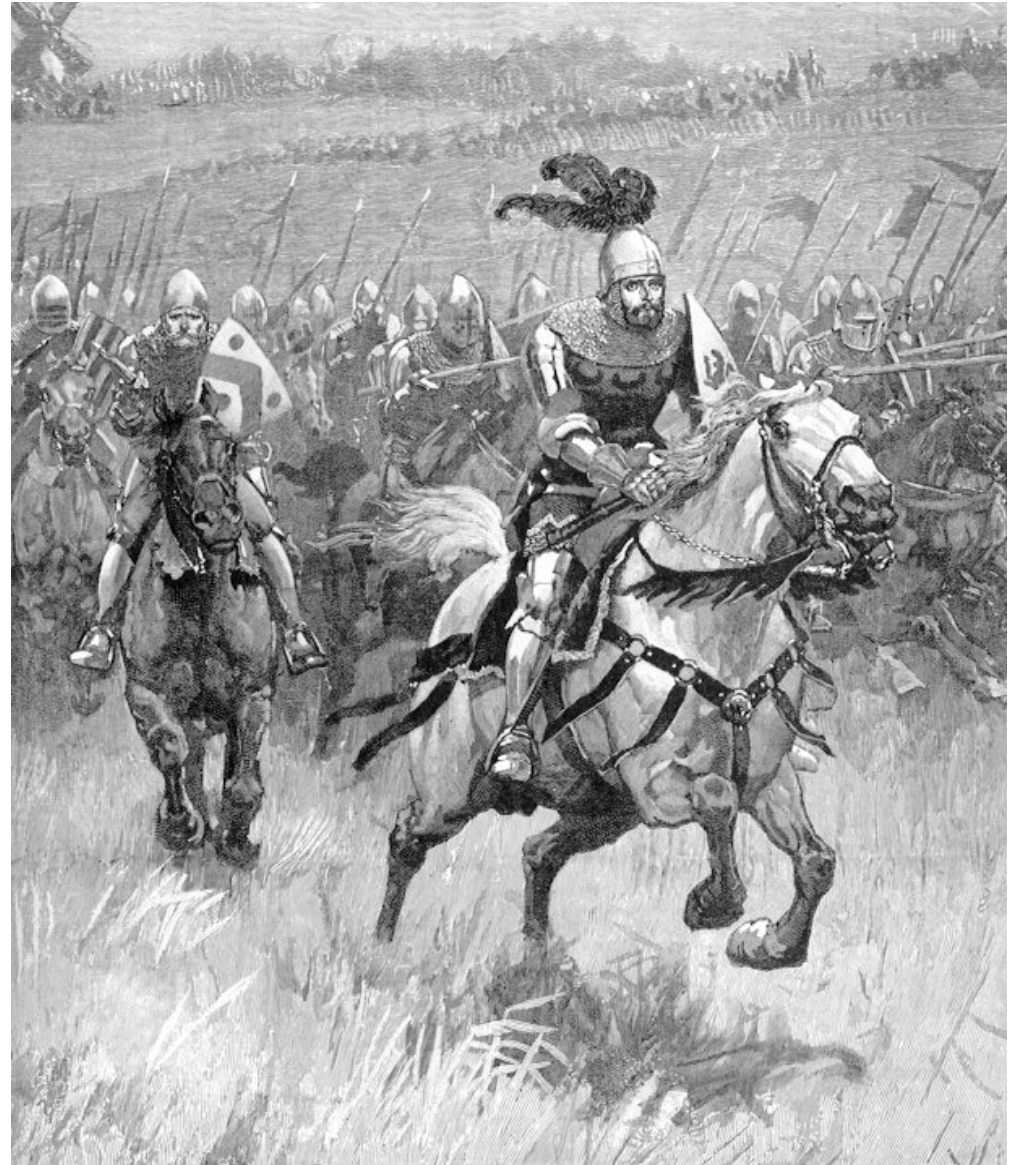


Design your own coat of arms

Medieval Times

- Medieval Times- Middle Ages-Dark Ages, many terms have been used to describe this period spanning more than a thousand years.



