



The Blazon

The newsletter of the British Columbia/Yukon Branch of the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada

SUMMER 2021 Special Sesquicentennial Edition

Vol. 16, No. 2

Happy 150th Anniversary British Columbia!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On July 20, 1871, the colony of British Columbia became the sixth Province of the Dominion of Canada. On that date B.C. joined the Canadian Confederation that had commenced on July 1, 1867. And this year we celebrate the sesquicentennial.

To recognize the importance of this date in our national and heraldic history, this special edition of The Blazon has been published. The salient heraldic occurrence being recognized this summer is a British Columbia Proclamation declaring Heraldry Week from July 19 to July 25; this observance happens to cover the 150th anniversary date of July 20.

A copy of the Heraldry Week B.C. Proclamation can be on page 2.

I am very grateful to our Distinguished Patrons of this Branch for their letters in this issue. On page three is our B.C. Patron, The Honourable Janet Austin, O.B.C., Lieutenant Governor of B.C. and on page four is our Yukon Patron

The Honourable Angélique Bernard, O.Y. Commissioner of Yukon.

Dr. Samy Kahlid, the Chief Herald of Canada has a letter to our members on page five. The interesting aspect is Dr. Kahlid mentions historical details that are mentioned by our major article contributor Mr. Robert D. Watt, L.V.O., A.I.H., F.R.H.S.C.

When I explained this special issue to Robb he offered an article he had presented to L'Académie Internationale d'Héraldique. And I also suggested an article about Heralds from B.C. and the Yukon as Robb had been our first Chief Herald. And then another article, from 1987, was discovered that Robb had written for the program of Her Majesty signing the Royal Warrant of the revised arms of B.C.

I am indebted to all our Branch Board members who helped with this issue as well contributing to our publications during our isolating COVID-19 crisis. I look forward to seeing and thanking everyone in person, one day.

Happy Anniversary!

Steve Cowan,
Branch President



Arms of the Province of British Columbia
Image from the Parliamentary Education Office
of the Legislative Assembly of B.C.



Canada
Province of British Columbia
A Proclamation

ELIZABETH THE SECOND, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom,
Canada and Her other Realms and Territories, Queen, Head of the
Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith

To all to whom these presents shall come – Greeting

WHEREAS British Columbia is a culturally diverse province comprising many peoples and communities, and

WHEREAS heraldic emblems are representations of the heritage and historic value in the identity and culture of communities, and

WHEREAS the British Columbia – Yukon Branch of the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada, in cooperation with community heritage groups and citizens, strives to encourage a greater awareness of the values of the heraldic emblems of Indigenous communities, local organizations and communities, municipalities and institutions in British Columbia, and

WHEREAS the motto of the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada is “For Ancestors and Posterity,” to celebrate the role of heraldic emblems in bringing heritage and history alive for current and future generations, and

WHEREAS Heraldry Week is an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the importance and significance of heraldic emblems of institutions, corporations and people as a lasting and recognizable tribute to the diversity of British Columbia;

NOW KNOW YE THAT We do by these presents proclaim and declare that July 19 to 25, 2021, shall be known as

“Heraldry Week”

in the Province of British Columbia.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent and the Great Seal of Our Province of British Columbia to be hereunto affixed.

WITNESS, The Honourable Janet Austin, Lieutenant Governor of Our Province of British Columbia, in Our City of Victoria, in Our Province, this twenty-third day of June, two thousand twenty-one and in the seventieth year of Our Reign.

BY COMMAND.

Attorney General and
Minister Responsible for Housing
(counter signature for the Great Seal)

Lieutenant Governor



A Message from the Lieutenant Governor



As Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, it gives me enormous pleasure to send greetings, particularly on the day that would have marked the 100th birthday of His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh. We recall with fondness the dedication and lifetime of service that The Duke of Edinburgh provided to both The Queen and the entire Commonwealth.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada, continues to be an inspiration to us all: in strength, public service, and as the personifying bedrock of our constitutional monarchy. Next year we will commemorate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years on the throne. As part of the celebrations, I look forward to the opportunity for the release of unique heraldic emblems, both here in Canada and in the United Kingdom.

