



The BC Blazon

Newsletter of the British Columbia/Yukon Branch

Patron of the BC/Yukon Branch: The Honourable Stephen L. Point, OBC, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia

Spring/Summer 2008

The Royal Heraldry Society of Canada

Vol. 3 No. 1 Issue 4

British Columbia: A Melange of History & Heraldry - Part I

Seeking the North West Passage and Exploring the British Columbia Coast

by Carl Larsen

Looking back 500 years

The Government of BC declared 2008 a year to celebrate the milestones of our history since becoming a Crown Colony in 1858, a mere 150 years ago. The BC Blazon thought it would be interesting to look back even further, over 500 years to the very beginnings at some of the key people and events as well as the heraldry of the period. In this and future issues, we're going to take a look at the Pope, the Explorers, (Spanish, English and Russian), as well as the Governor, the Judge and the origins of the arms of the province and our three capital cities and, of course, the fur trade.

Heraldry came with the early explorers and governors and was a part of their everyday lives. Some found fame and received promotion and honours, including a grant of arms, for their successes. Flags bearing heraldic devices flew over their forts and from the mastheads of their ships as they sailed through the waters of British Columbia.

In the Beginning was Columbus "In 1492 Columbus Sailed the Ocean Blue"

With his epic voyage across the Atlantic, Columbus set in motion events which were to reshape the world. When Isabella, Queen of Castile and Leon, became his sponsor, Columbus had the support and money he needed to make his famous first voyage of discovery in 1492. The flags that Columbus flew from his three ships displayed the famous canting arms of Spain, the castle of Castile and the lion of Léon. Variants of these arms were used by future Spanish explorers and even flew over Spain's only fort in Canada, in what was to become British Columbia...but



Photo: C. Larsen

that comes later in the story.

Before sailing, Columbus, good businessman that he was, negotiated an agreement with Queen Isabella whereby, if he was successful on his first voyage, he would be ennobled, appointed Admiral of the Ocean Sea, made Viceroy of any new lands he discovered, and awarded 10% of all new wealth acquired for Spain. A year later he was back in Spain to report his success and collect his dues. He duly received the rank, appointments and money he was promised including a coat of arms granted in 1493. The blazon in the letters patent specified that he was to bear the following: 1. Vert, a castle Or. 2. Argent, a lion purpure langued vert. 3. Islands Or on waves of the sea. 4. the arms Columbus formerly bore. There is much debate as to whether or not he was armigerous before receiving this grant and many feel he simply assumed the arms of another family bearing the same name.

Nine years later, for reasons known only to himself, Columbus altered the royal grant, changing the tinctures in the first and second quarters to be identical to Castile and Leon in the royal arms. He also added a "piece of the mainland" to the islands in the third quarter and changed the field to blue with gold islands. Not satisfied with this, he "borrowed" for the fourth quarter, the five gold anchors fesswise on a blue field, belonging to the Admiral of Castile, to which he had no claim whatsoever. He then placed "the arms he formerly bore", Or a bend Azure a chief gules, on "the tip in dexter, enté in point". Oddly enough, Columbus was never faulted for the enhancements he made to his arms and later Spanish heralds accepted them as legitimate.

For a motto Columbus chose "For Castile and Leon" to which his descendants added a second motto "Columbus Found a New World". The current holder of these arms descends from Columbus' brother Diego, but not in the male line, with at least two female transmissions.

Not surprisingly, there are quite a variety of Columbus arms in Spain and elsewhere, as evidenced by the three examples on page four, none of which exactly reflect either the original blazon or the later blazon Columbus adopted.



From the Desk of the Branch President

Carl Larsen



This is the third issue of the electronic version of the BC Blazon and we hope that you will enjoy it. I am very pleased to let members know that Allan Ailo's wife Carolle is making a good recovery from the stroke she suffered last January, and Allan is now able to resume his role as editor of the BC Blazon. Without Allan's graphics and art skills, we have not been able to produce an issue until now, which we very much regret. We are already working on the year end issue for distribution in December.

In this issue, we will be focusing on the fascinating history and heraldry of the people who directly or indirectly played a role in the creation of British Columbia as a Crown Colony in 1858 and ultimately a province of Canada. I hope you will enjoy the articles.