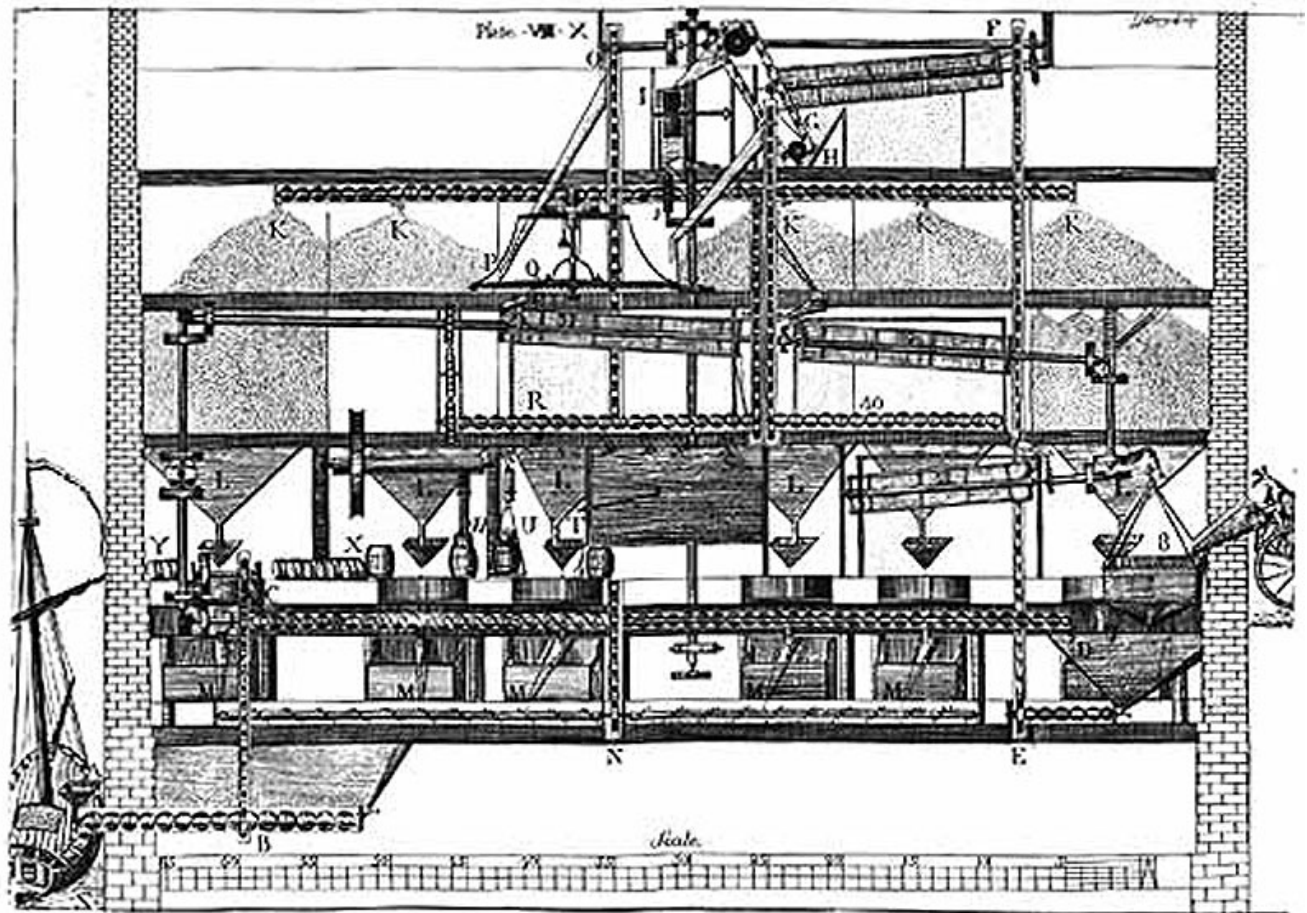
Church

- The Church was very much in control of the gamut of medieval life.



Technology

- Civilization progressed slowly; science was looked upon with distrust and often, as heresy.



Communications

- Communication between and within countries was tedious and primarily sent word-of-mouth.



Information

- Books were a rarity, and writing was the province of the powerful.



