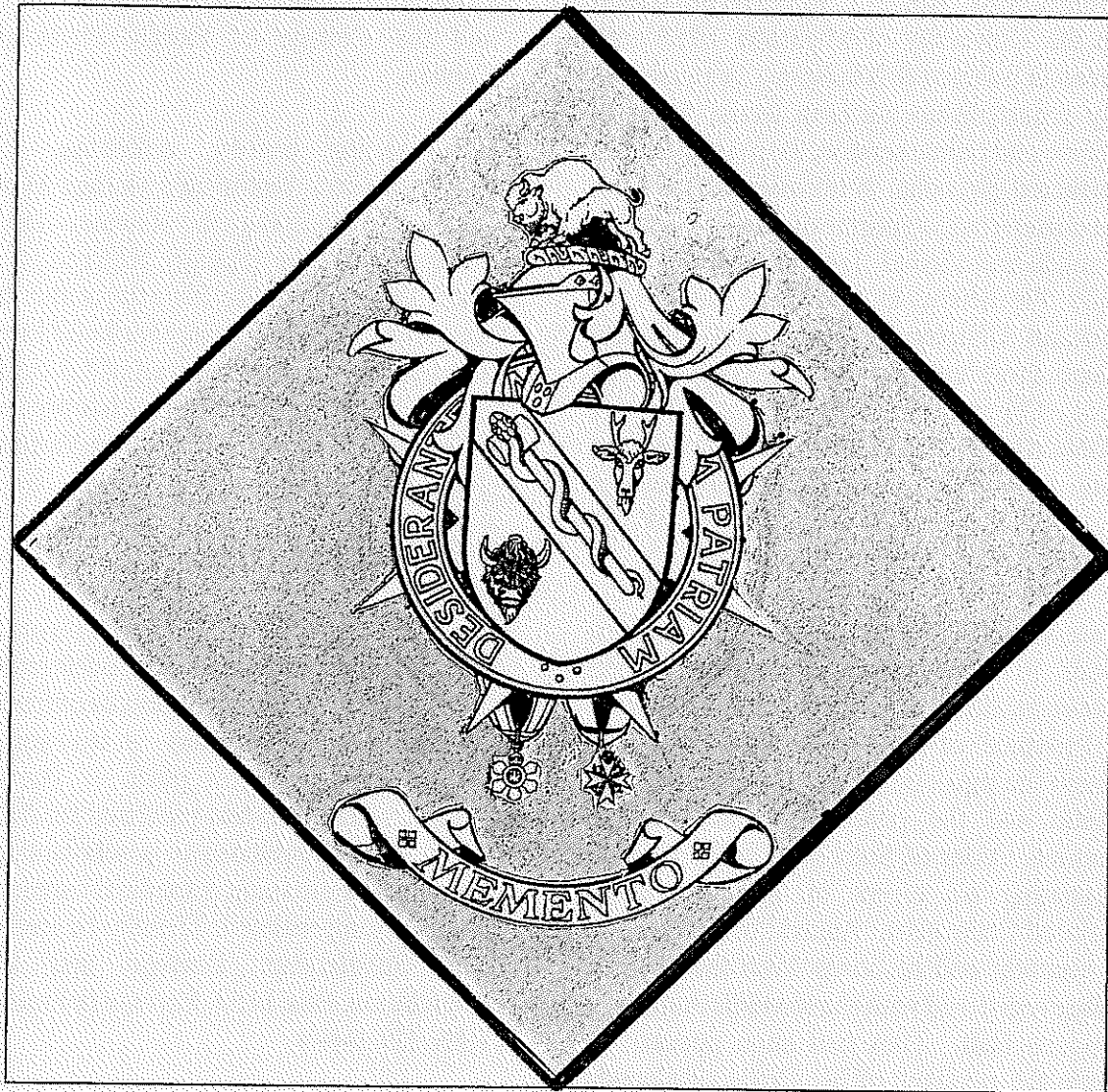


THE BLAZON

Newsletter of the Heraldry Society of Canada - BC/Yukon Branch

Winter 1998/99

Volume 2, Number 1



La Société Héraldique Du Canada-la Branche Dans L'ouest

DONALD WILLIAM RAE, O.C., C.D., M.D., F.R.F.P.

