



The BC/Yukon Blazon

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

Spring/Summer 2009

The Royal Heraldry Society of Canada

Vol. 4 No. 1 Issue 6

Governor General Presents Arms to Lieutenant Governor of BC

by Carl Larsen

The Honourable Stephen Lewis Point, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia received his coat of Arms during the annual Lieutenant Governor's Conference held this year in Nunavut, in conjunction with the Governor General's northern tour to join residents in celebrating the tenth anniversary of the creation of the territory in 1999.

At a ceremony held on May 31st in Iqaluit, the territorial capital, Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada, also presented armorial bearings to The Honourable John Crosbie Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador, The Honourable Pierre Duschene, Lieutenant Governor of Quebec and The Honourable Ann Meekitjuk Hanson, Territorial Commissioner of Nunavut. As members will recall, The Honourable Steven Point O.B.C., Patron of the BC/Yukon Branch, was guest speaker at our annual dinner last October and spoke to us about the process of designing his armorial bearings, and his pleasure in discovering that the emblems of both his mother and father could be incorporated into the coat of arms being created for him by the Canadian Heraldic Authority.



His Honour's simple, yet striking armorial bearings were the concept of Darrel Kennedy, Assiniboine Herald, were granted on 20 March 2009 and entered in Volume V, Page 428 of the Public Register of Arms, Flags, and Badges of Canada. The painter was Linda Nicholson and the Calligrapher, Doris Wionzek.

Following is an extract from the Letters Patent:

"I, the Chief Herald of Canada do by these presents grant and assign to the Honourable Steven Lewis Point, O.B.C. the following Arms:

Azure a serpent with a head at each end in base respectant Argent its back enarched and set with fusils, Sable, in chief five mullets in chevron Or. And for a Crest;, an eagle displayed guardant Or its head Argent And for a motto LETSA MOT, meaning "One Mind". And for Supporters to be borne during his lifetime.....; Two timber wolves Sable standing on a grassy mount set with cedar branches and dogwood flowers proper, rising above barry wavy Argent and Azure."

The Symbolism

Arms: The double-headed serpent emblem was given to His Honour by his father, who was from the Musqueam Indian Band. The five stars allude to the Five Star Canoe Club, which was named after a constellation of stars important to his people. In forming a chevron, they come to a point, making an allusion to his name.

Crest: The eagle represents His Honour's name from the Blackfoot of "Flying Eagle".

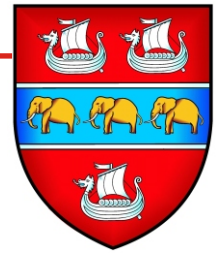
Motto: Meaning "One Mind", this phrase in the Salish language expresses the concept of unity.

Supporters: The supporters honour His Honour's mother who was head of the Wolf Clan of the Sumas First Nation. The dogwood represents his leadership of the province of British Columbia. The compartment represents the habitat of the wolf.

On behalf of all members of the BC/Yukon Branch, I extend our congratulations to His Honour on receiving his new armorial bearings.



From the Desk of Branch President Carl Larsen



In This Issue - Spring/Summer 2009

Editor Allan Ailo and I hope you will enjoy Issue 6 of the BC/Yukon Blazon which has taken a little longer to finalize than expected. We have focused on the highlights of the celebrations on May 4th at Rideau Hall to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Canadian Heraldic Authority. Our lead article is the long awaited grant to His Honour, the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia which took place in Iqaluit during the northern tour of the Governor General. Be sure and check page 8 for Allan's article on Brightwork Heraldry, the first of a series on automotive heraldry. This issue also heralds his debut as a heraldic cartoonist! Our series on BC's armigerous Lieutenant Governors returns next issue.

Annual Meeting of the Branch

Our well attended Annual Meeting this year was held on March 28th at the Horseshoe Bay Inn, a heritage pub located in Chemainus, with that perfect combination of private meeting room, excellent food and good service. Laurie Patten brought an outstanding array of his heraldic creations including a display board of some of the arms of the thirty Anglican Dioceses in Canada, his latest project.

