

# Heraldry From Non-Heraldic Cultures

by Daniel L Lind (Sneferu sa Djedi mewetif Merit)

Heraldry began as simple battlefield display. Pretty much all cultures need to identify friend from foe. When armies got big enough and tactics became complex, soldiers needed to be able to tell one group of friends from another. All we mean when we say “heraldic culture” is any culture that regulated this system.

The SCA uses a heavily modified form of the Anglo-Norman system. The reason for this is that the SCA started in an English speaking country and many of the books on English and French heraldry are written in English. Over the years this system has become pretty good at describing shields. And the wording gets tested all the time by scribes who want to paint heraldry on award scrolls. So we have to make this stuff understandable to non-heralds.

One of the awesome side benefits of this is that we can use the SCA heraldry system to describe plenty of non Anglo-Norman shields. We can use it to describe German and Spanish heraldry, Scottish heraldry, even Italian and Polish heraldry. And that ability to describe shields and banners doesn't stop when we run out of European cultures. I've used SCA terminology to describe Asian, African, and Native American heraldry. In this class we will look at shields from several non-heraldic cultures and blazon them using SCA heraldry terms.

# Where to Look

Unlike modern warfare with satellite tracking and laser sighting systems, period battlefield identification was limited to visual and sonic identifiers. Examples of the sonic stuff include battle cries and drum rhythms. Those can be incorporated, but are not part of this class. We're going to focus on shields and banners. So we start by looking for period depictions of period shields and banners. Such things include tapestries, carvings, scrolls, books, paintings, and etc. Any depiction of a period battle can be useful, but pictures are easier to interpret than text.

# What to Look For

- Reoccurring patterns
- Colors, unique color combinations
- Unique shield shapes

# Egypt - Model soldiers from the tomb of Mesehti



## Reoccurring patterns

- Thin border with dots
- Line of diamonds
- Blotchy fur

## Colors

- Brown
- Tan
- Red
- Black
- Possibly yellow

## Unique shield shapes

- Pointed tombstone

# Sources for Mezoamerican heraldry

Codex Telleriano-Remensis - Produced in sixteenth century Mexico and printed on European paper, is one of the finest surviving examples of Aztec manuscript painting.

