

SIGNS, SYMBOLS, ICONS

chapter I



DEFINITIONS:

Something that stands for something else
In general Word, symbols and icons are
SIGNS.

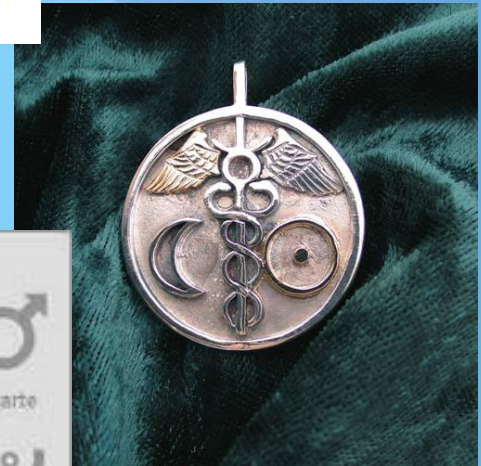
•***Icon***

A representation of reality related to the original shape which is very easy to understand with no hidden meaning.

•***Symbol***

It is more abstract than an icon. A symbol can contain different layers of meanings.

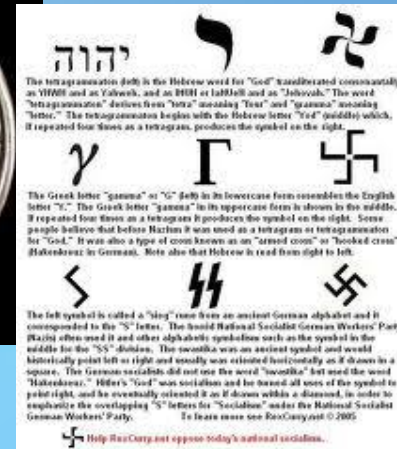
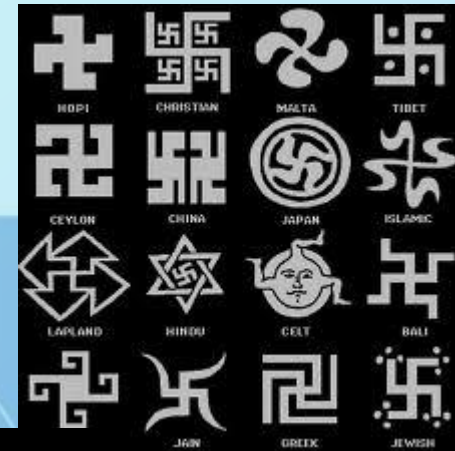
In the early days of alchemy, the astronomical signs of the planets were also used as alchemical symbols. Then in the centuries of medieval persecution every alchemist invented his own secret symbols.



NONWORD SYMBOLS

But the most common use of the term symbol in everyday, nontechnical language is for signs that are non word, eg, a flag or totem animal as the symbol of a country, the cross of Christianity or Star of David for Judaism, the swastika for Nazism, a particular type of font for specific products (logos) etc.

NONWORDS SYMBOLS ARE MUCH LIKE WORD BUT OFTEN LACK A PHONETIC FORM.



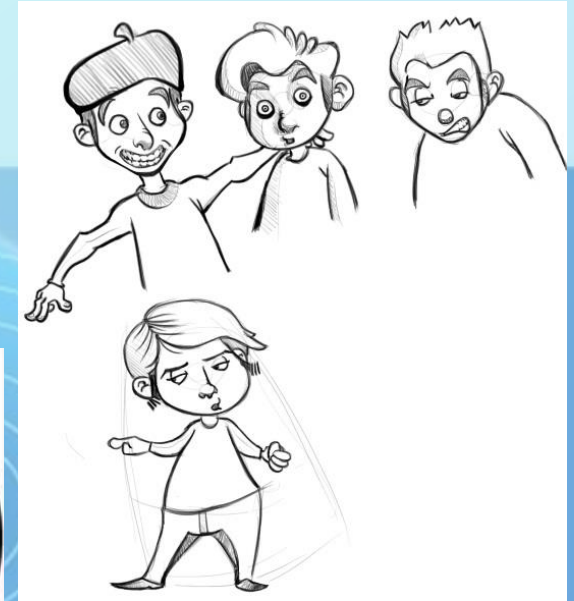
ICON

It is the simplest image of anything,
the sketched shape, a pattern.

