

MHS Heraldry Group

Blazoning – Unit 1

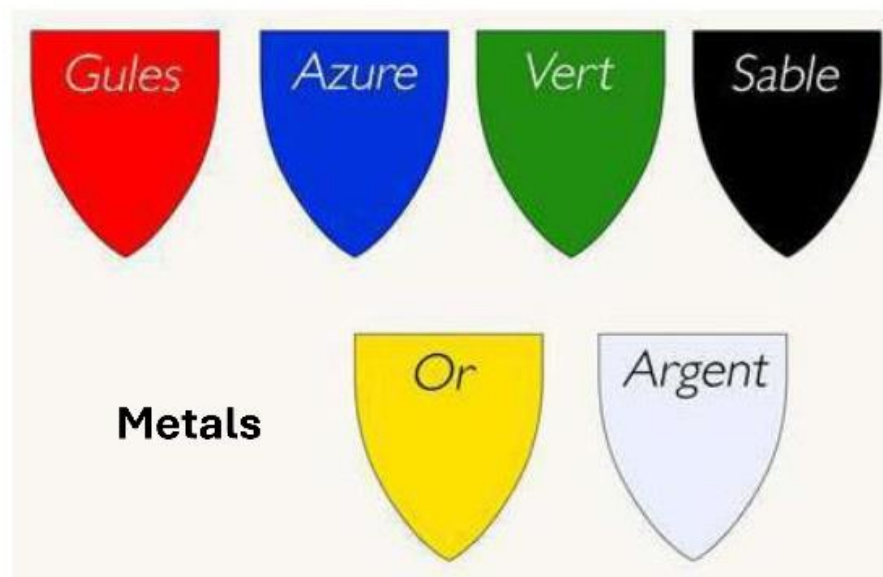
When blazoning coats of arms certain terms crop up so frequently that it is important that you know them immediately, without having to look them up. But the dictionary of heraldic words is vast and, having a poor memory, I'm constantly having to remind myself of terms that I meet rarely. In this course I'll make clear the ones that I think you should definitely try to remember, but I may also introduce you to other terms, purely for your interest, and so you know they exist.

Throughout the course, do not worry too much if a name escapes you! It happens to us all. The most important thing is to become familiar with the systems and approaches necessary for accurate blazoning.

YOU NEED TO REMEMBER THESE BASIC TINCTURES

(without having to think about it)

Colours



Furs



Ermine

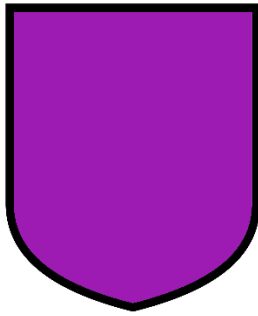


Vair

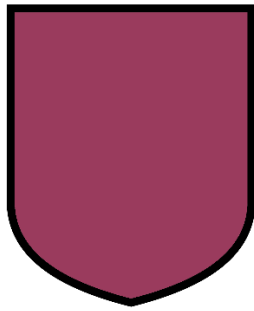
NB No particular colour tints are specified, so there can be considerable variation between examples.

YOU DO NOT NEED TO REMEMBER THESE TINCTURES

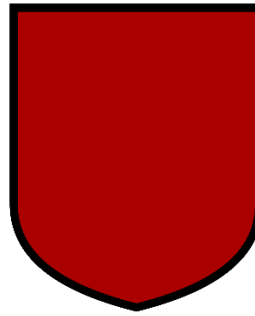
(They are included here just so you're aware of them)



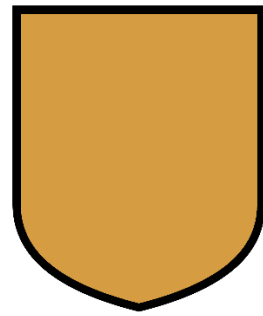
Purpure



Murrey



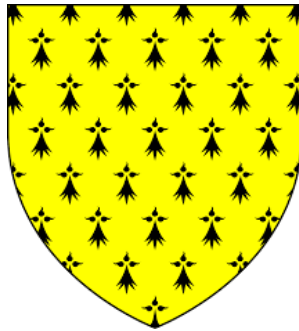
Sanguine



Tenné



Ermines



Erminois



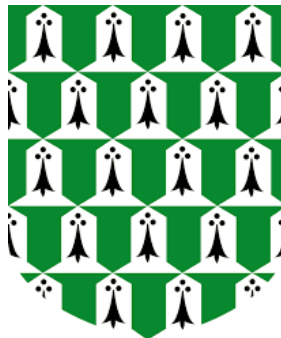
Pean



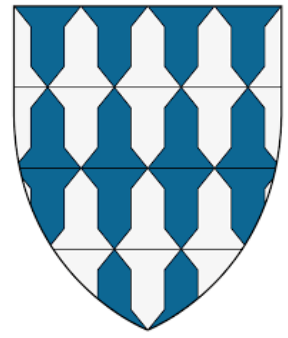
Vair
included for
comparison



Vairy or and gules



Vairy vert and ermine



Counter-vair

NB There are many other variations