<http://www.famsi.org/research/loubat/Telleriano-Remensis/thumbs0.html>

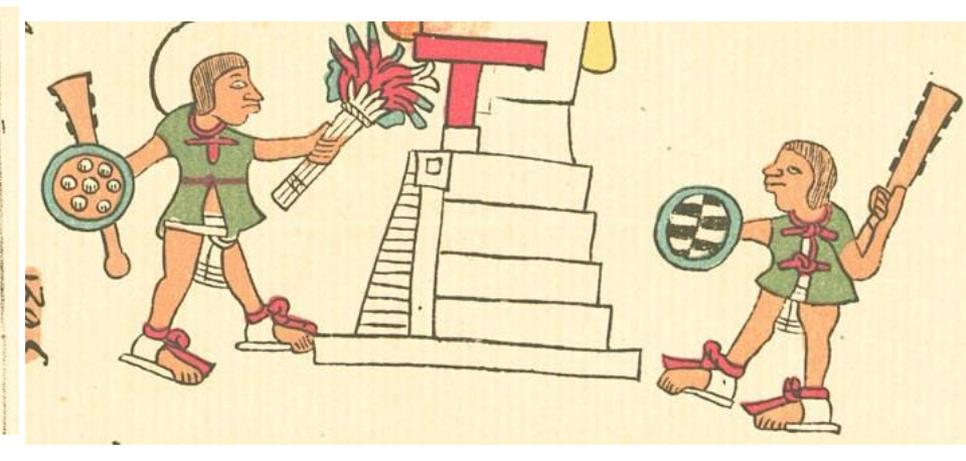
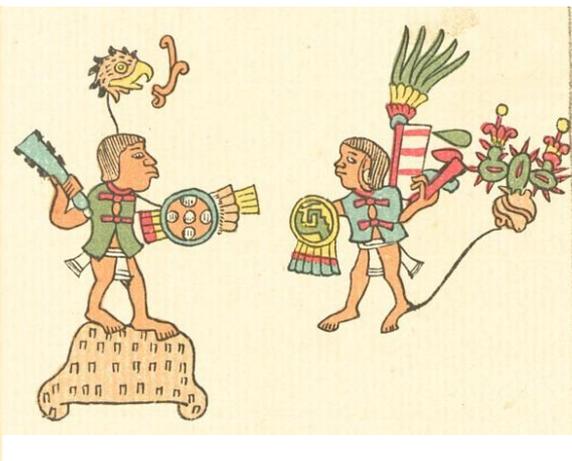
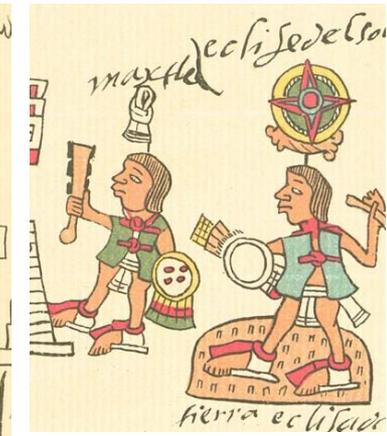
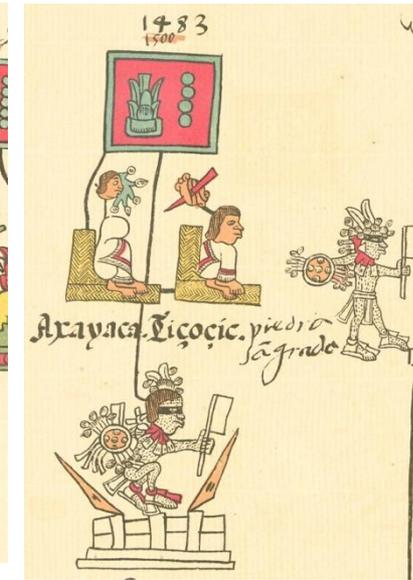
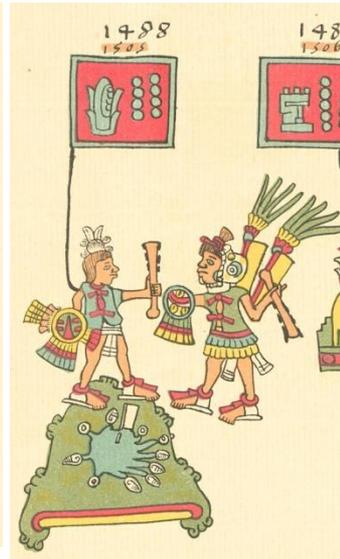
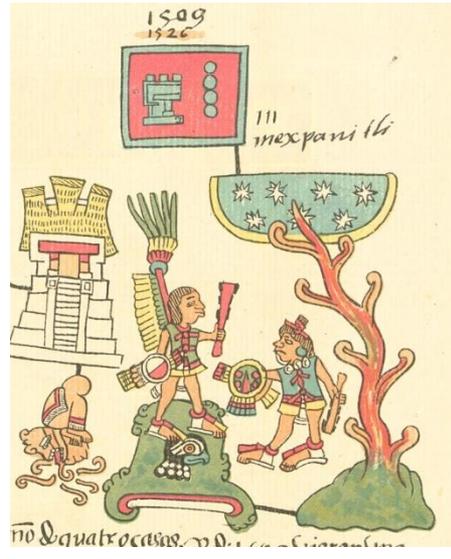
Codex Mendoza - an Aztec codex, created fourteen years after the 1521 Spanish conquest of Mexico

<http://hyperallergic.com/177110/a-historic-manuscript-on-aztec-life-is-virtually-repatriated/>

Historia general de las cosas de Nueva España (The Florentine Codex) - a 16th-century ethnographic research project in Mesoamerica by Franciscan friar Bernardino de Sahagún