A picture of your face is an icon of you

The picture of a smoking cigarette
with a diagonal bar across the picture
is an icon that directly represents:
“Smoking? Don’t do it!”

Humans can recognize a little picture
of something but it doesn’t mean that
any other animal could.
In the case of symbols and icons, the
cultural context is very important.



CONCLUSION

The term sign is often used for
ICONS AND SYMBOLS.

They differ in that icons have a
direct relationship between the
shape and **the meaning**.

Symbol is an arbitrary pattern
that gets its meaning primarily
from its **mental association** with
other symbols and in second
place, from its correlation with
the environment or **context**.



SIGNS, SYMBOLS, ICONS

chapter II



Mythological animals

•*CENTAUR*

Half man, half horse, it means freedom, and the savage and rebellious traits that live inside us.

•*DRAGONS*

The legend says that they live in the underground and they have lungs of fire, bird wings and fish scales.

In Eastern cultures, such as Chinese, it represents the best element possible. For Celts, the dragon is a beast, the animal that drags virgins to its coves representing the worst human instincts.

•*MEDUSA*

A very beautiful woman, she was caught by goodess Atenea making love in her temple and because of this, Atenea turned her into a witch with the hair of serpents who stunned anybody who she looked at.



•*Pegasus*

It is a winged horse that comes from Medusa's blood when Perseus killed her.

Pegasus symbolizes the human race's eagerness for freedom.



•*Mermaids*

Very beautiful women who in the beginning had feathers instead of fish tails. By means of their songs, mermaids attract sailors towards cliffs in order to cause their ships to be wrecked.



•*Phoenix*

It is the fire spirit that appears in South American, European and Eastern mythology. This bird dies and rises from the ashes with the promise of eternal youth.



SYMBOLS IN COAT OF ARMS

•Cockerel

It means pride and courage. From inmemorial times, it is the symbol of resurrection.

•Eagle

The spirit of the Sun , the beginning of everything, the origin of the day. The letter "A" in egyptian hieroglyphics is represented by an eagle. It is air and fire at same time and It also represents the father figure and men in general.

It is very usual to see it on crests and flags such as happened in Spain where the eagle is Hasburg family`s coat of arms.

•Swan

A very famous symbol because of the legend of Leda and the Swan. It symbolizes the love for the gods, for poetry and music. In white, it represents immortality.



*Escudo de
Boulogne*



*una de las banderas
de la ciudad*

•*Fleur de Lys*

It is essentially a stylized flower, and serves as a decorative element and became associated over time with royalty, especially in the High Middle Ages. The Lilly flower had strong religious connotations, especially with the Virgin Mary. As a heraldic charge, it dates from the 12th century. It was first adopted by the French king Philippe II.



•*Stars*

The star symbolizes honour, achievement and hope. Stars with wavy points are emblems of God.



Lions

A star depicted on a coat of arms, in some cases, may represent a falling star and denote a divine quality.

The lion, like the eagle, symbolizes dominance, and also power and leadership. It is related to the Sun and to gold. It is a male symbol.



Wikipedia:

"In [heraldry](#), the **Royal Arms of England**^[1] is a [coat of arms](#) symbolising [England](#) and [its monarchs](#).^[2] Its [blazon](#) (technical description) is *Gules three lions passant guardant in pale Or armed and langued Azure*,^{[3][4]} meaning three identical gold [lions](#) with blue tongues and claws, walking and facing the observer, arranged in a column on a red background. This coat, designed in the [High Middle Ages](#), has been variously combined with those of France, Scotland, Ireland, [Nassau](#) and [Hanover](#), according to dynastic and other political changes affecting England, but has not itself been altered since the reign of [Richard I](#)."