As we emerge ever-cautiously from the COVID-19 pandemic, I very much look forward to re-engaging with the incredible organizations that I serve as Honorary Patron. I particularly appreciate the support of Royal Heraldry Society of Canada-BC and Yukon Branch, and hope to soon acknowledge your good work in person.

As you may know, Government House has been under significant health and safety upgrades and refurbishments. This work is slated to be completed by early autumn, with the hope that as pandemic restrictions lighten, we will be able to gather again.

We have all been somewhat isolated these past 16 months, and look forward to seeing friends, colleagues, and loved ones again. It has been challenging for many to be apart for so long. But as we reunite with old companions, we must keep in our hearts the memories of those lost to the pandemic, and those that were disproportionately impacted.

On behalf of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada, I share my sincere gratitude for your support and thanks to the membership and executive who so resiliently guide the Society. Brighter days are ahead, and I look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Janet Austin, OBC
Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia



Nihānjit jēje cho nādhāt
Hān
Uhahki Dun Cho Yukon Government
Northern Tutchone
Dazhān Kēyea dāw Kwānje
Southern Tutchone



Commissioner of Yukon
Commissaire du Yukon

Yukon Gamman Shāade Hāni
Tlingit
Gamin gūdish dege Yukon ts'į
Kaska
Government ndoo chit nilii
Gwich'in



Best wishes to the members of the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada for the 150th Anniversary of British Columbia entering Confederation. Discover the wonderful heraldry work done in BC and Yukon. À titre de marraine de la division de la Colombie-Britannique et du Yukon de la Société héraldique du Canada, je souligne les 150 ans d'adhésion de la Colombie-Britannique à la Confédération et je soutiens le travail héraldique fait par notre division.



1 June 2021

Dear members of the BC/Yukon Branch of the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada,

As Chief Herald of Canada, I am delighted to send you greetings on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the entry of British Columbia into Confederation, and I commend your branch for using this opportunity to reflect on the history of the province and heraldry's role within it.

From the early decades of the province there were a number of champions of heraldry, most notably Canon Beanlands, who created the initial design of the province's arms, which were assigned in an amended form by two royal warrants. It is notable that the very first university in Canada to be granted arms was the fledgling University of British Columbia in 1915. A substantial number of BC municipalities followed suit in the mid-20th century, thanks in part to the advocacy of individuals such as Robert Watt, who became Chief Herald of Canada, and Graham Anderson, who was named Cowichan Herald Extraordinary. As a result, BC has an unusually high number of lawfully armigerous municipalities, in addition to educational and ecclesiastical bodies and other organizations.

British Columbia was also the home of Sir Conrad Swan, who had a long career at the College of Arms culminating in his service as Garter King of Arms, and Dr. Helen Mussallem, who was a great support to the Canadian Heraldic Authority and was appointed Capilano Herald Extraordinary.

It is also important to acknowledge the significant impact of the symbol systems of the First Nations of British Columbia. Like heraldry, these emblems are a family-based form of identification using vividly stylized creatures to tell a story in a visual way, and are recognized throughout the world.

The BC/Yukon Branch has a proud history of advocating for and educating about heraldry, and I look forward to many more years of fruitful collaboration between our office and your branch.

Best regards,

Samy Khalid, PhD
Chief Herald of Canada





Three Companions:

The Creation of a baron of the Duchy of Saxe-Cobourg and the granting of The Arms of the province of British Columbia and those of the University of British Columbia in the period 1905-1915.

This article is from a presentation by Robert D. Watt, Rideau Herald Emeritus 21 August 2015 at the XIX Colloquium of the International Academy of Heraldry held at Saint-Jean-du-Gard, France.



Forty years ago, a woman came to my office with two documents that were part of her family's archives. These two were dated in spring of 1912. One was a letters Patent in favour of her grandfather, Francis Carter-Cotton, a grant of arms issuing from the College of Arms in London. The other was signed by Duke Carl Edward, of Saxe-Cobourg, granting Carter-Cotton the title of Baron.

The design of Carter-Cotton's arms struck me with their similarity to the Arms of the province and to those of the University of British Columbia.

From the date of my first meeting with Mrs. Vey in 1973, and the present, I had lost contact with the family. In the month of May, just past, thanks to the internet, I was able to re-establish contact and decided to re-examine the documents and the questions they posed.

First question: Owing to the chronological proximity, and the similarity of content of these three coats of arms, was there a link between the three, from the viewpoint of their creation?

