



The BC/Yukon Blazon

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

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The Stained Glass Windows of Rideau Hall

by Carl Larsen

There are many things which impress me on my visits to Rideau Hall but right at the top of the list are the two stained glass windows on either side of the main entrance. I confess to being an aficionado of stained glass. It all goes back to the years I lived in England and spent a lot of my time touring English cathedrals from Canterbury to Yorkminster, which has the largest display of Medieval stained glass in the world.but I digress.

Most of the guides who conduct the tours of Rideau Hall know little about these unique windows but mine knew enough to tell me they were “amazing” and “beautiful” and had “a lot of heraldry on them” and “were important to our history”, and she was right on all counts. In addition they were created and produced by Christopher Wallis, longtime member of the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada. He has designed and crafted over 800 stained glass windows in Canada and the U.S., including his stunning work in Christ Church Cathedral and Government House in Victoria, both of which were included in the tour presented by our Branch during the Society conference hosted by us in 2007.

No photographs are allowed to be taken on the normal tourist tours of Rideau Hall but those of us who were privileged to attend the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Canadian Heraldic Authority on May 4th were allowed to take photos and the following are pictures taken on that visit.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II unveiled two commemorative stained glass windows at Rideau Hall on June 30, 1992, during her visit to Ottawa for the celebrations of the 125th anniversary of Confederation. Designed and produced by Christopher Wallis, an artist from London, Ontario, the windows were a gift to Canada by private donors: Their Excellencies Ramon John Hnatyshyn and Gerda Hnatyshyn, as well as G. Hamilton Southam and Marion Southam. The windows are located in the Entrance Hall of the residence.

The Royal Window

The Royal Window commemorates the 40th anniversary of the accession to the throne of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II as Queen of Canada, and celebrates the 125th anniversary of Confederation.

Central Symbol: the Royal Arms of Canada (proclaimed by King George V in 1921). It is surrounded by the shields of arms of the 10 provinces and two territories (granted between 1625 and

1956) and it is placed on a wreath of maple leaves, Canada's national symbol.

Top: Her Majesty's personal Canadian flag, adopted in 1962

Bottom: Great Seal of Canada showing Her Majesty seated, in robes of State

Upper Corners: Royal Cypher with the Royal Crown

Lower Corners: Sovereign's insignia of the Order of Canada and the Order of Military Merit.

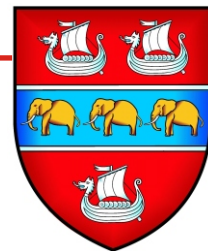
Border: national colours of red and white predominate, with symbolic accents of the Royal Crown and maple leaves.

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Photo: Carl Larsen

From the Desk of Branch President Carl Larsen



We are pleased to present Issue 7 for your reading pleasure and heraldic edification. Be sure to read Allan Ailo's well written and carefully researched article "New Westminster Arms: 150 Year Journey" that tells the fascinating story of the city's origins and it's heraldic history. Another "must read" is his all too brief, tongue-in-cheek report of a mysterious medieval order, duly illustrated.

It has been a very busy and interesting fall season with a number of activities to keep us busy, including the heraldic tour of Victoria, (which included Government House, the Parliament Buildings and the Mercer & Schaeffer Glass Studio), the Society's 43rd conference in Toronto, and the annual Black Tie Dinner in Parksville, Vancouver Island.

Heraldic Tour of Victoria – September 11th

Arrangements for our visits to Government House, the Parliament Buildings and the Mercer & Schaeffer Glass Studio were made by 1st VP, John Neill and a successful day it was.

1. Government House

It was one of those beautiful, sunny September mornings when we met at Government House for our specially arranged tour. Those who arrived early took the opportunity to stroll through the beautifully landscaped grounds to the back of the building which afforded spectacular views of the gardens, the city, the sea and the mountains.

Our tour guides took us first to the Rogers Window, the beautiful stained glass heraldic tribute to our constitutional monarchy, our provincial heritage and to the distinguished service of our Governors and Lieutenant Governors. Many of us had visited previously in 2007 and saw the lower three heraldic panels which were described in the Fall-Winter 2007 issue of the Blazon. This time we were able to ascend the central staircase to the meeting room which contains the upper three panels of the



Our group with our two guides in the ballroom of Government House. The decorative panels represent the ribbon of the Order of British Columbia which was presented a few days after our tour.

