

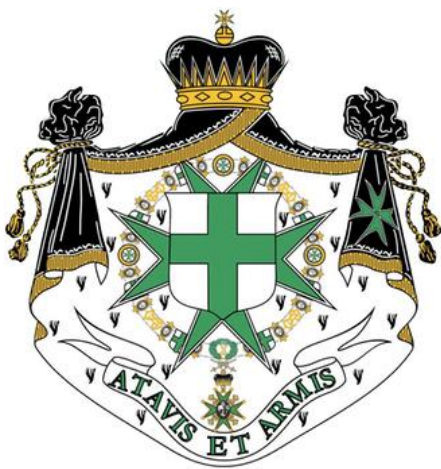


The Blazon

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

SPRING 2016 ROYAL HERALDRY SOCIETY OF CANADA Vol. 11, No.1

Welcome to the first *Blazon* for 2016! Our Annual General Meeting this year was held at the Quality Resort Bayside Inn, Parksville, on February 27. Steve Cowan was elected President for 2016 and Tom Mercer Vice-President. After a tasty buffet lunch, Branch Director David Hjalmarson presented an illustrated talk on the heraldry of the Military and Hospitaller Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem, an Order of Chivalry dating from the time of the Crusades and dedicated to the relief of leprosy. Here in Canada the Order's focus is mainly on the provision of palliative care.



A highlight of the afternoon's proceedings was the presentation of a framed certificate to outgoing Board Director Mrs. Shirley Greenwood FRHSC (Hon.) in recognition of her many years' service to the Branch in the capacity of Social Director, organizing numerous Branch dinners and AGMs and several National Conferences. It was very fitting that at the most recent conference, held last year in Victoria, Shirley was awarded an honorary Fellowship in the Society. As a lasting tribute to Shirley, the speech at our annual black-tie Branch dinner will be known as the 'Greenwood Lecture'. On Page 2 can be found a selection of photos taken at the AGM and the Christmas Luncheon by Charlie Kingston.

This past November, our Branch held its Christmas Luncheon at the Quamichan Inn, Duncan. Our guest speaker for this event was Mark Hood, a member of the Society for Creative Anachronism who gave a short presentation on the use of heraldry in that organization. There was a good turnout of members for the lunchtime event, the venue being decorated in a suitably festive manner.

Our final Branch activity before the AGM was when Steve and your editor manned a heraldry stall at the Cumberland Heritage Fair. We talked about heraldry to fellow stallholders, members of the public – in fact, anyone who would listen and handed out bookmarks with the Society's and Branch contact information attached. We hope that new members can be recruited through outreach such as this.





HARRIS TWEED



Harris Tweed's orb trademark has been officially recognized as a coat of arms. For years, the mark has identified tweed made from cloth woven by hand in the Western Isles with wool yarn from island sheep.

The Lord Lyon, King of Arms, has granted that the orb be the industry's coat of arms. The Harris Tweed Authority said the recognition would provide a further layer of protection from imitations. The orb will be incorporated into a shield to become the coat of arms.

Norman Macdonald, chairman of the Harris Tweed Authority, said: "Being awarded a Grant of Arms is a historic milestone for Harris Tweed which has fought for decades to protect the sanctuary of the Harris Tweed cloth.

"It's the ultimate protection for our products which are known throughout the world for consistently high standards of quality and authenticity.

"It's an honour to receive the Grant of Arms from Lord Lyon himself and we are grateful to be able to ensure the security of our cloth and its heritage for generations to come."

HERALDIC BOOM IN RUSSIA



Russia's newly affluent oligarchs have discovered a new status symbol, a 'family' coat of arms.

Russian TV6 says that owning your own heraldic coat of arms is increasingly popular among the rich and the famous in the city of Yekaterinburg, in the Urals.

Decorative and symbolic, the coats of arms are designed by heraldic experts using computer software and cost around \$800, it said. Customers choose from thousands of heraldic images and decorative detail symbolizing family or personal characteristics.

Many Russians choose symbols of knighthood - swords, helmets, eagles or bears, the station said. More elaborate

designs can even feature mythic beasts like a fish with tusks.

Customized design

One man had dice added to the design to symbolize his passion for gambling.

Heraldic design is a complex subject with its own recondite vocabulary, much of it derived from 13th and 14th century Norman French.



What are called the common 'charges' - lions, wolves, bears, for example traditionally symbolize characteristics of bravery and courage.

A member of the Yekaterinburg heraldic association told the station that successful applicants had to know why they wanted a coat of arms. Not everyone would be granted arms, he said.