Following a year's battle with cancer Dr. Don Rae, a past president and director of this branch died on 10 December 1998 in the Hospice in Victoria, B.C. Born Weyburn, Sask. April 12, 1931, he graduated from the University of Manitoba 1957 with degrees in Science & Medicine. A person of many accomplishments both in the fields of medicine and public service, Don was not only a respected physician in his own community, but a committed supporter of family medicine in Canada and abroad. Joining the College of Family Physicians in 1958, he served as Provincial Chapter President and National College President and was president of the World Organisation of Family Doctors (WONCA) 1989-92. He was a Fellow of the Royal College of General Practitioners of Great Britain and that of the World Organization of Family Doctors.

He was Invested as an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1992 shortly after being made Provost in the Order of the Buffalo Hunt by the Province of Manitoba. Rising steadily through the ranks of the St. John Ambulance Brigade and the parent organisation, the Venerable Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, culminating his career in 1990 by being appointed Chancellor. An avid heraldist, Don had recently had his arms from the English College registered with the Heraldic Authority at Rideau Hall. They had been updated to include the pendant of his Order of Canada and reflect his status as a Knight of Justice of the Venerable Order of St. John. Having served as a surgeon-lieutenant R.C.N.(R), he was also a long time member of the RCMP (Auxiliary), a retired Lieutenant-Colonel in the RCAMC(M) and Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel of the 26th Field Regiment, RCA(M).

He was past-president of the Heraldry Society B.C. & Yukon Branch, and responsible for designing and acquiring coats of arms for Portage la Prairie, the Portage & District Hospital, the Faculty of Medicine (U of M) and the College of Family Physicians of Canada.

Reading history, collecting antique firearms, restoring a vintage Mercedes and studying the German language occupied what he jokingly referred to as his spare time. Thanks to his efforts this branch was revitalized after being moribund for years. The Blazon was also revived at his urging. A person of gentle demeanour, his presence at Citizenship Court proceedings in Victoria lent great dignity to the ceremony. His many colleagues and numerous friends will miss his wit, intellect and wisdom.

Dr. Rae is survived by Lorraine (Bjarnason), his wife of 47 years. Our condolences over the loss of our friend and mentor extend to his widow and the Rae family. A true son of the West, interment took place at Portage la Prairie, where Don had practised medicine for many years. Donations to a scholarship fund for students pursuing a medical career would be greatly appreciated. These to be sent to The Rae Scholarship, Portage and District Foundation, Box 1153, Portage la Prairie, MB R1N 3J9. ~~2020~~

-MEMENTO-

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From Rean Meyer, President, pro tempore

We owe you, our loyal Branch members, an apology for the delay in getting this publication to you. Excuses will not suffice so we offer none, other than to observe that circumstances beyond our control prevented us from doing so.

Earlier in the year we were requested to include those provinces west of Ontario within our branch. This has necessitated a change of name. Naturally, any of the other provinces and territories affected, whose HSC members might wish to produce their own publication, may do so with certain reservations, one being that having changed our branch name, we intend to keep it.

Since the last AGM in Nanaimo, other changes have occurred and not all are for the best. Doctor Donald Rae, a past president, whose spark and perseverance resulted in *The Blazon* being revived after many years, died early in December. Since Don requested I take over the job of editor, I personally feel an obligation in fulfilling his wish that we get on with the business of making our branch a most successful one. I am also sad to tell you that Anne Lane, CLJ, the beloved wife of one of our Directors Cyril Lane, CLJ, died early on 2 January. All of us, I know, offer their condolences to Lorraine and Cyril in their loss.

Also, David and Cindy Watson, publishers of the early experimental draft of this publication, of which some articles are hereby reproduced, have moved to Calgary. Fortunately, Calgary

is now part of our Branch's territory and David will be our contact there.

Thanks to Charles Buchanan, our immediate past-president, the Lieutenant-Governor of B.C. has graciously accepted the invitation to act as our patron. His Honour recently received his personal grant of arms which will be featured in *The Blazon* at a later date.

As I have been asked to act as interim president, I have selected Saturday 23 January, 1999 for an AGM, of which all members should have received notice earlier. If you plan to attend, please notify either myself or Peter Gardner of your intentions and requirements if you are from out of town. A very favourable rate is available to members who choose to stay over night at the Olde England Inn where the meeting and luncheon will take place.

