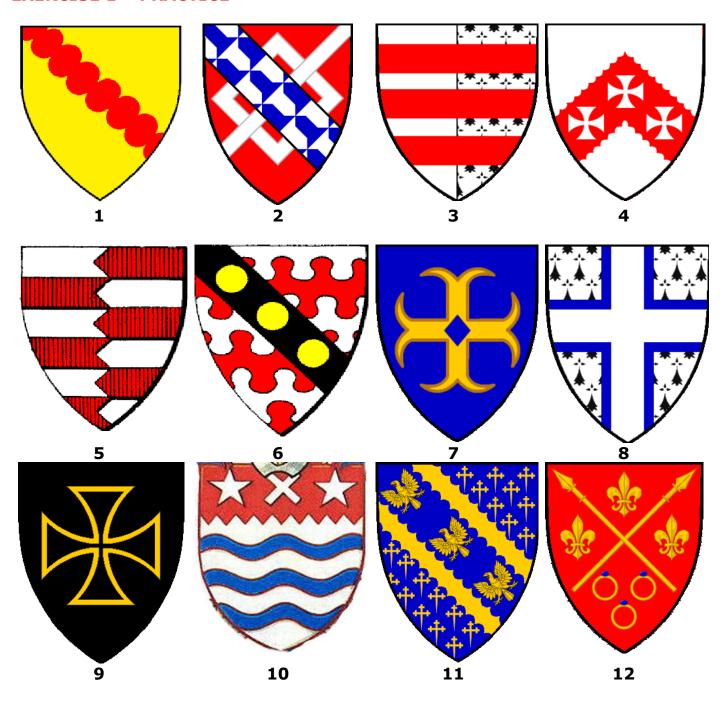
MHS Heraldry Group

Blazoning - Unit 15

EXERCISE 1 - PRACTICE



ANIMALS - PART 1

Reminder – by default the bodies and heads of all animals face towards the dexter. It is only necessary to mention it in the blazon if that is not the case.

In this unit we'll look in detail at terms which describe particular activities and positions of lions. It should be noted, however, that most if not all of these terms are equally applicable to most other animals.

LIONS

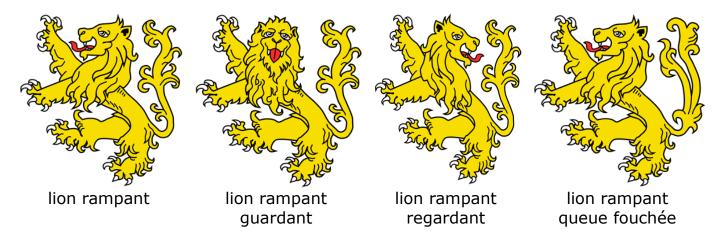
The Lion Rampant

By far the commonest attitude; a lion rampant has one foot on the floor. In medieval times, any *lion* mentioned in a blazon was a *lion rampant* unless some other attitude was specified.

Any lion (or other animal) looking out at the spectator is said to be **guardant**. If a lion is looking backwards, over its shoulder, it is said to be **regardant**.

Lions sometimes have forked tails, in which case they are said to be queue fouchée

Lions are frequently *crowned*, or may be *gorged* by a crown around the neck. They may also be *chained*. The crown typically used in these cases is that of a duke, so a lion may be *ducally crowned* or perhaps *ducally gorged*.



Armed and Langued

This is a difficult subject to discuss because there doesn't seem to be a single universally agreed approach. The issue centres on what is the <u>default</u> tincture for the claws and tongue?

- 1. Boutell *et al* state quite clearly that the default is *gules* unless either the body of the lion or the field are *gules* in which case it is *azure*.
- 2. But this is widely ignored by authorities like Burke: if the claws and tongue are the same as the rest of the lion, they do not mention them. In this approach it is <u>assumed</u> that they are the same as the body, unless otherwise stated.

Simple common sense favours option 2, with the instructions mentioned in option 1 coming into play as defaults only if the claws and tongue are a different tincture from the body.

So, in the forthcoming sections I will always mention the tinctures of claws and tongue if different from that of the body, but not otherwise.

Note that the four lions above are armed argent and langued gules.



Or a lion rampant azure (Percy)



Or a lion rampant sable armed and langued gules



Or a lion rampant gules armed, langued and ducally crowned azure



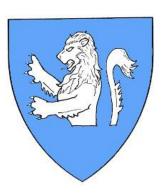
Argent a lion rampant sable armed argent and ducally gorged and chained or

The Demi-Lion

The demi-lion crops up quite frequently. It is normally the top half of a lion rampant with tail separate.

Famously it occurs in the arms of Joan de Geneville, wife of Roger Mortimer 1st earl of March.

Azure three horse barnacles in pale or, on a chief ermine a demi-lion gules

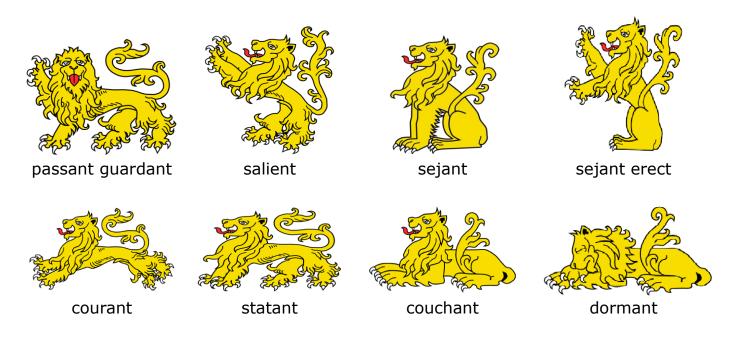




Other Attitudes

The most common pose for a lion, after *rampant* is *passant* where three of its feet are on the ground. And the most common attitude for a *lion passant* is *quardant*.