Our guest speaker was Christopher Mackie, BA, LL.B, LRHSC, who delivered a compelling address entitled "Canada's Law of Arms: Room for Improvement", drawn from his thesis for his law degree, "The Canadian Law of Arms: A Close Examination of It's Origin, State & Administration". This is the first such study of this subject and Christopher's intention was to point out potential weaknesses in the hope that action might be taken to strengthen these areas before problems developed. His PowerPoint presentation was carefully put together, his points well made and thought provoking, and the question period at the end was lively. Unfortunately, there was only sufficient time for him to touch on the key issues and clearly we must invite him back, with more time to go into greater depth on a topic so vital to the future development of Canadian heraldry.

I am pleased to announce that the following members were elected to the Board and I welcome the opportunity to work these dedicated members for the 2009-2010 term:

President	Carl Larsen
1st Vice-President	John Neill
2nd Vice-President	Allan Ailo
Treasurer	Laurie Patten
Secretary	Gary Mitchell
Webmaster	Lee Van Horne
Member	Graham Anderson
Member	Shirley Greenwood
Member	Joan Merrington

Membership

Our membership now stands at 50, with one additional member in the process of renewing. This means our 2009-10 membership numbers have held steady over the past few years.

I would like to welcome Chris Collin of Dawson City, Yukon Territory, into membership with the BC/Yukon Branch. I had the pleasure of meeting Chris last January in Ottawa at a dinner meeting held by the Ottawa Valley Branch, of which he is a

member. He mentioned to me that he and Seimke were planning to leave Ottawa for the Yukon and that he would be joining our branch once they were settled. Thanks Chris, for giving credibility to the "Yukon" in our branch name by becoming our first member in the territory for a very long time. To show how pleased we are, we will be featuring Yukon heraldry in our next issue.

Coming Events

Friday, September 11th

Heraldic Tour of Victoria and Luncheon

1st Vice-President John Neill is organizing a heraldic tour of Government House, the Parliament Buildings and a visit to the well know Victoria glass craftsmen at Mercer and Schaefer Glass Studio, who have created many heraldic stained glass windows. They presently have a contract to design, build and install a four panel window at St. Paul's Naval & Garrison Church in Esquimalt to depict the 100 year history of the Royal Canadian Navy. Their work may also be seen at Victoria Airport and many other places. Final arrangements are being firmed up now and full details will be provided shortly. The tour will begin at Government House at 11 am, followed by lunch; then to the Parliament Buildings and finishing at the Glass Studio. Please let John know if you will be attending so we know how many to plan for. We will be organizing a carpool to transport those who wish to attend. The only cost will be for lunch. John's email address is jjneill@shaw.ca and his phone number is 25-204-4040.

October 2nd – 4th National AGM/Convention – Toronto

By now you should have received notice of the 43rd Conference sponsored by the Toronto Branch, who are featuring the work of the renowned Canadian Heraldic artist, Alexander Scott Carter. There will be opportunities to view his work during the Saturday heraldic tour and to learn more about him from the guest speaker at the annual dinner. The Beley Lecture will be delivered by Professor Sam Clarke of the University of Western Ontario, on the topic "State Orders of Western Europe". This is shaping up to be an excellent event, not to be missed. For further information contact the RHSC Administrator, David Rumball, via email at daver@nexicom.net.

October 24th - Black Tie Dinner Saturday, Oct. 24th 2009 - Parksville

For a change of venue this year we have reserved the Quality Resort Bayside in Parksville for our annual dinner. This is a beautiful waterfront hotel with all the amenities and an ideal place for our dinner. They have given us a special rate for those planning to stay overnight. Mark your calendar, check out their Website www.qualityresortparksville.com and stay tuned for more information and the registration form which will be going out soon.



