Steen Clemmensen

Introduction to the survey of medieval armorials

which is based on

ORDINARY of MEDIEVAL ARMORIALS
version 2.0 (pdf)

**miscellaneous notes and sigla
on
armorials and manuscripts**

CONTENTS of the introduction

The present version of the *Ordinary* include 87.185 items (coats of arms) from 33.163 branches (or *variants of coats of arms*) from 17.756 'families' (incl. towns, abbeys, territories, imaginary arms) and 3.921 synonyms from 256 armorials, noted *in toto* or *in parte* with 11.795 different combinations of figures-of-arms. 5.325 shields are composite (with multiple quarters). It also includes 16.734 + 127 crests and an additional 3.244 figure combinations used for crests.

The survey of armorials mentions 542 armorials of all types plus 130 synonyms and spurious armorials.

The following files containing the actual data is part of the pdf-version of the *Ordinary*:
- Families (name variants, origin, notes, references, entries in armorials), the spelling of the name may have been 'normalized' in order to ease searching;
- Ordinary of arms, based on the blazon in English, colours and figures are split;
- Ordinary of crests;
- Survey of armorials and manuscripts, and the sigla used;
- References, including collections of seals, bibliography of works cited, territories / marches d'armes, abbreviations used in general incl. for key persons cited;
- Multi-language dictionary of terms used in blazon.

No ordinary or *Index armorum* in French has been included in this version, but the 2006 French index is appended as a separate file.

AUTHOR's FOREWORD

This ordinary, first published in 2006, is a by-product of my ongoing study of medieval armorials and how and why they were made. As such, it is basically a slightly revised version of my notes, collected into a database as I became able to peruse manuscripts, transcriptions and printed editions. The reader will find that the structure of the ordinary and the way of presenting the contents are very note-like. It has been left as such, primarily to save time and effort, but also to accommodate further updates and expansion.

Though the notes and the database have evolved and expanded considerably over the years, it is still based on a few guiding principles or observations laid down at the beginning, and the reader must be aware that several early entries have not been revised and reflect the state of my knowledge and approach at the time of entry. I most cases only superficial research have been done on an item, before moving on to the next.

The first observation is that compilers, scribes and painters, be they professional heralds, amateur armorists or artisans, are fallible human beings and make mistakes or follow their own whims in expressing what they observe. Consequently, one must expect any coat of arms to appear in several versions, e.g. in courtesy or laterally reversed; have their colours inverted; be paly, barry, bendy or have any number of pales, bars or bends; the lions to have crowns, knotted or forked tails, be rampant, passant, guardant - or not; a rose might be a cinquefoil and a leaf might take any form. In my opinion such minor variants are without substantial meaning. The main problem is to decide which form might be the basic or main form used during the Middle Ages. In reality, this is a nearly hopeless task, but it has had the practical consequence that in several early entries, no difference has been made between crowned and uncrowned beasts. Not all of these entries have been revised.

The second observation is that many variations are systematic. Crowns, beaks, claws, stems and leaves and centres of roses have colourings that depend on the colouring of the field and charges - and all unimportant colourings have been omitted. Another instance of systematic variation is due to the medieval compiler's place of living or rather of training. In England and other territories having mainly French-derived blazonry most horizontal partitions would be expressed as *per chief*, while in German-influenced areas (e.g. Germany-Austria, Holland and Scandinavia) it would be *per fess*. In the database such items are entered as *per chief*, e.g. 'coupé et lion brochant' will be 'lion & chef' and 'per fess with mullet in chief' will be 'chief ch. mullet'. One notable exception is *per fess & lion* for the animal superimposed on the partition. The reader should be aware that *lion & chief* is a common variant of this - as are the *bend & chief* with or without the bend touching the top of the shield.