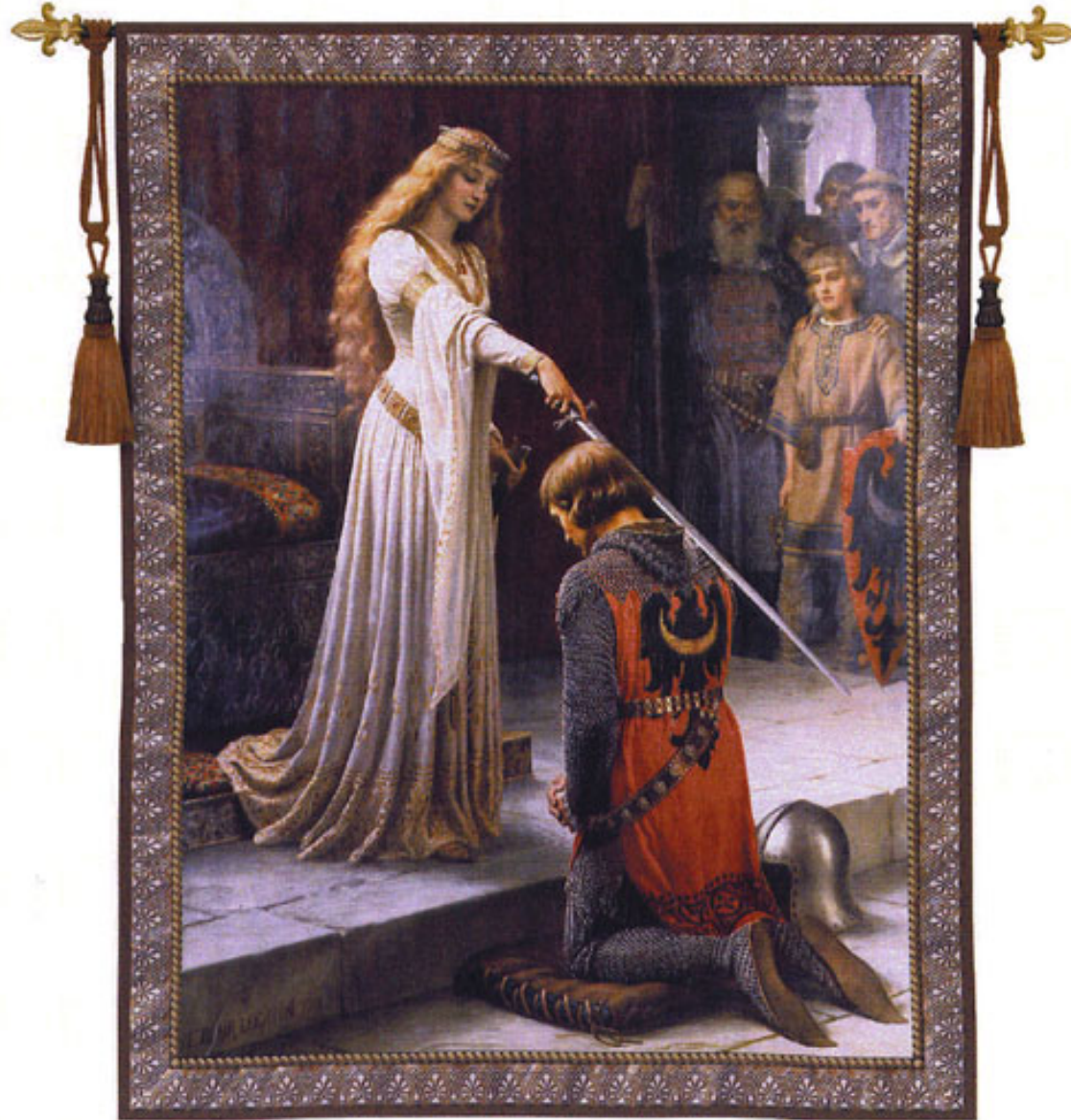
Art

- Art and literature were on the decline, as the former marvels of Rome were swept away by time.



Chivalry

- Chivalry is the generic term for the knightly system of the Middle Ages and for virtues and qualities it inspired in its followers



Chivalry

- 13th Century conventions of chivalry directed that men should honor, serve, and do nothing to displease ladies and maidens.



Knights

- Knights were members of the noble class socially as bearers of arms, economically as owners of horse and armor, and officially through religious-oriented ceremony.



What side are you on?

- Coats of Arms date to the early Middle Ages. In the early twelfth century, helmets and other armor began making it difficult to tell armed warriors apart.



Emblems

- The solution was for each knight or soldier to paint something personal on their shield. These designs were important in battle, but they also functioned like team uniforms when knights met in tournaments.



Knights in battle



A brief History

- Over time, shield emblem designs became enduring symbols of their owners, and of their owners' families.
- It became quite fashionable to have a "coat of arms", so people hired artists to design them. The designs weren't just used on shields. They were applied on tunics, saddle blankets, banners and tapestries.

