

MUSGRAVE

COAT OF ARMS

A RED SHIELD WITH SIX ANNULETS

CREST

TWO ARMS IN ARMOR GRASPING AN ANNULET.

MOTTO

SANS CHANGER

TRANSLATION

WITHOUT CHANGING.

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.

RED SHIELD Gules, derived from an Old French word goules or gueules meaning "throats" translates into modern English as "red" and is the military color for excellence and fortitude. It is symbolic of nobility, boldness and ferocity, and can also represent fire and summer. Some ancient laws restricted its use to princes and their families. Red corresponds to the metal copper and is denoted in engravings by numerous perpendicular lines.

Symbolic Virtues: Red denotes the virtues of charity and courage, and indicates the qualities of valor, patriotism, and creative power. Those who bear a red insignia are obliged to right wrongs and win fame in arms.

Precious Stone: Carnelian, Ruby

Planet: Mars

Obligations: To right wrongs and win fame in arms

SIX It is rare to see six of any given charge, and a shield, and generally it must be blazoned how they will be distributed on the shield. The number six can of course symbolism many different things: it is the number of sides on a cube; God is said to have created Man on the sixth day; and there are six points on the Star of David

ANNULET The annulet is a plain ring. As a closed circle, it is symbolic of continuity and wholeness. The Romans are said to have worn a ring as a sign of knighthood and rings are still used at some coronations and in the institution of knighthood. The annulet may have been borne to indicate that the bearer had the superior qualities of a knight. In some circles an annulet represented riches. In English heraldry, an annulet was a mark of cadency signifying the fifth son.