On behalf of your Branch Executive and myself, I wish 1999 may be a safe and happy year for all of us. ☺☺☺

Rean



CANADIAN HERALDIC AUTHORITY-TENTH ANNIVERSARY 1988-1998

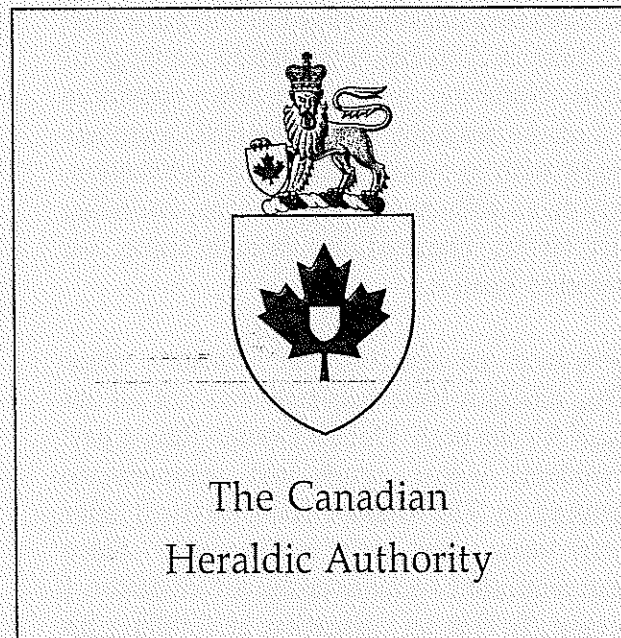
Last June 4th the Canadian Heraldic Authority celebrated, without fanfare, its first decade of operations. Functioning as an adjunct of the office of the Governor-General, a small group of dedicated public servants have for the first time in our country's history, been instrumental in providing coats of arms for universities and colleges, municipalities (Langford and Sidney being recent examples), and the corporate world. However, it is individual Canadians desiring authentic coats of arms for themselves and their descendants which have been the greatest challenge to the limited resources of the Heraldic Authority.

The Chief Herald for Canada is Robert Watt of Vancouver, a past President and Fellow of the Heraldry Society and the only official to hold the appointment since the formation of the Authority. The transfer of the Queen's privilege of granting coat-armour occurred on a sunny afternoon at Rideau Hall, on June 4th, 1988. Her Majesty's youngest son, Prince Edward, handed his mother's letters patent to the Governor-General transferring all powers relating to heraldic matters to her Canadian representative. Thus from that moment, Canadians were able to petition for armorials painted, scripted, signed and sealed in their own country.

One of the architects who helped make this possible was the principal herald at the College of Arms in London during the formative years. Sir Conrad Swann, KCVO, FHSC, now retired, was Her Majesty's Garter King of Arms and, as a Canadian born and raised in Duncan, B.C.,

took a great interest in the venture. An article outlining the functions and composition of the Canadian Heraldic Authority will appear in *The Blazon* in the near future.

Our Branch of the Heraldry Society is always pleased to advise and assist individuals, institutions and corporate bodies in obtaining lawful arms through the Canadian Heraldic Authority.



Academic and professional groups, or corporate bodies interested in heraldry, or seeking an authorised and lawful coat of arms, are encouraged to contact this HSC branch. *Further information may be obtained by calling 250-658-4296 in Greater Victoria, 250-748-2372 in the Duncan area, or 250-756-2143 in Nanaimo.*

MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CANADIAN
HERALDIC AUTHORITY

TO: Mme. Judith LaRoque, C.V.O., Herald Chancellor

FROM: HSC/SHC-Western Canada Branch

DATE: 4 June, 1998

Madam Chancellor:

On behalf of the President, executive and members of The Heraldry Society of Canada/*la Société héraldique du Canada*-Western Canada Branch, this being the 10th anniversary of the transfer by H.M. the Queen of her responsibility in heraldic matters in this country to H.E. the Governor-General, we offer our congratulations.

To the Chief Herald and all those comprising the Canadian Heraldic Authority/*l'Autorité héraldique du Canada*, may the next decade be blessed with the same degree of success and enthusiasm that has been the Authority's hallmark since its formation on June 4th, 1988.

Most sincerely,

(signed R.E. Meyer)

Director *ex-officio*

REMEMBER THE PARLIAMENTARY HERALDIC TEMPEST IN A TEAPOT?