<http://www.wdl.org/en/item/10096/view/1/1/>

# Codex Telleriano-Remensis



# Florentine Codex



# more of the Florentine Codex



# African Tribal Shields - Zulu



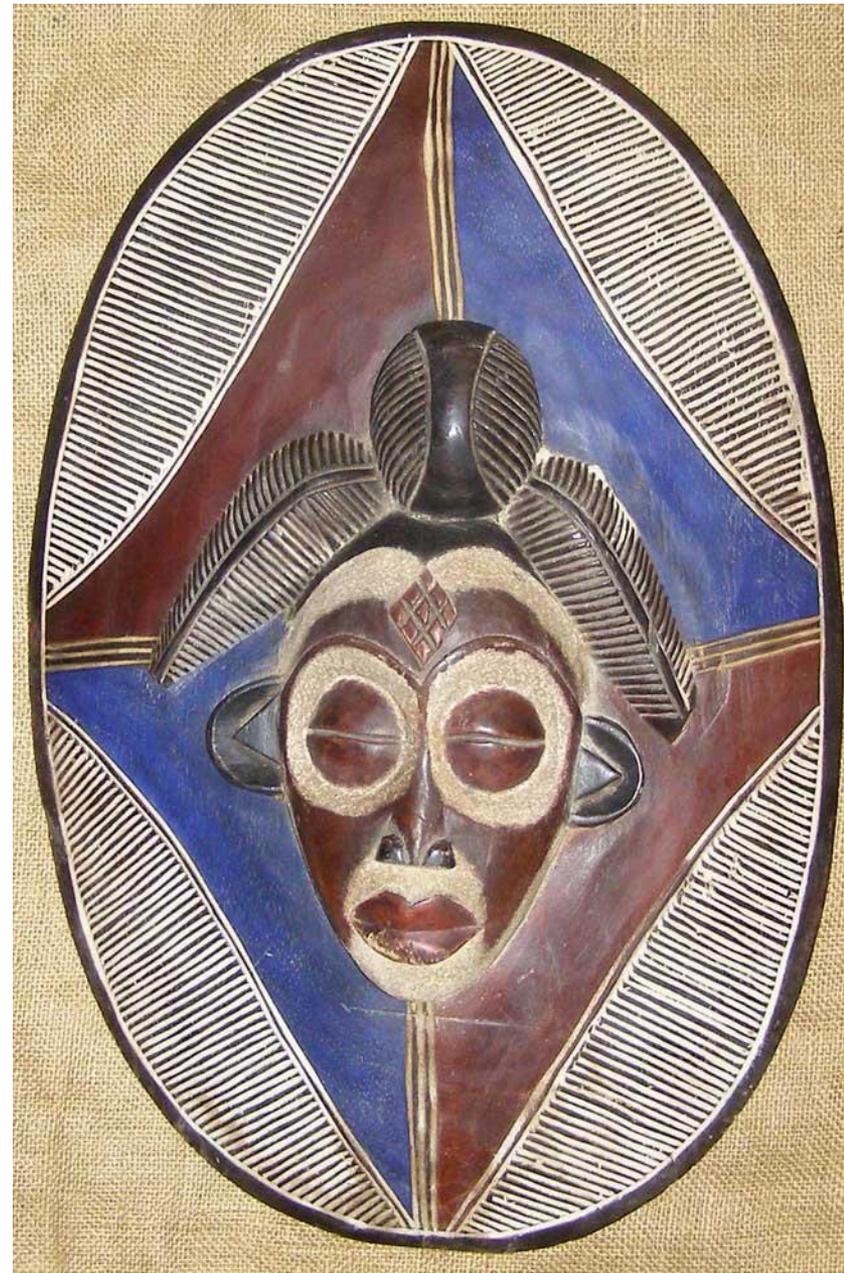
