

COLORS

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

HERALDIC LINES AND ORDINARIES

Nebuly Line	Clouds or air
Wavy Line	Sea or water
Engrailed Line	Earth or land
Invected Line	Earth or land
Indented Line	Fire
Dancette Line	Water
Raguly Line	Difficulties that have been encountered
Embattled Line	Walls of a fortress or town (also, fire)

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	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
Banderole	See Banners
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
Bend/Bendy	Scarf or shield suspender of a knight commander; signifies defense or protection
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	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
Bridge	Governor or magistrate
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
Caduceus	Homeopathic medicine; medical profession; balance and the union of opposing forces
Caltrap	
Candle (Lamp)	Light, life, and spirituality.
Camel	Docity, patience, and perseverance
Cannon and Cannon Ball	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	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	Religion; faith; community
Cinquefoils	Hope and joy
Civic Wreath (of oak leaves and acorns)	One who saved a fellow citizen's life or shown patriotism in defense of one's native land
Clarion	Ready for war
Claw of a Bird	Note the preyer that has been preyed upon
Clouds	Mystery, obscured truth
Cock (male bird)	Courage and perseverance; hero; able man in politics
Cockatrice (small serpent)	Terror to all beholders
Column	Fortitude and constancy; with serpent coiled around it, wisdom with fortitude
Comet	Unknown
Compass	Direction
Compony or Gobony	Constancy
Cornish Chough (crow, raven; See "chough")	Strategist in battle; watchful for friends; divine providence
Cornucopia (horn of plenty)	The bounty of nature's gifts
Cottice/Cotice (bendlet)	Scarf or shield suspender of a knight commander; signifies defense or protection
Coupeaux	(Hills - usually three) Unknown; may be purely an artistic device
Crane (Stork)	Close parental bond; Vigilance if holding a rock
Crescent	One who has been honored by the sovereign; hope of greater glory (horns to the chief)
Cresset (See "Beacon")	One who is watchful, who gave the signal in time of danger
Crosier/shepherd's crook	The shepherd's watchfulness; Christian faith; pastoral authority; also Episcopal jurisdiction and authority
Cross - see also this page on crosses	Faith; Christianity; Service in the Crusades
<i>Cross (Celtic)</i>	Unity of heaven and earth
<i>Cross (Constantine's; Labarum)</i>	Good omen; Christ; Christianity
<i>Cross Crosslet</i>	Signifies the fourfold mystery of the cross
<i>Cross Crosslet Fitchee</i>	A combination of cross and sword; unshakeable faith
<i>Cross Flory (Patoncee)</i>	(cross flowered at each end) One who has conquered
<i>Cross Formee (Pattee)</i>	Military honour
<i>Cross (Maltese)</i>	Blessings; badge of Knights Hospitaller
<i>Cross Moline</i>	The mutual converse of human society (said to represent a millstone)
<i>Cross Raguly</i>	Difficulties encountered
<i>Cross Roucy</i>	Faith
Crossed thighbones	Mortality
Crow (See also "Chough")	Strategist in battle; watchful for friends; divine providence
Crown	Royal or seigniorial authority
Crown (Mural)	Defender of a fortress, token of civic honour; one who first mounted the breach in the walls of a fortress
Crown (Naval)	One who first boarded an enemy's ship; distinguished naval commander
Crown of thorns	Adversity
Cup (often covered)	Office of the king's butler
Cushions	Authority
Cygnets (young swan)	Where gorged with a crown around its neck, signifies dignity
Cypress	Death and eternal life thereafter
Dagger or dart	Justice and military honour
Dawle (black quatrefoil)	Hope and joy
Decrescent	One who has been honored by the sovereign; hope of greater glory (crescent with horns to the sinister)

Deer	One who will not fight unless provoked; peace and harmony
Dice	Constancy
Dog	Courage, vigilance, and loyalty
Dolphin	Swiftness, diligence, salvation, charity, and love
Dove	Loving constancy and peace; the Holy Spirit; with an olive branch in its bill, it signifies a harbinger of good tidings
Dragon	Valiant defender of treasure; valour and protection
Drops (Guttees)	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
Drum	Ready for war
Duck Also Teal)	Person of many resources
Eagle	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 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)	One who does not rest until objective achieved
Fascis	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
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	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 (See also Seahorse)	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
Increscent/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.
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	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 (Star)	Divine quality from above; mark of third son
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
Portcullis (castle gate)	Protection in an emergency