Rogers Window which are not open to the public and not included in tours. There is no other location from which to view the top three panels of the window. As we climbed the staircase we passed the coats of arms of members of the Royal Family and Governors General who have stayed overnight at Government House. These were created by Laurie Patten to replace the originals which had faded over the years.

The uppermost panel of the window is taken up with the cross of St. George which was first flown over what is now Canada in the 15th century. The panel beneath it displays the heraldic device used to represent British Columbia during the latter part of the nineteenth century long before the present coat of arms was officially granted. The third panel consists of the badge of The Prince of Wales as displayed in the ballroom of Cary Castle in Victoria in honour of the 1919 visit of Edward, Prince of Wales. His Royal Highness was on a two month tour of Canada to recognize the outstanding contribution of Canadian forces during World War I, and stayed overnight at Government House.

The final panel contains firstly "the Royal Lion of British Columbia" bearing a flag charged with the tudor rose to represent the province's British heritage, a Pacific dogwood, the provincial floral emblem set against the setting sun. In the center is the badge of the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia and on the right is the standard of the Hon. Robert Rogers, Lieutenant Governor 1983-1988.

Our guides escorted us through many rooms of interest in Government House including the fir panelled Dining Room, the Drawing Room with its elegant marble fireplace, the Little Drawing Room, said to be the Queen's favourite, and the spacious ballroom where preparations were underway for the presentation of the Order of British Columbia to follow our visit. There was much art representing First Nations' culture displayed in the various hallways and staircases.

It was an excellent tour of this unique building and we were invited to return and see other areas which we had to forgo due to a lack of time.

2. Parliament Buildings

The heraldic tour of the Parliament Buildings will be the subject of a detailed article in a future issue of the Blazon as it is not possible to do it justice in this brief President's Report other than provide a few highlights.

We enjoyed lunch in the Legislative Dining Room, a viewing of the legislative chamber, an opportunity to examine in detail the stained glass windows commemorating the 1897 Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria and the 2002 Golden Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. We also saw various items connected to the official grant of the Queen's Royal Arms for British Columbia and heraldic areas of the Parliament Buildings never open to the public.

3. Mercer & Schaeffer Glass Studio

Our final stop of the day was the famous Victoria glass studio whose stained glass windows may be seen in the Parliament Buildings, (the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Window), Christ Church Cathedral and Victoria Airport, to mention only a few places where their work may be viewed.

When we visited the studio, Tom Mercer and his team were busy on a number of projects including their latest commission to create a stained glass window to be installed in St. Paul's Anglican Church in Esquimalt (often referred to as the Naval & Garrison Church), to commemorate the centenary in 2010 of the founding of

Donning Our Coat

The true story of the Yukon Coat of Arms

By Jerome Stueart

This article first appeared in the Fall 2008 issue of *Yukon, North of Ordinary* www.NorthofOrdinary.ca and is reprinted with permission of the publisher, Harper Street Publishing and author Jerome Stueart.

The Anglican Diocese of the Yukon created the first unofficial coat of arms for the territory, but the story doesn't stop there.

The year was 1951 and the Yukon Territory had no official coat of arms. But Otto Nordling was certain he'd seen one. In fact, he'd probably seen three versions: Anglican Bishop Bompas had one designed in the 1890s; Edwin Chadwick had included one in his 1903 design of the Great Seal of Canada; and Mrs. Robert Lowe had created one in 1925.

Nordling was a proud Yukoner from Dawson City who was stationed on an army base in Ottawa. In a letter to the Department of Resources and Development (DRD), he enquired about the status of the coat of arms of the territory.

He knew that almost 30 years earlier Mrs. Lowe had sent in her design in which a husky, looking more like a lion, lounged in the center to Ottawa for consideration. Lowe had spent \$15 on the design.

He wrote, "... if the choice was referred to the people of the Yukon, the husky dog design would win, 'all four paws down.'"

When he discovered that there was no official coat of arms, he asked, "How is this to come about?"

Nordling's letter was given to Frederick Fraser, Commissioner of the Yukon, who declared that the design of the coat of arms would be decided in a contest among Yukon schoolchildren.

