



The Blazon

Patron of the BC/Yukon Branch: The Honourable Judith Guichon, OBC, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia

FALL 2014

ROYAL HERALDRY SOCIETY OF CANADA

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

John W. Neill, Fall 2014

Welcome to the Fall edition of the *Blazon*! As the cooler weather settles in, the BC/Yukon Branch has been busy organizing the fast-approaching Branch Dinner in Nanaimo, scheduled to take place on October 18 and which will be attended by our Patron, Her Honour the Hon. Judith Guichon OBC, Lieutenant Governor of BC. I look forward to welcoming many of you to this prestigious event, which has been excellently organized by Mrs. Shirley Greenwood. In May of next year, our Branch has been asked to organize the National Conference and AGM in Victoria, and a venue and speakers have already been chosen, so mark your calendars! The Conference will take place at the Coast Harbourside Hotel from May 22 to 24, 2015 and speakers will include Mr. Hugh Brady, Secretary of the American Heraldry Society, as Beley Lecturer and Snawdoun Herald at the Court of the Lord Lyon in Scotland, Mrs. Elizabeth Roads, as our after-dinner Wilkes Lecturer. This will be an occasion not to be missed and

discounted rates are available for members wishing to book their hotel rooms early.

Earlier this month your editor and I attended a reception at Government House, Victoria hosted by Her Honour for Their Royal Highnesses the Earl and Countess of Wessex. Their Royal Highnesses were in British Columbia for five days to attend various functions around the Province and began their tour at Government House. The Royal Visit also served as the occasion for the unfurling of His Royal Highness' Personal Flag for use in Canada, commonly - but incorrectly - referred to as a 'standard' (see illustration below) and Darren and I were afforded an opportunity to chat with the Prince about his new flag once the formalities of the evening were over. *Blazon* readers will recall that it was Prince Edward who presented Letters Patent from Her Majesty the Queen establishing Canada's own heraldic authority in June of 1988.

Best wishes for a safe and enjoyable Fall season,

John W. Neill

President, BC/Yukon Branch





THE BADGE OF A THOUSAND DREAMS

Lee van Horne

A ship's soul resides in its badge. Crews come and go, captains come and go, but the badge stays. The badge sees everything, hears everything. It hears the commands of the master, the singing of the crew, the wind in the sails. It hears quiet conversations as buddies share their dreams. But there is one badge that has heard more than just a few dreams. This badge has heard a thousand dreams.

But before we talk further about this badge, let us become familiar with the ship on which it resides.

HMCS Oriole (KC 480), attached to the Esquimalt Naval Base, British Columbia, is 31 metres long, displaces 92 tonnes, and has a sail area of 1,460 square metres, giving a rated speed of 12 knots. Whoa, hold on! Sail area? Yes, it is a sailing ship (a ketch for you purists out there), and an old one, too. You may well ask, what good is an old sailing ship in a modern navy? Well, there is one purpose for which it is very well suited, and that is to train, to train crews to pull together in times of adversity, and to hone the leadership qualities of officers. It has been doing this for over sixty years.



The Oriole started life in 1921 as the Oriole IV, built for George Horace Gooderham, a politician/businessman / yacht-racing enthusiast based in the Toronto area. It was the fourth and last of a line of racing yachts owned by two generations of Gooderhams. At one

point, the navy leased it to train cadets. Over the ensuing years, the Oriole IV was 'paid off' (released from the navy) and recommissioned a number of times, and was employed during World War II to help evacuate between 2500 and 3000 servicemen during the Dunkirk operation, for which it received a Battle Honour. The Oriole IV finally received a permanent commission in 1952 and was moved to the west coast in 1954 to train naval officers. It was about this time that it was renamed the Oriole, a dicey move at best as it is considered bad luck to rename a ship. However, it was deemed a minor change that would not provoke fate unduly and subsequent events proved that the name change did not upset any deities.