In the summer of 1996, Diane Francis wrote a completely erroneous account in the *Financial Post* of the addition of the motto of the Order of Canada to the Canadian armorials. The eye-catcher was the header "Canada's coat of arms gets alteration thanks to separatists". It would appear Ms. Francis had emerged from a deep sleep and added to the Reform Party's heraldic blunder some eight months previous. Rising in a state of high dudgeon back in late 1995, the deputy leader of the Reform caucus had blasted the government for allowing the separatists to "hijack" the Canadian (sic) coat of arms by substituting a different motto in lieu of "a mari usque ad mare".

Thus, an heraldic storm was unleashed. It all stemmed from a December 1995 press release by a parliamentary lackey in the Solicitor-General's department which began: "Canada has a new Coat of Arms...proposed by a parliamentary journalist (that) will replace the current arms." The mouse that roared went on to state: "As a French Canadian, I always thought the Coat of Arms we have been using was too closely associated with the British."

Acrimonious accusations raged back and forth including those of fostering national disunity. Attempts by heraldists to convince M.P. Deborah Grey and her Reform Parliamentary staff that neither she nor the author of the press release, together with the Minister of Canadian Heritage, the PMO and the Solicitor-General's department, knew what they were shouting about, were ignored.

A week of innuendo and general tumult followed, all carefully recorded in Hansard, while front pages of the country's newspapers

introduced its readers to the subject of heraldry. Not all readers were amused, least of all those who know their Canadian history. However, Her Majesty's armorial bearings in right of Canada, to use the correct term, received more coverage during this period than any time since their authorization in 1921 by the Queen's grandfather, King George V.

The subject of contention was the addition (an augmentation in heraldic terms) of a circlet bearing the motto of the Order of Canada to the Royal Arms used in this country. This arrangement, duly approved by the Queen several years previously, had been in the gradual process of introduction as previous stocks of stationary were used up.

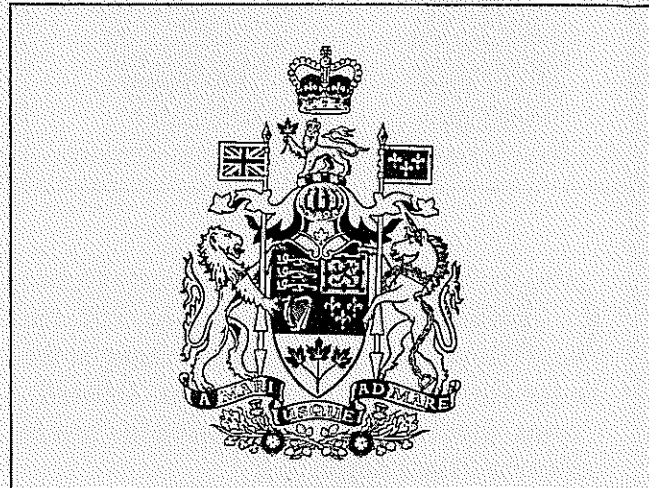
Heraldists no doubt cringed at the Canadian Press reference to the addition of "Desiderantes meliorem patriam" as a "slogan" and other references to changes in "Canada's crest and logo", etc. The *Victoria Times-Colonist* ran an editorial titled "What's Latin for nitwits?", and complained certain letters in the new motto were obscured (actually, a bit of heraldic license) and questioned the use of Latin, since it was a dead language. This from a publication displaying an unauthorised, altered version of Queen Victoria's coat of arms in the masthead and on the editorial page!

Throughout, it was obvious none of the M.P.'s nor bureaucrats involved consulted with, or listened to, advice on the subject. Meanwhile, our nation's heraldic heritage is now the richer with a beautifully enhanced coat of arms for Canada.

It was unfortunate, but neither the Minister of Heritage at the time, nor the M.P.'s involved, realised Canada's so-called coat of arms are those of the Queen used by her as the sovereign of Canada. The same prerogative applies whether it be in England, Scotland Australia or New Zealand. No minister of the Crown, no backbencher, nor Press Gallery reporter, has any function regarding alteration of the Royal Arms for Canada.

It was at the Canadian Prime Minister's suggestion, and solely with Her Majesty's permission, that an augmentation of the additional motto to her Canadian arms was adopted. Obviously, the Heraldic Authority at Rideau Hall was not consulted by members of the Reform caucus, and certainly not by the agitator from the Solicitor-General's office. Why - because these persons, and at least two of the ministers involved, (Heritage and Solicitor-General) either did not know such an authority existed, or if they did, they chose to ignore it.

