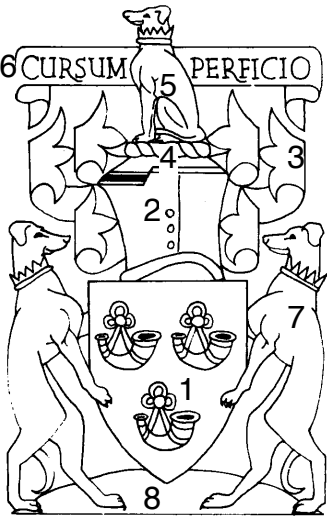
United Kingdom



Theta Xi Gamma Iota Fraternity



The Royal Over-Seas League

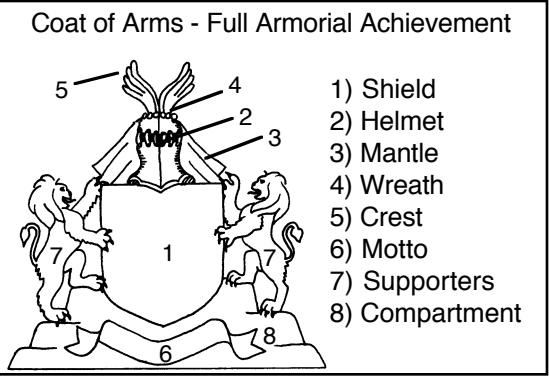


Clan Hunter of Scotland

Heraldry

Heraldry is comprised of an old visual language. Initially it was used to identify warriors from a distance on the battlefield. Original heraldic devices were displayed on the shields of knightly warriors, and later were incorporated into cloth “surcoats” that were worn over armor. Initially these “coats of arms” were worn or displayed by individuals, but eventually certain ones were passed from one generation to another.

Heralds were the people responsible for recording and keeping track of these knightly logos. These lists created by heralds were called rolls and were eventually collected into larger lists by heraldic colleges complete with family histories.



Your assignment is to design and prepare for display a coat of arms in “full armorial achievement” that follows the rules of the college of Heraldry.

The key rules for the design of a coat of arms were established to help ensure their visibility so that these emblems could be distinguished from a distance. Eventually, ornate frameworks were created to display these identifying marks off the battlefield. Here are the eight parts required for displaying a full coat of arms with all the trimmings.

1) The **shield** is defined by its foreground objects, called charges, and its background, called the field. There are many rules for placement of charges and parting and tincturing the field. Here are the basics:

Shape:

There are many differently shaped shields. Some have a point at the base, some are rounded, some have a notch in the top for a lance. The overall shape of the shield was largely unimportant except that the non-shield shape of the lozenge (diamond) was normally used by women rather than

Tinctures:

Red (gules)

Colors (only five)

Blue (azure)