The fact that sailing ships make excellent training platforms is well known throughout the world's navies. Many have a sailing ship for such purposes: the US has the Constitution; Argentina, the Libertad; Italy, the Amerigo Vespucci; and Chile, the Esmeralda. The list goes on and on. As an extra benefit, these ships provide wonderful public relations for their respective countries and navies, and the Oriole is no exception.

The Oriole's long career as a training platform saw countless beginnings of naval careers. Between times of wind storms and hails of "All hands on deck!" in the wee hours of the morning, perhaps to repair a spar broken by King Neptune, during the rare quiet times, young officers would discuss their futures and dreams, many often inspired by the ship herself.





The Oriole is unique within the navy, not only for being the only sailing vessel in the fleet, but also for being the longest serving ship and the oldest. So, no matter your viewpoint, the Oriole is a special ship. Now, let us get back to her badge.

Signed off by the Minister of National Defence on October 10th, 1956, the badge that has represented so much inspiration to so many sailors is simple and straightforward; good heraldic qualities. It consists of a single charge, an oriole. The blazon is: *Or an oriole proper.*

The ship's livery colours are black and orange – not exactly adhering to standard heraldic tincture rules but, hey, it works. Black and orange is an attractive combination with good contrast and relates well to the oriole's plumage.



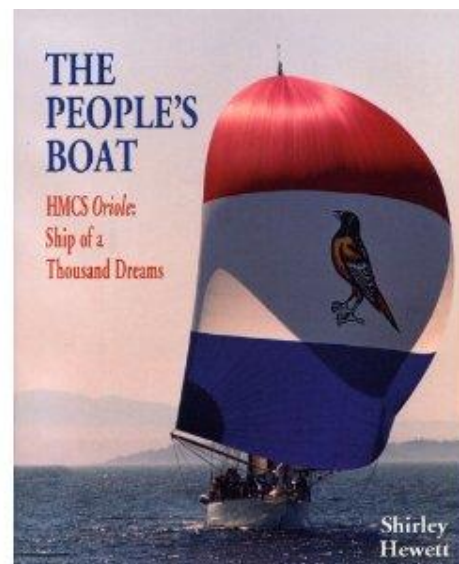
Perhaps at this time, a few words on the oriole bird itself is in order. Since the first Oriole was based in Ontario, the oriole after which the Oriole was named would be either the Baltimore oriole or

the orchard oriole. The oriole used by heraldic artists is usually the former as it has a brighter orange breast, at least for the males. Besides its orange breast, the oriole is also known for its cheerful song.



As a point of interest, the Baltimore oriole has its own heraldic story. One morning in the mid 1600s in the Maryland area, an ornithologist woke up and decided to name some birds. When he got to a particular breed of an oriole, its plumage reminded him of the livery colours on the arms of the Proprietor of Maryland, Lord Baltimore. He then declared, "Henceforth, this bird will be known as the Baltimore oriole." And so has it been known for well over 300 years.

It has been said that HMCS Oriole, despite its small size, has touched more people, and more profoundly, than any other vessel afloat. One person (Shirley Hewett) was so inspired that she wrote a book about the Oriole, titled 'The People's Boat, HMCS Oriole: Ship of a Thousand Dreams', an apt description for a unique ship.



INTRODUCTION

Darren S. A. George, PhD, LRHSC

I am honoured to have been asked to take over the editorship of *The Blazon* (despite my well-known inability to make a deadline), and hope to be able to maintain the standard set by previous editors such as Allan Ailo and Rean Meyer. For those of you who have not met me, I joined the RHSC in 1996, and joined the BC-Yukon Branch in 1999 (despite living in Edmonton at the time, as the Prairie Branch did not exist back then). Since then, I have served as society webmaster, editor of *The Prairie Tressure*, editor of *Gonfanon*, Beley lecturer, and father to the official mascot of the RHSC (Sophia was appointed to this post during the 2002 AGM in Victoria). I have also obtained my licentiate from the RHSC, after having amassed an impressive collection of heraldic texts (which would be more impressive if I could actually read the ones that are not in English, rather than just looking at the pictures). I was honoured to be present when Rean Meyer received the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal in 2002, and was even more honoured to receive my own Diamond Jubilee Medal in Nanaimo in 2012.