GG Hosts Heraldic Event in Ottawa

by Carl Larsen

As president of the BC/Yukon Branch, and 2nd Vice-President of the Society, I received an invitation from the Governor General to attend a heraldic event at Rideau Hall on 4th May 2009, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Canadian Heraldic Authority. Also invited from our branch was Graham Anderson, Cowichan Herald Extraordinary, Branch Director Joan Merrington, who is also a freelance artist for the Authority, and Robb Watt, Rideau Herald Emeritus, who was to be honoured during the proceedings. Most of the other branch presidents attended, as did many of the Society directors along with a contingent of members from the Ottawa Valley Branch. All heralds and much of staff of the Authority were there, many of whom had been hard at work preparing the exhibits in the Tent Room. There were other special guests including a group of grade 7 and 8 students from the Michaëlle-Jean School who have become heraldic enthusiasts.

I had expected to hear speeches and see historical displays representing the founding and growth of the Authority, including the now famous photo taken on June 4, 1988 of The Prince Andrew delivering Letters Patent from H.M. The Queen to then Governor General Jeanne Sauvé, empowering Her Governors General to exercise Her heraldic authority in Canada. This made possible the establishment of the Authority. There were speeches, but no historical displays. Instead of looking to the past, the theme was very much focused on the present work of the heralds, and on the future and it worked very well. There will be other significant anniversaries, which will provide opportunities to commemorate the history of the CHA, including the tremendous work done over a 22 year period by dedicated Heraldry Society members, without whom there would be no Canadian Heraldic Authority today.

Her Excellency began by welcoming us to Rideau Hall...”to this historic residence where a wide range of armorial bearings can be found, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Canadian Heraldic Authority”.

She continued with two key announcements. “I am pleased to announce that today, chains of office for Canada’s heralds of arms are being presented to Rideau Hall and to Canada. These are beautiful enameled pieces, crafted with care. Each medallion is unique, representing the name of the Canadian river from which the herald’s title is taken. These chains were donated by the W. Garfield Weston Foundation, which we sincerely thank for its generosity.”

These chains of office formed a spectacular display in the Tent Room and may have been the most popular of the many excellent exhibits. (The elegant Chains of Office worn by the Governor General as head of the Canadian Heraldic Authority, and by the Chief Herald, were provided some years ago by Dr. Helen Mussalleem, CC, Capilano Herald Extraordinary, and much honoured British Columbian nurse, who donated the funds for both collars.)

Her Excellency continued, “I am also pleased to announce that in honour of the 20th anniversary of the Canadian Heraldic Authority, an embroidered tabard will be created for the Chief Herald of Canada. The Royal Heraldry Society of Canada has generously agreed to sponsor the creation of this traditional heraldic garment. This is an exciting initiative, and I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the President and Board of Directors of the Society”.

It is clear that our patron has an exceptional appreciation for heraldry, for what it is and how it can be used in the modern world when she shared her feelings about her personal arms which “reflect my roots and my sense of belonging, but also my most deeply held beliefs, what I hope to accomplish during my mandate, and the legacy that I want to leave to the country that welcomed me with open arms”.

She went on to say “Heraldry pushes us to undertake a search for meaning that goes to the very heart of the work of our heralds and inspires their art. The representation of arms is truly an art and, in Canada, it is born of the talent of artists and calligraphers. I would also like...to thank all of the past and present heralds to whom we owe Canada’s reputation for excellence”.

Her concluding words were “Today we are celebrating 20 years of passion, commitment and skill in the service of Canadian heraldry. And so it is with the certainty of a promising future that I offer you my sincerest congratulations as you celebrate this anniversary. Long live the Canadian Heraldic Authority”.

Her Excellency summoned Robb Watt to the podium and together they unveiled the Letters Patent and Artwork granting him the augmentation to his arms announced at Rideau Hall nearly two years earlier on his retirement as Chief Herald. (See page 4 for full details on this special moment.)

It was then time for the grade 7 and 8 students and their teachers to come to the podium while Chief Herald Claire Boudreau spoke at length of how much she enjoyed teaching them the fundamentals of heraldry and its application in the modern world which had inspired them to design some very creditable arms for themselves that they were proud to display for us. Clearly these students had developed an appreciation of the art and science of heraldry and its application in the modern world.

