



# Heraldry



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# How Heraldry Began

- You are a knight on the battlefield in 1475. Another knight comes charging toward you. Is he a friend or foe?
- How do you tell?



"Quick Facts About The Middle Ages in The British Isles - *ArtiFact* :: Free Encyclopedia of Everything Art, Antiques & Collectibles." *ArtiFact Free Encyclopedia of Everything Art Antiques Collectibles*. Gauk Media, 01 Apr. 2013. Web. 04 Mar. 2015.



# How Heraldry Began

- Many people could not read or write in the Middle Ages and Renaissance, so they used heraldry as a way to identify themselves and their families.
- Showed rank



# Heraldry

At first, knights used the arms on their shields only. Later they began wearing the designs on their tunics over top of their armor. This was called a “coat of arms.”



# Heraldry

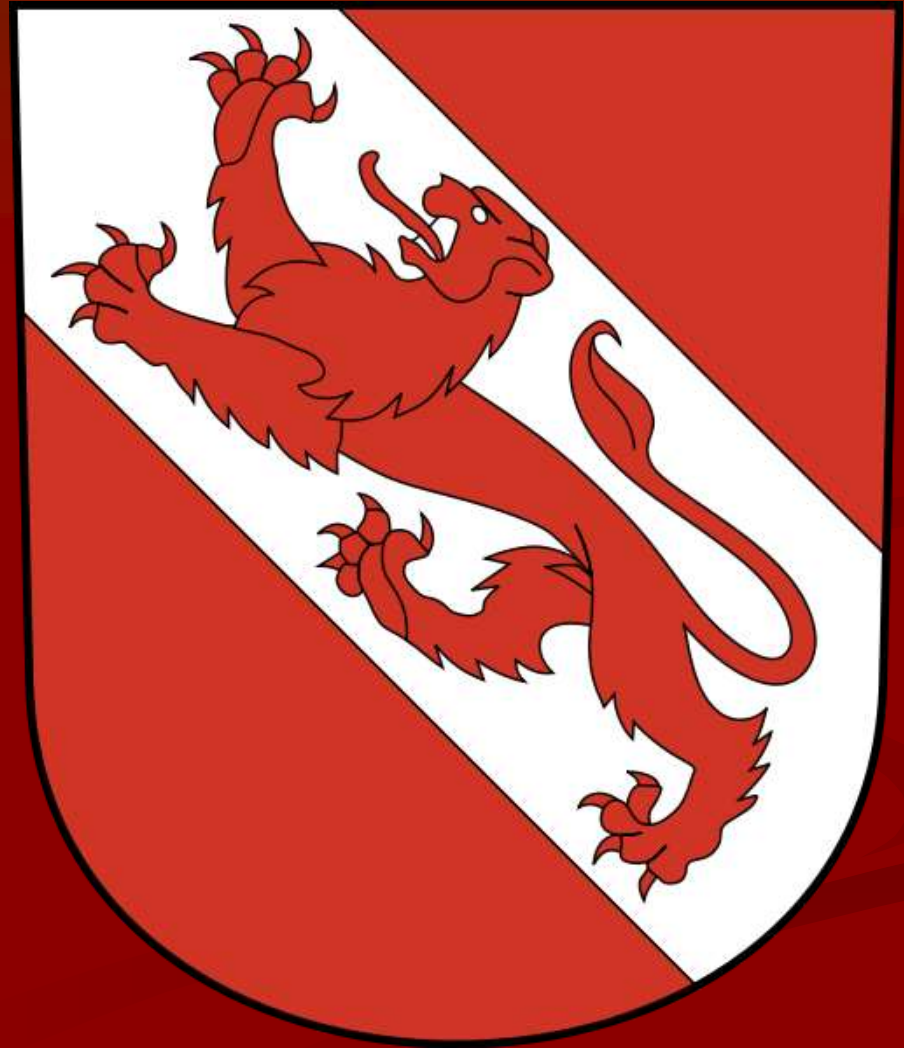
- However, everyone could not have a shield
  - Noblemen
  - Kings
  - Knights wore their lord's colors