A little more than one year after the above episode, a different Minister of Heritage dispensed free Maple Leaf flags at a reported cost of \$20 million. One can only wish that some of her largesse had been directed towards promoting recognition of the "Canadian coat of arms", eh! ~~2002~~



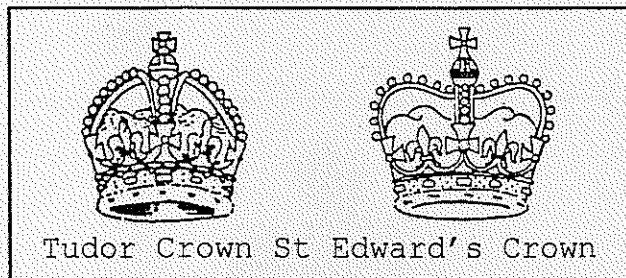
Original Armorial



Augmented Armorial



THE UNLAWFUL USE OF LAWFUL ARMS



On the accession of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II to the Throne in 1952, the Royal Arms for Canada exchanged the Tudor Crown (top) for that of St. Edward's Crown. Both Crowns are protected in Canada under the *Trade Marks Act*.

Readers will have seen my article in the earlier issue on the unauthorised and misuse of the Royal Arms for Canada. Most Canadians probably can't pick out the Canadian armorials from those of Schenley Distilleries or Chivas Regal. The great debate over the augmentation of the motto of the Order of Canada in 1995 was a good measure of how little our government in Ottawa and the M.P.'s who belaboured the subject, know about our national armorials. This ignorance was compounded by the media which, at the time, wrote and spoke of crests, logos and slogans in French when referring to coats of arms, and mottos in Latin.

Some years ago Monarchy Canada published an excellent two part series under the title Symbols of the Monarchy as Trade Marks by noted Toronto barrister Sheldon Burshtein. This gentleman is an authority on the registration and use of trade marks. Quoting from Section 9 of the *Trade Marks Act*, the author outlined the relevant provisions as:

(1) No person shall adopt in connection

with a business, as a trade mark or otherwise, any mark consisting of, or so nearly resembling as to be likely to be mistaken for

(a) the Royal Arms, Crest or Standard;

(b) the arms, crest of any member of the Royal Family;

(c) the standard, arms, crest of His Excellency the Governor-General.

He goes on to emphasize that:

(d) any word or symbol likely to lead to the belief that the wares or services in association with which it is used have received or are produced, sold or performed under royal patronage, approval or authority.

This last applies to the arms, crest or flag adopted and used by Canada or any province or municipal corporation...etc.

Well, just think of the implications here if action was taken in every instance where there is a violation. When I pass the large Henry Birks store in beautiful down town Victoria, I am fascinated by the magnificent three-dimension reproduction of Royal Arms proclaiming By Appointment to HRH The Prince of Wales. Of course, the warrant when it was valid, alluded not to Charles, but to his great uncle, the late Edward Prince of Wales, who later became King Edward VIII for a very short time, before abdicating and becoming the Duke of Windsor.

Then I note my householders' policy is issued by The Dominion of Canada General insurance Company (founded 1887). And to add more

authority to this grand title, my policy is sandwiched between attractive covers embossed with the Royal Arms for Canada. Not those used during Queen Victoria's era, but the coat of arms granted in 1921 by King George V. However, I am certainly not going to complain to the Secretary of State in this instance. I might just have to file a claim for a leaky roof one day. And besides, seeing that grand old word Dominion warms the heart of all persons of Loyalist descent, reminding us that when it was in fashion, Canadians weren't seeking an identity--we knew who we were.

I remember as a young boy going to the local branch of my father's bank (Captain P.G. Jack-Manager said the gold lettering on the glass door) and being given buff coloured paper wrappers for the protection of my school books. This was "The Royal" bank and darned if they didn't use the coat of arms of the King Emperor, George V, just like those used in England. Well, the Royal Bank is still in business but the armorials have now been transposed to a logo of a stylized lion which as an heraldist and a customer, I do hope the bank knows more about looking after my money than symbolism. As logos go, I would say the bank's choice is anything but attractive.