The third principle concerns language and spelling. John Goodall[1] once reflected on the principles to be used in editing armorials, and I strongly support his views and those expressed in the guidelines for transcribing medieval texts. But with a number of practical concerns and as I am foreign to any of the languages used; and as the material studied varies in language, dialect and time - not to mention spelling - decisions had to be made. Either to conform to recommended practices and select a base language for it all, which would be English, and transform every term and name into this, or - and this

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[1] John A. Goodall: Editing rolls of arms. Some reflections on basic principles. *The Coat of Arms*, 210:163-166, 2005.

was the decision - disregard any propriety and just put it down as read. However, I have tried to use a modern form of the name or term appropriate to territory of origin of the item in question, if this was not possible then preferably in English. As for spelling, and as far as my linguistic skills allow, modern spelling as found in the principal references have been used. For unverifiable items, the spelling as transcribed is used. The medieval scribe had manifest disregard for the modern use of capitals and often used abbreviations, which the word processors available can hardly match. Following the standard rules for diplomatic transcriptions was, for various reasons, impractical, and I have transcribed the text of a manuscript as read using only lower case, except for those items which were first borrowed from printed editions, where the author's transformations are retained, even when, as in most cases, I have been able to look at one of its manuscript versions - and with hindsight been able to correct misreading.

The fourth principle is that of presentation. One might, as in the *Dictionary of British Arms*, simply arrange all items in the order of blazons and alphabetically by the title or name used for the item. However, as my emphasis is on comparing armorials, all items are primarily assigned to a 'family', with all arms that may reasonably be assigned to that family coded as variants, whether they are minor variants, differenced arms or quartered. A somewhat unfortunate result is that a coat of arms used by different branches will be entered as first met. References in the notes pertain to the blazon in question as far as possible. Variant blazons from that in the header are noted with an asterisk (*), except for those cases, where references to seals were copied from a printed edition. Most editors of armorials are a little careless in not specifying variant blazons as are some authors of standard references.

The ordinary is presented with a dictionary form of abbreviated blazon using standard phrases, e.g. roundels for bezants or torteaux, birds for ravens and other sitting birds unless the form is particular, e.g. parrots. Tincture and charges have been separated, with the colour of the field given first (which is contrary to standard French practice). As the items were originally entered as coded blazons and later translated, a strictly alphabetical order was impractical and the items are divided into groups depending on the major charge and written out in the order of storing in the database. The reader will (I hope) forgive me, as he will have to look for '3 lions' ahead of a single beast.

The fifth and last principle is *'I know best'*. In several instances I disagree with an editor's interpretation of a blazon or identification of a coat of arms and I have ruthlessly assigned arms to 'families', not branches or persons - and the item will then be found under a different name than published. In most cases the printed version's assignment is noted. The reader will in such and other cases 'know best' and I would be grateful to hear any new or contrary arguments. Regrettably, there are instances of mistaken grammar and curious translations of terms, hopefully of a minor nature compared to the usability of the ordinary.

Finally I want to express my gratitude and thanks those individuals and institutions that have made my endeavours possible. Emmanuel de Boos (†), Michel Popoff, Cecil Humphery-Smith, Jean-Marie van den Eeckhout and Jean-Christophe Blanchard for allowing me to use their transcriptions, drafts and printed editions. The Royal Library in Copenhagen, Bibliothèque nationale de France and the Bibliothèque de l'Arsenal, British Library, Bibliothèque royale in Bruxelles, Bayerische Staats Bibliothek in München, Geheime StaatsArchiv Preussischer Kulturbesitz in Berlin a.o. for giving access to precious manuscripts, books of reference and providing slides, microfilms and digital scans.

Also to friends and fellow armorists, here unnamed, who taught me in discussions, in their presentations and not least in their many published works, that I have unscrupulously and happily borrowed from - and which must be consulted for any definitive blazon or legend, as well as supplementary references.