In April 1952, three judges, including George Black, former Commissioner of the Yukon, chose the winners.

"It was left up to students to draw what they wanted to," said Alan McDiarmid recently, whose design, which included a mountain landscape, a husky, a gold pan and pickaxe crossed over a shovel, won first prize. "There wasn't any prompting. No one gave us symbols to include." Second and third place went to Tommy Nakashima of Dawson City and Ione Cameron of Whitehorse, respectively.

But by 1954, their designs hadn't reached the secretary of state in Ottawa. W.G. Brown, Commissioner of the Yukon, explained the problem in a letter to R. G. Robertson, Deputy Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources (previously DRD).

"These [designs] were evidently left in Dawson City when the capital was moved to Whitehorse and it is possible they were destroyed when the school heating plant was overhauled in the fall of 1952," wrote Brown. The children were asked to redraw their designs from memory, and those were shipped to Ottawa.

The following October, Commissioner Brown received a letter marked "CONFIDENTIAL". R.A.J. Phillips, Executive Officer to the Deputy Minister of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, wrote: "As you know, the pitfalls of heraldry are many and, at best, there is only a handful of people in Canada with a knowledge of it."

He remarked how much he liked the children's designs, but, after speaking with experts in England, the department realized that the designs lacked sufficient heraldry.

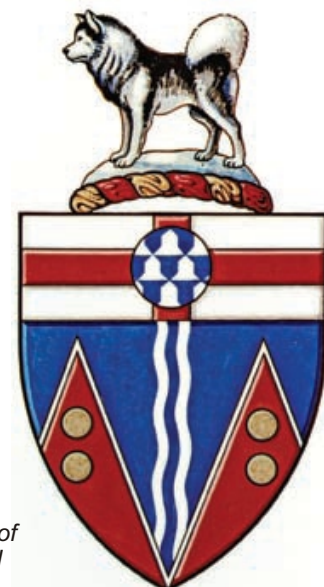
"This may be a somewhat delicate problem," Phillips wrote, "owing to the initiative which has already been taken through the Yukon Schools. We certainly wish to avoid the impression that Ottawa is taking over the design of the Coat of Arms," but only from Ottawa, he continued, "is it possible to get the highly specialized advice which is necessary to ensure that the Yukon Coat of Arms is one of the best in Canada." In the meantime, A.B. Beddoe, a renowned heraldry expert, was at work on the Northwest Territories Coat of Arms.

Deputy Minister Robertson, who had considered the children's submissions, decided then to commission Beddoe to create the Yukon Coat of Arms. Beddoe's design included Chadwick's mountains and used the two colours favoured by Bishop Bompas. But when Beddoe crowned the coat of arms with a brown bear, Phillips recalled "a suggestion many years ago in Dawson ... which gave prominence to a husky dog."

After Queen Elizabeth II recognized the coat of arms in February 1956, Otto Nordling doggedly promoted the use of it and set his sights on getting an official territorial flag. As for the three children, they all live in the Yukon today. Third-place winner Ione Cameron later married Art Christensen and in 1979 became the first female Commissioner of the Yukon. She went on to serve as a senator in Ottawa from 1999 to 2006. ♥

Sources: Yukon Coat of Arms

All information not gathered in interviews can be found at the Yukon Archives: Otto Nordling Fonds, Mss 097 and 030; Gov 2354, File 4; Gov 2355, files 1 and 2; Cor 260, File 14, Diocese General.



Arms for Yukon granted in 1956 by Royal Warrant of Queen Elizabeth II

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Arms of Anglican Diocese of Yukon



This coat of arms was created in the 1890s for the Anglican Diocese of the Yukon under the direction of Bishop William Bompas. For decades afterwards, it remained the stand-in coat of arms for the Yukon. You can view this painted rendition at the Old Log Church Museum in Whitehorse, and perhaps help to solve a mystery: Who painted it?

Photo Credit: Cathie Archbould, professional freelance photographer based in Whitehorse, www.archbould.com

Edwin Chadwick Design



In 1903, Edwin Chadwick was designing an updated version of the Great Seal of Canada. To complete it, he needed a coat of arms for each province and territory. He created this Yukon Coat of Arms, and though it was never official, it was often used until 1956.