A brief History

- They were duplicated in sculpture and architectural features. They were used in signs and advertisements. They were carved into coins, jewelry (e.g. signet rings) and the personalized stamps for sealing letters.



A brief History

- Soon, Coats of Arms weren't just for soldiers! From about 1210 A.D., some priests are known to have had them.
- The first women known to have had their own coat of arms got them around 1220. Around 1230 towns and cities began having coats of arms. Tradesmen and even peasants started using coats of arms around 1250.

A brief History

- In an era when few people could read or write, coats of arms made it easier for people to recognize each other's marks.
- Before you design your own coat of arms, it'll be useful to look at a few traditional heraldic designs. Observe the traditional design elements.

Heraldic Colors

Yellow or Gold - Generosity

White or Silver - Peace & Sincerity

Black - Constancy (& sometimes Grief)

Blue - Loyalty & Truthfulness

Red - Military Fortitude & Magnanimity

Green - Hope, Joy & sometimes Loyalty

Purple - Royal Majesty, Sovereignty & Justice

Heraldic Animals

- Bear - Protectiveness**
- Bee - Industriousness**
- Camel - Perseverance**
- Dog - Loyalty**
- Double Eagle & Eagle - Leadership & Decisiveness**
- Dragon - Defender of Treasure**
- Falcon or Hawk - Eagerness**
- Fox - Cleverness**
- Griffin (part eagle, part lion) - Bravery**
- Horse - Readiness to Serve**
- Lion - Courage**
- Pelican - Generosity & Devotion**
- Raven - Constancy**
- Snake - Ambition**
- Stag, Elk or Deer - Peace & Harmony**
- Tiger - Fierceness & Valor**
- Unicorn - Extreme courage**
- Wolf - Constant Vigilance**

Heraldic Symbols

Axe - Dutiful

Bridge - (signifies a governor or magistrate)

Crescent - Enlightenment

Crosses - Christian sentiments

Crown - Authority

Fire - Zeal

Flaming Heart - Passion

Fleur-de-lys (stylized Iris flower) - Purity (associated with France)

Hand - Faith, Sincerity & Justice

Heart - Sincerity

Horns & Antlers - Fortitude

Lightning - Decisiveness

Moon - Serenity

Oyster Shell - Traveler

Ring - Fidelity

Scepter - Justice

Star - Nobility

Sun - Glory

Sword - Warlike

Tower or Castle - Fortitude & Protectiveness

Common Design Features (heraldic terminology):

Bend - a diagonal stipe

Chevron - an upside-down "V"

Chief - broad stripe across top of shield

Dexter - the righthand side of the shield (from its user's perspective)

Ermine - a white fur pattern (with black tail tips)

Fess - broad horizontal stripe through center

Pale - broad vertical stripe through center

Passant - an animal shown walking

Rampant - an animal standing on hind legs

Sinister - the lefthand side of the shield (from its user's perspective)