Metals

Gold (or) Yellow

Metals

Silver (argent) White

Furs

Ermine

Furs

Ermines

Furs

Erminois

Furs

Pean

Furs

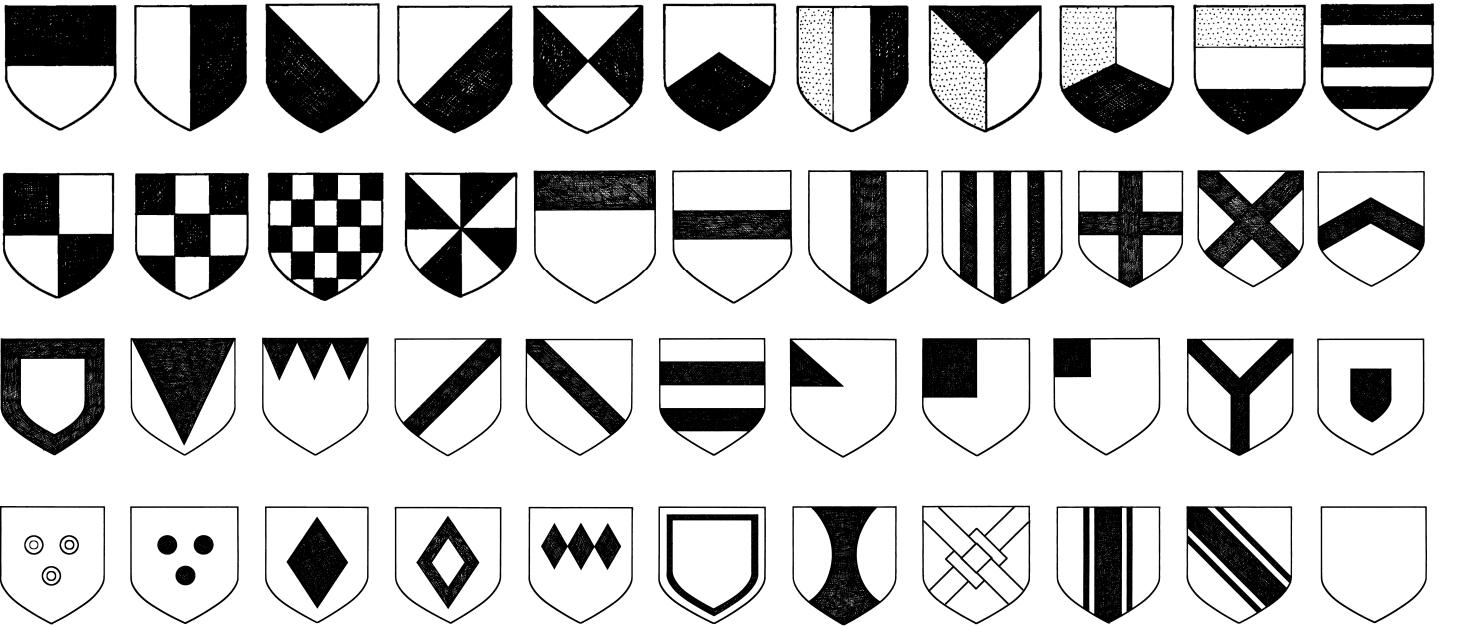
Vair

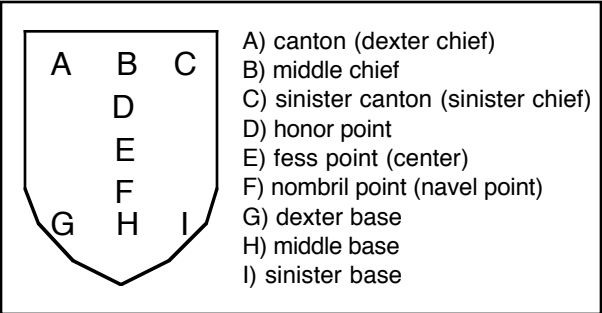
men.
Tinctures:
The hues of the field (background) are limited to specific colors, metals, and patterns known as furs. Collectively, these are called tinctures.

Parting the field:
When the field is divided into areas with different tinctures, we say that the field is parted. There are many principle divisions including diagonal, and cross designs. Dividing lines need not be straight either. There are many differently shaped lines of partition to choose from.