Photo Credit: Yukon Archives, Yukon Record Office fonds. GOV 2354, file 4. (Photo altered)

Mrs. Robert Lowe's Design



Mrs. Robert Lowe's design, circa 1925, placed the husky in a prominent position, but the design never became official for two reasons: firstly, a suggestion by the secretary of state that the Yukon wait for provincial status before seeking a coat of arms; and secondly, the Hudson's Bay Company objected to its champion husky being used in the design.

Photo Credit: Yukon Archives, Yukon Record Office fonds. GOV 2354, file 4

Bethune's Malamute



Mrs. P. Bethune's malamute was the model for this illustration that would go on to become the emblematic dog of the Yukon, as seen on the official coat of arms of the Territory.

Photo Credit: Lily Godard, Editor, Yukon, North of Ordinary Magazine.

New Westminster Arms: 150 Year Journey

By Allan Ailo



The City's Origins

A gold rush, an unfixed border and a lack of British forces on the west coast raised serious concerns in London about the possibility of American control of the Fraser River area. Sir E.B. Lytton reacted by deciding that a corps of Royal Engineers be formed and sent to establish a strong presence. Colonel Richard Clement Moody was selected as commanding officer and later followed the first arrivals of October 29, 1858. As Colonel Moody steamed up the Fraser River in early January 1859, he observed that "at a spot...my attention was at once arrested by its fitness...for a site of the first, if not Chief Town in the country."

His selection was approved. On February 14, 1859, "Queensborough" was declared the capital of the new colony of British Columbia. By the spring, a city was beginning to emerge from the dense forest on the shore of the Fraser River, with the steep hills providing a militarily strategic view of the river.

Governor James Douglas, Col. Moody and Colonial Secretary W.A.G. Young were unable to agree upon a name for the new city. To resolve the issue, the Governor requested that Queen Victoria do the naming. Her Majesty agreed to do so and named the new city after Westminster, her favourite part of London. A despatch from Downing Street, dated May 5, 1859 conveyed the official news to Governor Douglas who, on July 20, proclaimed: "...that the town heretofore known as Queensborough, and sometimes as Queenborough, in the colony of British Columbia, shall henceforth be called and known as New Westminster..."

This also gave residents, to this day, the honour of referring to their home as the "Royal City". "Queensborough" lives on as the name for the part of the city located on the tip of Lulu Island. On July 16, 1860, New Westminster was incorporated as a city.

In 1866, with the unification of the colonies of British Columbia and Vancouver Island as "British Columbia", New Westminster ceased to be a capital city. Victoria, the capital of the former Colony of Vancouver Island now became the capital of the newly amalgamated colony.

The Civic Coat of Arms

An emblem drawn by Corporal White of the Royal Engineers (with later changes by City Council) led to the present arms. This design, presented to City Council by Colonel Moody, was described as a shield "on a gold ground. Above, in chief was a ship bearing away exports. On the shield were two maples and a cedar. The arms were supported by lions of England and the crest was a grizzly bear. The motto: 'In God We Trust'."



Carved wood (1958) Royal Engineers 1858 badge in the lobby of city hall

Photo: A. Ailo

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Con't from Page 4 - New Westminster Arms: 150 Year Journey

The first changes to Corporal White's design are described in the minutes of a City Council meeting on November 13, 1860: "That the shield of the design for the seal be quartered, _ the left portion of quartering to consist of 1st Beaver; _ 2nd Mining pick and shovel _ 3rd Salmon; _ Right portion of quartering to contain a Douglas Pine _ The above alteration to stand in lieu of the present Cedar and Maple. (Carried)".

A re-creation of the shield (by the writer) resulting from these changes is shown at the right. Sometime between the two council meetings the beaver and tools were replaced with a ship and plow and the positions of the salmon(s) and tree were reversed.

Council decided to make one more change before final acceptance, as City Council meeting minutes of October 6, 1862 attest: "That the design of a seal presented by Col. Moody R.E. No. 1 design, Shield, supported by two lions be accepted by this council, that the cross be of blue ground instead of red. (Carried)". From this, we can assume that this 1862 design was the one used for the next 130 years (illustrated in the police car door photo) until the present arms (based on it) were granted.