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 splendour; 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
Roundels	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	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
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

Symbolic Meanings for Heraldic Items:

Acacia: Eternal and affectionate remembrance
Agricultural Tools: Labouring in the earth and depending upon providence
Anchor: Hope
Angel: Dignity, glory, and honour; missionary; bearer of joyful news
Ant: Great labour, wisdom, and providence in one's affairs
Antlers: Strength and fortitude
Anvil: Honour
Apple: Felicity and peace
Arm in Armour: Leadership
Arm Naked: Industry
Arrow: Readiness (for battle); if depicted with a cross, represents an affliction
Ass: Patience and humility
Axe: Execution of military duty
Banners: 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
Barry Wavy: Troubles keep us in continuous exercise and reminders of providence (as waves in a storm at sea)
Baton: Authority
Battle Axe: Execution of military duty
Bay Leaves: Poet or victor's laurel
Beacon: 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
Bell: Power to disperse evil spirits; a hawk's bells denotes one not afraid of signalling his approach in peace or war
Bend: Scarf or shield suspender of a knight commander; signifies defence or protection
Boar: Bravery; fights to the death. Celtic symbol of endurance and courage
Boar's Head: Hospitality
Bones: Mortality
Book: Open: manifestation; closed: counsel
Bow: Readiness (for battle)
Bridge: Governor or magistrate
Broom: Humility
Buck: One who will not fight unless provoked; peace and harmony
Buckle: Victorious fidelity in authority
Bull: Valour, bravery, generosity
Bull's Horns: Strength and fortitude
Butterfly: Soul
Camel: Docility, patience, and perseverance
Cannon and Cannon Balls: One who has dared the terror of such a weapon in battle
Canton: Recognition from the sovereign for performance of eminent service
Carnation: Admiration
Carpenter's Square: Conforming one's actions to the laws of right and equity
Castle: Safety. May represent an actual building
Cat: Liberty, vigilance, forecast, and courage
Centaur: Eminence in the field of battle
Chain: 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
Chaplet: Crown of joy and admiration
Cherub: Dignity, glory, and honour; missionary; bearer of joyful news
Chevron: Protection; Builders or others who have accomplished some work of faithful service
Chough (Cornish): Strategist in battle; watchful for friends

Cinquefoils: Hope and joy
Civic Wreath: (of oak leaves and acorns) One who saved a fellow citizen's life or shown patriotism in defence of one's native land
Clarion: Ready for war
Claw: The biter bitten
Cock: Courage and perseverance; hero; able in politics
Cockatrice: Terror to all beholders
Column: Fortitude and constancy; with serpent coiled around it, wisdom with fortitude
Cornucopia: Bounty of nature
Crane: Close parental bond; Vigilance if holding a rock
Crescent: One who has been honoured by the sovereign; hope of greater glory. Mark of the second son.
Cresset: One who is watchful, who gave the signal in time of danger
Cross: Service in the Crusades
Cross Crosslet: The fourfold mystery of the cross
Cross Flory: One who has conquered
Cross Raguly: Difficulties encountered
Crown (Mural): Defender of a fortress, token of civic honour; one who first mounted the breach in the walls of a fortress
Crown (Naval): One who first boarded an enemy's ship; distinguished naval commander
Cup (covered): Office of the king's butler
Cushions: Authority
Cygnets: Where gorged with a crown around its neck, signifies dignity
Cypress: Death and eternal life thereafter
Deer: One who will not fight unless provoked; peace and harmony
Dice: Constancy
Dolphin: Swiftmess, diligence, charity, and love
Dragon: Valiant defender of treasure; valour and protection
Drops: One who has endured torrents of liquids, as in battle, depending upon the colour of the liquid.
Yellow: gold Blue: tears Green: oil White: water Black: pitch or tar Red: blood
Drum: Ready for war
Dove: Loving constancy and peace; with an olive branch in its bill, good tidings
Duck: Resourcefulness
Eagle: Nobility, strength, bravery, and alertness; or high-spirited, ingenious, quick-witted, and judicious
Eagle displayed (wings spread): protection
Eagle (two headed): Conjoining of two forces
Elephant: Great strength, wit, and ambition
Escallop: (sea shell) Traveller to far places or victorious naval commander
Escarbuncle: Supremacy; brilliant gem
Escutcheon of Pretence: Claim of a prince to sovereignty; or marriage to an heiress of the family
Estoile: Celestial goodness; nobility
Falcon: One who does not rest until objective achieved
Feathers: Obedience and serenity
Fess: 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
Fire: Zealousness
Fish: A true, generous mind; virtuous for himself, not because of his heritage
Flag: Refer to special action in which bearer was captured, or a reward for valiant service
Fleur-de-lys: Purity; light; floral badge of France; represents sixth son as mark of cadency
Flint: Readiness for zealous service
Flowers: Hope and joy
Fountain: Water, a spring
Fox: Defensive wisdom and wit
Fret: Persuasion
Fruit: Felicity and peace
Fusil: Travel and labour