Branch AGM and Luncheon March 29th

Our Annual General Meeting was held on March 29th at the Travelodge Silver Bridge Inn in Duncan and was well attended. After a very nice buffet luncheon, annual reports were delivered and elections were held for the new Board. The following members were elected.

Carl Larsen	President
Allan Ailo	1 st Vice President / BC Blazon Editor / Education Committee Chairman
John Neil	2nd Vice President / Membership Committee Chairman
Laurie Patten	Treasurer
Gary Mitchell	Secretary
Lee Van Horne	Webmaster
Graham Anderson	Director
Shirley Greenwood	Director
Joan Merrington	Director

I am delighted to welcome Joan Merrington to the Board. Joan is an heraldic artist, originally from Zimbabwe and now living in Langley. She was a founding member of the Rhodesian Heraldry Society who appointed her Licentiate Herald Painter. She also served on the Rhodesian State Heraldry Committee and was commissioned to paint the new Armorial Bearings of Zimbabwe. After moving to Namibia in 1982 she created corporate arms and badges, medals and flags for the armed forces. She was appointed to the Namibian National Symbols Committee and commissioned to paint the Armorial Bearings of Namibia. After moving to Cape Town she did freelance art work and was a founding member of the South African Vexillological Association and was appointed to the South African State Heraldry Council and the Technical Committee until she moved to Canada in 2005. Joan has recently been appointed as a freelance artist by the CHA and is currently working on a special project for them.

Darren George shared some of the entries to his "Tressure Hunt", a contest featured in the Prairie Tressure, of which he is editor. Following is a sampling of heraldic items which sent hopeful entrants searching through their holiday pictures: a sign with a coat of arms marking the border of a municipality; a university coat of arms rendered incorrectly; a coat of arms on a wine bottle, a vehicle, a tombstone, a T-shirt, in stone, on an unexpected medium or carved in wood; a picture of yourself with a herald; your own letters patent, etc. You can see this was a fun contest and we appreciated Darren giving us an advance look at some of the excellent photos submitted.

Heraldry Workshop April 11th

On April 11th a well attended heraldry workshop was presented by Rideau Herald Emeritus, Robb Watt, at the West Vancouver Memorial Library and Allan Ailo and I had the pleasure of attending. The library staff had created a quite extensive heraldic exhibit consisting of a large number of heraldry books available for loan or reference, photos of coats of arms and flags and various other items. The attendees were enthusiastic, and many seemed interested in petitioning for their own arms.

A highlight of the workshop was the selection of two people for whom Rideau Herald Emeritus created designs for arms after asking them some key questions to determine what charges might be appropriate. People were fascinated at watching the process of choosing charges and tinctures which connected to their interests, culture, family origins, etc. and saw the possibilities of working with a herald to design their own arms.

I noticed that one of the attendees for whom Robb was designing arms had brought along her son who sat working on his laptop computer during the workshop, and I presumed he was doing his email and surfing the net. When it was over, I went over to chat with them and he showed me what he had been doing. As the design for his mother's arms was being developed on the flip chart, he had gone into the Internet, found the appropriate charge, copied and modified it accordingly, using Adobe Photoshop, and placed it on a shield he had designed. Within a minute or two of his mother's arms being completed, he had the design on the computer, correct in every respect, including tincture! Quite an amazing example of what can be done with the right skill set.

Robb provided me with an opportunity to speak briefly to attendees about the Society and to invite them to join us, to learn more about heraldry, and to make new friends who share a similar interest. Allan had designed a handout with information about the Society on the front and an application for membership on the back and many attendees took these with them. We believe that this type of community activity will be helpful in building membership for the branch.

From the Desk of the Branch President - Con't from Page 2

Montreal AGM and Convention October 3rd 5th

I had the pleasure of attending the Montreal conference and particularly enjoyed the Beley Lecture which was delivered by Marc-Philippe Vincent on the topic of "Napoleonic Heraldry". After abolishing titles of nobility and use of arms in France in 1790, Napoleon established the Council of the Seal of Titles in 1808 and empowered it to create and grant arms. Although Napoleonic heraldry only lasted seven years, the well illustrated, very detailed lecture, provided some fascinating insights into this unique period of French heraldry. If anyone is interested in having a copy of the five page handout, Mr. Vincent prepared, I would be happy to scan it and send it to your email address.