Like many civic "arms" adopted in the early days of the colony (and even in more modern times), it was put to official use without the benefit of a grant from the College of Arms. The creation of the Canadian Heraldic Authority (1988) seems to have motivated Council to petition for a grant, with arms being developed in 1991 by Robert D. Watt, Chief Herald of Canada. On October 26, 1992, in New Westminster, Robert Watt made the proclamation of patent and His Excellency the Right Honourable Ramon John Hnatyshyn P.C., C.C., C.M.M., C.D., Q.C. Governor General of Canada, as Head of the Canadian Heraldic Authority, presented the arms and flag to the city.

The symbols on the shield (as in the old emblem) represent the situation and economy of the new settlement; transport by sailing ship, agriculture in the lower Fraser Valley, the wealth of the coastal forests and the Fraser River's bounty of salmon.

The crest, a grizzly bear, issues from a mural coronet (a heraldic symbol of municipal government) of Canada's national colours. This gold demi bear rampant was originally a brown seated bear in the 1860 emblem and likely represented the power and majesty of New Westminster's natural environment.

The supporters, two red lions, refer to those in the Royal Arms to show a link to the mother country. However, as the Royal lions are gold, the red colour of the civic lions may well refer to the colour of the Royal Engineers' jackets.

The supporters are made unique to the city's arms with the addition of gold collars with medallions. The dexter medallion, with the Royal Crown, appears with the approval of Her Majesty the Queen on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor General as a permanent mark of honour for "the Royal City", first capital of British Columbia. The black anvil in the sinister medallion honours the city's historic Ancient and Honourable Hyack Anvil Battery which, to this day, continues the unique tradition of firing a 21 "gun" salute (using two anvils and black powder) to the Queen on Victoria Day.

The compartment reflects the beauty of the City's setting, with forests rising from the waters of the Fraser River.

The City's motto, "IN GOD WE TRUST", had been approved by City Council in 1860 as part of the old emblem. Despite what one might assume, the motto was not copied from our southern neighbour and actually predates the U.S. Government's very first use by six years. Their first usage was on coins in 1866 and it did not officially become the motto of the United States until 1956.

New Westminster Police Service Badge

The police badge was presented by the Governor General at the ceremonies in New Westminster on October 26, 1992.

Upon viewing the exhibits at the New Westminster Police Service Museum it quickly becomes evident that the 1862 emblem was used extensively until 1992. It appeared in various forms on badges, shoulder patches, uniform details and police vehicles. For a period after the Police Service's founding in 1873 badges worn by officers did not have an emblem on them (only lettering). ▼

Photos & Illustrations:
A. Ailo

1860 design resulting from first changes to Cpl. White's design by City Council (based on descriptions in Council meeting minutes)



Coat of arms on a municipal vehicle



POLICE

1862 design on a 1947 police car door



Badge on Police Station door



New Westminster flag (1992)

Sources: New Westminster - The Royal City, Barry Mather & Margaret McDonald, J.M. Dent & Sons (Canada) Ltd. & The Corporation of the City of New Westminster, 1958 • Signs of Splendor - Official Symbolism of the Municipalities of the Greater Vancouver Regional District, Robert D. Watt, in The Greater Vancouver Book - An Urban Encyclopaedia, Chuck Davis (Editor in Chief), The Linkman Press, 1997 • Papers Relative to the Affairs of British Columbia, Part II, P. 86 & Part III, P.39, N.W.M.&A. • Program for Governor General's Official Visit of October 26, 1992, N.W.M.&A. • Royal City - A Photographic History of New Westminster 1858-1960, Jim Wolf, Heritage House Publishing Co. Ltd., 2005.

The two quotes from City Council meeting minutes were transcribed by the writer from the original documents at the New Westminster Museum and Archives. The writer wishes to thank Archivist Barry Dykes for his help through his discovery of the relevant entries in the City Council Meeting Minutes Books.

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

the Royal Canadian Navy. They were at the design stage, selecting the various ships badges to be included in conjunction with the admiral in charge of the project and incorporating these into the panel designs.

Tom gave us a summary of how the coloured glass is made by adding metallic salts to the glass during its manufacture and how small pieces are arranged to form patterns and designs and held in place by lead strips. He also described how glass can be painted and the colour fused to the glass in a kiln, a method he frequently uses. He pointed out that stained glass is both an art and a craft requiring the artistic skills to conceive a workable design and the engineering skills to assemble the piece properly into the space for which it is made, ensuring it will support its own weight and stand up to wind and rain.

