

Practical Heraldry for the Self-Isolator

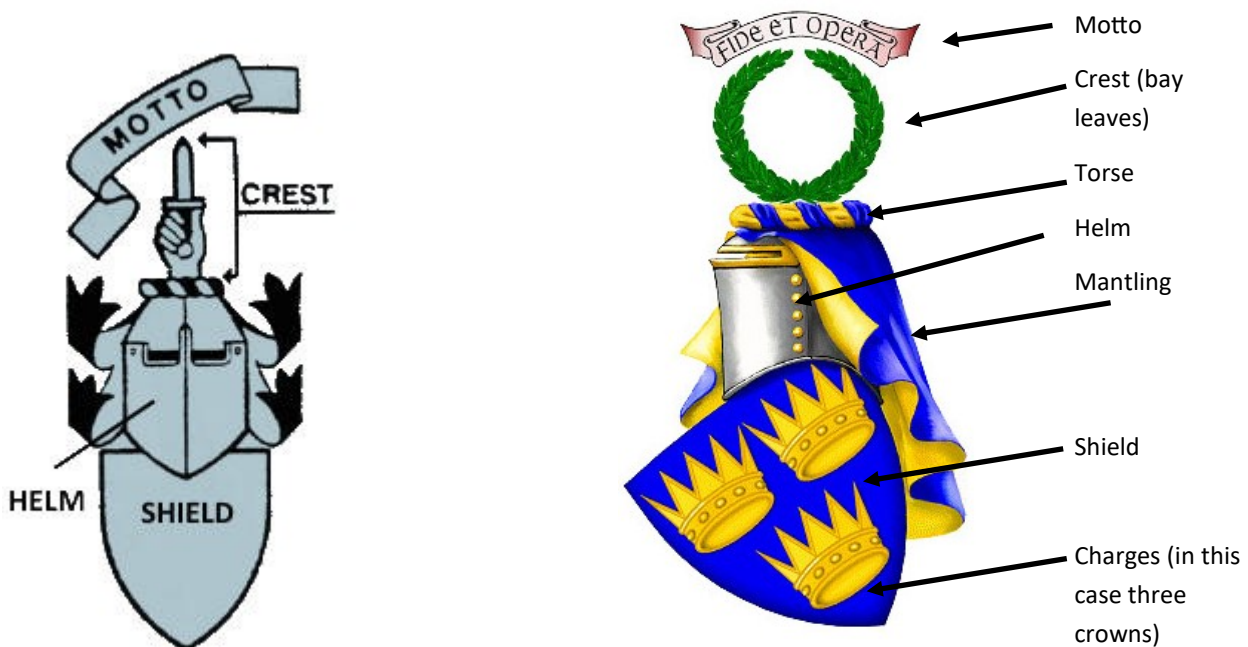
This is a very short, practical course in Scottish Heraldry.

All you need is a colour-printer (or screen from which you can copy) and coloured pencils or felt pens.

You do not need to be able to draw—there have always been wonderful heraldic artists in the world but many of the most important collections of coats of arms have been drawn by people whose drawings were pretty awful, but clear enough for people to recognise what they were supposed to be.

Please do not be snooty about COPYING and COLOURING-IN. Many great artists—and composers like Bach—learned their craft from simply copying out the work of others. The physical act of copying and colouring will develop your knowledge far more quickly than just browsing and looking.

For the best part of 900 years, people, places and institutions have identified themselves with symbols on a shield, known as a COAT OF ARMS. It will speed us up if we agree on some terms before we start:



Keywords:

Coat of Arms: symbols on a shield which say who a person is or what a place is.

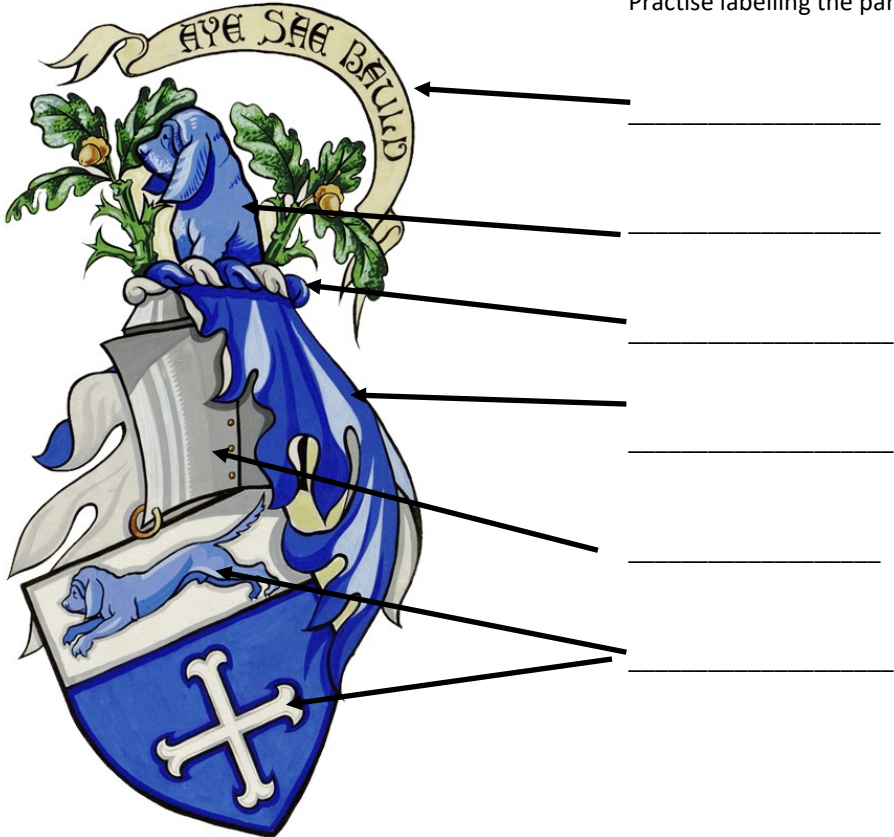
Crest: an object which sits on top of the shield, as it may have done on a knight's helmet in a tournament.

Charge: a shape or object painted on the shield.

Helm: a helmet between shield and crest

Motto: words usually placed ABOVE the crest in Scotland, below in England.

Practise labelling the parts of this coat of arms:



It will help you remember that a CREST is only one part of a coat of arms if you look at some more—here are some crests belonging to Knights of the Thistle, displayed above their stalls in the Thistle Chapel in St Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh:



Here is a knight dressed for a tournament - his crest and torse attached to his helmet.

That concludes Lesson 1—we will have a test later on all the terms used in it but it is time to start COLOURING!!!

Tomorrow's lesson will appear at: <http://www.courtofthelordlyon.scot/IsolationHeraldryLesson2.pdf>