# Heraldry

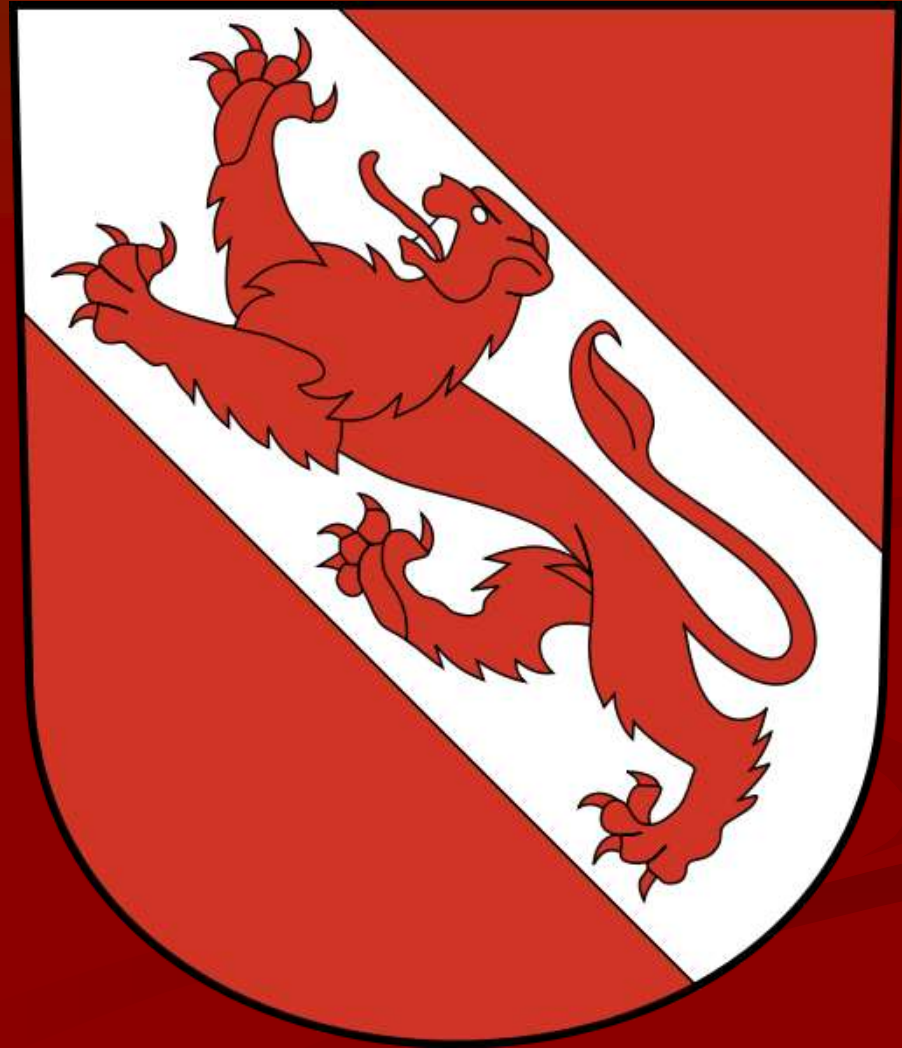
- Heralds were messengers on the battlefields. They did not carry weapons and had special uniforms. They kept track of and identified the dead.



# Heraldry

- Heralds went to school to learn the language of heraldry-
  - Blazon
  - Colors
  - Shapes
  - Symbols

They made sure no two coats of arms were the same- good memories!





# What did the Colors mean?



Yellow/Gold = Generosity



White/Silver = Peace and sincerity

Red = Warrior; Military strength



Blue = Truth and Loyalty



Green = Hope, joy; loyalty in love



Black = Constant grief



Purple = royal majesty and justice



Orange = worthy ambition





# Shapes of Heraldry

There are two common shapes that represent shields or that frame the coat of arms:

“heater” for the men



diamond for the women.





# What magical animals symbolize



Dragon- the dragon was a fierce creature and was

known to hoard treasure and had an ‘appetite for princesses’. The dragon was a representation of bravery, courage, and strength.



Unicorn-The purest and most innocent of all creatures.

The Unicorn was usually a representation of Christ.



# Heraldry later



Later- After the arrival of guns in the 1600s, heraldry became more symbolic and the shields became more complex with each passing generation.



Someone could earn a shield through great deeds.

It became common to add a motto too.



# Other 'Unknown' Facts

- If someone took a man's coat of arms, the man could charge against the person and that person would be executed immediately without any clothes as the highest form of embarrassment.
- For every son there was a different symbol used.
- The oldest son would inherit the family coat of arms and the other sons would alter the designs for their families.
- When two people married they would combine their coat of arms in half or merge them to make a 3D effect



# Fun Facts

- The BEE is the most common insect. It represents hard work.
- The terms for left and right were- sinister and dexter. Guess which was left!
- There are over 400 different crosses- 20 are commonly used
- The terms in the language of Heraldry, blazonry, are French.



# Website

For fun, try out this website to create a coat of arms

<http://www.imaginion.org/fun/whippingboy/createacoatofarms.asp>