Farum, June 2017   *Steen Clemmensen*

Naming figures on parts of the field
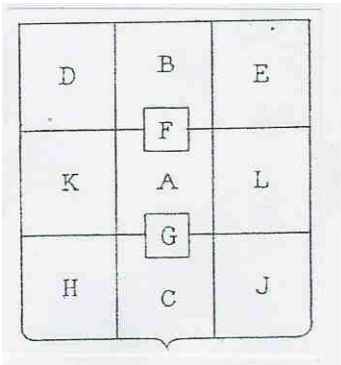
B –or- D-B-E = in chf
D = in chf dx
E = in chf sn

D-K-H = dx
E-L-J = sn

A = fess point = abîme
C = in base = en pointe

Priority of parts of the field, colours are listed field first, then figures according to size and place.
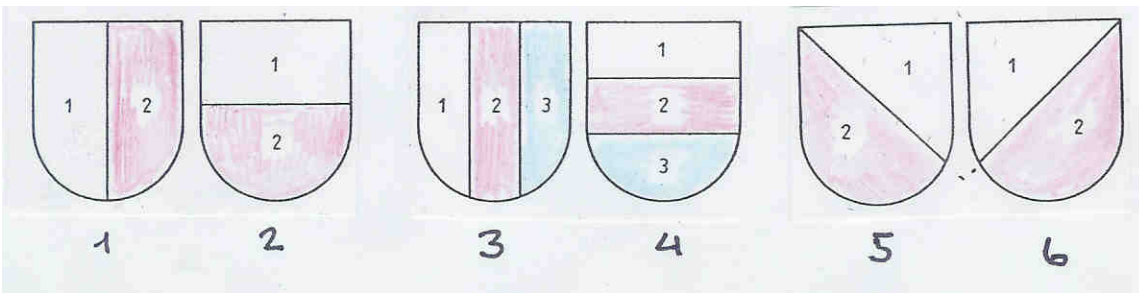
2 = per fess Ar-Gu = coupé de Ar-Gu = AG, per fess -or- Gu chief Ar = GA, chief
3 = tierced per pale Ar-Gu-Az
5 = per bend Ar-Gu = AG, bend
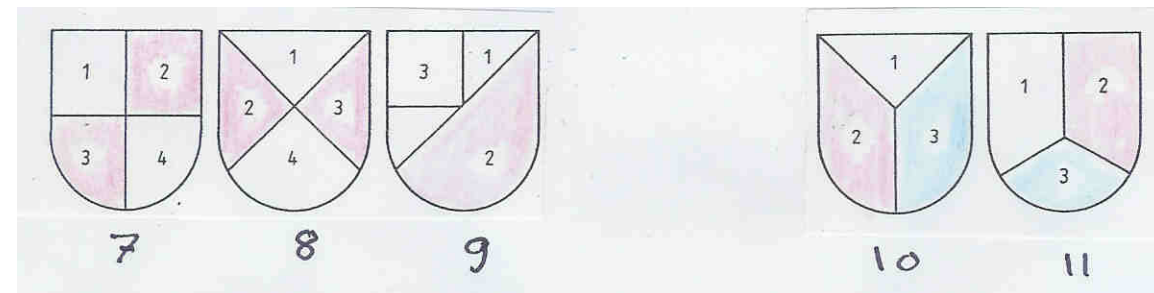
9 = per bend Ar-Gu & canton Az = AGB, per bend & canton
10 = per paille Ar-Gu-Az = tiercé en pairle Ar-Gu-Az = AGB, per paille
11 = per paille inv Ar-Gu-Az = tiercé en pairle renversé Ar-Gu-Az
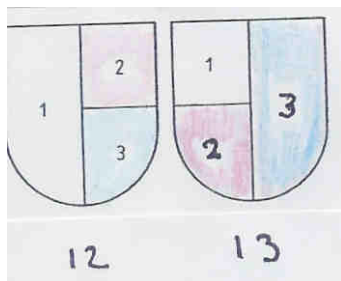
12 = per pale plain & per fess = parti plain Ar & coupé Gu-Az