He showed us the latest designs advising that he was asked by the admiral he is working with to keep this panel confidential so no photos were taken. Suffice to say it was very impressive. Our long time member, Commander Evan Petley-Jones, was present on the tour and mentioned that he was contacted by the admiral to become a supporter of the project and hopes to be present on May 22, 2010 at the church for the formal unveiling of the completed window. Perhaps we can arrange another visit to Victoria after that date and see the finished project.

Toronto Conference – October 2nd 4th

The highlight of the conference was the visit to Hart House to view the shields painted nearly 80 years ago by Alexander Scott Carter, Canada's most famous heraldic artist. On the south wall are the royal arms and the arms of 50 universities of the British Empire, all of which have now been carefully restored. On the north wall are the arms of another 74 universities from countries allied to us during World War I on which restoration has just begun. Our tour was conducted by Chris Lea, the knowledgeable and dynamic Facility Manager of Hart House, whose enthusiasm for the restoration and preservation of this heraldic treasure is inspiring. A full article on this project is planned for a future issue of the Blazon (<http://www.heraldry.ca/projects/harthouse.htm> for more information).

The guest speaker at the Gala Dinner was Catherine Spence who researched Scott Carter for her Master's Dissertation and shared insights with us of his work in architectural design, ecclesiastical ornamentation and armorial bearings. She provided a fascinating insight into Carter's achievements in Canada.

Bruce Patterson, St. Laurent Herald, also offered a most interesting heraldic tour of St. Thomas Anglican Church, located a short distance from the University of Toronto. This beautiful church has many significant heraldic sites beautifully decorated by Scott Carter, particularly in the Lady Chapel.

Annual Black Tie Dinner – October 24th

The Quality Inn Parksville was all it was promised to be for this year's dinner; a charming facility, good service, attentive staff and excellent food as well as ocean view rooms for those of us who overnights. Our programme included an informative and interesting after dinner presentation by Georgia Angelopolous, who spoke on "Calligraphy, the Gentle Art"; the proclamation by Graham Anderson, Cowichan Herald Emeritus, of the grant of arms to Dr. David Watson, our newest member; who will be moving to Vancouver from Winnipeg next year and the presentation of the grant of a standard and badge to 1st Vice

President, John Neill. A great contribution to the evening was the piping of branch member, David Hjalmarson which was not only professional but most entertaining.

It was also my honour to present, in my capacity as 2nd Vice-President of the Society, and on behalf of the National Board of Directors, the Meritorious Service Award to Shirley Greenwood for her outstanding service to the Society through her dedicated work for the British Columbia/Yukon Branch. This is the first time the award has been made to a national member for a significant contribution at the branch level of the Society.

There is no doubt that a good time was had by all at this year's annual dinner.

The Yukon Coat of Arms

I hope you will enjoy the informative article on page 3, "The true story of the Yukon Coat of Arms" by Jerome Stueart which I found in the in the Fall 2008 issue of Yukon, North of Ordinary, the in-flight magazine of Air North. I want to thank Editor Lily Gontard for kindly obtaining permission from Harper Street Publishing and author Jerome Stueart for us to reprint this interesting, well researched article. Mr. Stueart immigrated to the Yukon from Texas and is making a name for himself as a writer of science fiction / fantasy books and magazine articles as well as doing radio narratives for the CBC.

Our next issue will continue our focus on Yukon with an article on the grant of arms to the Commissioner of Yukon, Geraldine Van Bibber.

Branch Website

Branch webmaster, Lee Van Horne, continues to develop our website adding new features as he can fit this into his busy schedule.

Go to the website at <http://bc-yukon.heraldry.ca/events.htm> and take a look. If you want to get into the "member's only" section you will need an ID and Password which can be provided by Lee via email. Check out his photos of Branch events....maybe he has a photo of you there!