And how about this use of the term royal for commercial means? I asked my neighbour a pilot, which airline he was with these days. "Royal Airlines", said he. There are 52 listings in my telephone book of commercial enterprises all styling themselves royal this or royal that! There's a Royal Insurance and a Royal Life Canada; a Royal Flush Plumbing and another listing called Royal Rooter Plumbing & Drain Cleaning Ltd. Then there's a Royal Arms Apts., and the Royal Limousine Service which presumably, one may hire to pick up a delivery from Royal Pizza, or drive

one to the Royal Roads Café. There's also a crematorium and a wax museum using royal in their company names, and a firm which has government contracts styling itself Royal Victoria Security Ltd. This company is identified by a large gold coloured St. Edward's crown identical to that used in the Royal arms of the U.K. and Canada. Since I lean towards all things monarchical, I would like to think these enterprises are as loyal to their monarch as they claim to be to their customers. Who knows?

Actually, the vast majority are not trying to fool the general public, but merely wish to lend their firm a cachet that otherwise would not be there. And speaking of cachets, sometime in the 1950s I was in Spain and stayed at an hotel in Seville which had seen better days. What impressed me most was not the stuffed peacock whose beady glass eyes surveyed my every movement from under the huge glass dome housing it, but the beautifully chased brass door handles throughout, embossed with the British Royal Arms. Edward VII had once passed the night here (with whom, there was no hint since Spaniards and Frenchmen understand these things).

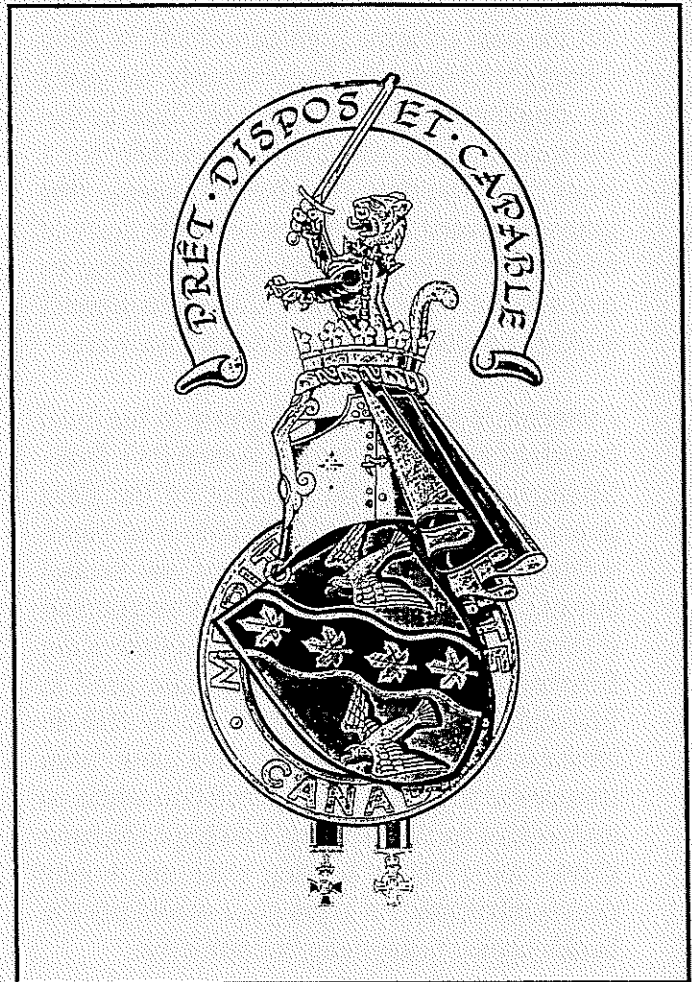
But how much better to have a brass armorial door knob than a mended bath towel as a souvenir from Hotel Angleterra. Being fairly honest and remembering the Guarda Civil were everywhere, I passed up the temptation of acquiring either. I'm sure my room's resident peacock approved. *Rean Meyer*



Royal Crests Left to Right: England, Canada

FIRST TO RESPOND: COL. (RET'D) JOHN LOUGHTON FRAZER, OMM, MSC, CD

Congratulations to Colonel Frazer, the first person and newest member to respond to our letter of 24 November. He is a former member of the famous RCAF Golden Hawks aerobatics team which flew F-86 Sabres in the 1950s. Having been retired from the Canadian Forces in '87, "Jack" Frazer was elected to the House of Commons in the general election of 1993, and became the Defence and Veterans Affairs critic for his party. He decided not to run for re-election in 1997 and was almost immediately offered a position as a member of the Veterans Review and Appeal Board, which he accepted. His arms were executed by well-known heraldic artist Gordon Macpherson, whose work appears elsewhere in this publication. Col. Frazer's canted shield is depicted with the circlet and motto of the Order of Military Merit, of which he is an Officer. The Golden Hawks in the chief and base of the shield allude to one of the more exciting episodes of his career. The Meritorious Service Cross at the viewer's right (but sinister heraldically) is a reminder of another adventure in darkest Africa, for which he was decorated whilst serving as a military attaché and diplomat. Being a Scot, his motto is displayed above his arms. Jack and his wife June reside on Salt Spring Island, B.C. 🌲🌲🌲



*Welcome to our gallant little band of
heraldic warriors, Jack*

EDITORIALLY SPEAKING.....