The Saturday night dinner was held at the historic St. James Club in Montreal and was excellent. The programme included entertainment and two speakers, Col. Ben Weider, renowned expert on Napoleon, and Kevin MacLeod, Usher of the Black Rod. Sadly, this was the last public event Col. Weider attended, as he passed away quite suddenly, just two weeks later.

Our next convention will be organized by the Toronto Branch and arrangements are already well in hand.

Congratulations to Darren George: The New Editor of The Gonfanon

It was announced at the AGM, that BC Branch / Prairie Branch member, Darren George has accepted appointment as the new editor of the Gonfanon, following the resignation of Jonathan Good. Darren is, of course, the much respected editor of The Prairie Tressure and, with every issue published, has enhanced his reputation as editor and writer. His legendary Critter Contests have intrigued readers since he first introduced them as a way of sharing his fascination for these bizarre creatures. In addition, he has railed against poor heraldry, bucket shops, the heraldic apathy and ignorance in universities and colleges, the use of logos instead of heraldry by organizations, and at the same time written first class articles on a variety of heraldic topics. We can think of no one better qualified to undertake this important role for the Society.

We extend our congratulations to Darren and are looking forward to receiving our first edition of the Gonfanon under his editorship.

Black Tie Dinner October 25th

I have written a detailed report to you on this premiere event of the year which is to be found elsewhere in the Blazon, but suffice to say, that it was a personal pleasure for me to be able to welcome our Patron, the Lieutenant Governor, and his wife, to our annual dinner. From the conversation around the head table, I can tell you that they both enjoyed themselves very much and found the atmosphere more relaxing than the usual very large gatherings they attend.

I can also share with you that Government House persuaded us to have a round head table, which they prefer, as it facilitates conversation among head table guests more effectively than the traditional rectangular table, which is more commonly used, and is our normal practice. Although I admit I was a little sceptical about this arrangement, I have to acknowledge that it worked very well, and the Branch Board of Directors will be considering this for future dinners. We would welcome the comments of

those who attended the dinner on this round head table option.

The BC Jewel: New Badge of Office for Branch Directors

During the year it was decided that a BC Jewel would be created to serve as a badge of office for members of our branch board of directors, and that it would be worn with an appropriately coloured ribbon as a neck badge for men and suspended from a bow for women. The insignia is, of course, the branch badge designed by Laurie Patten and approved by the CHA.

Wearing of the badge is not mandatory and those wishing to do so have paid 100% of the cost. This neck badge is *not* an honour or award of any kind, but simply a badge of office indicating that the wearer is serving our branch in the capacity of branch director. It is also a way of promoting heraldry by demonstrating that it is a living art. The credit for the concept of a branch jewel must go to our friends in the Prairie Branch, who came up with the idea of a neck badge to honour their branch's founding members. They have proudly worn their badges at appropriate functions ever since and established a precedent that we are happy to follow.



BC Jewel worn with Fellow's badge



Illustration: A. Allio

Ladies BC Jewel with bow

Branch Website Under Construction

Lee Van Horne, our webmaster, undertook the task of creating a branch website last year to promote the National Conference in Victoria.

After the conference, he began work on a new version to serve the branch's present and ongoing needs.

Curious members may check progress at: <http://bc-yukon.heraldry.ca/>



A. Allio © 2008

BC: A Melange of History & Heraldry
- Con't from Page 1



Three versions of Columbus' arms



Photo: C. Larsen

See, since the 14th century, representing papal power. The gold key pointing to the dexter symbolizes spiritual power and the silver key to the sinister, temporal power. The mechanisms of the keys are pointing up towards heaven with the grips resting on the earth, into the hands of the Pope, the Vicar of Christ. The cord with that unites the grips alludes to the bond between the two powers. The gold cross surmounting the triple crown is the central symbol of Christianity.

It may be, that to difference the Pope's arms from those of the Vatican, it was decided to reverse, the dexter gold, sinister silver keys of the Pope's arms for those of the Vatican.