"If the idea of 'why' has never crossed the person's mind, then there is nothing to talk about, really," the expert said without elaborating.



Revival

The origins of heraldry go back to the coat armour used in battle to identify individuals completely encased in armour. It was one of the earliest forms of symbolic identification.

The Russian nobility used arms, seals and banners for centuries, but Russian heraldry was only standardized under Peter the Great in the early 18th century.

After the Bolshevik revolution in 1917, all forms of imperial heraldry were removed and new soviet forms introduced designed around the hammer and sickle.

Since the fall of communism, there has been a revival of interest in traditional Russian heraldic designs for government and corporations - and now status-conscious individuals.



INTERNATIONAL HERALDRY DAY

International Heraldry Day 2016 will be celebrated on Friday, June 10th - by coincidence the same day as the Society's Golden Jubilee Beley Lecture! International Heraldry Day (IHD) focuses one day each year when heraldry in all its forms is celebrated worldwide. Regardless of jurisdiction, geographic area, customs, favoured styles and favoured period, the community focuses on the wider enjoyment of heraldry. The goal of the organizers is that eventually all heraldry enthusiasts will acknowledge the event in the years to come. The celebration was started in 2013 within the International Association of Amateur Heraldry (IAAH). Tomasz Steifer (Poland), a Fellow of the IAAH described the effort:

"We propose that this international day of heraldry be held 10 June. On that day, in the year 1128, Godfrey Plantagenet was knighted in Rouen by his future father-in-law, Henry I Beauclerc. During the ceremony, suspended from the neck of the young knight was a blue shield decorated with six golden lions, recognized by most heralds as the first fully-formed coat of arms."



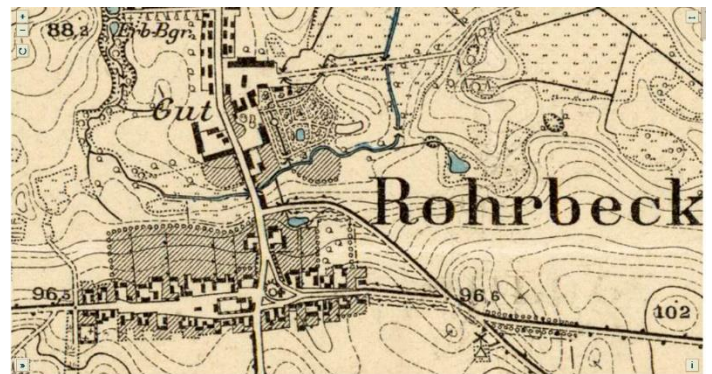
THE VON SCHUCKMANN ARMS

Your editor in his capacity as a city planner recently assisted a member of the public living south of Campbell River with an application for a Development Variance Permit. The applicant, Wulf Von Schuckmann, piqued the interest not only of a planner but also that of an historian and genealogist. A quick perusal on the Internet revealed that Wulf was a descendant of a noble German family originally based in Rohrbeck (now Kolki), Pomerania, his

great grandfather Bruno Von Schuckmann having served as the penultimate Governor of German South West Africa (now Namibia). Until 2013, the former governor was honoured by having the settlement of Schuckmannsburg named after him. It had once served as capital of the Caprivi Strip, created to provide the German colony with access to the Zambezi River navigation.



Like many German residents of the Pomeranian region at the conclusion of the Second World War, the Von Schuckmanns, including Wulf's father and aunts, were obliged to evacuate before the advancing Red Army, a car and a donkey and cart being employed for this purpose! Decades later, once Communism had begun to mellow in Eastern Europe, Wulf revisited Rohrbeck to explore for the first time the land of his ancestors.



In 1980, the old family mansion on the edge of town was still occupied and largely intact, but by 2006 it had fallen into a state of advanced decay:



The village church had weathered the changing fortunes of the area rather better, and inside can be found some fine examples of the Von Schuckmann arms, including this monument below:



Wulf has the symbolism of this heraldry among his records, which he has offered to provide to me once his building project is complete. The stained glass windows in the church feature the arms of its patrons, viz. Governor Bruno's father, Otto Von Schuckmann (1824 – 1902) to the dexter and those of his mother, Elisabeth Von Behr (1831 – 1895) to the sinister. Fraulein Von Behr came from Behrenhoff, an estate northwest of Stettin (now



Szczecin) near the shores of the Bay of Pomerania and the pair married there in 1850. Afterwards they lived in the Rohrbeck mansion, which was itself adorned with a representation of the Von Schuckmann coat of arms above the doorcase. A second part to this article may be forthcoming if further information or photographs come to light.

