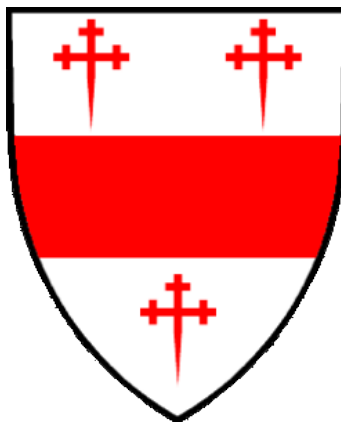**MHS Heraldry Group**

Blazoning – Unit 11

EXERCISE 1 – PRACTICE

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

19
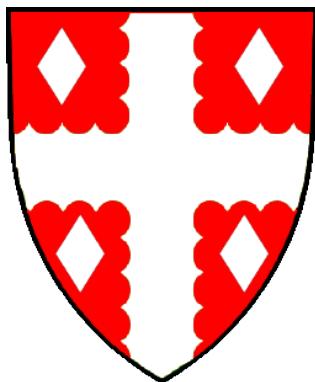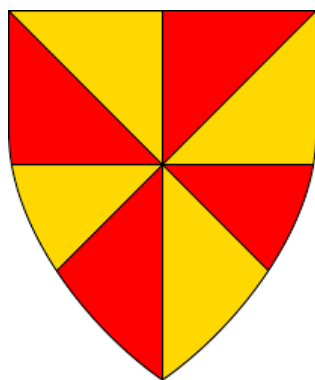
11

12

POWDERED FIELDS

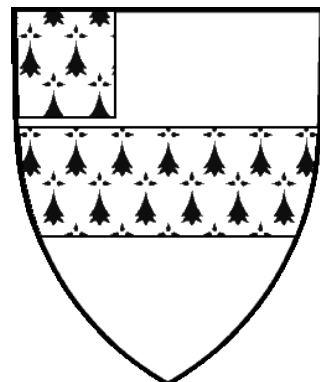A field is powdered if it is covered, or sprinkled, with a regular pattern of a single charge. Generally the field looks as if it has been cut out of a larger sheet, with the edges of the shield showing just parts of a charge.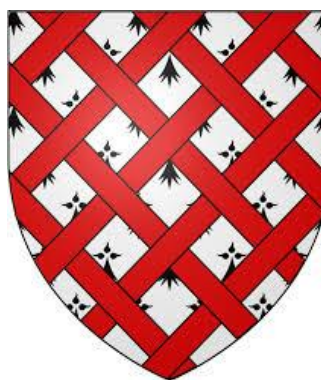 The field is still considered to be powdered though even if all the charges on the shield are complete, and there are no bits at the edges. In those cases, it is very important to decide whether the charges are there just as a pattern on the field, or whether the number and positioning of the charges is significant. In that case the charges are not part of a powdered field.

In the first two examples below, the field is powdered, but in the third one the lozenges represent 19 specific locations, so the field is not powdered.
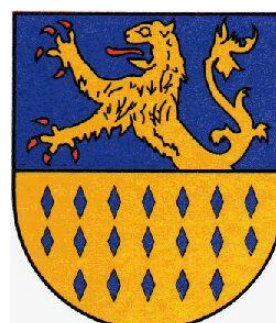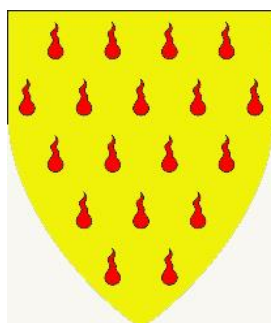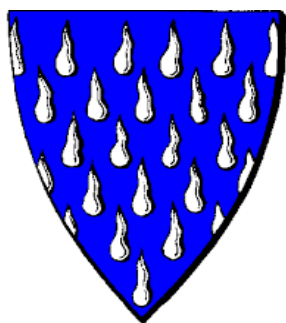

The word used to indicate a powdered field is semé or (anglicised) semy meaning "sown", so a field covered in a pattern of martlets would be described as being *semé of martlets*. Specific single words have been developed to describe some frequently-used powdered fields. Here are the most common ones:
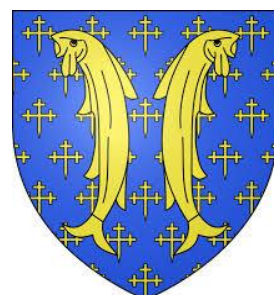
| semy of crosses crosslet | = | *crusily* |
semy of fleurs-de-lis	=	*semy de lis*
semy of bezants	=	*bezanty*
semy of billets	-	*billety*
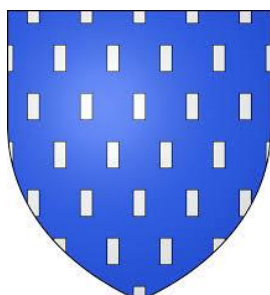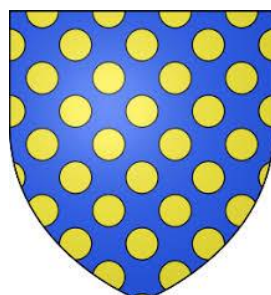
Azure billety argent   Azure bezanty or   Azure crusily fitchy two fish addorsed of the second

But it is important to avoid assuming that this approach works for all charges. The word *lozengy* for instance describes a field that is partitioned using a pattern of lozenges, rather than a field powdered with lozenges.