13 = per pale per fess & plain = parti coupé Ar-Gu & plain Az
= AGB, per pale per fess & plain
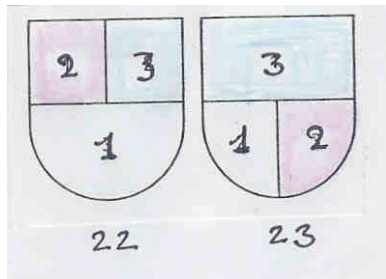
22 = Ar chief per pale Gu-Az = Ar chef parti Gu-Az
= AGB, chief per pale

23 = per pale Ar-Gu & chief Az = parti Ar-Gu & chef Az
= AGB, per pale & chief

NOTE: these figures are actually drawn as per fess *and split vertically in equal parts*
Only rarely does an artist split them as per chief in 1:2
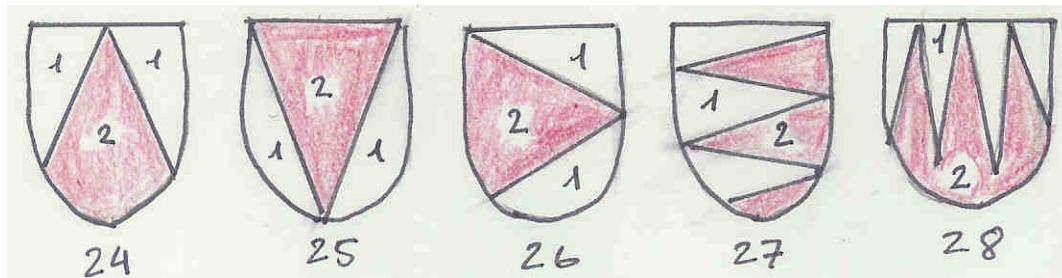
24 = AG, per chevron = per chevron Ar-Gu = chapé Gu-Ar [= mantelé Ar-Gu]

25 = per chevron inv Ar-Gu = chaussé Ar-Gu [= AG, pile = AG, pointe renversée; *if narrow*]

NOTE: pile inv = pointe, as English tradition has the pile pointing downwards, and French tradition has the pointe pointing upwards

26 = Ar pile isst dx Gu = AG, embrassé à senestre

27 = pily-barry Ar-Gu = parti-émanché Ar-Gu; i.e. piles posed as bars
Irrespective of the number of piles and half-piles, the figure are usually drawn from side-to-side, but might appear more as an exaggerated zig-zag or indented partition per pale, or in rare cases as 3 or more piles issuing from either side

28 = pily-paly Ar-Gu = coupé-émanché Ar-Gu
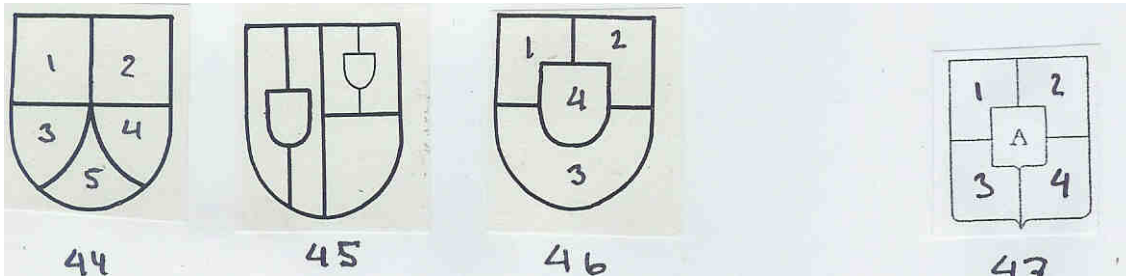
44: usually presented as composed of 5 quarters

45: an impaled coat of (1) two subquarters per pale with inescutcheon, and (2) per fess with (2a) two subquarters per pale and inescutcheon, and (2b) a single coat of arms as subquarter
= 2 : pp[(**A; B** :E: **C**); pf(pp[**D; E** :E: **F**]; **G**)]   {GA, BA, AV; GO, BO, OV; SA}

46: *either* 3 subquarters and inescutcheon –*or*- 2 subquarters per fess with (1a) and (1b) impaled
= 2 : pf[pp(**A; B**); **C**] :E: **D**   {*tints*}