The Spanish Claims to the Pacific Coast

Vasco Balboa, Spanish explorer and conquistador, became the first European to see the Pacific Ocean. After traveling overland across the Isthmus of Panama in 1513, he waded into the ocean with his sword raised above his head and claimed possession of the new sea and all adjoining lands in the name of the King of Spain. These two events, the papal bull, confirmed by treaty between Spain and Portugal, and Balboa's act of sovereignty, formed the basis of Spain's claim to nearly the whole of South, Central and North America, including the entire Pacific Northwest.

Spain proceeded to explore, conquer and rule over most of Central and South America, as well as Mexico and what is now the south-western United States, and her ships carried the treasure of the New World home to Spain. They only became interested in the Pacific Northwest when their claims were challenged by Russia and Britain. Ultimately Spain gave up all her territory and claims in North America to Britain and the expanding U.S. but not before strong efforts were made to assert sovereignty, including the threat of war, over what was to become British Columbia.

By the 18th century the small arms of Spain had become, Quarter 1 and 4, the familiar castle of Castile and 2 and 3, the lion of Leon. On the point, the pomegranate of Granada and overall, an escutcheon of Anjou. The blazon for the Anjou inescutcheon is "Azure, three fleur de lis Or, a bordure gules, so it would appear the artist omitted the bordure from his drawing.



1789 - 95 Castile and Leon on the BC Coast

In 1789 Commander Quadra sent Estaban Martinz from his base in Mexico to Nootka Sound to build Fort San Miguel. It was a substantial fort, with military barracks, cannon emplacements and a powder storeroom, and is considered by some to be the first colony in British Columbia. Above their only fort in Canada, flew the arms of Spain for the first and last time.

Once the fort was operational, Martinez seized several British ships trading in the region claiming they were violating Spanish sovereignty. The ships were partly owned by John Meares, who had set up a small trading post at Nootka the

The Pope Divides Up the New World

In 1493, just a year after Columbus' successful voyage, a papal bull from Spanish-born Pope Alexander VI acknowledged Columbus' contributions and established the line of demarcation of future Spanish and Portuguese explorations which resulted in Spain being given all the New World except Brazil which went to Portugal along with Africa and India. Spain and Portugal signed a treaty between them accepting the terms of the papal bull, but England and France thought this somewhat presumptuous and rejected it, and the resulting friction over the next 300 years shaped a large part of the world we live in today.

Illustrator: A. Alilo



Arms of Pope Alexander VI

Cardinal Rodrigo de Borgia was elected pope in 1492 and took the name Alexander VI. As is the custom with Popes, he placed his personal arms on a shield ensigned by a silver tiara with three gold crowns. The tiara was originally a plain closed "tocque", to which the first crown was added in 1130 as a symbol of the Church's authority over all states; the second, in 1301, to demonstrate that spiritual authority was superior to any civic authority, and the third in 1342 to symbolize the Pope's moral authority over all monarchs. The present day interpretation of the three crowns is to represent the Pope's three functions as "supreme pastor", "supreme teacher" and "supreme priest".

Behind the Pope's personal arms are the keys of St. Peter, forming a saltire, the official insignia of the Vatican, the Holy

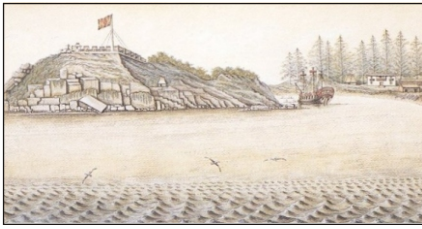


Arms of The Vatican

Illustration: www.vatican.va

Con't Page 5

BC: A Melange of History & Heraldry - Con't from Page 4



previous year. When Martinez was ordered to abandon the fort and return to their base in Mexico three months later, he took the ships with him and John Meares complained to the

British government who demanded compensation and threatened war with Spain. The defiant Spanish reoccupied the fort in 1790 and a small settlement grew up around the shore. This painting was made from a sketch drawn at the time and clearly shows the Spanish flag flying over the battery, quite visible from the sea.