Second question: Why would a B C businessman wish to receive a title of nobility from a prince of the German Empire?

First, we see the coat of arms of the province, the oldest of the three, granted by Royal Warrant of King Edward VII on 31 March, 1906. (Illustration 1)

Arms: Argent three bars wavy Azure, issuant from the base a demi sun in splendor proper on a chief the union device [the flag of the United Kingdom] charged in the centre with an antique crown Or.



Illustration 1

The arms of British Columbia, concession royal, 1906. (Plate 20.2 painted by Henry W. Gray, M.V.O., from Swan, Conrad. Canada: Symbols of Sovereignty. University of Toronto Press, 1977.)

Motto: "Splendour Sine Occasu" [Brilliance without setting]

The symbolism is clear, the sea which defines the whole western boundary of the province, the setting sun in the west and the Imperial flag differentiated with an antique crown, was based on a design by an amateur, which the government of the province had adopted as the central element of a Great Seal on 16 September 1896.

In that seal, based on a design by an "armorial enthusiast", Canon Arthur Beanlands, an Anglican cleric in Christ Church Cathedral, Victoria, the only change made from his design, at the insistence of Garter was to reverse the position of the Union Jack and place it above the Barry wavy and the sun.

As a member of the Provincial Legislature, Francis Carter Cotton would have seen many examples of these arms in use by the province following the formal granting.

Who was Carter-Cotton? A businessman and politician, he was born in England in 1843. The son of a businessman in London, England, he came to Vancouver in 1886, the year of the City's incorporation. The same year the nascent city was almost



entirely engulfed by fire, but very quickly rebuilt. He founded a newspaper, and was elected several times, between 1890 and 1916 to the provincial legislature of the Province. In this period he served as a Minister of the Crown.

Here is a portrait of Carter-Cotton circa 1912 [Illustration 2], after his election as the first Chancellor of the University of British Columbia.

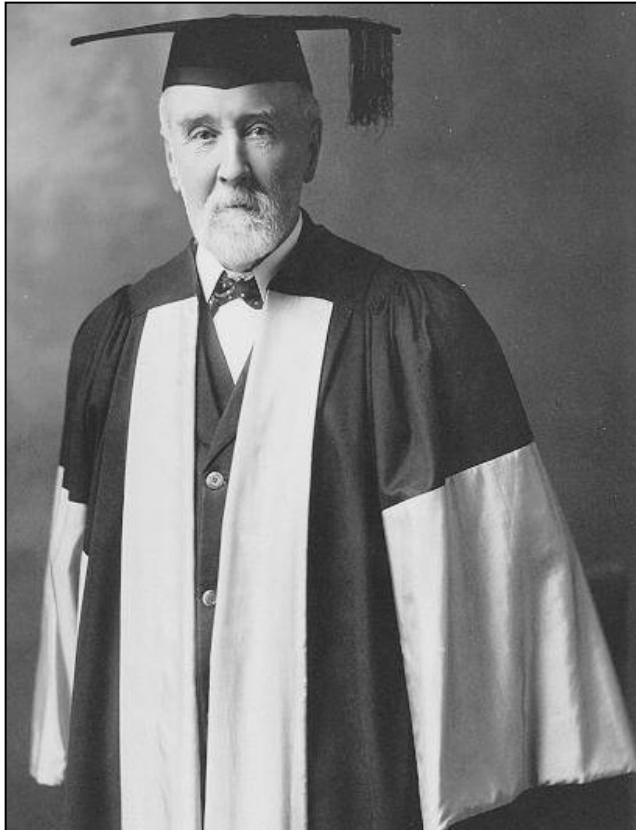


Illustration 2

Portrait of Francis Lovett Carter-Cotton, circa 1912. Private collection of Suzanne Taylor.

Earlier, as his career as a businessman in London, England was developing, he was elected as a Freeman of the City in 1865 (Illustration 3).

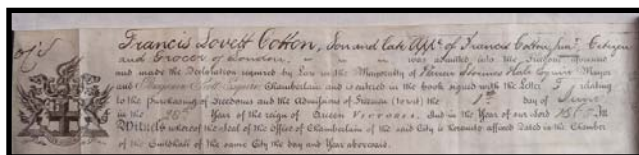


Illustration 3

Certificate confirming Carter Cotton's election as a Freeman of the City of London, 1 June 1865. Private collection of Suzanne Taylor.