Here are several other attitudes that occur, including these.



The Lion Coward

The *lion coward* has its tail between its legs.

It is of particular significance for members of the Mortimer History because *a white lion coward* was an important badge of the Mortimers and, later, the Yorkists.

The lion is uncrowned and the fact that it is shown coward does not indicate cowardice, but rather submission to the king.

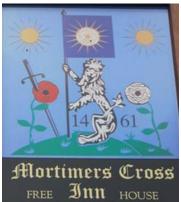
It was much used by Edward IV, either in the *sejant* or *erect sejant* position, holding a flag bearing Mortimer or Yorkist badges,

The White Lion of Mortimer has come down to the present day as one of the King's Beasts – see opposite.





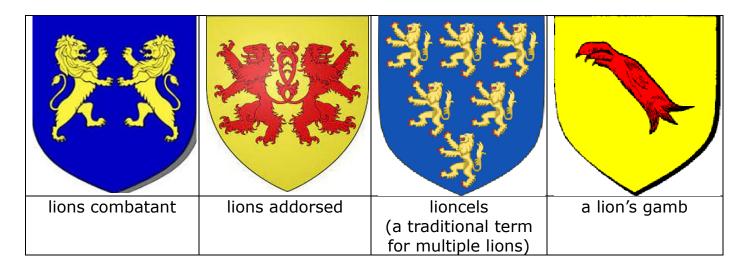








Multiple Lions and a Part of One

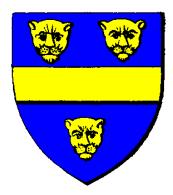


Lions and Leopards

Traditionally the word *lion* meant what we now call a *lion rampant*. More horizontal representations would be called leopards, particularly the one we now call a *lion passant*.

But leopards have not disappeared completely from modern heraldry. The term is used to describe the face of a lion without neck. Sometimes these cats' heads are shown spotted to indicate a leopard, but often not.

When a fleur-de-lis has been forced through a leopard's head, emerging behind it, the leopard is said to be *jessant-de-lis*.



azure a fess between three leopards' heads or

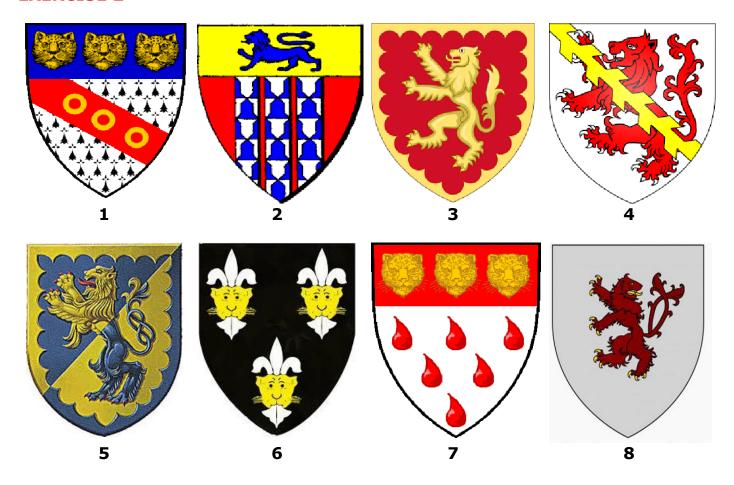


A leopard's head or jessant-d-lys azure



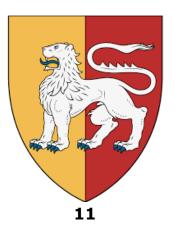
Gules three leopards' heads reversed jessant-de-lys or

EXERCISE 2











ANSWERS

Exercise 1

- 1. Or a bend invected gules
- 2. Gules a fret argent overall a bend vair
- 3. Per pale argent and ermine three bars gules
- 4. Argent on a chevron engrailed gules three crosses paty of the first
- 5. Per pale indented barry of six argent and gules and barry of six gules and argent
- 6. Barry nebuly of six argent and gules on a bend sable three bezants
- 7. Azure on a cross moline or a lozenge of the first
- 8. Ermine a cross argent fimbriated azure
- 9. Sable a cross paty or voided
- 10. Argent three bars wavy azure on a chief indented gules a saltire between two mullets argent
- 11. Very tricky, how about this Azure crusily fitchy or on a bend of the first fimbriated engrailed three eagles displayed of the second
- 12. Gules two spears in saltire points upwards between three fleurs-de-lys and in base three annulets or jewelled azure

Exercise 2

- 1. Ermine on a bend gules three annulets or, on a chief azure three leopards' heads gold
- 2. Gules three pallets vair, on a chief or a lion passant azure
- 3. Gules a lion rampant within a bordure engrailed or (Talbot)
- 4. Argent a lion rampant gules armed argent overall a bend raguly or
- 5. Per bend sinister azure and or, a lion salient armed and langued gules within a bordure engrailed all counterchanged
- 6. Sable three leopards' heads or jessant-de-lis argent
- 7. Argent six gouttes de sang 3, 2 and 1, on a chief gules three leopards' heads or

- 8. Argent a lion rampant double-queued regardant gules
- 9. Vert a sword palewise or between two lions rampant ermine armed and langued gules addorsed
- 10. Per fess sable and argent a lion rampant regardant and queue-fourchée counterchanged, armed and langued gules, ducally crowned or
- 11. Per pale or and gules a lion statant argent armed and langued azure
- 12. Per fess azure and vert in chief a lion dormant and in base three mullets or