47: 4 quarters and inescutcheon, Q1 and Q4 identical
= 4 : **A; B; C;** = :E: **D**   {*tints*}
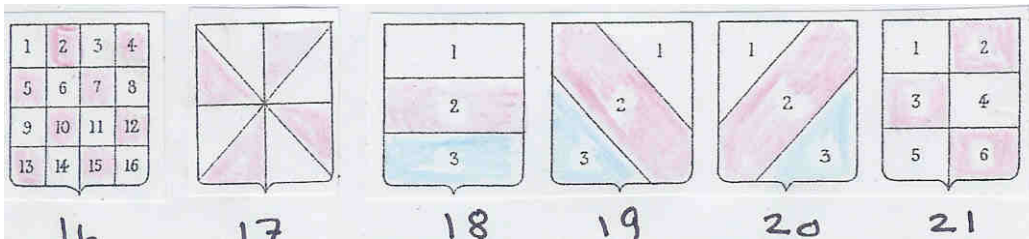
16 = checky Ar-Gu
Always with the metal named first, and irrespective of number of squares

17 = gironny Ar-Gu
Always with the metal named first, and irrespective of number of girons

21 = per pale Ar-Gu & fess cch = parti Ar-Gu & fasce l'u-a

8

ABBREVIATIONS commonly used in the Ordinary

Abbrev.	English	French	Comment
..	-	-	no legend present
::	-	-	secondary charge on composite coat; e.g. label, bend
:dim:	dimidated, dimidiating		**A :dim: B**; 2 half-shields merged
:E:	-	-	inescutcheon on composite coat
:imp:	impaling		**A :imp: B**; standard form of merging 2 entire shields
:sup:	**A :sup: B** = A above B - in composite coats of arms		
;	separator between quarters; **A; B; =; =** is the same as **A; B; A; B**		
[..]	proposed reading of legend;		
{..}	blazoned arms on canton / escutcheon / chief -or- tinctures		
<..>	legend in secondary hand, usually a later hand		
acc.	accompanied	accompagnée	
add.	addorsed	adossée	
anc	ancient	anciènne	
betw	between	acc.	
br	brochant, over all	brochant	
cant.	-	cantonnée	in each canton;
cch	counterchanged	-	u/a; opposite colours
ch.	charged	chargée	bend charged with 3 mullets; on chief 2 mullets; lion vulned
chf	in chief	en chef	en chef; on chief a mullet = chief ch. mullet;
col	collared	colletée	
comb	combatant	-	lions / humans affronted, affrontés
cr.	crowned	couronnée	
dx	dexter	adextré, dextre	on 1st quarter; on dexter side
éc[..]	-	écartelé	pq[..]; composite shield or quarters
éch.	-	échiquieté	checky
écu	-	écusson	escutch {..}
escutch	escutcheon	-	écu; inescutcheon
fq	-	franc-quartier	franc-quartier = canton
gm/	married to	marié de	Henry gm/ Mary (gm1/ Wm) = Henry married Mary, who firstly married William
guard	guardant	guardant	looking towards the viewer

inv	inverted	versée	figure upside down;
isst	issant	issante	
jesst	jessant		
l'u-a	-	de l'un en l'autre	cch; opposite colours;
mod	modern	moderne, jeune	
p.c.	-	pied coupé	(fleur-de-lis) couped
p.n.	-	pied nouri	(fleur-de-lis) on base
passt	passant	passant	
pc[..]	-	par coupé	pf[..]; composite shield or quarters
pd	pierced	-	
pf[..]	per fess	-	pc[..]; composite shield or quarters
pos	positioned	posées (en pal, ..)	single figure posed per bend / pale / fess
pp[..]	per pale	par pal	composite shield or quarters
ppr	proper	propre	
pq[..]	per quarter	-	éc[..]; composite coat of arms or quarter
ps[..]	per saltire	par sautoir	composite coat of arms or quarter
pt	point(s)	point(s)	
Q1	1st quarter of shield	1er quartier d'ecu	
Q1a	1st SubQtr of 1st Qtr		1st Quarter of 1st Grand-Quarter, then Q1b,..; then Q1a1, Q1a2;
qf	queue fourchy	queue fourchée	split tail
qn	queue nowed	queue nouée	knotted tail
qtd	quartered	-	écartelé
qtg	quartering	-	
qtly	quarterly	-	
rang	-	rangées	mise en ..; rangés en chef / bande / pal ; set of figures ranged
reguard	reguardant	reguardant	looking backwards
s/	son of	fils de	son, daughter, father, mother, father's brother &c
segr	segreant	segreant	
sejt	sejant	sejant	
sn	sinister	senestre	on 2nd quarter, on sinister side
u/a	-	l'un-sur-l'autre	in pale; one above the other