The British and Spanish governments continued to negotiate trading rights and sovereignty and finally compensation was paid to Meares for his ships and the Spanish agreed that the Northwest coast was open to all nations for trading purposes. Sovereignty was to be based on settlements being established. It was at Nootka that the famous meeting took place between Captain Vancouver and Commander Quadra to discuss outstanding issues. Other Spanish expeditions continued to explore the coast as far as Alaska but no other settlements were established. In 1795 Fort San Miguel was abandoned and the Spanish virtually withdrew from the Pacific Northwest, leaving the way open for the British to assert their sovereignty and establish the two Crown colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia.



Illustration: A. Alilo



This is the flag that likely flew over Fort Miguel, in Nootka Sound, from 1790 to 1795. The flag is based on arms of Spain at the time.

**The Russian Presence:
The Imperial Eagle on the Pacific Coast**

Although Russian fur traders first came to North America in the mid 1600s, it was really after the Bering Expedition of 1741-42 that they became a significant presence, hunting and trading for sea otter pelts to supply the lucrative Chinese market. This was the first real challenge to Spanish claims to the region.

The Russian American Company was chartered by Tsar Paul I in 1799 and its location at Sitka, Alaska became the centre for its activities in Russian America, as Alaska was called. Fur trading and trapping took place along the British Columbia coast and continued as far south as California where Fort Ross was established to represent Imperial Russian interests, as well as to produce food for their base in Alaska.

The company prospered until the depletion of the sea otters in the mid 1800s, and their operations began to lose money. In 1859

Russia offered to sell Alaska to the United States but the U.S. government was preoccupied with the Civil War, and the sale was delayed. Britain expressed interest in buying Alaska but the Russians were still hostile over their loss to Britain and France in the Crimean War, and viewed Britain as their major rival in the Pacific. The U.S. they saw as an emerging, offsetting power in the region. The sale was finalized and Alaska was formally transferred to the U.S. in 1867, effectively ending Russia's presence in North America. It is quite possible that had it not been for the Crimean War, the Yukon Territory might today reach to the Pacific Ocean, and not be landlocked by the Alaskan panhandle, and the resources of Alaska belong to Canada.



The central emblem of the Imperial Arms of Russia was the double-headed eagle looking east and west and representing the unity of church and state. It was adopted by Ivan III after his marriage to a Byzantine princess, and from 1497 it proclaimed Russian sovereignty to the world. The Byzantine Empire had used the double-headed eagle as its symbol for centuries, and after its conquest and destruction by the Turks in the 15th century, Russia felt it was the last stronghold of the true, orthodox, Christian faith, and as such it was appropriate to adopt the Byzantine symbol as its own. It was not until 1625 that the double-headed eagle was adorned with the three crowns supported by the ribbon of the Order of St. Andrew. The eagle is seen clutching the orb and sceptre, the traditional symbols of spiritual and temporal power.

The shield we recognize as the arms of Moscow, consisting of St. George slaying the dragon, has evolved over time. The older version appeared on the seal of the Prince of the Grand Duchy of Moscow and showed a knight carrying a spear. The dragon was added later and the knight was designated as St. George, and became the patron saint of Moscow, and by extension, Russia. Today the modern blazon does not identify the knight as being St. George, in keeping with the secular character of modern Russia. The shield is surrounded by the chain and badge of the Order of St. Andrew.

Flag of the Russian American Company on Forts and Ships

The emblem on the company flag is yet another variation of the Russian coat of arms, the double eagle clutching a scroll that reads *Россійской Америк: Кампа* "Russian American Company. All company ships were required to fly this ensign as they sailed up and down the coast from Russian Alaska to their fort in California, which was built to supply fresh vegetables to Russian America.



The Canadian Heraldic Authority 1988-2008

by Carl Larsen

“.....Beautiful things and good news”

Robb Watt was fond of saying during his nineteen year term as the first Chief Herald of Canada that he had the best job in the world dealing with beautiful things and good news. June 4th was the 20th anniversary of the creation of the Canadian Heraldic Authority and that is what they are still about, creating beautiful coats of arms, flags and badges, utilizing their considerable talents in the art and science of heraldry. The good news is their magnificent accomplishments over the last twenty years and their undoubted ability to continue to achieve great things in the future.