More than a decade ago Robert Watt of Vancouver formed the B.C. & Yukon Branch, of the HSC/SHC. Now, this branch has extended its horizon, so to speak. The Western Canada Branch is interested in hearing from those persons and groups here in the West (including our American friends in neighbouring states) and the North, having a desire to learn more about heraldry. With the growing interest in the subject we will be discussing at the next AGM the possibility of setting up a speaker's bureau, obtaining an e-mail address and the manning, from time to time, of an information booth and exhibition at a mall site in Greater Victoria. Of course, we would wish to see some of these ideas implemented in other cities and towns of all the provinces and territories where members of the Heraldry Society reside.

The Heraldry Society of Canada (HSC/SHC), was founded in 1966 by the late Commander Alan Beddoe. A renowned heraldist, Beddoe was responsible for designing the ship's badges used by the Royal Canadian Navy in World War II. He also designed coats of arms for many Canadian cities, two of which were Victoria and Esquimalt. Following the cessation of hostilities in 1945, Beddoe who had been a P.O.W. in the First World War, was entrusted with the task of adding the names of Second World War casualties to the Books of Remembrance in the Peace Tower at Ottawa.

A small and unique group of approximately 400 members, the Governor-General serves as the Society's national patron while Lieutenant-Governor Garde Gardom is patron of our

Western Canada branch. Acting as a non-profit society, our principal objectives are to foster interest in heraldry and advise Canadians on the acquisition of authentic coat armour.

As heraldists we have witnessed the untold numbers of North Americans fooled by the purveyors of so-called family coats of arms through mail-order solicitation, or by other means. Millions of dollars have been spent in the past by gullible persons on bogus arms. Obviously, the interest in heraldry is there, even though many consider the subject esoteric. So please don't be shy about sharing *The Blazon* and encouraging a friend or a relation to fill out the application which accompanies each mail-out from this branch. We need at least one representative from each of the major cities of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and the Northern Territories. Acquiring a lawful coat of arms is a wonderful legacy to leave to one's children and grandchildren, and this Branch's professional guidance can save time, red tape and overall costs to the individual who joins our ranks.

This edition of The Blazon is dedicated to the memory of Dr. Don Rae

Included with this issue of *The Blazon*, is the issue of Fall 1997 which only members attending the Branch AGM received. You will note there is an article on the brazen unlawful use of H.M.'s Canadian coat of arms by a Victoria firm. This subject of misuse of our national icons is continued in this latest issue. We welcome further examples discovered by the readership. 📌📌📌

HERALDRY SOCIETY OF CANADA-THE WESTERN CANADA BRANCH
(formerly the B.C. & Yukon Branch)

Under the distinguished patronage of His Honour Garde Gardom, Q.C.
Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of British Columbia

BRANCH EXECUTIVE 1997-98

President: vacant

Past President: Charles Buchanan, Esq., B.A.

Vice-President: vacant

Secretary/Treasurer: Cdr.(N) Peter Gardner, C.D.

Editor & President pro tem: Rean Meyer, UE, C.D.

Directors: Cyril Lane, Esq., CLJ, MMLJ

Heraldic Consultant: Graham Anderson, Esq., M.A., F.H.S.C.

Publisher: To be appointed

Calgary Rep: David Watson, Esq.

The aim of the branch is to promote the understanding and proper use of heraldry and bring together those who are interested in all things of an heraldic nature. The Blazon is the official publication of **The Heraldry Society of Canada/la Société héraldique du Canada,-Western Canada Branch** supported by Branch members from Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia and the Territories of the North. It is published twice annually and included with the membership fee of \$10.00 per year.

Articles should be sent to the Editor and include copyright permission, bibliography, etc. and if possible, photo-ready art work. The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor nor the Heraldry Society of Canada. ~~2020-20~~

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LA SOCIÉTÉ HERALDIQUE DU CANADA-LA BRANCHE DANS L'OUEST