In my non-heraldic hours, I teach chemistry at the Campbell River campus of North Island College, an as-of-yet unarmigerous institution in an armigerous city. I also make wine (generally from hand-picked fruit and berries), travel, and spend far too much time playing fantasy games such as D&D. I occasionally can be found at the local pub, sharing pints with the other Branch members in the area.

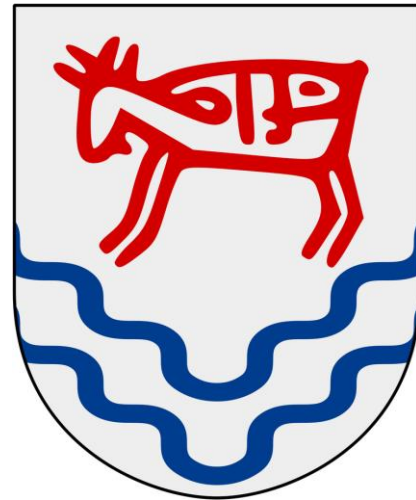
OUT OF THE ORDINARIES: INTERESTING FACTS ON HERALDRY

or

TO FESS OR BEND: THE MISCELLANY OF HERALDRY

By Gary Mitchell

The Swedish municipality of Krokoms uses a petroglyph in its blazon (I cannot recall ever seeing a petroglyph used in heraldry)



Mullsjö Municipality's use of a snowflake reminds me of the snowflake used for the Order of Canada.



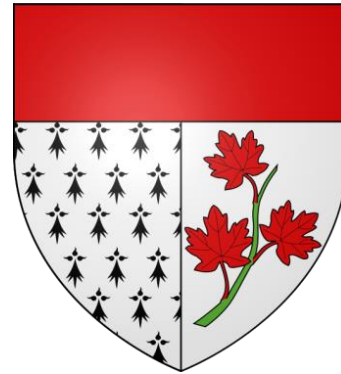
Bjur is the Swedish word for a beaver, and here we have two examples of its use within Swedish municipal blazons – above shows our national symbol busy at work in Bjursås Municipality; below the most aggressive beaver one can ever imagine safeguarding the good people of Bjurholm Municipality (next page).



[Editor's Note: No discussion of the appearance of Canadian symbols in foreign arms would be complete without mentioning the arms of Bad Bibra, in Germany (below, dexter); Ahorn, in Austria (sinister).]



'Bibra' is the German word for beaver, while 'Ahorn' is German for maple. The maple leaves in the arms of Vimy are, of course, a reference to WWI]



For years, I have wondered what, if any, elements of Canadian society or history are reflected within the armorial grants within the United Kingdom. In my continuing quest, I have found the following supporters:

Viscount Astor (1917) – Dexter, American Indian, sinister, a North American fur trader; historical context is probably the Oregon Coast.

Baron Beaverbrook (1916) – As befitting the title: two beavers regardant holding in the mouth a fish proper

Baron Amherst of Holmesdale (1776), Baron Amherst of Montreal (1788) - Jeffery Amherst was the first British Governor of Canada after the Conquest; continues to be a controversial figure within our historiography.

Supporters - Two Canadian war Indians, of a copper colour, rings in their ears and noses, and bracelets on their wrists and arms, argent, crossbelts over their shoulders buff; to one a powder-horn pendent, to the other a scalping-knife, their waists covered with a short apron azure, tied about the waist by a belt gules, fimbriated or, gaiters blue, seamed or, legs fettered and fastened by a chain to the bracelet on the outer wrist proper, the dexter Indian holding in his exterior hand a battleaxe, the sinister holding in his exterior hand a tomahawk, thereon a scalp all proper.