Apparently, in 1910 and 1911, probably urged on by other investors in Vancouver, Carter Cotton had placed at the disposal of the Duke of Saxe Cobourg, two very sizeable sums of money for unspecified charitable purposes. To show his gratitude, Duke Carl Edward, in consultation with the British Consul resident in Dresden, decided to grant Carter Cotton a hereditary barony but one which bore no specific place in the structure of the Duchy's nobility. Because Carter Cotton had asked that matters be speeded up, the actual procedure was rushed through in two specific stages. An intermediary Patent was granted on 21 December 1911. The text of this has not be found yet, but it is known that it did not include a coat of arms.¹

The final document is a work of art, beautifully painted and calligraphed [illustrations 4 through 8]. It was turned over to Carter Cotton's business agent in Berlin and fees of 3,000 marks were levied – an enormous sum for the period.



Illustration 4

Diploma granting a hereditary barony to Francis Carter Cotton, 29 April, 1912 issued by Duke Carl Edward of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha. 44 cm high x 33 cm wide. Shown above is the cover and seal. Private collection of Suzanne Taylor.



Illustration 5

Diploma page with details of Duke Carl Edward of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha. From the private collection of Suzanne Taylor.



Illustration 7

Diploma page showing the arms of Francis Carter-Cotton granted by Duke Carl Edward of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha. From the private collection of Suzanne Taylor.



Illustration 6

The Diploma page of the details of Francis Carter-Cotton. From the private collection of Suzanne Taylor.



Illustration 8

Diploma page with the signature of Duke Carl Edward of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha. From the private collection of Suzanne Taylor.



What did the text of the diploma stipulate? Our colleague Dr. Rolf Sutter of Pro Heraldica in Stuttgart has provided a full translation of the German text. Excerpts from this English translation indicate that Carter Cotton was granted the title of Baron and that his legitimate offspring born in wedlock are also authorized to bear this title. “For broader attestation we graciously have granted the coat of arms hereafter depicted with concession for him and his progeny born in wedlock.”²

This coat of arms was actually granted by the English Kings of Arms on 20 March 1912, about one month before the diploma, 29 April 1912 (Illustrations 9-11).

The blazon reads: Argent three bars wavy Azure an Antique Ship Or, on a chief of the Second (Azure) two Cotton hanks of the third (Or) Crest On a wreath of the Colours, (Argent and Azure) upon a Mound Vert a Caribou’s head coupé gorged with a wreath of maple leaves all proper.



Illustration 9

A close up of the arms from the grant of Francis Carter-Cotton, from the three Kings of Arms at the College of Arms, 20 March, 1912 66cm high x 53 cm wide. Painted and calligraphed by hand by artists at the College. From the private collection of Suzanne Taylor.

The granting Kings whose Patent and seals are shown were Sir Alfred Scott Gatty, Garter, William Henry Wenden, Clarenceux and Henry Farnham Burke, Norroy. Charles H. Athill, Richmond Herald, Registrar, entered the Patent into the records of the College.