# African Tribal Shields - Songye



# African Tribal Shields

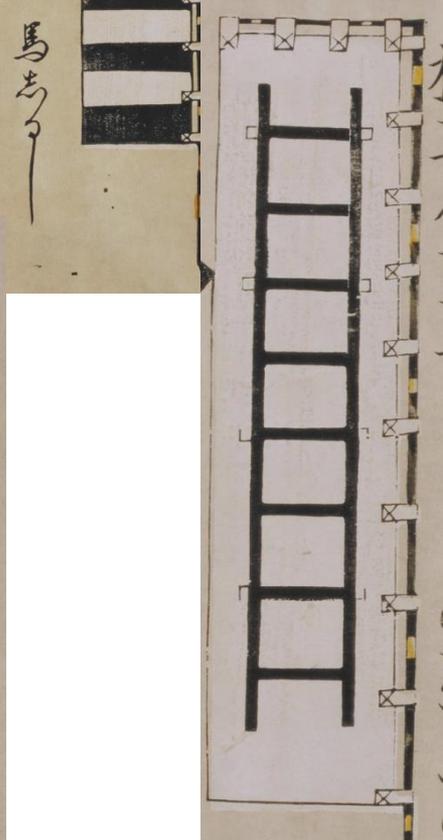
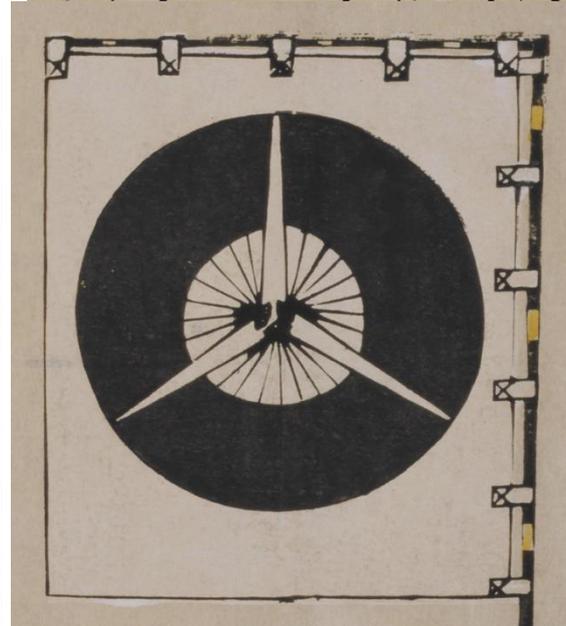
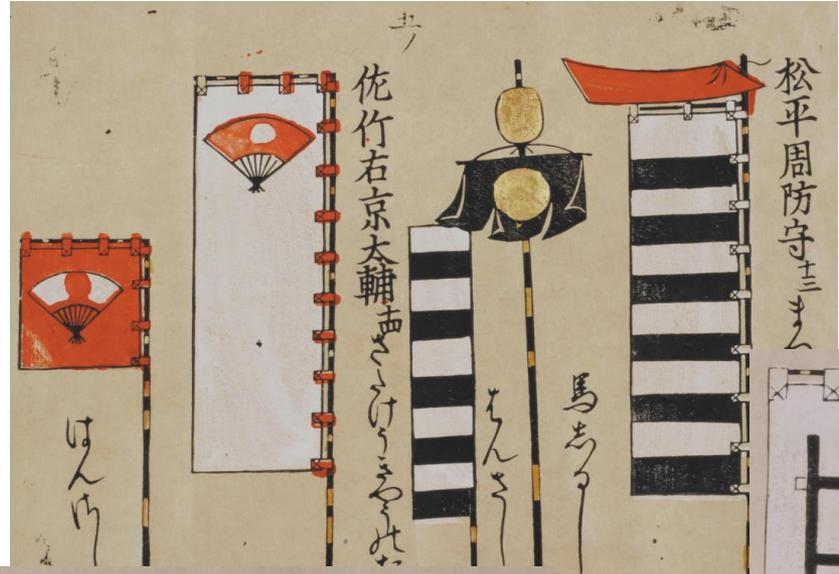
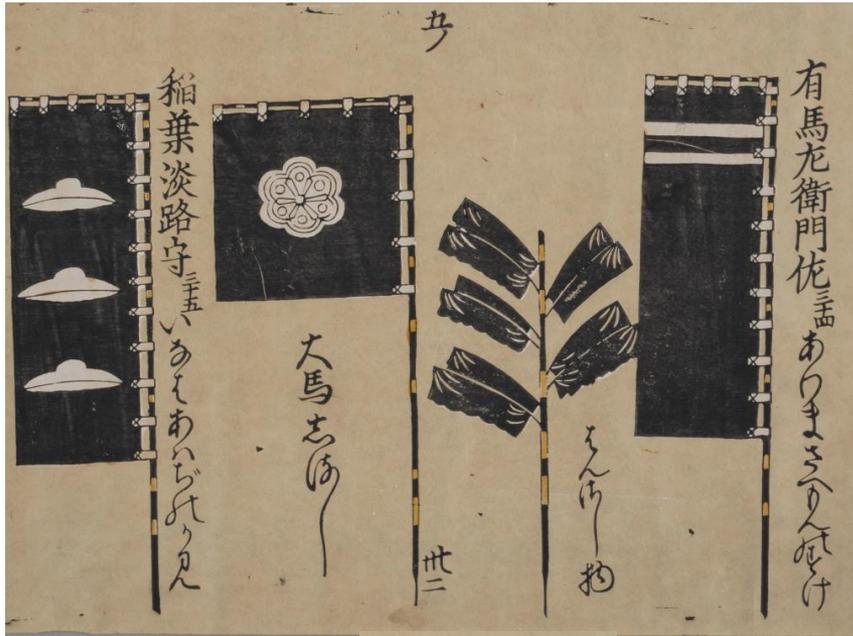
Punu