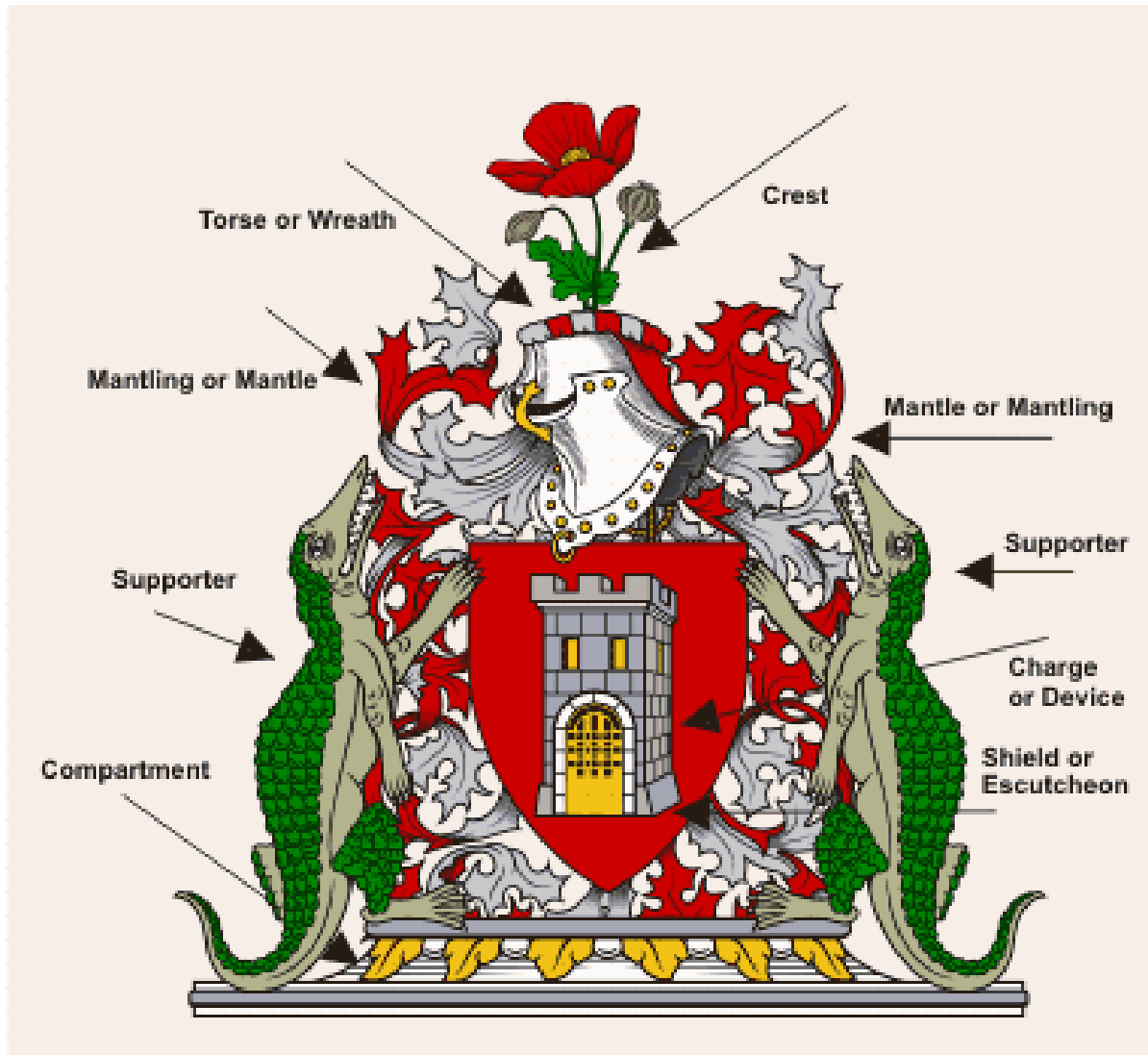
Other important design details:

- Besides simple fields of color, a coat of arms may contain other design motifs, such as checkerboards, polka dots, or fur patterns. One traditional design rule is that two solid-color fields shouldn't appear side by side unless one of the two is "metallic".
- Even this "rule" has been broken by many famous and historical coats of arms.