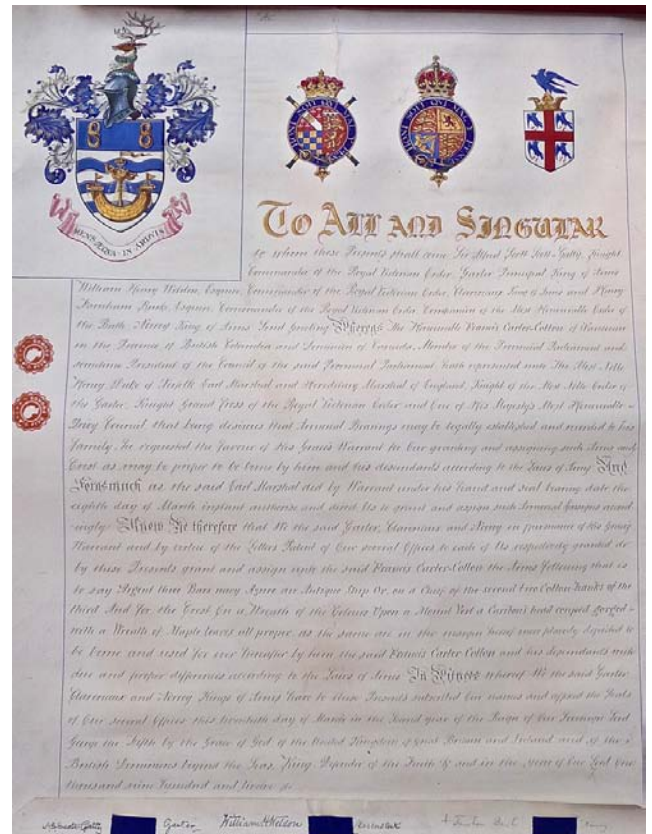


Illustration 10

The grant of arms of Francis Carter-Cotton, from the three Kings of Arms at the College of Arms, 20 March, 1912 66cm high x 53 cm wide. Painted and calligraphed by hand by artists at the College. From the private collection of Suzanne Taylor.



Illustration 11

The seals of the grant of arms of Francis Carter-Cotton, from the three Kings of Arms at the College of Arms, 20 March, 1912 66cm high x 53 cm wide. Painted and calligraphed by hand by artists at the College. From the private collection of Suzanne Taylor.



It appears that the British authorities required that the arms be granted in England because Carter Cotton was a British subject, and so there is a difference in the representation of these arms in the diploma and the Patent. An unnamed official in the State Ministry of Gotha objected and felt the arms did not conform to German heraldic practice. Further research is necessary to try to establish the nature of these objections.

A number of related questions can be posed. Who could bear this title? Carter Cotton had two sons; the elder died in 1939 without issue. His second son lived only eleven years longer than his father. This son had one legitimate daughter, Frances Winnifred Cotton, who later became Frances Vey. She visited me in 1973 and was fascinated by the documents. She had two children, a son, now deceased, who had two sons, one married with a daughter. Carter Cotton's daughter never married and had no issue. That said, the law in Canada, passed by Parliament in 1919 prohibited the granting of titles to Canadians.

There is no evidence that Carter Cotton ever spoke publicly about his title; Britain and Germany were at war by 1914 and its social usefulness would have been compromised.

His arms raise an equally interesting question. Who was the herald at the College of Arms who created this design? There is no documentation at the College or in the papers of the Vey family. Following recent researches which touch on the design of the coat of arms for the University of British Columbia, it seems possible that the conception for the Carter Cotton arms was the work of Richmond Herald, Charles Athill. From the point of view of the content of the design, the links between the arms of the province and those of Carter-Cotton are clear.

In Carter Cotton's arms, the allusion to the sea is very evident. His career in commerce is symbolized by the antique ship, in gold, the tincture of the sun in the B.C. arms preserves the provincial armorial tinctures as does the blue chief. The gold cotton hanks are a direct canting reference to his paternal ancestry and his father and grandfather's long involvement in London enterprise.

By English heraldic law, these arms became extinct with the death of his eldest son Cecil in 1939. The Duke's grant was more generous, extending the arms to descendants male and female.

Now we turn to the evolution of the coat of arms of the University of British Columbia. What was Carter-Cotton's role? Here we see the design, granted by the English Kings of Arms on 23 September 1915. The grant was by the same three kings who made the grant to Carter-Cotton Sir Alfred Scott-Gatty, William Henry Weldon and Henry Farnham Burke.



Illustration 12

The arms of the University of British Columbia, granted by the Kings of Arms of the College of Arms, 23 September 1915. Reference painting provided by the College of Arms to the Chief Herald of Canada at the Canadian Heraldic Authority, Ottawa.

NOTE: the arms within the document are enlarged to show details.

The blazon is, Argent three bars wavy Azure issuant from the base a demi sun in splendor proper on a Chief of the Second (Azure) an open book also proper edged, strapped and buckled Or inscribed with the words TUUM EST.



