

Shields of Middle-earth

The following notes give the references (I have chosen the most detailed) for each shield, from LotR (hardbacked 3 vols) and point out any additions I have made. I would be grateful if anyone finding references adding details which I have missed would point these out to me.

Rohan

"Helms too they chose, and round shields: their bosses were overlaid with gold and set with gems, green and red and white.....and a small shield he also took. It bore the running horse, white upon green, that was the emblem of the House of Eorl." (1)

Additions: The hunting horn to balance the shield. This is necessary because of the boss. I used this symbol because the horn goes with the Rohirrim along with the horse. Eorl had a great horn (2), the great horn of Helm struck terror into the hearts of the enemy at Helm's Deep (3) and Erkenbrand "blew a ringing blast" on a great black horn as he reached the valley's brink (4). These are only a few examples of the horns of the Rohirrim.

Mordor

"and they have round shields, yellow and black with big spikes" (5). These are the shields of the men from the South who were going to fight for Mordor. I am sure there are other references to the shields of Mordor but I cannot find them. I am pretty sure, however, that they bear the mark of the Eye, but that each different division in Mordor's ranks probably had their own variations. My illustration is the basic shield, taken from the front cover of LotR. Thus the southerners could add spikes to their shields.

Gondor

"in Gondor the seven stars were set about a white-flowered tree, over which the Kings set a winged crown." (6)

"but behind the highest throne in the midst of all a great standard was spread in the breeze, and there a white tree flowered upon a sable field beneath a shining crown and seven glittering stars." (7)

"but the royal banner had been sable, upon which was displayed a white tree in blossom beneath seven stars." (8)

The last two references speak of the banners and the standard but the shield would be emblazoned the same as these.

Dol Amroth

"And last and proudest, Imrahil, Prince of Dol Amroth, kinsman of the Lord with gilded banners bearing his token of the Ship and the Silver Swan." (9)

Addition: a silver chevronel to separate the ship and the swan.

Stewards

"They bore a white rod only as the token of their office; and their banner was white without charge." (10)

- Helen Kerley.

((Ed's note: I have added to the references the Ballantine paperback pages numbers, as this is used in the USA where the great majority of work on Tolkien has been published))

(1) TT: A&E p127 / Ballantine p161

(2) TT: p116/p148

(3) TT: p146/p185

(4) TT: p147/p186

(5) TT: p254/p321

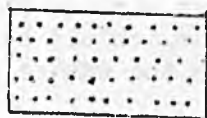
(6) ROTK: p440/

(7) ROTK: p231/p285

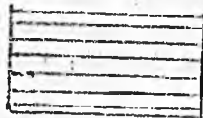
(8) ROTK: p333/p414

(9) ROTK: p43/p50

KEY TO HERALDIC COLOURS USED



Or-gold/yellow



Azure-blue



Argent-silver/white



Sable-black



Gules-red



Vert-green

THE PROFESSOR AT OXFORD.

So he'll go to Merton, where he was,
 In scholarly retirement, as is met,
 Like Bilbo in Rivendell, to sit by a pillar,
 Listening to the Elves in the common-room,
 And turning the pages of that Great Red Book.

Or sometimes, in the snug of the 'Bird and Baby',
 He'll raise his glass to Inklings and friends long gone,
 Charles Williams, Lewis, Dorothy Sayers,
 All, all now stolen away to the Grey Havens.

But if you, from your scurrying car,
 Should see him in the High or the Turl or the Broad,
 You will see only the tired old Hobbit---
 Or is it Gandalf, puffing at his pipe?
 You will not see the Fellowship marching behind him,
 Or Galadriel's pale face over his shoulder,
 Or between his upraised fingers
 The yellow glory of Lothlorien---
 Not here, but in his books where he placed them for you---
 Go home and read again.

But for him, let there be old-fashioned tranquility, By
 By the carven windows, a serene evening,
 In the Last Homely House---
 For so it may indeed,
 The Last Homely House--in all this strange new world.



V.C.

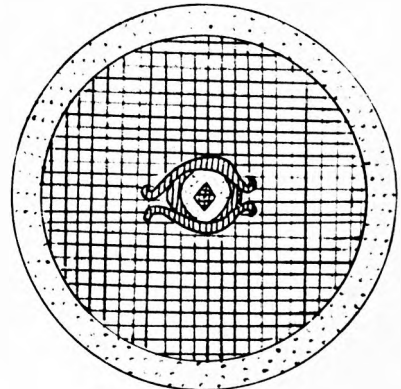
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Shields of Middle Earth

ROTHA MORDOR

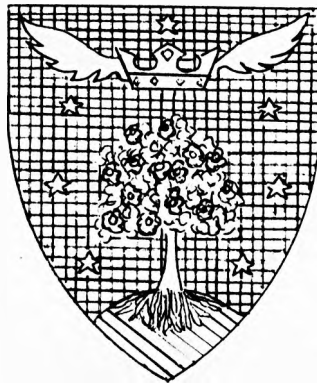


Vert; in chief a Hunting Horn argent, in base a Horse courant of the second.



Sable; an eye gules within a bordure or

GONDOR



Sable; on a Mount vert, a Tree argent; in chief a Winged Saxon Crown; all surrounded by seven Mulletts also of the second.

DOJ ANROTH STEWARDS



Azure; a Chevronel argent between a Ship in full sail of the second and a Swan with wings elevated also of the second



A shield argent