

Signet (Emblem) Rings

1. Identify three general uses for the Signet Ring:

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2. What are the historical origins of the signet ring in each culture?

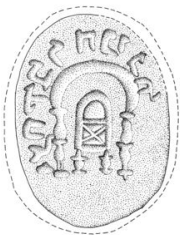
Egypt	Catholic/Popes	Ancient Near East	Greece	Asia
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3. What does it symbolize and what images are commonly used?

4. Looking at <http://www.familysealrings.com/work9.html> List 3-5 categories or types of rings that interest you.

5. If you were a King or Queen designing your family crest, what symbols would be important to you and why?

Ancient Near East



Ring stone from Zafar, Yemen, showing a torah shrine, cylinder seal

Seals were used in the earliest civilizations and are of considerable interest in archaeology. In ancient Mesopotamia seals were engraved on cylinders, which could be rolled to create an impression on clay e.g., as a label on a consignment of trade goods. From Ancient Egypt seals in the form of signet-rings of kings have been found.

Ancient Greece and Rome



From the beginning of the 3rd millennium BC until the Dark Ages, seals of various kinds were in production in the Aegean islands and mainland Greece. The Late Bronze Age is the time par excellence of the lens-shaped seal and the seal ring, which continued in to the Archaic, Classical and Hellenistic periods, in the form of pictorial engraved gems. These were a major luxury art form and became keenly collected

Asia

Chops (name stamps) are used in the Chinese speaking world (and in Japan and Korea) both as art and as a way of signing your name or claiming ownership and control.



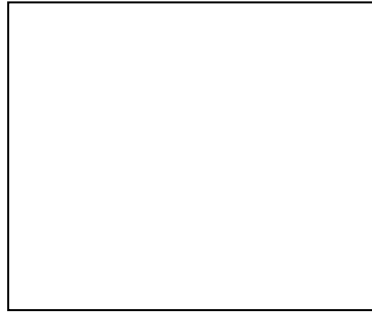
Web Resources:

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seal_%28emblem%29
- <http://www.familysealrings.com/work9.html>



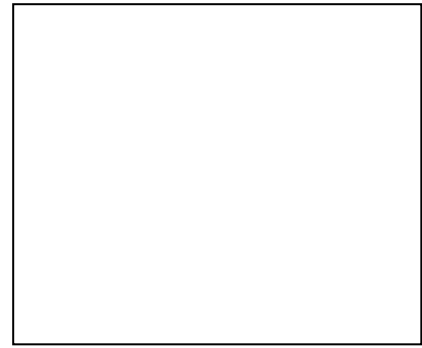
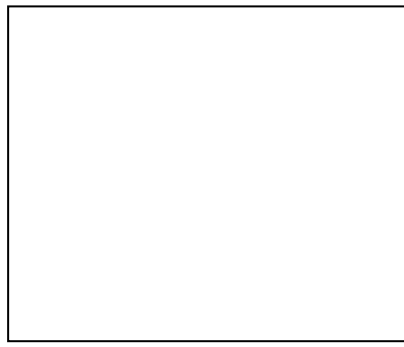
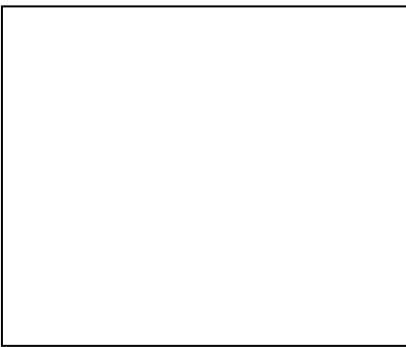
Signet Ring Planning Sheet

Draw 3 or more SYMBOLS HERE:



Level 2: Your design needs to incorporate negative space and a simple but elegant band

Advanced: Your design needs to incorporate recessed and raised areas and an interesting band.



Steps needed to complete the assignment:

- Complete design sketches.
- Finalize one design – *Recessed Areas* for ADV & *Drop-Out* for LEVEL 2
- Measure your finger and size the blue wax (using the carving mandrel)- ADVANCED STUDENTS
- Measure your finger. LEVEL 2s Depending on your band design you may need to add 2 sizes to your ring blank (See Ms. Ferrell for individual sizing)
- Level 2 – Scour metal *add texture hammer impressions if desired. Glue paper template to sheet metal
- Center punch and drill holes in the negative shapes
- Saw and drop out the negative shapes, File, and sand the finished piece.
- Dome and Dap your metal if desired, or curve your metal around the ring mandrel
- Assemble the rings, and solder the rings to the signet (See Ms. Ferrell for specific set up advice for your design)
- File and Sand & Cross-sand all joins until they are invisible
- Buff and Polish your ring (See Ms. Ferrell for advice on polishing delicate surfaces & complex curves)
- ADV – Use x-acto knives, files, the dermal grinding burrs to rough out the shape of your signet design
- *Check the “Lightness” of the ring blank with Ms. Ferrell before you begin carving your relief design
- If needed carve under or hollow out areas to remove excess wax/weight. Be sure not to distort the inside edge which would change the fit of the ring.
- Use the dermal grinding burrs to carve your signet design and shape your final ring wax (Model)
- Ms. Ferrell will demonstrate how to sprue your wax model to the button and put the flask on top.
- In small groups, Ms. Ferrell will mix up batches of casting investment and pour it into the flask
- Overnight in the kiln, the wax will burn out leaving a hollow cavity in the shape of the button and your wax model
- With the careful supervision of Ms. Ferrell you will heat up the crucible in the centrifuge and melt your silver ingot.
- Ms. Ferrell will position your flask and release the centrifuge – forcing the silver into flask/investment mold, thus your casting your ring.
- Finally, you will quench your hot flask, remove all the investment plaster
- Cut off the sprues and button (RETURN THEM TO MS. FERRELL)
- File down all evidence of the sprues
- Sand and Cross sand, apply Liver of Sulfur Patina if desired, Buff and Polish your finished ring!