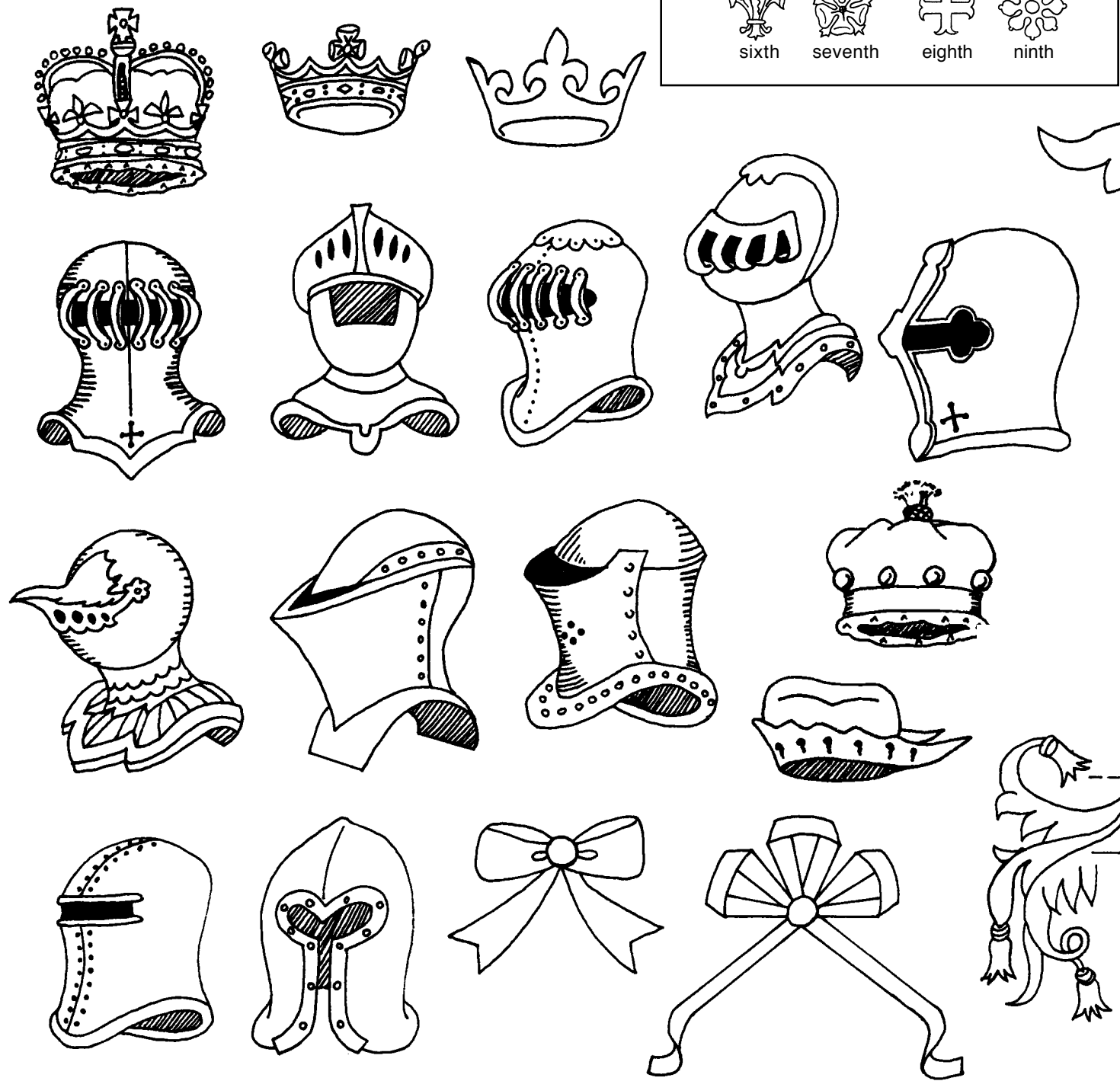
The Rule of Tinctures

Metals may not be placed against other metals, and colors may not be placed against other colors.



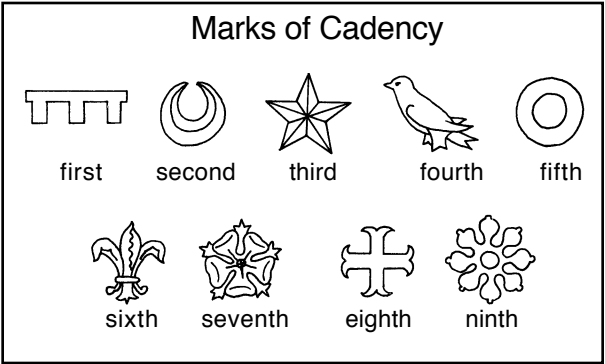


2) Heraldic helmets, crowns, hats and knots were used to denote social rank on a full coat of arms. Royal helms were all gold. Lesser nobles displayed helms of silver and gold. Knightly helms were depicted as gray steel with the visor open. Gentlemen and squires showed off closed steel helms. There were other variations available for more specific titles. Crowns were usually reserved for royalty, and loved knots were sometimes displayed by single women.



Charges:
Charges are the pictures placed on and within the field. These were often depicted as animals, plants, celestial images, humans, and other objects. Charges may have been painted with a wider variety of colors than the field. Their position on a shield was often important. Charges placed in the center of a shield would often be more important while objects at the top might be smaller, with more subtle significance.

Marks of cadency were placed at the top of shields in the middle chief position in order to indicate the birth order of siblings.



3) The mantle represents a cloth that shields armored combatants from the heat of the sun's rays. Is shown as an elaborately twisted or curved piece of cloth painted with the same tinctures as the field. The color (see tinctures) is shown on the outside, and the metal as the lining.