Following the formal events in the ballroom we proceeded to a reception in the Tent Room to enjoy a piece of the anniversary cake baked by the chefs at Rideau Hall and browse through the many excellent exhibits on display.

From the speeches, announcements and presentations in the Ballroom to the reception and heraldic displays in the Tent Room, to the pleasant dinner at the Blackthorn Café in the evening, I thought the entire event a great success. Congratulations to the CHA, and to all those who made it such a special celebration.



◀ Our patron, the Governor General, speaking at the Heraldry Event at Rideau Hall, 4 May 2009.



◀ Her Excellency explains the symbolism of her coat of arms to students in the Tent Room. “My arms reflect my roots and my sense of belonging, but also my most deeply held beliefs.”

Photo Credit: MCpl Jean-François Néron, Rideau Hall

Governor General Presents Augmentation to Armorial Bearings of Robert Douglas Watt, L.V.O.

by Carl Larsen

I was privileged to be present at Rideau Hall on 26 June 2007 to share the special events which took place to honour Robb Watt on the occasion of his retirement after serving nineteen years as the first Chief Herald of Canada. One of the highlights of that day was the announcement made by Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada that Robert Douglas Watt had been appointed Rideau Herald Emeritus and would be granted supporters to his personal armorial bearings, such honours being bestowed to recognize his outstanding service to Canadian heraldry.

On 4th May 2009, as president of the BC/Yukon Branch, I was once again at Rideau Hall in the ballroom and had the pleasure of witnessing the fulfillment of the Governor General's announcement made almost two years earlier.

Before the unveiling of the new Letters Patent, Dr. Claire Boudreau, the present Chief Herald, shared with the audience



Photo Credit: MCpl Jean-François Néron, Rideau Hall

some insights as to the background and symbolism of the supporters in Robb's newly augmented armorial bearings. She spoke of the "components he worked with during his term of office as

being land, sea and air" and how well these were represented by the winged sea-cougars. (I thought immediately of the four main classical elements of the ancient Greeks, Earth, Water, Air and Fire, and reflected that the colour red could also be a reference to Fire and that all four of the ancient elements had an application to the role of Chief Herald.) What a brilliant choice the winged sea-cougars were for supporters. The Governor General and Robb Watt together unveiled his Letters Patent and Artwork to an enthusiastic round of applause and Her Excellency congratulated Rideau Herald Emeritus on his newly augmented achievement.

The augmented armorial bearings are stunning in every respect. The painter, Cathy Sabourin, Fraser Herald, has done a superb rendering of the blazon and Robb was obviously delighted with the result.

The Letters Patent read in part ".....and whereas it is appropriate to recognize the distinguished service to Canadian heraldry by Robert Douglas Watt, Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order, Rideau Herald Emeritus, through an augmentation of his personal armorial bearings;.....and...I,... pursuant to the authority vested in me by Her Majesty, do by these Presents grant and assign.....as an honourable augmentation to his Arms, the following Supporters: Two sea-cougars Gules queued and winged Argent each gorged with a coronet erable Argent and Azure and set before a grassy mount Vert strewn with maple seeds Or; to be borne and used by Robert Douglas Watt during his lifetime, all according to the Law off Arms of Canada."

Those familiar with Robb's arms will notice changes which are fully explained in the following symbolism document. This new version of his arms was registered at the CHA on 15 February 2008, based on his own design.



Photo: C. Larsen

Symbolism of the Watt Armorial Bearings Arms

The arms in the first and fourth quarters are those of Mr. Watt's father, George Cuthill Watt. These Canadian arms are based on a Scottish grant of 1987, to one of his father's first cousins, David Brand Watt III. They feature an oak tree on a green mount, a symbol long associated in Scottish heraldry with people having the surname Watt. In the chief, the book between the wheat sheaves represents Mr. Watt's great-grandfather, David Brand Watt I, a schoolmaster, who was the son and grandson of James and John Watt, bakers in Dunfermline, Fife. The border differences these arms. The border differences these arms from those of David Brand Watt III.

