

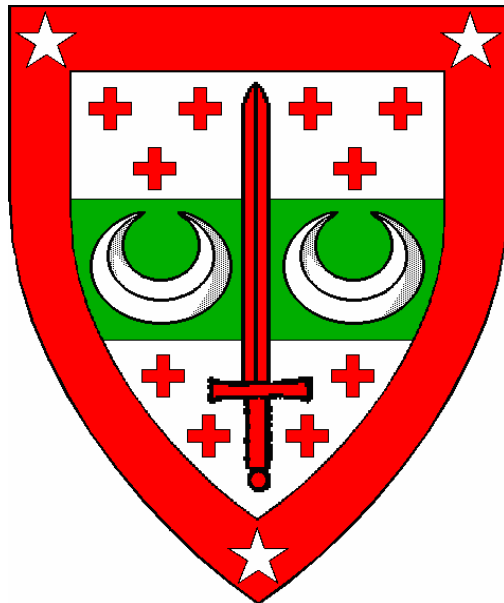
Charge Group Taxonomy

By Lady Pipa Sparkes

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Charge Group: A set of charges used together in a design as a single unit (*Glossary of Terms, 2003*).

| | On the field? | On another charge? | Centrally located? | Follows the edge? | Notes |
|-------------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--|
| Primary | Yes | No | Yes | No | Most visually important, usually first charge blazoned. Non-overall ordinaries passing through device center are automatically primary. Can include semy. |
| Secondary | Yes | No | No | *No | Located on the field and arranged around the Primary Charge Group. Includes cotises. *Peripheral charges are a sub-set of secondary. Can include semy. |
| Tertiary | No | Yes | Sometimes | No | Always on top of other charges AND <u>not</u> touching the field. Can include semy. |
| Overall | Partially | Partially | Sometimes | No | Lies on top of a charge and on the field on both sides of the charge. Considered ON the field. Is <u>never</u> the primary charge. Only one overall charge group allowed in a single device. |
| Peripheral | Yes | No | No | Yes | Includes: chief, bordure, base, quarter, canton, gyron, orle, double-tressure, flaunches. Considered ON the field. DOES NOT include gores & gussets. |



In the device, *Argent crusilly gules, on a fess vert 2 crescents argent, overall a sword within a bordure gules charged with 3 mullets argent*, the charge groups are as follows:

Primary charge group: fess vert

Secondary charge group: crusilly gules

Tertiary charge group A: 2 crescents argent

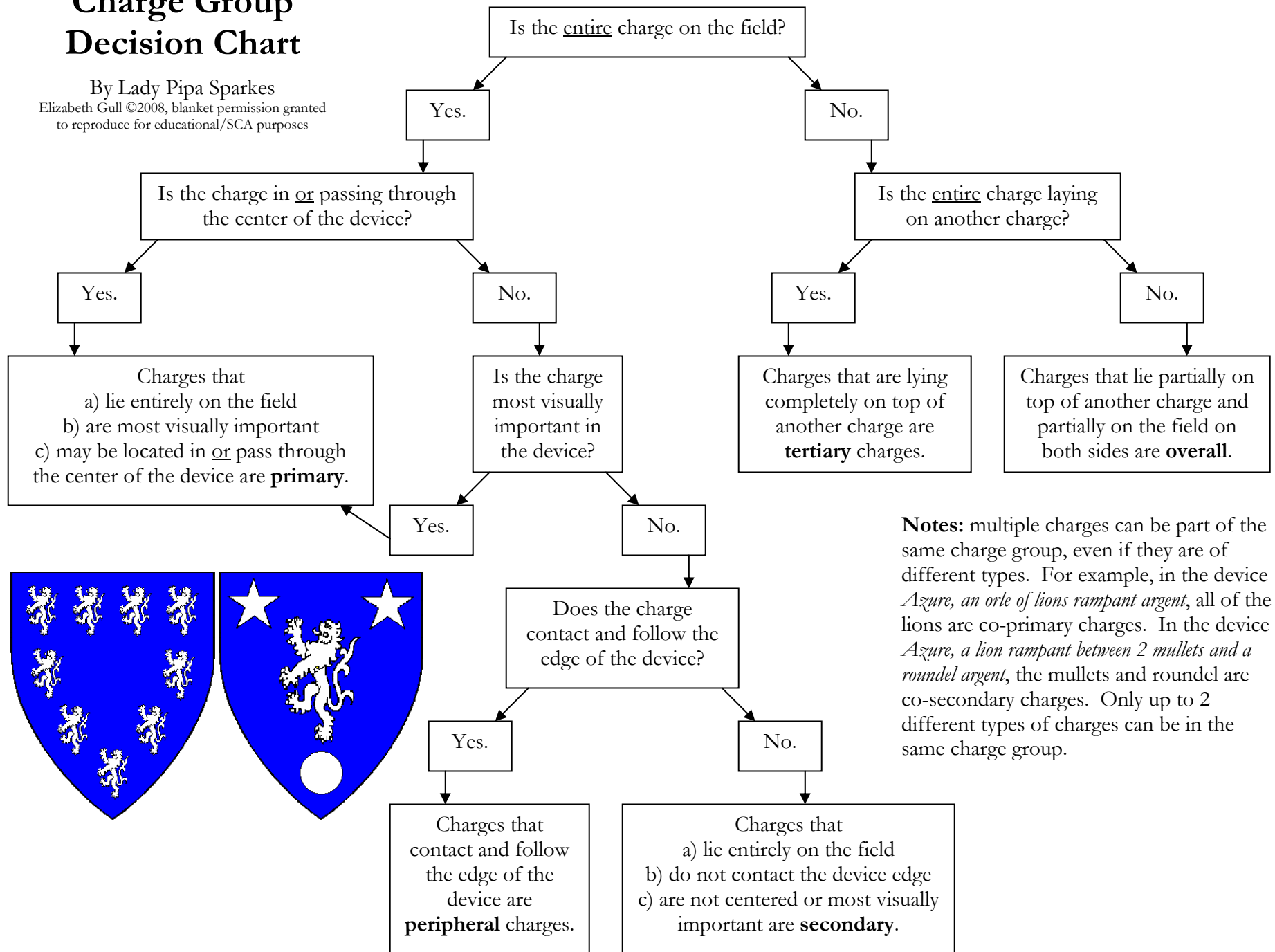
Tertiary charge group B: 3 mullets argent

Overall charge group: sword gules

Peripheral charge group: bordure gules

Charge Group Decision Chart

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Notes: multiple charges can be part of the same charge group, even if they are of different types. For example, in the device *Azure, an orle of lions rampant argent*, all of the lions are co-primary charges. In the device *Azure, a lion rampant between 2 mullets and a roundel argent*, the mullets and roundel are co-secondary charges. Only up to 2 different types of charges can be in the same charge group.