Numbering of items on a manuscript page
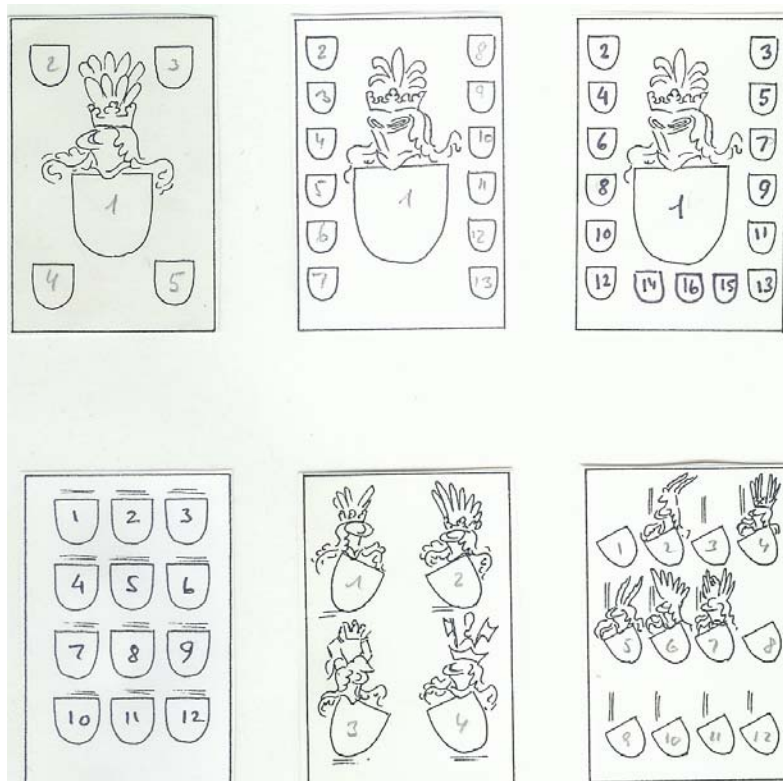
Items on a manuscripts page are numbered as they occur in a row (figures 3-6), except in the rare circumstances where the layout is clearly a presentation of ancestors (fig. 1) or constituent territories grouped around the primary coat of arms of the sovereign (fig. 2-3). In most cases the first arms on a page is noted. *Bis*-numbered items are prefixed with **1xxxx** as limited by database capability.

In cases of ancestral arms it is rare to see more than 4 ancestors: 1) proband, 2) father, 3) mother, 4) father's mother, and 5) mother's mother.

Fig.2 is mainly used in the *Toison d'or* (ETO) for the 'Douze pairs de France' with ecclesiastical pairs on one side and lay pairs on the other side.

Fig. 3 is mainly used in *Jörg Rugen* (RUG) for territories, and the numeration follows this author's interpretation of their ranking.

In very few cases the armorial or parts of it are clearly meant to be read by columns, and this is noted in the notes on the armorial. The fact that many armorials were designed or copied by long lines (i.e. across double pages) is irrelevant to the presentation in this ordinary.

Number of items entered into the *Ordinary* from 256 armorials.
Some armorials have only a few items entered, see the survey for the total number.
Distribution according to the number of quarters in the shield.
G noted as multi layered or with 6 or more quarters.