To the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada must go the credit not only for recognizing the many benefits which would accrue to Canada, and Canadians, from the establishment of our own heraldic office but also for doing the groundwork, thinking carefully through the process, writing briefs to government and never giving up on the idea though government after government did not take any action to bring this idea into reality. But all this hard work was to be successful in the end, when on June 4th, 1988, Prince Edward presented Letters Patent from HM, the Queen of Canada, which enabled the creation of the Canadian Heraldic Authority shortly afterwards.

The BC/Yukon Branch sends its congratulations to the Chief Herald, Claire Boudreau, the Heralds of Arms, and the support staff of the Authority, for the achievements of the past 20 years, and with our best wishes for the future.

Message from the Governor General on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Canadian Heraldic Authority June 4, 2008

On this day, 20 years ago, the Canadian Heraldic Authority came into being. Since that time, thousands of coats of arms, flags and badges have been granted and registered. As a result, Canadian heraldry has become renowned for its creativity, its artistic excellence, and its blending of the traditional and the modern. The Authority helps to build our symbolic heritage and plays an important role in allowing Canadians to express their identity in meaningful and beautiful ways. I congratulate the heralds and all others who have contributed to the Canadian Heraldic Authority over the past 20 years. I know that this work will continue to develop and thrive in the years to come.

Michaëlle Jean



Arms of The Canadian Heraldic Authority

The Royal Victorian Order

by Carl Larsen

Robert Watt, Rideau Herald Emeritus, visited Buckingham Palace in May to receive the medal of a Lieutenant in the Royal Victorian Order from H.M. the Queen and we extend the congratulations of all members of the BC/Yukon Branch to him on this special occasion.

Queen Victoria established the Royal Victorian Order in 1896 as an order of chivalry over which she had personal control. Over the years, the bestowing of honours and awards became a matter of government policy over which the prime minister, not the monarch, had control. The prime minister prepared the Honours List and the monarch approved it without either making nominations or being able to withhold approval of a candidate. The Royal Victorian Order is one of the four individual honours the Queen may bestow on Canadians in her own right without consultation with, or approval from, the Canadian Prime Minister.



Robert Watt

There are five levels of the RVO and Canadians are not eligible for the top two, Knight/Dame Grand Cross and Knight/Dame Commander, as they convey knighthoods to the recipients and by custom, titular awards are not allowed by the Canadian government. The remaining three may be granted: Commander, Lieutenant and Member.

There are no actual established criteria for the granting of the RVO other than extraordinary or personal service to the Queen, a member of the Royal Family or additionally, in Canada, long service to the Queen's representatives, that is, the Governor General or a Lieutenant Governor.

Few Canadians have been so honoured over the years and in the case of Robert Watt, First Chief Herald of Canada, it is richly deserved.



Illustration: A. Ailo

Lieutenant's Medal
Royal Victorian Order

The Lieutenant Governor Attends Black Tie Dinner

by Carl Larsen

If you ask any of those who attended this year's dinner on October 25th how they enjoyed themselves, I am confident that you will hear that it was a superb evening. The Oceanfront Grand Resort, with its spectacular setting, the gourmet food, the friendly, efficient staff, the attention to detail, and the relaxed atmosphere, combined with the presence of our Patron, and his wife, made this event the highlight of our year.

Laurie Patten brought many examples of his heraldic art which was displayed on tables set up at the back of the dining room. He also brought some panels of the Portable Heraldry Exhibit he is building, and these attracted much attention. The Society's now famous sterling silver salver was brought from its case at Government House and displayed for members to see. Many had brought their banners and these were set up nearby. The dining tables were beautifully laid and graced with place cards and heraldic menus, both designed by Allan Ailo, our 1st Vice President and editor of the BC Blazon. The Director of Ceremonies for the evening was John Neil, 2nd Vice President, who later in the evening was presented with a certificate by Graham Anderson, Cowichan Herald Extraordinary, for successfully completing the second year of the Heraldry Proficiency Course.

We were delighted that The Honourable Steven L. Point, OBC, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, and Her Honour, Mrs. Gwendolyn Point were able to accept our invitation to attend. Accompanying His Honour was his Honorary Aide-de-Camp, Captain Jack Patten, well known to many members of the branch, and Pipe Major Mager, who piped in the Head Table and entertained us with "Scotland the Brave" afterwards.