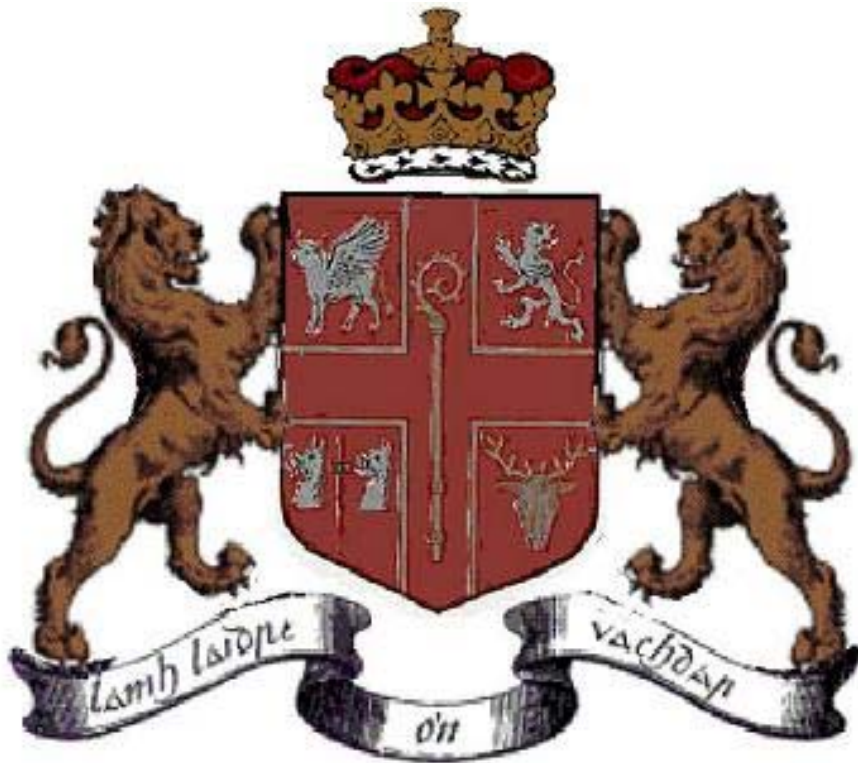
More Design Details

- Few laws have ever been passed about the design of coats of arms, and even fewer of have ever been enforced! However, most European nations began requiring registration of coats of arms by the seventeenth century.
- The registration requirements were somewhat like modern trademark laws - they were primarily intended to stop people from copying each other's designs.