While in the website visit the Roll of Arms and make sure yours is displayed. Lee has also created an Index Armorum which enables members to search the arms index using various criteria such as type of charge, (bird, saltire, animal, etc.), tincture of field, (sable, gules, etc.), type of ordinary, (bend, fess, pale, etc.) and so on. Give this feature a try and see the results. Lee is also looking for some support in locating heraldic news items from the Internet, preferably, but not necessarily based on heraldry in BC or the Yukon. If anyone would like to undertake this please let me know. Meanwhile, keep up the good work, Lee. ♥



Photo: A. Allio

Carl Larsen, presenting Meritorious Service Award to Shirley Greenwood in his capacity as 2nd Vice President of RHSC, representing the National Board of Directors.



BC's Armigerous Lieutenant Governors

A series by Carl Larsen



Entrepreneur, Politician and BC's 13th Lieutenant Governor

Robert Randolph Bruce, Lieutenant Governor of BC, 1926-1931



Robert Randolph Bruce was in his lifetime, a skilled engineer, mine owner, businessman, land promoter, diplomat and Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia. He was born in 1861 in St Andrew-Lhanbryde, Scotland and died honoured and respected in 1942 in Montreal.

The son of the Reverend Charles Bruce, he did not go into the church as his father suggested, but decided instead to study engineering at the University of Glasgow, where he did well, graduating with a Doctor of Science (DSc.) degree.

An adventurous man looking for opportunities, he immigrated first to the U.S. in 1887 and then came to Canada, and joined the Canadian Pacific Railway engineering staff working on various projects. In 1895 he traveled to British Columbia to survey a rail line near the Crowsnest Pass, and liked what he saw of the country. A restless entrepreneur he returned to BC in 1897 to set up a successful stamp mill near Fort Steele, after which he turned his hand to prospecting in what came to be known as the Rocky Mountain Trench, an area of the province rich in mineral resources. With a partner, he started the Paradise Mine on a property near Windermere Lake discovered in 1895 to be rich in silver, lead and zinc. The mine produced US\$24 million worth of these minerals from 1901 to 1953 when it was closed.

Bruce also worked for the CPR as a land agent and purchased a block of railway land in the Windermere Valley during a time when there was tremendous optimism about fruit growing potential in the province as a result of the boom in the Okanagan Valley, some 320 km to the west. The government wanted settlers and Bruce organized the Columbia Valley Irrigated Fruit Lands Company Ltd. and wrote a pamphlet promoting the area through the CPR's Land Department in London. This brought a large number of settlers into the province from England in the period before the First World War.

With the economic downturn following the war, his business affairs suffered but he did not lose any of his properties. He was highly thought of by government leaders and was appointed Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia on 24 February 1926 by Governor General The Viscount Byng of Vimy on the advice of Prime Minister Mackenzie King. The beginning of his term of office saw the economy recovering and the province in a building boom. The road system was expanded, assisting business and bringing much needed services to remote communities. However with the stock market crash of 1929, British Columbia slid quickly into depression and by the end of his term in 1931 there was 28% unemployment in B.C. and unpopular relief camps were set up in various remote locations. This was a very difficult time for everyone in British Columbia, including the Lieutenant Governor, who was not reluctant to give advice to the three

premiers who governed the province during his term; John Oliver, John Duncan MacLean and Simon Fraser Tolmie.

When his term as Lieutenant Governor ended Bruce joined the Liberal Party and the prime minister encouraged him to seek election as the federal member of parliament for Kootenay East which he narrowly lost to the Conservative candidate in the general election of 1935. It is rare for vice-regal representatives to seek a career in politics after serving as the Sovereign's representative but this did not deter Bruce. He was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Law (LLD) and in 1936 was appointed by Prime Minister King as Canada's second envoy to Japan with the title of Minister Plenipotentiary, serving in that position for two years before returning to Canada and retiring to Montreal, where he passed away in 1942.

It was not long after Bruce married Lady Elizabeth Mabel Northcote, daughter of the 2nd Earl of Iddesleigh that he applied to the College of Arms for armorial bearings. These were granted on 4th October 1917 by Sir Alfred Scot Scot-Gaty, Garter Principal King of Arms.

The College of Arms ensured that the grant was unmistakably to a Canadian by the inclusion of the quintessential beaver and maple leaves in the arms and crest respectively. The full blazon is as follows:

Arms: Or a Saltire Gules on a Chief engrailed of the last a Beaver statant Argent.

Crest: On a Wreath of the Colours Between two Maple Leaves an Arm from the shoulder couped and embowed fessways holding in the hand a Sceptre in bend sinister all proper.