	Total items	1	2	3	4	5	G
A	324	324					
AK	85	77			8		
AMT	42	38			4		
AN	270	262			8		
APA	563	459	5		99		
ARK	258	228	2	3	25		
ARL	232	227			5		
ARS	446	409			37		
AS	493	490			3		
AYS	1	1					
B	226	225	1				
BA	61	60			1		
BAL	3	3					
BB	7	7					
BCH	40	22	1	1	15		1
BDH	1	1					
BEC	1	1					
BEL	1740	1661	8		71		
BER	1718	1582	7		129		
BES	1	1					
BG	153	152	1				
BHC	55	28	20		7		
BHM	3396	3109	20		267		
BIG	297	297					
BL	36	36					
BLW	948	920	4	1	23		
BRE	2	2					
BZL	115	113			2		
C	185	183	1		1		
CA	59	59					
CAM	667	580			87		
CAR	172	166	1		5		
CB	20	20					
CES	17	15	2				
CFR	10	6			3		1
CG	556	556					
CHA	1106	954	25	7	118	2	
CHE	249	222	4		23		
CK	86	85			1		

	Total items	1	2	3	4	5	G
CKO	**637**	636			1		
CLE	**1561**	1389	15	1	156		
CMO	**14**	13			1		
CN	**2**	2					
CNK	**342**	331	3		8		
COF	**22**	22					
COL	**27**	27					
CPF	**202**	202					
CRK	**490**	480	1	1	8		
CRO	**7**	7					
CSG	**1172**	1088	16	1	67		
CT	**42**	41			1		
CTE	**7**	7					
CVC	**48**	48					
CVK	**23**	23					
CVL	**24**	24					
CY	**516**	512	2		2		
D	**261**	259	1		1		
DBA	**1**	1					
DLM	**13**	11	2				
DPY	**287**	284			3		
DRK	**19**	10			9		
DV	**695**	691			4		
DWF	**1086**	1011	9	1	64	1	
DX	**1**	1					
E	**677**	677					
EG	**9**	9					
EGT	**94**	62	1		30		1
EPI	**2**	2					
ERF	**78**	77			1		
ERQ	**21**	20	1				
ERS	**143**	134			9		
ESP	**1**	1					
ETO	**1055**	952	8		93	2	
F	**583**	583					
FB	**4**	4					
FC	**6**	6					
FCB	**293**	284			9		
FF	**32**	32					
FHE	**3**	3					
FK	**12**	12					
FW	**697**	690	6		1		
G	**212**	211			1		
GA	**252**	252					
GEL	**1823**	1683	15		125		

	Total items	1	2	3	4	5	G
GNF	612	598			14		
GOR	1201	1029	19	1	150	1	1
GOZ	1	1					
GRU	2250	2056	25	3	163	1	2
GSP	73	68			5		
GST	1	1					
GUE	206	200			6		
GY	2	2					
H	115	114			1		
HA	3	3					
HAR	2	2					
HBG	415	372	3		39		1
HBS	1	1					
HCN	433	432	1				
HE	1	1					
HKF	3	3					
HUN	45	44			1		
HZL	167	165			2		
ING	1076	1026	8	1	41		
IWT	58	53	4		1		
J	148	148					
JHA	265	262			3		
K	106	106					
KB	16	14	2				
KCR	1612	1407	34	1	170		
KG	1	1					
KUF	406	371			35		
L	236	236					
LAM	1	1					
LBQ	3872	3697	31	1	143		
LBR	897	841	12	2	41		1
LBX	289	283	1		5		
LEW	2	1			1		
LH	3	3					
LIC	106	98	3		5		
LKF	1	1					
LLG	168	150			18		
LM	520	520					
LMO	5	4	1				
LMS	5	5					
LO	2	2					
LTE	2	1			1		
LTH	5	5					
LTR	5	5					
LTS	2	2					