Baron Strathcona and Mount Royal 1900 - Dexter, a trooper of the Regiment of Lord Strathcona's Horse proper; sinister, a navvy standing on a railway sleeper, chaired and railed all proper.

Baron Morris 1918 - on either side a caribou charged on the shoulder with a trefoil Or [Morris was the Prime Minister of Newfoundland from 1909-17]

Baron Thomson of Fleet - dexter, a Mississauga Indian habited in the proper costume of the tribe holding in the dexter hand a bow all proper.

THE ARMORIAL STORY OF A LATE-19TH CENTURY SOUP TUREEN

John W. Neill



The author has in his possession a silver soup tureen, made by the English silversmiths R & S Garrard and hallmarked for London, 1886. It bears an impressive impaled and quartered coat-of-arms, which *Foster's Peerage* has linked to the White family of Woodlands House (now known as Lutrellstown Castle), Co. Dublin, Ireland. The style of the tureen harks back to an earlier period, that of George II (1727 – 1760). The coat-of-arms - rather surprisingly - also predates the tureen and commemorates the marriage of Colonel Thomas White, eldest brother of the 1st Baron Annaly (3rd creation) with the Hon. Julia Vereker, elder daughter of the 2nd Viscount Gort in August 1819. Hon. Julia brought with her into the union the marshalled coats of Vereker, Connell, Prendergast and Smyth, arms which had been acquired through marriage by the Verekers from the 17th Century onwards. It is not clear why the White arms as shown on the tureen differ from those of the Lords Annaly, whose chevron is engrailed and bears a cross-crosslet *Or*. An error on the part of the engraver seems possible, as the chaplet on the chevron in the Vereker arms is also missing. Col. White died without issue in 1847 and his wife in 1866. The reason why this soup tureen was engraved with a marital coat when the surviving partner had died twenty years previously remains a mystery – to match a similar item of table silver, perhaps?

However, this tureen has a further story to tell. One of the drawbacks of collecting silver, while beautiful to look at, is the time and effort required to keep such items looking bright and sparkling - I'm sure many readers will have noticed how often Carson is shown in the butler's pantry polishing the silver in *Downton Abbey*! These days there are less abrasive methods such as the use of aluminum foil and washing soda, while camphor blocks make for a very effective anti-tarnishing agent. However, the

present writer sometimes does allow his silver to get quite tarnished before performing the above steps. It was on one of these occasions that I noticed some interesting tarnish patterns on the lid of the tureen, which on closer inspection turned out to be a previously erased crest! The unusual crest, presented in the Scottish style *On a mural crown Or, a mullet pierced Sable* pointed towards the Pell family and this was dramatically confirmed when an inscription revealed itself on the body of the soup tureen proper. Much of it was legible and read:

Presented to Albert P[ell]

By his friends and former constituents

As a mark of esteem and affection

And in grateful remembrance of his _____ and important service

Which he rendered to his _____ his county and his _____ during the _____



Albert Pell, who was MP for South Leicestershire in England from 1868 to 1885, was a noted agriculturalist and Poor-law reformer, so the missing parts of the citation probably allude to these endeavours. The arms borne by his father Sir Albert Pell, a judge of the Court of Bankruptcy, are blazoned *Argent a bend between two mullets pierced Sable*. These arms, which no doubt once also appeared on the body of the tureen, were to be obliterated by the subsequent engraving. No motto has been recorded for Pell - that which appears on the tureen's crest badge, *Mente Manuque* (with mind and hand) is not traditionally associated with the family.

Mr. Pell is credited for introducing the game of rugby union, then simply called football, to Cambridge University while a student there

in the early 1840s. At some point either Mr. Pell, or his nephew who succeeded him in 1907, decided to divest themselves of the presentation tureen which was subsequently acquired by the White family and re-engraved with a new set of armorials.







A 1615 Payton pedigree rendered in glorious colour by Laurie Patten FRHSC.