Coat of Arms components

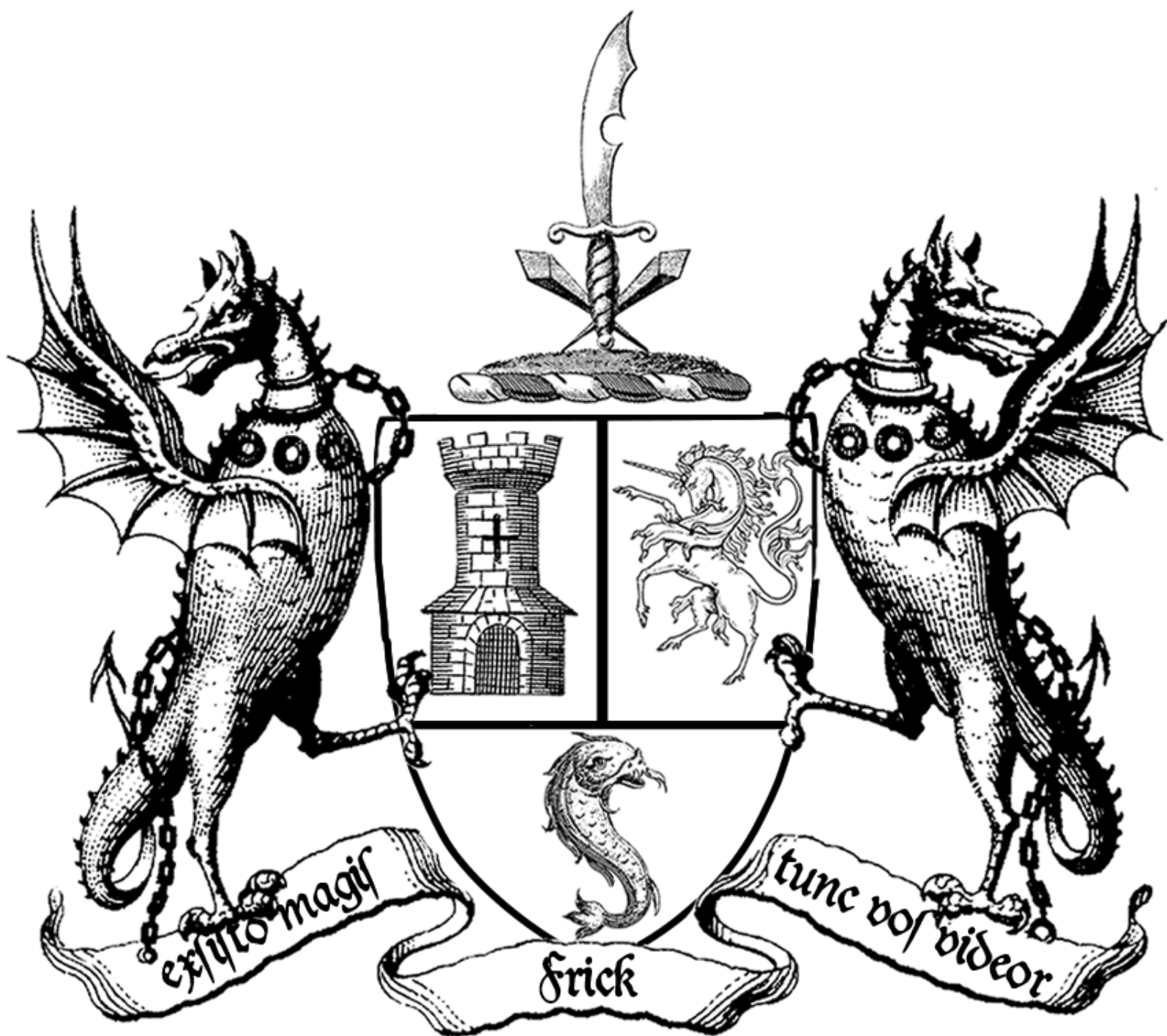


Examples



Examples





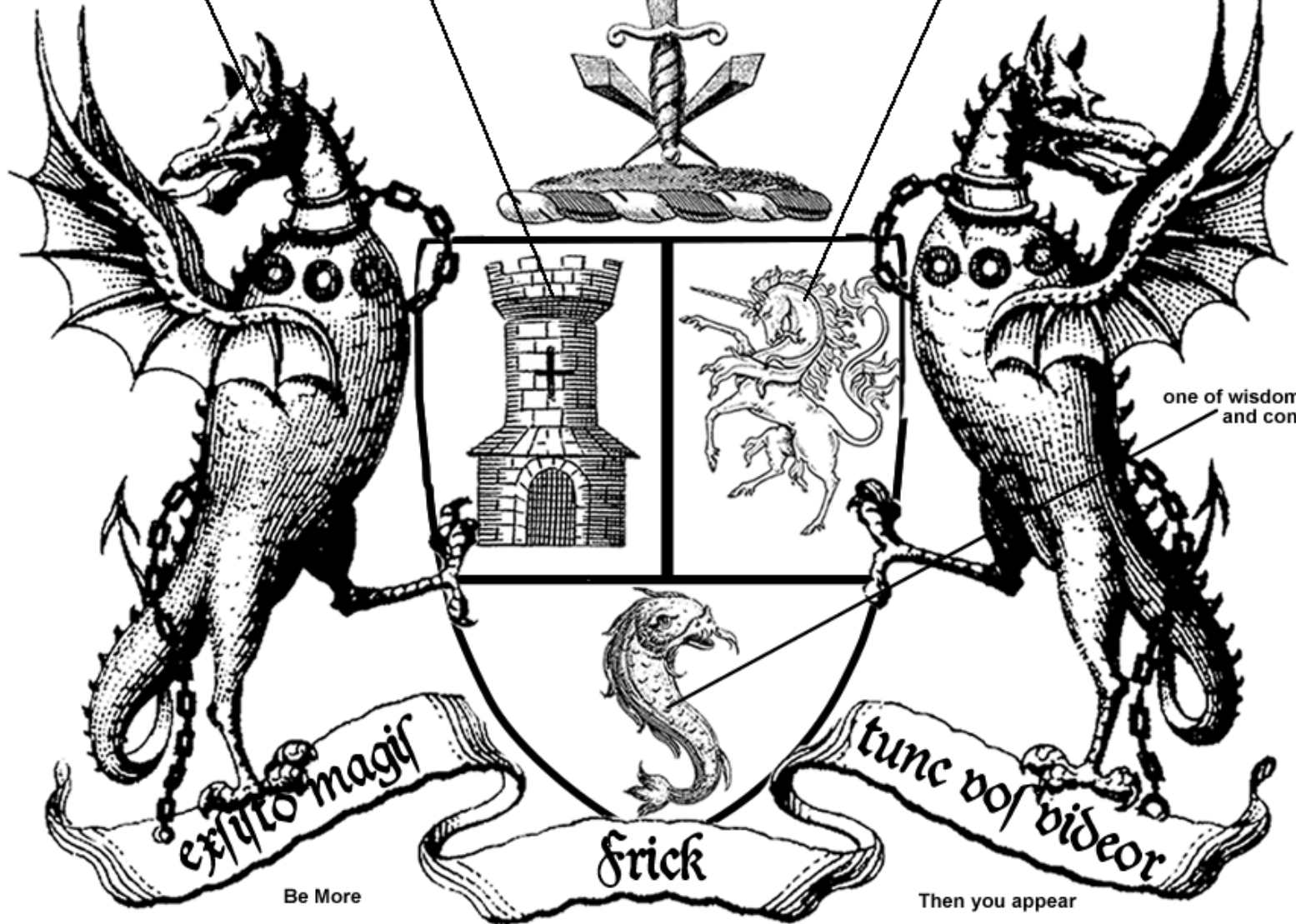
eternal change, discovery of hidden treasures
and the protector of all you possess