	Total items	1	2	3	4	5	G
LY	**2**	2					
LYN	**2713**	2378	39	2	293	1	
M	**79**	79					
MAN	**117**	116			1		
ME	**5**	5					
MIL	**1604**	1515	22	2	62	1	2
ML	**4**	3	1				
MPA	**111**	110			1		
MPC	**84**	83			1		
MPH	**105**	101	4				
MPM	**13**	13					
MPV	**3**	3					
MPX	**1**	1					
MUN	**1**	1					
MY	**272**	247	1		24		
N	**1142**	1141			1		
NAN	**1007**	931	16	1	59		
NAV	**1544**	1503	10		31		
NCB	**11**	11					
ND	**2**	2					
NHN	**1**	1					
NLU	**1663**	1480	16	1	166		
NS	**60**	60					
O	**214**	214					
OAK	**22**	21	1				
OHM	**395**	388	3		4		
OPL	**31**	31					
ORL	**212**	197	1		14		
ORT	**127**	105	6	1	15		
P	**162**	160			2		
PCL	**1**				1		
PE	**16**	16					
PEM	**227**	147	8		61	4	7
PGR	**384**	363	3		18		
PJS	**13**	13					
PLN	**456**	386	2	1	63		4
PO	**668**	664			4		
PRT	**2071**	2037	2		32		
PSJ	**1**	1					
PT	**512**	509			3		
PV	**8**	8					
PY	**1**	1					
Q	**588**	587			1		
QDA	**1**				1		
QDB	**335**	313	1		21		

	Total items	1	2	3	4	5	G
QDH	170	140	5		25		
QDM	1	1					
QDP	45	43	1		1		
QDS	1	1					
QFP	191	182			9		
QII	199	199					
QKA	5	4	1				
QKH	1	1					
QKK	8	7			1		
QKP	3	2			1		
QLS	124	101	2		21		
QNN	30	30					
QPB	249	230	4		15		
QWK	33	32	1				
R	123	123					
RB	32	31			1		
REV	817	711	23	1	81	1	
RH	19	15	2		2		
RIT	1	1					
RL	2	2					
RNA	1	1					
RUE	391	334	3		51		3
RUG	3568	2993	39	5	531		
RW	1	1					
RYN	1398	1303	16	1	78		
S	605	576			29		
SAV	801	730	10		61		
SC	2	2					
SD	134	134					
SER	44	42	2				
SES	150	150					
SF	3	3					
SGH	1571	1525	11		35		
SGN	125	106	1		18		
SHB	62	62					
SHY	34	33			1		
SIC	1825	1766	2	1	56		
SK	131	130			1		
SM	81	79			2		
SP	170	166	2		2		
SS	7	6	1				
ST	102	102					
STU	515	487	5		23		
STY	654	646			8		
T	176	145	1		30		

	Total items	1	2	3	4	5	G
TAM	**25**	24			1		
TBE	**2**	2					
TBG	**99**	88			11		
TBX	**235**	185	1		49		
TCA	**112**	109			3		
TCH	**69**	69					
TCO	**340**	337	2		1		
TJ	**1657**	1644			13		
TMO	**192**	189			3		
TNW	**1**	1					
TRK	**25**	23			2		
UFF	**579**	550	6		23		
URF	**2852**	2760	13		79		
UTR	**9**	8			1		
VER	**915**	911			4		
VIS	**9**	9					
VRN	**170**	142	7		21		
VSW	**97**	73	2	1	21		
W	**5**	5					
WB	**1**	1					
WER	**1**	1					
WGA	**9**	9					
WGH	**536**	527	1		8		
WIN	**1309**	1306			3		
WJ	**1603**	1591	3		8		
WK	**10**	10					
WLH	**19**	19					
WLN	**133**	133					
WNB	**1**	1					
WNR	**167**	167					
WNS	**1**	1					
WNW	**6**	4			2		
WSG	**2**	2					
WV	**4**	4					
YRV	**269**	243	5	1	20		
ZUR	**587**	578	6		3		
AA	**1**	1					