Yoruba



# Japanese Heraldry from O-umajirushi

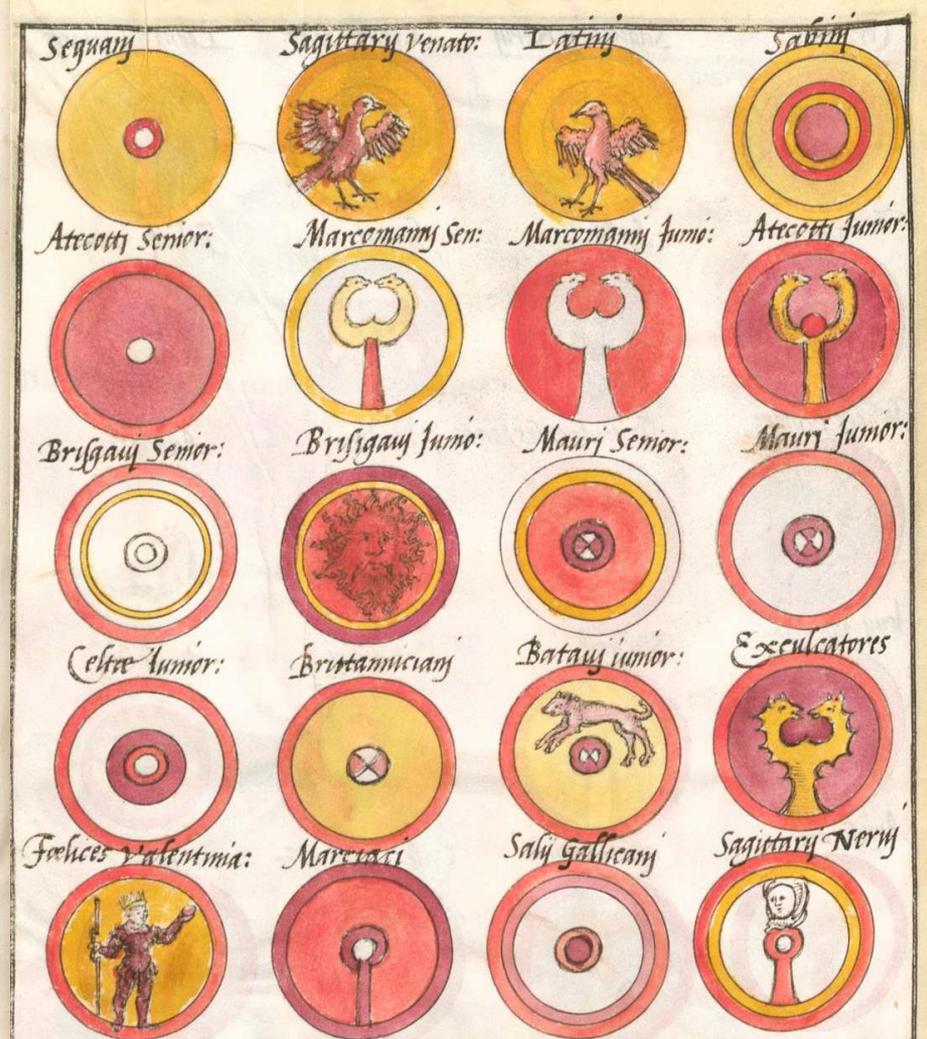
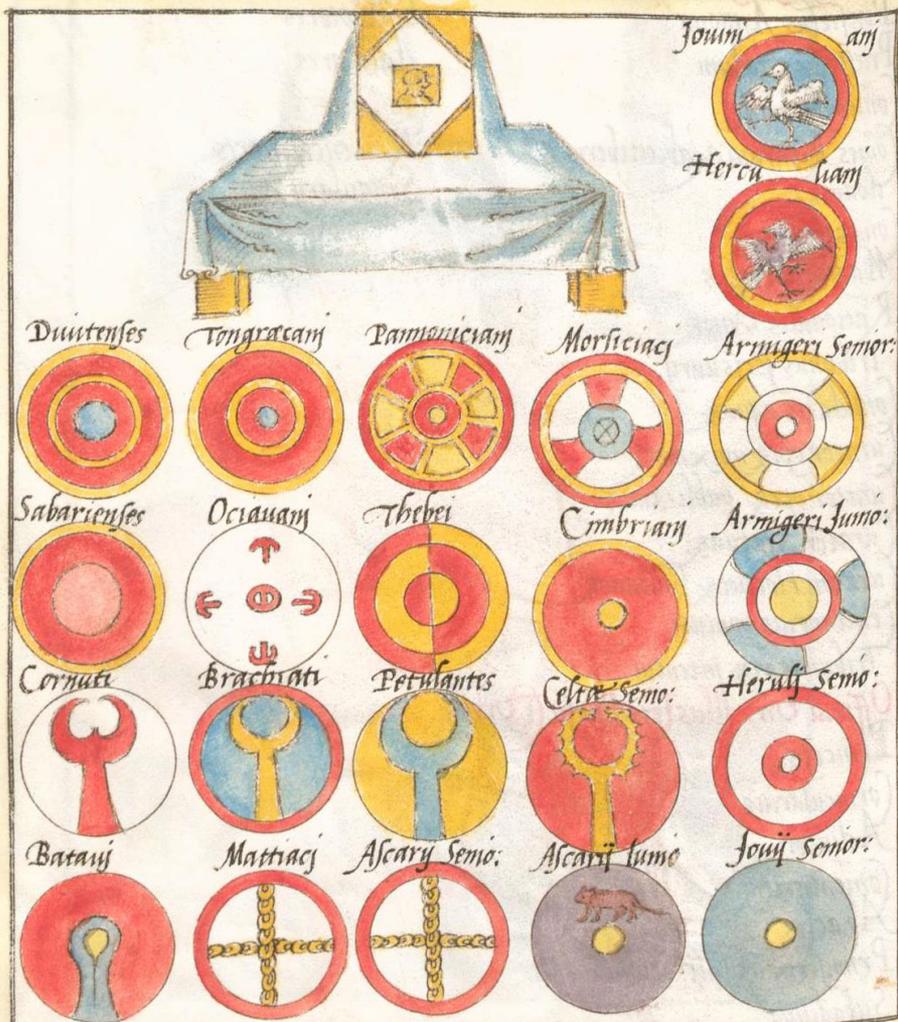
<http://o-umajirushi.xavid.us/>