Again, it sometimes quite difficult to decide whether the field is powdered, or if the charges are arranged in specific places.

Consider the examples below. In the first one there isn't a regular pattern of billets, but the billets are sprinkled around the crescents, so it's reasonable to call the field *billety*. In the second one the crosses are very regularly positioned, so it is best to consider them as charges on a plain *azure* field, and the same is true of the third one.
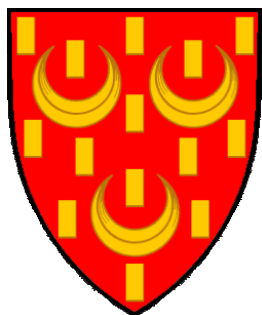
Gules billety or three crescents of the second
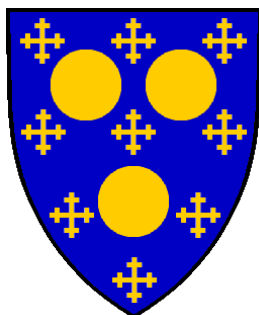
Azure three bezants between nine crosses crosslet or 3, 3, 2 & 1

Gules a lion rampant between nine crosses ceosslet fitchy or 3, 2, 2 and 2

Gouttes

Drops of liquid are called gouttes and a field covered with drops is said to be goutté or gutté (anglicised goutty). Just as special words have been devised for different coloured roundels (bezants, torteaux etc.) gouttes have different names according to their tinctures. You might find it fun to learn these! or you could always look them up in your Boutell (or whatever) when you need them. Finally you could always resort to just stating the tincture itself and forgetting the special word. Anyway here are some of them:

goutty or	is goutty d'or	(gold)
goutty argent	is goutty d'eau	(water)
goutty azure	is goutty de larmes	(tears)
goutty gules	is goutty de sang	(blood)
goutty sable	is goutty de poix	(pitch)
goutty vert	is goutty d'olive	(olive)
	or goutty d'huile	(oil)

Gouttes can also appear singly or as tinctures on charges.
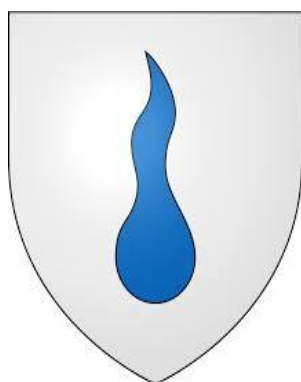
Argent a goutte de larmes
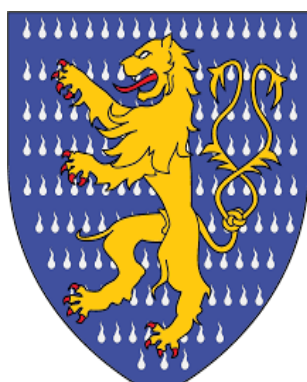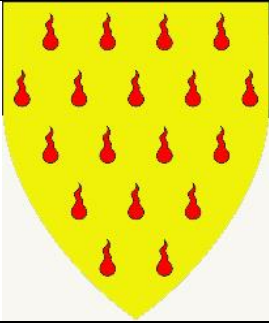

Azure goutty de l'eau a lion rampant double queued or

Gules a bend argent goutty de poix between two mullets argent pierced

Argent a lion rampant sable goutty d'eau

1	**2**	**3 (nails)**	**4**
5	**6**	**7**	**8**
9	**10**	**11**	**12**

ANSWERS

Exercise 1

1. Azure an eagle displayed argent (more about eagles later)
2. Argent a fess between three crosses crosslet fitchy gules
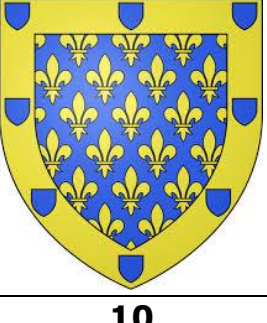3. Gules a chevron between three garbs or a crescent sable in chief for difference
4. Argent on a fess engrailed sable three plates
5. Gules a cross engrailed between four lozenges argent (or fuisils)
6. Argent a fess and a canton ermine
7. Or a lion rampant azure, overall on a fess gules three martlets argen
8. Gules a fess checky azure and argent
9. Gyronny or and gules
10. Paly indented or and sable
11. Ermine fretty gules

12. Very tricky indeed. I put this one on the Heraldry Society's Facebook page for comment and it produced a variety of suggestions. Here is my solution – Barry gules and argent per bend counterchanged – thinking of 'per' as 'by'.

Exercise 2

1. Or goutty de sang
2. Or semy-de-lis sable (these are the arms of Mortimer of Attleborouggh)
3. Gules semy-de-nails or
4. Azure crusily argent, a chief or
5. Azure billety a lion rampant or (the arms of
6. Gules crusily argent, a chevron or
7. Argent eleven gouttes-de-poix 5, 4 & 2, on a chief gules three crowns or
8. Sable crusily three leopards heads or
9. Sable billety or on a pale gold a column(?) gules
10. Azure semy-de-lis or, on a bordure of the second eight escutcheons of the first
11. Azure semy-d-lis or, on a bend gules three lions rampant argent
12. Per bend-sinister azure semy-de-lis or and argent a lion rampant sable