The arms in the second and third quarters are those granted to Mr. Watt from the English Kings of Arms in 1983. They blend references to British Columbia and his career. The books symbolize academic pursuits and occupations in various fields of applied history. The chevron and chevrons represent the mountains, Hollyburn and Grouse, at the bases of which he has lived. They also refer more widely to the landscape of much of British Columbia where he has lived most of his life. Mr. Watt has always been fascinated by the big cat of the province, the cougar, and shows it here in red, one of Canada's national colours, appearing on white, the other national colour.

Crest: In the first crest, from his father, the lymphad and the martlet are borrowed from the arms of West Vancouver, where Mr. Watt and his father grew up. In the second crest, the floral chaplet

Governor General Presents Augmentation - Con't from Page 4

combines the national floral emblems of Canada, the maple, and England, the rose, to symbolize his marriage with Alison Logan, a native-born Londoner. They were married in the Temple Church in 1973 and the symbols of the two Inns of Court that care for the Church are Pegasus and the Agnus Dei, hence the winged Agnus Dei.

Mottos: FIRM FAITH AND BRIGHT HOPE is a phrase borrowed from a letter sent in 1911 from Mr. Watt's great-grandfather David Brand Watt I to his fourth son, his grandfather, John Turner Watt, when John was taking up the duties as an elder in the Presbyterian Church in North Vancouver.

ROSE AND MAPLE LEAF ENTWINE FOREVER is a celebration of Mr. Watt's marriage, a reference to the sinister crest, and an adaptation from the famous patriotic song by Alexander Muir, "The Maple Leaf Forever", referring to his love of Canadian history and his maternal descent from French Huguenot Loyalists who left New York in exile on HMS Hope in 1783.

Supporters: These symbolize land, sea and air, the components that Mr. Watt worked with and moved across and through during his term of service as Chief Herald of Canada. The coronet is that same one found in the Arms of Office of the Chief Herald of Canada. The maple seeds in the compartment signify both the growth potential of the Canadian Heraldic Authority of which he was the first Chief Herald, and Mr. Watt's immediate family, his wife, Alison; his two children, Michael and Catherine; and him.

My thanks to Manon Lévis, Production Manager and Administrative Officer C.H.A. for providing copies of letters patent, etc. for this article.

Heraldic Miscellany: Two New Heralds Appointed

by Carl Larsen

Bruce Patterson, Saint-Laurent Herald, distributes a periodic "Heraldic Miscellany" via email which contains many interesting tidbits that I will share with you as space permits. The following extract announces the appointment of two new heralds, one of whom is a British Columbian I met at Rideau Hall in May. Forrest has very kindly agreed to write occasional articles for The BC/Yukon Blazon.

Bruce writes, "In rapid succession we have welcomed two new heralds at the Canadian Heraldic Authority, bringing us at last back to full strength (this ends a process started exactly 2 years ago with the retirement of Robb Watt as Chief Herald). Dr. Forrest Pass began work as Saguenay Herald and Assistant Registrar on May 4, while Manon Labelle started as Miramichi Herald on June 1st.

Dr. Pass comes from the Sunshine Coast area of British Columbia and recently completed his PhD in Canadian history at the University of Western Ontario. His thesis was on Canadian nationalism and British Columbia regional identity. Some of his research touched on heraldry, flags and other emblems.

Ms. Labelle also completed a degree recently, her MA in Medieval History at the University of Ottawa, with a focus on the practice of notaries in late medieval France. She is from Casselman, Ontario."