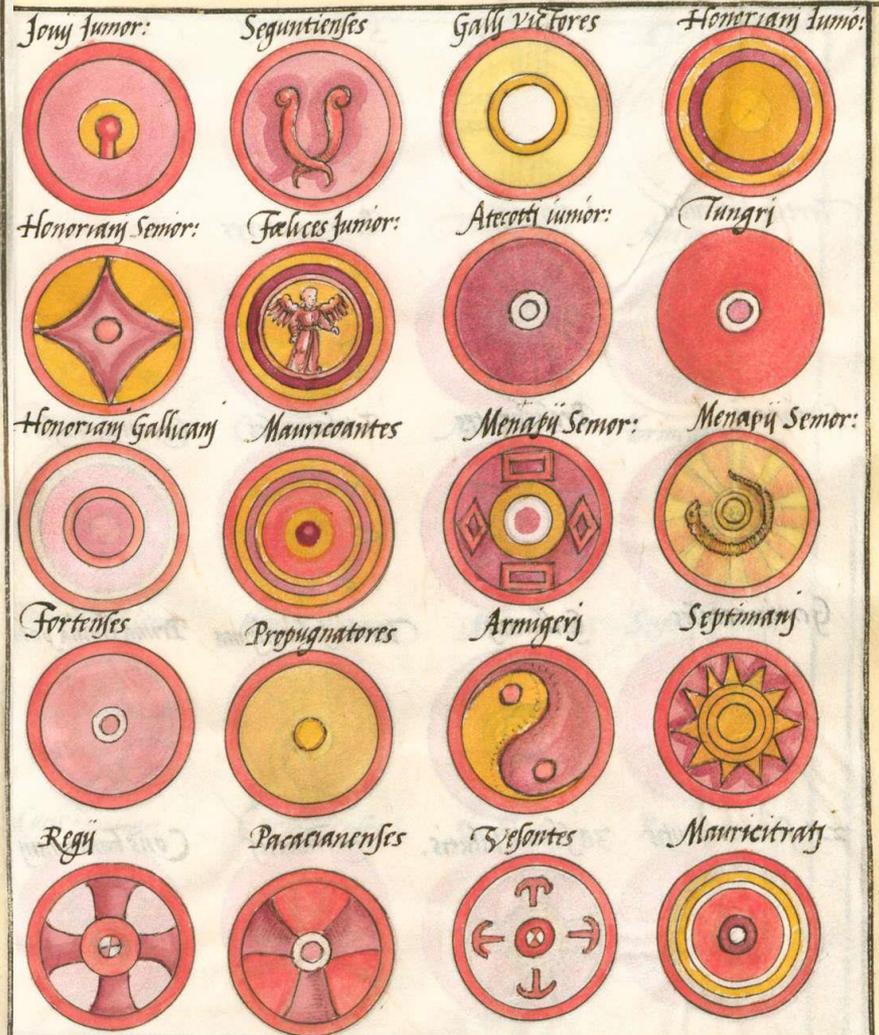
# Roman Shields from Notitia Dignitatum

A 1542 CE copy of a 400 CE Roman manuscript

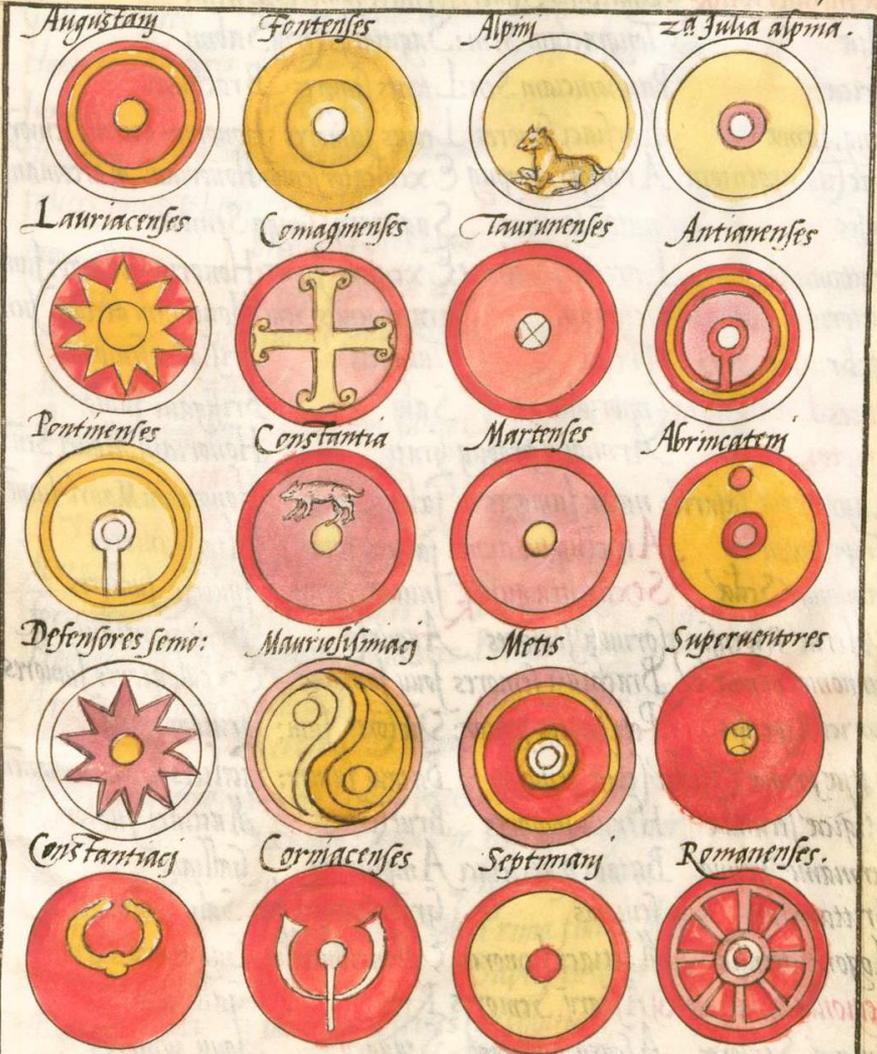