Was this Carter Cotton's suggestion? It turns out, it was not his directly. He may have introduced President Wesbrook, first President of the University, to Richmond Herald but it was Wesbrook who suggested borrowing elements from the Province's arms. In a letter sent from Dr. Wesbrook to Richmond Herald 13 May 1914, submitting the formal application of UBC to receive arms, signed by Carter Cotton as Chancellor, he refers to their meeting in London [in the summer of 1913]. He notes "you suggested that designs would be submitted for our approval. I enclose herewith also a reproduction in colour of the coat of arms of the Province of British Columbia. I think perhaps, since we are a Provincial University, there would be some propriety in the adoption of some of the same features in case this seemed wise."³

Richmond herald clearly agreed with Dr. Wesbrook because his design is based squarely on the arms of B.C., in the lower part, with Carter Cotton's blue chief, hearing a classic symbol of academic purpose, an open book (Illustrations 13, 14).

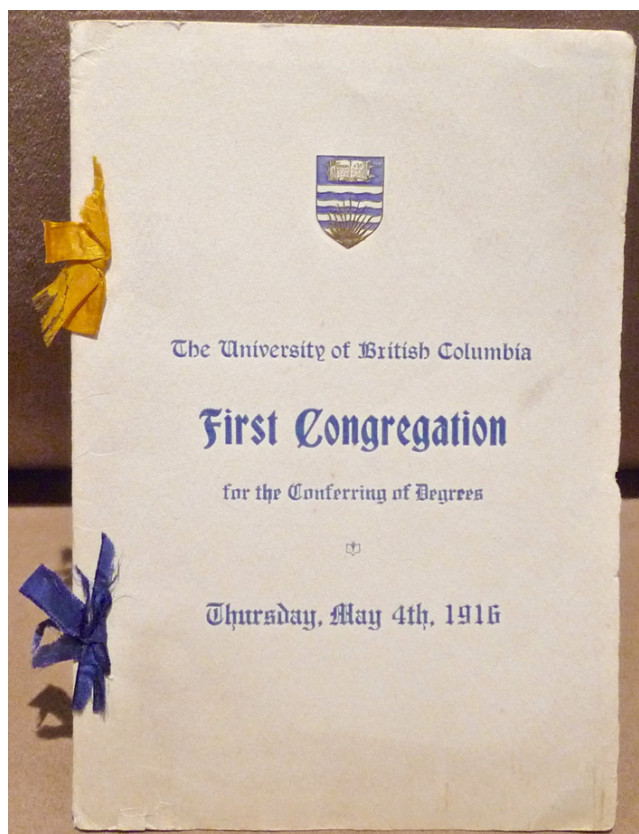


Illustration 13

Representation of the coat of arms of the University of British Columbia. From the cover of the programme from the first Congregation, May 1916. From private collection of Suzanne Taylor.



Illustration 14

Representation of the coat of arms of the University of British Columbia. from the painting on the Letters Patent of 23 September 1915. From the collections of the Archives of the University of BC.

The result is that in less than a decade, B.C.'s own government, one of its leading politicians and business media leaders, and its university received arms which share many common elements and colours. The arms of UBC are the oldest officially granted to any Canadian university. I believe Carter Cotton's acquaintance with the granting process was a key factor in producing this result. The intriguing extra element is the grant of the Barony to him. Nothing else like it has been found in Canada. It is visually stunning and is a fascinating link between German and British entrepreneurs before the First World War.

Notes:

1. A detailed explanation of the transaction is found in R.D. Watt, "Jawohl! Herr Baron Carter-Cotton of Vancouver. The Forgotten Arms of a Forgotten Baron", *Heraldry in Canada*, Volume VIII, No. 2, June, 1974, pp. 31-34.
2. Translation of German text of the diploma granting the title of Baron to Carter-Cotton. Dr. Rolf Sutter of Pro Heraldica, Stuttgart to Robert D. Watt, 4 August, 2015.
3. Letter from Dr. Wesbrook, 1st President of the University of British Columbia to Charles H. Athill, Richmond Herald, College of Arms, 13 May 1914. From the Archives of the University of British Columbia. Correspondence of the President.



Editor - As details about heraldry in our B.C./Yukon Branch were researched for consideration for this special publication, it became evident that this branch has a rich heraldic heritage with having four residents being Officers and Heralds of Arms with the Canadian Heraldic Authority. Since it was created on June 4, 1988, the C.H.A. has been the Canadian authority that prepares and issues letters patent for all Canadians. The C.H.A. is the only heraldic authority that Her Majesty has created outside of the British Isles. Over the past 33 years the C.H.A. has granted or registered arms, flags and badges of over 3,000 recipients including individuals, municipalities, institutions and military and naval units and formations.