A Very Brief History of the Heraldic Tabard

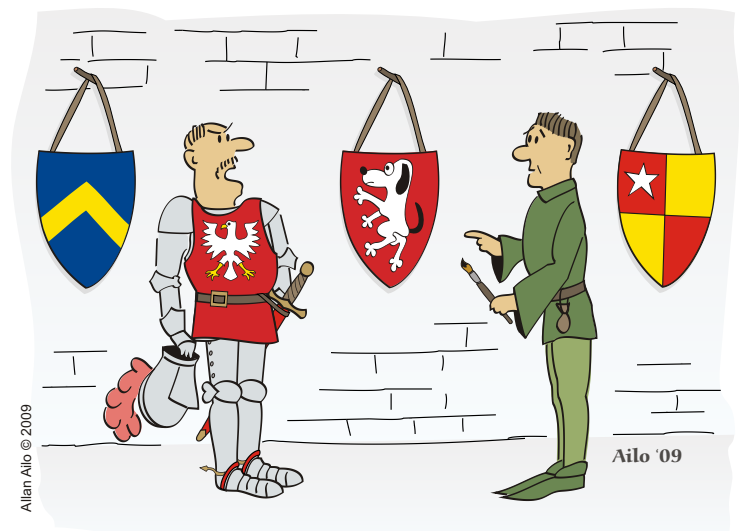
by Carl Larsen

Heraldic tabards have a humble origin. According to the Oxford English Dictionary, the first references to a tabard occurred around 1300 to a tunic like garment commonly worn by monks, foot soldiers and peasants. They were simple to make from inexpensive material, easy to repair and gave good protection from the elements. By the late Middle Ages they had evolved into a short coat, often sleeveless, or with short sleeves or shoulder pieces, open at the side and sometimes belted.

After the development of plate armour and the virtual abandonment of the shield, the traditional place to display arms, they were often worn by knights over their armour and emblazoned with their coats of arms. Brooke-Little speculates that the first heraldic tabards worn by heralds were likely cast-off garments given to them by their lords and worn as a sign of their special relationship to him.

The armorial tabards worn by heralds of the royal household were emblazoned with the arms of the sovereign on the front, back and both sleeves and that tradition has continued to the present day with the English Kings of Arms and Lord Lyon King of Arms in Scotland. Even the state heralds of the Republic of South Africa, a Commonwealth country, wear a form of tabard bearing the emblems of the new state arms. (There have also been recent comments on the Internet that the Chief Herald of Ireland has been presented with a "colourful tabard" which, unfortunately, he has not yet officially worn)

Humour in a Heraldic Vein



You clearly need to re-read the blazon



◀ *The Governor General announces that a heraldic tabard is to be created for the Chief Herald, cost to be covered by the RHSC.*



RIDEAU HALL



THE CHANCELLERY OF HONOURS
LA CHANCELLERIE DES DISTINCTIONS HONORIFIQUES

THE CANADIAN HERALDIC AUTHORITY
L'AUTORITÉ HÉRALDIQUE DU CANADA

Heraldic Tabard for the Chief Herald of Canada Announced by the Governor General of Canada

On May 4, 2009, Her Excellency, the Governor General announced that a tabard, a traditional heraldic garment, would be created, to be worn on special occasions by the Chief Herald of Canada.

This announcement is the direct result of a decision of the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada, made through the executive of its board of directors, to cover the costs related to the creation of the tabard, up to an agreed amount.

The creation of a tabard for the Chief Herald is the fulfillment of a wish held by the officers of the Canadian Heraldic Authority, the members of the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada, and others in the heraldic community, ever since the creation of the CHA in 1988. Such a garment will add a sense of splendor and dignity to official heraldic ceremonies, marking the importance of the Chief Herald's role in assigning and proclaiming heraldic emblems.

The design concept of the garment was also approved by the Governor General, and will remain confidential until it has been unveiled. The design was created by the Chief Herald of Canada and Fraser Herald.

The President of the RHSC will receive periodic updates from Chief Herald of Canada.



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OTTAWA, CANADA K1A 0A1

◀ *Claire Boudreau, the Chief Herald of Canada, speaking after the Governor General's comments and announcements.*

A Canadian Tabard for the Chief Herald

by Carl Larsen

It was a great moment for Canadian heraldry when the Governor General announced that an embroidered heraldic tabard was to be created for the Chief Herald of Canada and that “The Royal Heraldry Society of Canada has generously agreed to sponsor the creation of this traditional heraldic garment”. The Society will pay the entire cost of the tabard and members will be invited to contribute to a fund set up for the purpose.

