

FRYE

COAT OF ARMS

A GREEN SHIELD THREE SILVER HORSES COURANT.

CREST

AN ARM EMBOWED IN ARMOR HOLDING A SWORD
ENFILED BY A MOOR'S HEAD.

The practice of representing people with symbols is ancient, and in England this habit evolved with feudal society into a system of distinctive devices on shields. The heralds developed an extensive armory that had the important function of distinguishing members of the upper class from each other, whether at court or on the battlefield. Since then, heraldry has grown into a complex field with many rules and a terminology that requires some knowledge to interpret.

GREEN SHIELD "Vert" (from the French word for green) signifies felicity and pleasure. It was symbolic of joy, youth and beauty. Green was also associated with the spring. The bearer of the green is obliged to defend the peasant and all who work on the land. It is expressed in engravings by lines in bend, or slanting to the right.

Symbolic Virtues: Green denotes the virtues of charity and hope, as well as the qualities of honor, courtesy and abundance.

Precious Stone: Emerald

Planet: Venus

Obligations: To defend the peasant and all who work on the land

THREE "Three" devices, beasts or ordinaries of the same have a special significance in heraldry. First of all, there is the obvious reference to the Trinity in the design that would signify observance of the Christian doctrine. Secondly, with many Arms it brings balance that is steeped in tradition. To better understand this latter scenario, we must look at the evolution of shield in personal armory. Kite shields that were the most popular from the the 10th-14th

century evolved into Heater shields that had flat tops c. 1250. This was the time of heraldry's beginnings and when "three" objects were used for balance in each corner of the shield. Later, with the advent of the "chief," "chevron" and "bend" three devices brought balance to these ordinaries too.

SILVER Argent (from the French for silver), or silver is one of the two metals used in heraldry. It is usually represented on a shield by the colors gray or white. This metal represents nobility, peace and serenity. It is associated with the qualities of purity and chastity, because the metal withstands the test of fire.

HORSE Horses are considered very spirited, powerful and beautiful animals. They were thought of like brave warriors: highly skilled fighters who loved victory and were miserable when conquered. The horse signifies readiness to act for one's country. It is also a symbol of speed, intellect and virility. As a result the horse will be found in arms as rampant or salient (in a fighting position), and courant (running), as well as passant (walking) and trotting. It may be drawn saddled and bridled, with a rider or without. Horses are also often found as supporters on a crest.

COURANT Courant, current or cursant is applied to beasts of chase to describe running at full speed. Symbolically, this position or attitude denotes the bearer as one who is swift.

EMBOWED Embowed means that the object or creature described is bent sharply, bowed, or as in the case with dolphins, curved. This position has no significance other than informing the heraldic artist the position of the beast.

SWORD The sword is said to be the emblem of military honor and should incite the bearer to a just and generous pursuit of honor and virtue. It is symbolic of liberty and strength. In the Middle Ages, the sword was often used as a symbol of the word of God. The sword (especially borne with flames) is also a symbol of purification. When borne with a cross in the same field, the sword signifies the defense of the Christian faith. The usual form is a long straight blade with a cross handle, though the blade may also be waved or embrued. There are also specific types of swords that may be described such as the falchion or seax, which is a broad bladed, slightly curved sword with a semi-circular notch at the back of the blade. Others include a scimitar, cutlass or saber. A sword is often depicted piercing an animal or a human heart. Two swords crossed in saltire is an emblem of St. Paul.

BLACKAMOOR The symbol of a blackamoor, a moor, or the head of such a man, was originally borne as a trophy in allusion to deeds of prowess during the crusades. It was probably intended as a sign of the defense of Christianity.

HEAD The head stands for honor. After all, the head is the center of knowledge, thinking and learning for the body.