Motto: DO WELL AND DOUGHT NOT

I think it may well have been that Bruce, being a Scot, wanted his motto to be simply: "DO WELL AND DOUGHT", and Garter Principal King of Arms added the word "not" to improve what he thought was either an error or an unsuitable motto. He may not have realized that the word "dought" was not the same as "doubt" but was used in Scotland to mean "to thrive or to prosper" and therefore was quite appropriate and made perfect sense as it originally stood. The motto would have meant "Do well and prosper" rather than "Do well and prosper not" as it does now. There is no record of Bruce's reaction when he received his grant although there may be something in the files at the College of Arms. All we know for sure is that the Hon. Robert Randolph Bruce had his letters patent framed and on display in his home in Montreal where the motto may have become the subject of some discussion with visitors. ♥



Illustration: A. Ailo

Con't from Page 1 - Stained Glass Windows in Rideau Hall

The Vice Regal Window

The Vice regal window commemorates the 40th anniversary of the appointment of Canadian governors general and the 25th anniversary of the Canadian Honours System.

Center: Vice regal lion anchors the composition and is surrounded by the coats of arms and privy seals of the Canadian governors general. Above it is the flag of the governor general as it was in 1952. Over it, the Royal Cypher symbolizes the role of the governor general as Her Majesty's representative in Canada.

Top Center: national flag, flanked by the insignia of a Companion of the Order of Canada, and also of the Commander of the Order of Military Merit

Bottom: below the lion is the governor general's flag as used since 1981. Beneath it are line drawings of Rideau Hall and La Citadelle, the two official vice regal residences. Separating these is a representation of the official symbol of the 40th anniversary of the appointment of Canadian governors general and the 25th anniversary of the Canadian Honours System.

Lower Corners: Cross of Valour and the Governor General's Academic Medal

Border: includes line drawings of the floral emblems of the provinces and territories. ♠

Source: The Governor General's website:
http://www.gg.ca/media/fs-fd/R9_e.asp



Photo: Carl Larsen

Heraldic Mystery Uncovered

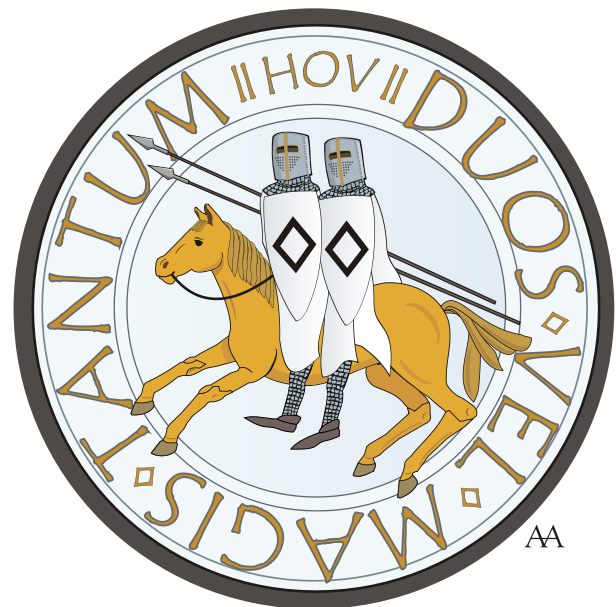
By Allan Ailo

Heraldic researchers have recently discovered a 12th century seal of two knights on a single horse, with shields blazoned "argent a mascule sable". This exciting find predates the Templar seals and thereby raises questions regarding the widely accepted interpretation of other such images of "poor knights".

There remains an air of mystery around the discovery of these previously unknown arms and it is uncertain what the Latin motto, which translates as "Two or more only", refers to. The initials HOV are thought to refer to the name of the mysterious order.

A newly formed theory gaining credence in the academic community postulates that this seal is, in actuality, that of an unknown order of medieval traffic wardens.

However, scholars warn that despite what you may read on certain internet sites, there is no basis for a belief in the existence of a lost treasure cache of traffic fines hidden in Rosslyn Chapel. ♠



Artwork: Allan Ailo



Conspiracy theorists offer numerous photos of these markings on roads as proof of the continued existence of this mysterious, secret order and the power they still wield today.

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