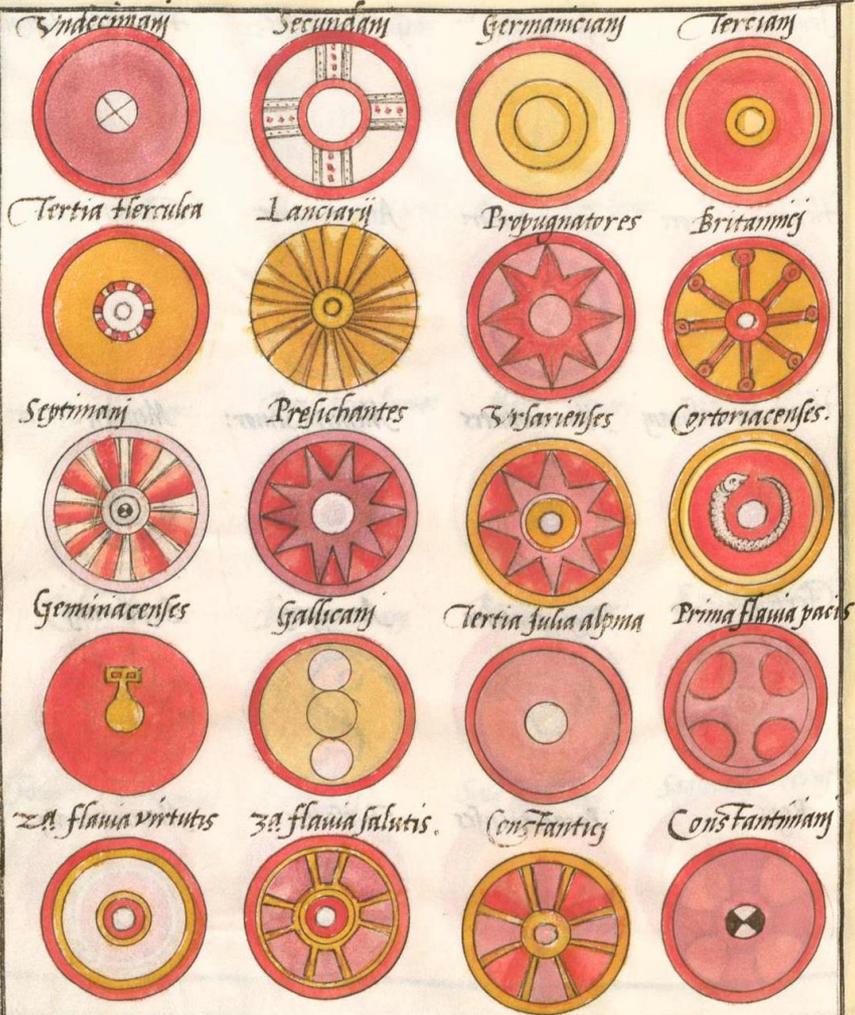
<http://bildsuche.digitale-sammlungen.de/index.html?c=viewer&lv=1&bandnummer=bsb00005863&pimage=00005863&suchbegriff=&l=en>