I think those of us assembled at Rideau Hall, representing the RHSC, felt particularly pleased and proud that this moment had arrived, and that the timing was right for the present Governor General to accept our longstanding offer to provide the funds for the creation of this missing element in the accoutrement of our Canadian Chief Herald.

I must admit that we would have liked to have seen a coloured copy of the design of the Canadian tabard on an easel with details as to who the fabricator will be and when it is to be completed, etc. but we have to accept that was not possible.

Like the Heralds' Chains of Office donated by the W. Garfield Weston Foundation, the tabard will be a gift to Rideau Hall and Canada, and there is a protocol around such things that requires they be announced when they have been created, and not before, and therefore no details can be provided in advance. Our patron made a rare exception to that rule when she made the announcement before work on the tabard had even begun. However, Her Excellency could not make an exception to the strict guidelines concerning the early release of design and fabrication details of the tabard. For that we shall have to be patient until it is finished. The thirteen magnificent heralds' chains of office paid for by the W. Garfield Weston Foundation were not announced until after their completion when they were actually placed on display. A representative of the Foundation was present at Rideau Hall for the announcement and exhibition.

It is very good news that the design of the tabard was done by the Chief Herald herself and Cathy Sabourin, that superb heraldic artist officially known as Fraser Herald. I think we can rest assured that the result will be all that we could ask. It is likely that the order for the embroidered tabard has now been placed, or soon will be, and the actual work of creating it can begin.

Members can take pride in the fact it was the Royal Heraldry Society who early recognized the need for the Chief Herald to have a Canadian tabard to wear on appropriate ceremonial occasions in Canada and at international events and offered to cover its cost. Heralds within the three Commonwealth countries having heraldic authorities, England, Scotland and South Africa, wear tabards bearing their country's royal, or in the case of South Africa, state emblems. Everyone is agreed that it is definitely time that our Canadian Chief Herald joined them in having a distinctive Canadian tabard.

The RHSC and the CHA will together be looking for an appropriate event at which the tabard can be officially unveiled once it has been completed. At that time our curiosity will be satisfied and the Canadian tabard will take its place as a significant part of the heraldic regalia of Canada, along with the various Chains of Office and the Chief Herald's baton. That will be an historic occasion indeed, on which the eyes of the heraldic community in Canada and abroad will be focused.



◀ ENGLAND

John Brooke-Little wearing his tabard as Norroy and Ulster King of Arms.



SCOTLAND ▶

Robin Orr Blair LVO, WS, Lord Lyon King of Arms in his splendid Scottish tabard.



◀ SOUTH AFRICA

Marcel van Rossum, Assistant National Herald of South Africa, and Themba Mabaso, National Herald of South Africa (formerly Deputy State Herald and State Herald respectively until 2004) are wearing their tabards displaying the arms of South Africa adopted in 2000.

Tabard Fund Opened

Now that the announcement has been made by the Governor General, a Tabard Fund is being established by the Board of Directors, and all members of the RHSC, and others in the heraldic community, are invited to participate in what the Governor General has referred to as “an exciting initiative”. This is a unique opportunity for us to personally support the creation of the Chief Herald's Tabard which will be presented to the Governor General as a gift to Canada when completed.

All contributions are welcome and should be sent to the **Royal Heraldry Society of Canada, P.O. Box 8128, Terminal T, Ottawa, ON, K1G 3H9**, with a note indicating that it is a donation to the Tabard Fund. A receipt will be sent to all contributors for income tax purposes.

Origin of Saab's Griffin

This article is the first of a series on automotive heraldry, the title referring to the chrome logos and decorative trim that adorns automobiles, which is termed "brightwork".

