

## PARTS OF A COAT OF ARMS

**Ribbon & Motto-** A ribbon could be placed above the entire coat of arms or at the bottom of the shield. A motto (short goal or idea) is placed on the ribbon.

**Crest-** On some coats of arms a crest is included that almost always sets on top of a Torse.

**Torse-** Twisted fabrics make up a Torse that contains the same colors as the shield and one color of metal (gold or silver). The Torse sits on the helm or helmet, and some say it is there to hold the Mantling in place.

**Mantling-** (this is usually on a coat of arms only if there is also a helm or helmet shown)- The Mantling may represent the tattered hooded capes or cloaks worn by a warrior after battle and is usually all one color on a coat of arms.

**Helm-** Helm and helmet are the same thing and different helmets symbolize specific classes such as Bards, Earls, and Peers.

**Supporter-** Typically the supporters are humans or animals that hold the shield on either side.

**Compartment-** The compartment is the area on the coat of arms at the bottom of the shield. The compartment is there to hold the shield up and in many cases it is made to look like the ground.

**Shield and Arms-** The shield and arms make up the design on the shield itself. Traditionally, a woman's shield would have been in the shape of a diamond, instead of the shape seen below. Since a coat of arms was an honor given to a specific person, each one was unique. Pieces of a coat of arms might be used in a family emblem, however, individuals who were given this award could have an emblem different from their family's coat of arms.