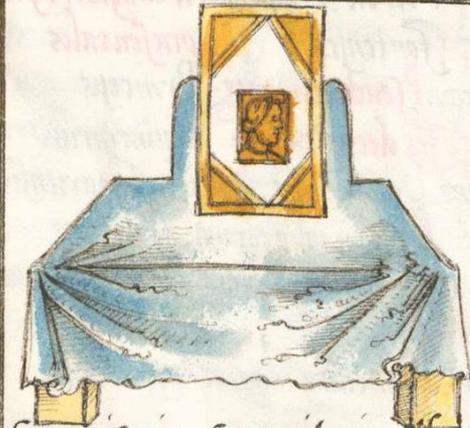
# more Notitia Dignitatum



# more Notitia Dignitatum

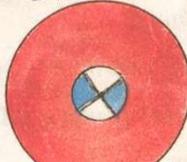


# more Notitia Dignitatum



Comites

Promoti



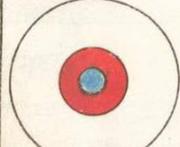
Brachiati

Bataui Seniores



Cornuti Senio: Cornuti Junio: Alani

Bataui Junio: Valentianenses



Stabliesiani

Marcomanni

Armigeri

Cibinarij

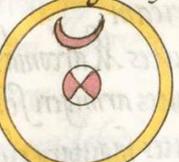
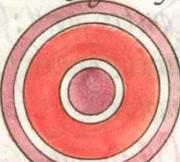


Parthi Senor:

Primosagitarij

Secdo Sagitarij

Tertij Sagitarij

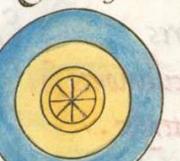


Quarto Sagitarij

Parthi Junior:

Citrati Senior:

Comites Junior:



Promoti Junior:

Sagitarij Junior:

Citrati Junior:

Honoriani Junior:

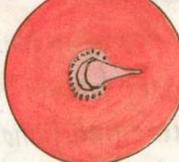
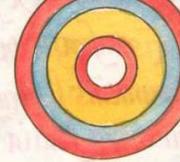


Armigeri Junior:

Scutarii

Stabliesiani

Corduenj.



# Ottoman cintemani