Though some might scoff at the notion that genuine heraldry could play a part in the creation of crass commercial logos, several automotive logos are based on actual arms and many more are inspired by the heraldic imagination.

The Saab Logo

The griffin in the Saab logo, "derived from the coats of arms of the Skåne and Östergötland counties in southern Sweden traditionally symbolises vigilance" (source: www.saabmuseum.com/marque). Skåne (Scania) is a historic province (landskap) on Sweden's southernmost tip.

As the Saab industrial group is comprised of a number of companies, the symbol actually appears on several other logos in addition to the automotive logo and is also reflected in product names such as *Griffin Edition* automobiles and *Gripen (Griffin)* fighter jets.

The griffin head had first appeared in 1911 on the AB Scania-Vabis logo and was first used on the Saab automobile logo in 1984. The current version of the logo was the result of a redesign in 2000 to delete the name Scania, following the de-merger of Saab and Scania upon the sale of Saab to General Motors.

It remains to be seen if Saab will soon have to stop using the griffin logo due to a contractual arrangement with Scania that allows Saab Automobile the use of the griffin emblem for a period up to the end of 2009.

The Heraldry

To trace the origins of this modern design, we need to go back to the 12th century, when the House of Pomerania adopted a griffin as a heraldic symbol for their dynasty. The arms of the House of Pomerania eventually came to be; Argent, a griffin rampant Gules, armed Or.

The Pomeranian griffin still appears today in the arms of the German state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, the Polish voivodeships of West Pomerania and Pomerania as well as several towns in both countries.

On April 23, 1437, Eric of Pomerania granted arms which used the Pomeranian griffin's head to the then Danish city of Malmö (later to become the Swedish city of Malmö). These arms were blazoned "Argent, a Griffin's head erased Gules, crowned Or". Despite his title, Eric of Pomerania (1382-1459) was the King of Denmark, as well as Norway and Sweden, and also the first king of the Kalmar Union of 1396. He married Philippa, daughter of Henry IV of England, in 1406.

Next, we need to jump ahead to 1658, when Skåne became a Swedish province and the heraldic situation was soon to change. During the centuries as a Danish province, Skåne never had a coat of arms. However, in 1660, another king played his part in this heraldic tale. This king, however, never knew about his contribution to Swedish heraldry as he happened to be dead at the time. His name was Charles X Gustavus (or Carl X Gustav, if you prefer) and it was for his funeral that provincial arms, including Skåne's, were created.

Oddly, Swedish royal funerals seemed to provide a boost to heraldry. Many other provincial arms, including Karelia's (now in Finland), had been designed a century earlier in 1560 for the funeral of Gustavus I Wasa.

In any event, the solution for the design of Skåne's new arms was to take Malmö's arms and simply change the silver field to gold. In 1939, the blazon was revised to read; "Or, a griffin's head erased Gules, crowned Azure and armed Azure when it should be armed". This avoided having a gold crown on a gold field.

Skåne County (län) was created in 1997 by the merger of two counties (with virtually the same boundries as the historic province) and the new arms are the same as those of the province except with different tictures.

In 1999, when the Skåne Region was created, the Regional assembly also adopted a griffin's head coat of arms for the region.

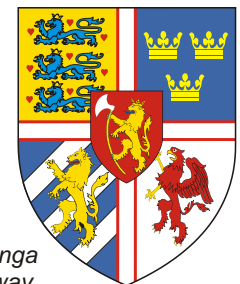


Photo & Illustrations: A. Ailo

◀ The Saab griffin is crowned or (as is the original griffin in the arms of Skåne) on this logo introduced in 2000



Arms of Eric with the Pomeranian arms in the fourth quarter (Denmark in 1st; Sweden in 2nd; Swedish Folkunga dynasty in 3rd; Norway in eschutchean)



Article: Allan Ailo © 2009



◀ Skåne revised 1939 (granted 1660)



◀ Skåne County 1997

◀ Skåne Region 1999 after image on the Skåne Region website



Arms of city of Malmö 1437 ▶

Illustration: www.answers.com

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