

TAYLOR

COAT OF ARMS

A SILVER SHIELD WITH THREE SILVER LIONS PASSANT
REGUARDANT ON A BLACK PALE.

CREST

A LEOPARD AND A SHIELD WITH THE COAT OF ARMS.

The practice of using symbols to represent people is ancient, and in Scotland it evolved into a complex system of armory. Although greatly influenced by England's example, Scotland's heraldic tradition also developed on its own, and there are many devices that are uniquely, and sometimes, exclusively Scottish.

SILVER SHIELD Silver, known by the French term "argent," 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.

Symbolic Virtues: It guards innocence and gives celestial happiness. It denotes virginity in maidens and chastity in widows. It also lends justice to judges and represents the virtues of Humility, Innocence, and Happiness. Celestially, the color represents the moon.

Precious Stone: Pearl

Planet: Moon

Obligations: Help maidens and orphans.

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.

LION The lion has always held a high place in heraldry as the emblem of deathless courage, and, hence, that of a valiant warrior. It is said to be a lively image of a good soldier, who must be "valiant in courage, strong of body, politic in council and a foe to fear." Through the somewhat dubious legend of their compassion, lions also came to symbolize Christ. As one medieval author asserted, "they prey on men rather than women, and they do not kill children except when they are very hungry." The lion, with such repute of its noble nature and having the position and title of king of the beasts, is naturally one of the most common heraldic symbols on the continent of Europe. The winged lion is the emblem of St. Mark.

PASSANT A beast described as passant is one that is walking to the dexter, with the dexter (right) fore-paw raised. The lions of England are passant guardant.

REGARDANT Regardant or Reguardant formerly signified what is referred to today as guardant, looking towards the observer, but currently it indicates a beast looking backwards over its shoulder.

BLACK Sable (Archaic or literary English for black) or black, the coldest of the colors, corresponds to lead. Black, or "sable," is symbolic of sadness. It also corresponds with winter and is a humble color, suitable for the deeply religious. It denotes the qualities of knowledge, piety, serenity and work. Engravers represent it with numerous horizontal and vertical lines crossing each other.

PALE The pale is a vertical band down the center of the shield, often denoting great defensive military strength. Protective railings were made of pales. It has often been bestowed on those who have defended cities, supported the government of their sovereign, or stood strong for their country under stress. The guidelines of heraldry instruct that the pale is to occupy one third of the width of the shield, though this is not always strictly followed. The pallet or palet is a diminutive of the pale.

LEOPARD The leopard is a symbol of a valiant warrior who braves dangers with force and courage. In early heraldry, leopards were often represented passant guardant and there were often no less than two on a shield, while lions were usually rampant and usually no more than two. Thus, it may have been that the lions of England were actually leopards, although they have certainly come to be lions.