* **Heraldry**

By [Megan Anhorn](https://www.facebook.com/Ilthirial) in [Shire of Starleaf Gate (EMHS)](https://www.facebook.com/groups/starleafgate/) ([Files](https://www.facebook.com/groups/starleafgate/files/)) · [Edit Doc](https://www.facebook.com/ajax/docs/inline_edit_get.php?group_id=8444434754&doc_id=10150563641189755&permalink=1&show_brief=0)

Everything heraldry related is covered under the rules for submissions. Naming takes up the first half heraldry takes up the second. [http://heraldry.sca.org/laurel/rfs.html](http://www.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fheraldry.sca.org%2Flaurel%2Frfs.html&h=_AQH7vgEB&s=1)

In general, you will want to comprise your heraldry of period elements and artifacts. A pen must be a quill pen, not a ballpoint. A wheel is a wagon wheel, not a car tire. You can use any plants & animals including new world ones as there are documented period heraldry with new world items in it. However, if you are using a plant/animal from the new world that can't actually be found in period heraldry, you will be considered a "step from period practice."  You can only have one "step" in any given piece of heraldry, so you'll want to watch what items you are chosing.

Simple armory is better.  There is a whole section in the Rules for Submission that is designed to encourage simple heraldry. (You might hear me talk about X2-this is that section)  In general as the number of A increases the number of B should decrease, so if you have 5 different colours/metals in your device, you're only going to want to have a couple of charges.  Remember your heraldic picture is going to be translated into "heraldese" and once that is done, that description should be able to be given to another herald who's never seen your picture who should then be able to take what is written draw it out and come up with something that is so close to what you drew that there is no question that it's the same picture by two different artists.

You want your heraldry to be balanced. You don't want everything on the top of the shield, or on the left. You don't want your design to be overly pictoral, or have too much in the way of perspective. The medieval mindset was that God created everything and nothing ever changed in it. Heraldry should reflect that. Most items in period heraldry were drawn flat. There are some exceptions, dice for example routinely had perspective so as to show the pips. You don't want too many layers.  The standard limit is 3. Field, stuff on the field and stuff on the stuff on the field or 'overall'

Your heraldry needs good contrast.  The heraldic colours are divided into "metals" and "tinctures/colours"  The colors are azure, gules, purpure, sable, and vert (blue, red, purple, black, and green).  The metals are argent and Or (white or silver, and yellow or gold).  Ermined furs are treated in the SCA as their primary backgroud colours. Ermine is considered a metal while counter-ermine (ermines) is a colour/tincture.  If the fur is equally divided such as Potent or Vair, those are considered neutral. [http://heraldry.sca.org/primer/tinctures.html](http://www.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fheraldry.sca.org%2Fprimer%2Ftinctures.html&h=UAQH6FiDn&s=1)

If you want a colour that isn't in this listing, you can look for something that is "proper"ly that colour. For example if you want brown in your colour scheme, you could choose a 'brown bear proper' or a tree proper.  A listing of what has already been determined for 'proper' is available at [http://heraldry.sca.org/coagloss.html#proper](http://www.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fheraldry.sca.org%2Fcoagloss.html%23proper&h=7AQHgospN&s=1)

When creating a badge, period designs were all 'fieldless' The SCA will let you create additional heraldry and call it a badge, though. This is how they handle heraldry for additional persona, and people actually wanting a badge that has a field. In fieldless heraldry the item must be a self contained design. In other words, they must all connect. Other than that, they must follow the same rules as standard heraldry.

As with names, items that are vulgar, offensive, or sterotypical  are not permitted. You also can't use some items unless your SCA rank permits that to be done. For example a white belt can only be put into a knight's heraldry. There are also a list of restricted charges either for being identified with particular modern world heraldry, particular period heraldry, or just being offensive in general. For example although a Fylfot was widely used in period designs, this is not a permitted charge due to it being too similar to a swastika, potentially causing offense to many.  On the other hand, it is possible to have an 'offensive' item relabelled, as was done with the Pentacle/Pentagram in March of 2009.  It had been considered offensive as a symbol of black magic & "satanism" while inverted and was ruled that the "upright version was insufficiently different from the inverted" however after discussion in the heraldic community, it was decided that neo-Paganism was now common enough that people's first reaction was no longer offense, that it could still legitimately be listed as an offensive item. <http://heraldry.sca.org/coagloss.html#reserved>

<http://heraldry.sca.org/primer/> is a good place to start, or message me.  I'm more than willing to help.

[http://www.midrealm.org/heraldry/forms/Middle\_device\_inter%20rev3.pdfhttp://www.midrealm.org/heraldry/forms/Middle\_device-lozenge\_inter%20rev2.pdfhttp://www.midrealm.org/heraldry/forms/Middle\_badge\_inter%20rev3.pdf](http://www.midrealm.org/heraldry/forms/Middle_device_inter%20rev3.pdfhttp%3A/www.midrealm.org/heraldry/forms/Middle_device-lozenge_inter%20rev2.pdfhttp%3A/www.midrealm.org/heraldry/forms/Middle_badge_inter%20rev3.pdf)

Device/Badge form:

1.     Society name is your SCA name.

2.     Select if the name is already registered, being submitted with device, or submitted previously but has not been registered yet (include which kingdom).

3.     Fill in your legal name, address, e-mail address, phone number and date of birth on the appropriate lines.

4.     If you consulted with a herald, put their SCA name and e-mail/phone number in the appropriate blanks.

5.     Choose the appropriate action type.

6.     The miniature drawing is a LINE DRAWING identical to the larger colored in drawing. Before you color in the larger drawing, photocopy and reduce the drawing to fit in the space provided.

7.     The drawings need to fill the entire space provided. Do not use a different shape for the shield.