His Honour spoke to us of the many things he had learned about heraldry since taking office last October, and shared with us his pleasure at discovering how First Nations symbols within the crest system, particularly those associated with both the maternal and paternal branches of his own family, could be incorporated into the design of his coat of arms. He described the significance of the various symbols that will find their place on his shield and crest, and as supporters and how the tinctures themselves had special significance within his family's crest tradition. He spoke also of a tour of Europe Their Honours made, visiting the Canadian battlefields of World War I, including Vimy Ridge and Passchendael. He stressed how strongly he felt that all Canadians, particularly young people, should make such a trip and see how Europeans, ninety years later, still honour the memory, and respect the sacrifice our young soldiers made for them in that terrible war. It was a moving speech that touched us all.

On behalf of the Branch, I presented each of Their Honours with individual, dedicated copies of "A Canadian Heraldic Primer", expressing our appreciation and pleasure at their being present and gracing our head table. His Honour has taken a particular interest in fostering literacy in British Columbia and we announced that we were making a donation through Literacy BC to support this worthwhile cause.

His Honour mentioned to us later that Government House is hopeful that the Governor General will present his arms in a ceremony during the Lieutenant Governors' Conference to be held in Igaluit in late May of next year, but this has not yet been

confirmed. It will depend on whether or not the CHA will have His Honour's achievement completed in time. We can only hope they will, as this would be a truly Vice Regal event with all eleven of Her Majesty's Canadian representatives present.

Our guest speaker for the evening was Bruce Hallsor, a partner in the law firm of Crease Harman & Company in Victoria, the oldest law firm in British Columbia and past president of the Victoria Branch of the Canadian Monarchist League. Bruce was introduced by Allan Ailo, and delivered a most interesting address on "The Monarchy and Canadian Unity".

The evening concluded with guests standing for the departure of Their Honours and they were escorted to their car by the President and his wife. Many guests stayed on afterwards to chat and look at the displays.



Branch President Carl Larsen presents Heraldic Primers to Their Honours



His Honour addresses the members

Erratum

Rogers Window Privy Seal

An email was received from Assiniboine Herald, Darrel Kennedy regarding an error in the Fall - Winter 2007 issue in the article entitled "The Heraldry of Government House", in which Panel 17 of the Rogers Window in Government House, Victoria, was wrongly identified as the Great Seal of Canada. He points out that it is actually the Privy Seal of Governor General Jeanne Sauvé, who was in office from 1984-90, the period during which the window was created.

We have provided this information to Government House and they have assured us that they will make the correction to their website and to their souvenir brochure when it is next reprinted.

Our thanks to Assiniboine Herald for drawing this to our attention.



Photo: Carl Larsen

The Heraldic Influence

by Allan Ailo

This heraldic appearing design is actually the logo for *The Residences®* at Ritz-Charlton in Vancouver, one of numerous cases where heraldry has influenced logos and marketing design.



Photo: A. Ailo

Minimalist Arms

by Allan Ailo

A coat of arms need not be complicated or cluttered to communicate. Finnish heraldry, no doubt influenced by the famous design sense that prevails in Finnish industrial design and art, follows this practice.

Illustrated is an example of a municipal coat of arms that, despite its simplicity, still manages to contain a reference to the name of the town. Also, as with many municipal arms in Finland, only one colour and one metal is used.

The name of this town contains two words. Can you guess the English translation of the town name from these canting arms?

The answer will be in the next issue (complete with an English translation). To add to the suspense and excitement, I will also be revealing which wellknown Canadian has roots in this town.

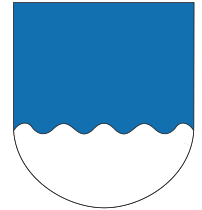


Illustration: A. Ailo

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Income tax receipts are available for any donations to the Society. Contact the Treasurer or the Secretary at their e-mail addresses or telephone numbers on the list above. Donations may be designated for specific purposes.

The BC/Yukon Branch meets at least three times a year including the AGM and Annual Black Tie Dinner. Lectures and exhibitions are held whenever the opportunity arises. For membership information please contact either the Branch President or Secretary.