Fusil of Yarn: Negotiation
Gannet: One who has to subsist by virtue and merit
Garb or Sheaf of wheat: The harvest of one's hopes has been secured
Gauntlet: Armed for the performance of martial enterprise
Goat: Political ability
Goose: Resourcefulness
Grasshopper: Noble and home-bred
Grenade: One who has dared the terror of such a weapon in battle
Greyhound: Courage, vigilance, and loyalty
Griffin: Valour and death-defying bravery; vigilance
Hammer: Honour; emblem of trade
Hand: Pledge of faith, sincerity, and justice; two right hands conjoined represent union and alliance
Hare: One who enjoys a peaceable and retired life
Harp: Well-composed person of tempered judgement; contemplation; heraldic symbol of Ireland
Harpy: Ferocity under provocation
Hawk: One who does not rest until objective achieved
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
Helmet: wisdom and security in defence
Hind: Peace and harmony
Holly: Truth
Horns: Strength and fortitude
Horse: Readiness for all employment for king and country
Horseshoe: Good luck and safeguard against evil spirits
Hourglass: Flight of time; mortality
Hunting Horn: One who is fond of the chase, of high pursuits
Hydra: Conquest of a very powerful enemy
Inescutcheon: Claim of a prince to sovereignty; or marriage to an heiress of the family
Ivy: Strong and lasting friendship
Inkhorn: Art of writing and educated employment
Keys: Guardianship and dominion
Ladder: Fearlessness; against a tower, be on guard against spiritual and corporeal enemies
Lamb: Gentleness and patience under suffering
Lamb (Agnus Dei): Faith, Bravery, resolute spirit
Laurel: Peace; triumph
Leg: Strength, stability, and expedition
Leopard: Valiant and hardy warrior who enterprises hazardous things by force and courage
Lightning Bolt: Swiftiness and power
Lily: Purity
Lion: Dauntless courage; often represents a person or group of people
Lozenge: Constancy
Lyre: Contemplation; tempered judgement
Marigold: Devotion and piety
Martlet: Symbol of the fourth son (mark of difference); one who subsists by virtue and merit, not inheritance
Masle: Persuasiveness
Mastiff: Courage, vigilance, and loyalty
Maunch: For the sake of my lady
Mermaid: Eloquence
Moon: Serene power over mundane actions
Moor: Dates back to the Middle Ages when it was considered an honour to take a Moor's head
Mortar: One who has dared the terror of such a weapon in battle
Mule: Often borne by abbots and abbesses who have pastoral jurisdiction, but not real jurisdiction
Mullet: Divine quality from above; mark of third son
Musical: Pipes Festivity and rejoicing