one who has faithfully held one for his king,
or who has captured one by force or strategy

emblem of battle and conquest

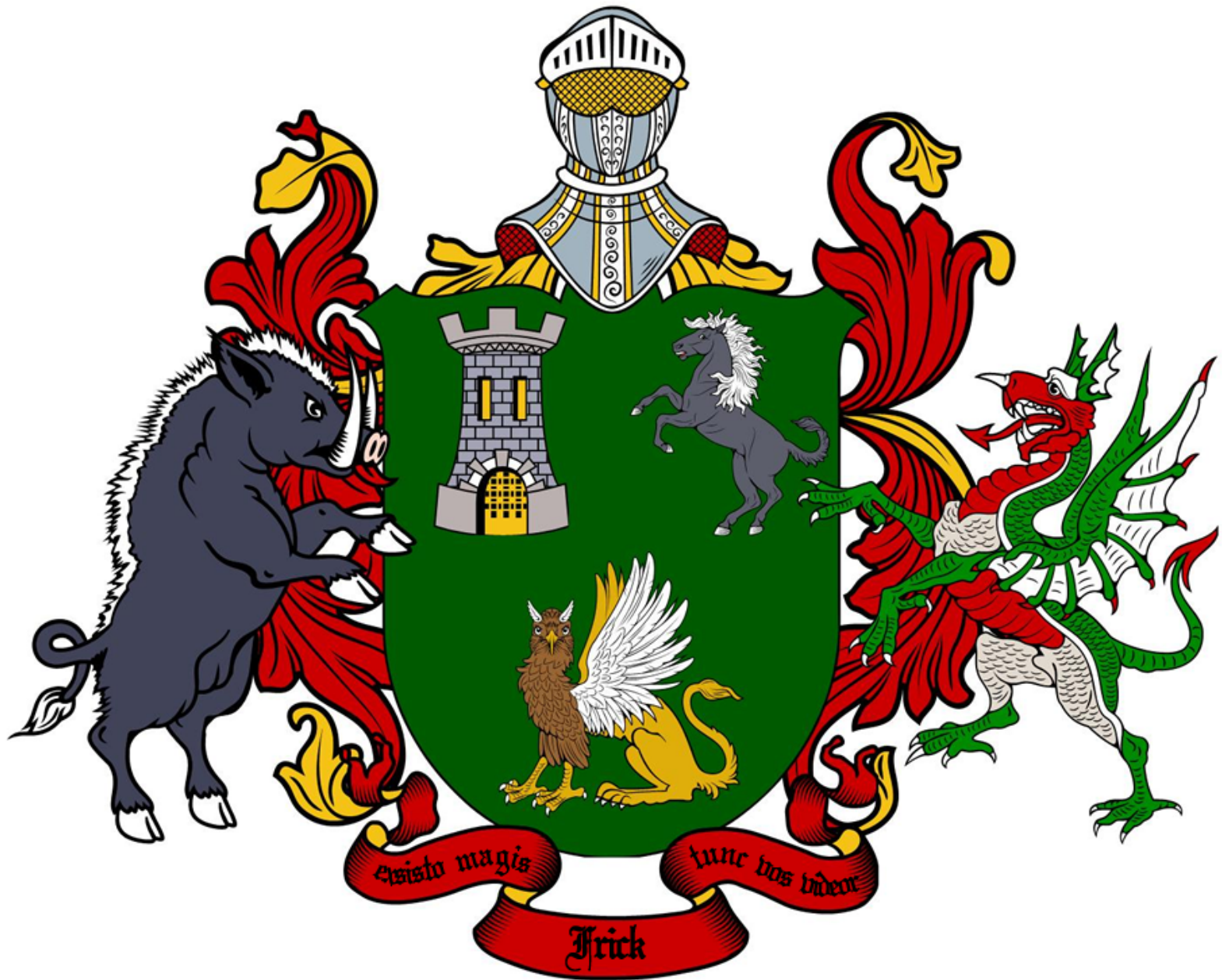
the personification of innocence and purity

one of wisdom, knowledge
and constancy



Be More

Then you appear



Objective

- Create your own Coat of Arms
- It should reflect who you are and what you stand for
- Each of you will write an essay describing your Coat of Arms and explaining why you chose the objects/colors to represent you
- Color or Black and White

Resources

- <http://www.heraldryclipart.com/main.html>
- <http://www.heraldicclipart.com/>
- <http://www.heraldry.ws/>