Oak: Great age and strength
Oak with Acorns: Continuous growth and fertility
Olive: Peace and concordance
Ostrich: Willing obedience and serenity
Otter: One who lives life to the fullest
Ox: Valour and generosity
Pale: Military strength
Palm: Victory, justice, and royal honour
Panther: Fierce, but tender and loving to children and will defend children to the death
Passion Nails: Poignant suffering undergone by the bearer
Pavilion: Readiness for battle
Peacock: Beauty, power, and knowledge
Pears: Felicity and peace
Pegasus: Poetic genius and inspiration
Pelican: Self-sacrifice and charitable nature
Pen: Art of writing and educated employment
Pheon: Dexterity and nimble wit; readiness for battle
Phoenix: Resurrection
Pile: Engineering skills, builder
Pillar: Fortitude and constancy; with serpent coiled around, wisdom with fortitude
Pincers: Honour; emblem of the smith's trade
Pine: Death and eternal life thereafter
Pine Cone: Life
Pipes: Festivity and rejoicing
Plume: Willing obedience and serenity of mind
Pomegranate: Fertility and abundance
Portcullis: Protection in an emergency
Quatrefoil: Good tidings
Rabbit: Peaceable and retired life
Rainbow: Good times after bad
Ram: Authority
Ratch-hound: Loyalty, courage, and vigilance
Raven: Divine providence
Rhinoceros: Ferocious when aroused
Rock: Safety and protection; refuge
Rose: Mark of cadency of the seventh son
Rose Red: Grace and beauty
Rose White: Love and faith

Roundles

Gold / Yellow (bezant): trustworthy or treasure
White / silver (plate): generosity
Green (pomeis): apple
Purple (golpe): wounded
Blue (hurt): berry
Black (pellet or ogress): cannonball
Red (torteau): communion wafer or manchet cake
Tawney (orange): oranges

Saddle: Preparedness for active service
Salamander: Protection
Saltire: Resolution
Scythe / Sickle: The hope of a fruitful harvest
Seraphim: Dignity, glory, and honour missionary; bearer of joyful news
Serpent / Snake: Wisdom

Shacklebolt: Victory; one who has taken prisoners or rescued prisoners of war
Shamrock: Perpetuity; floral device of Ireland
Shield: Defender
Ship: Sea voyages
Ship: Demasted Disaster at sea
Skull: Mortality
Snail: Deliberation and perseverance
Snake: Wisdom
Spear: Honourable warrior; valiant knight
Spearhead: Dexterity and nimble wit; readiness for battle
Sphere: Geographical or scientific reference
Sphinx: Omniscience and secrecy
Spider: Wisdom, labour, and prudence
Spur: Preparedness for active service; pressing onward
Squares: Constancy
Squirrel: Lover of the woods
Stag: One who will not fight unless provoked; peace and harmony
Stag's Antlers: Strength and fortitude
Steel: Readiness for zealous service
Stirrup: Readiness for active service
Stool: Hospitality
Stork: Filial duty; close parental bond; holding a rock; vigilance
Sun: Glory and splendour; fountain of life
Swallow: One who is prompt and ready in doing business; bearer of good news
Swan: Poetic harmony and learning, or lover thereof
Sword: Justice and military honour
Table: Hospitality
Tabor: Festivity and rejoicing
Talbot: Courage, vigilance, and loyalty
Tent: Readiness for battle
Tiger: Fierceness and valour; resentment dangerous if aroused
Torch: Zealousness; engaging in signal service
Tortoise: Invulnerability to attack
Tower: Safety and grandeur; sometimes a building
Tree: Trunk New life sprouting from the old
Trefoil: Perpetuity, if green, symbol of Ireland
Trestle: Hospitality
Trumpet: Ready for war
Unicorn: Extreme courage; virtue and strength
Vine: Strong and lasting friendship
Water Bouget: One who carried water to an army or a besieged place
Wheat-Ears: Faithfulness
Wheat Garb or Sheaf: The harvest of one's hopes has been secured
Wheel: Fortune
Wheel (Catherine): Torture
Wings: Swiftmess and protection
Wolf: Reward from perseverance in long sieges and/or hard industry
Woodbine: Love that does not injure that which it clings to
Wreath: Triumph
Wyvern: Valour and protection
Yew: Death and eternal life thereafter