Arms of the Canadian Heraldic Authority grant of Arms September 15, 1988 in Volume I page 7 of the Register of Arms, Flags and Badges.

These arms were designed by Robert Watt and assisted by the Heralds of the C.H.A. The artist was Bruce Beatty, a founding member of the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada.

The Heralds of British Columbia and Yukon

By Robert D Watt,

Rideau Herald Emeritus



The choice of a Chief Herald of Canada resident in North Vancouver, in 1988 when the Canadian Heraldic Authority was established, led to the appointment a number of heralds with strong ties to British Columbia and the Yukon. Other than the author himself, the first of these was another historian, Charles Maier, then Government Records Archivist for the Yukon Territorial Government.

**Dr. Charles Robertson Maier,
C.D., F.R.H.S.C.
Athabaska Herald 1988-2001**



Badge of Athabaska Herald granted by the Canadian Heraldic Authority on January 15, 1994 in Volume II page 281 of the Register of Arms, Flags and Badges.

Charles and Robb got to know each other in Vancouver, in the 1970s and early 1980s. Charles took his baccalaureate degree in history and economics at UBC, graduating in 1969. Part of his studies resulted in him exploring the career of Frederick Seymour, the second governor of the Crown Colony of British Columbia, serving from 1864 to 1869 in succession to Sir James Douglas. His subsequent researches as a post-graduate student at the University of London led Charles to his first visits to the College of Arms when he made and began a friendship with Sir Colin Cole and experienced a deepening interest in heraldry. He and Robb shared this interest, and a professional involvement with museology, in Charles' case as the education and information officer at Fort Steele Historic Park in the East Kootenays, in Robb's, case as a Curator at the Vancouver Centennial Museum later the Vancouver Museum. Their friendship and professional acquaintance grew in the 1980s, when Robb joined with other heraldists to establish the BC/Yukon Chapter of the RHSC, in February 1982. By this time Charles had moved to the Yukon, but fortunately his work brought him to the Coast frequently enough that he was able from



time to time to take part in Branch meetings, the first of these in August of that year.

When the Authority was created on June 4, 1988, a development that Charles had followed closely through his membership in the RHSC and in correspondence with Robb, he was a natural choice to recruit to the first intake of heralds in that exciting spring. He joined the Authority at the beginning of its work, as Athabaska Herald and with operational responsibilities as Manager of Policy and Program. During his service at the CHA, which lasted until August of 2000, he worked on various policy and program reports, which included a range of ceremonial and protocol matters. He developed new coats of arms and other insignia for individuals, corporations and organizations.



Charles Maier, Athabaska Herald (left) presents Bishop Ferris of Whitehorse Yukon with the Diocesan registration of arms on October 17, 1991. The arms were registered September 30, 1991 in Volume II page 129 of the Register of Arms, Flags and Badges. The arms were originally granted by the College of Arms, London, England on September 30, 1955.

Photo credit: Bishopric of Yukon.

Most importantly, he negotiated and administered a Memorandum of Understanding between Government House and the Department of National Defence to provide heraldic services to the Department in connection with the Department's military badge program. This agreement provided a solid basis to ensure that Canada's military badges for the various branches of the Forces were strengthened by the heraldic expertise that was evolving in the Authority.



H.M.C.S. VICTORIA
Ship badge designed by Charles Maier, Athabaska Herald. This is one example of the many naval and military unit and formation badges Charles developed for the Department of National Defence. This particular badge is in Volume IV page 15 and dated November 1, 1999, in the Register of Arms, Flags and Badges.

The expertise that Charles gained in his work with the Authority was transferred to two other government departments, Veterans Affairs Canada and the Department of Public Works and Government Services. In the latter department, from 2002 to 2006 he was responsible for the planning and implementing of major national ceremonies in conjunction with officials from other departments. Following his retirement from the Public Service in 2006, Charles completed his doctorate at the Royal Military College of Canada, and taught at the College until 2015. For the past six years he and his wife Valerie have been involved in development and reconciliation work as volunteer lay ministers with the Anglican Diocese of Yukon in the small, largely First Nation community of Mayo.



Arms of Charles Maier, Athabaska Herald granted by the College of Arms, London, England in 1975.



Graham Leslie Anderson, F.R.H.S.C.

Cowichan Herald Extraordinary

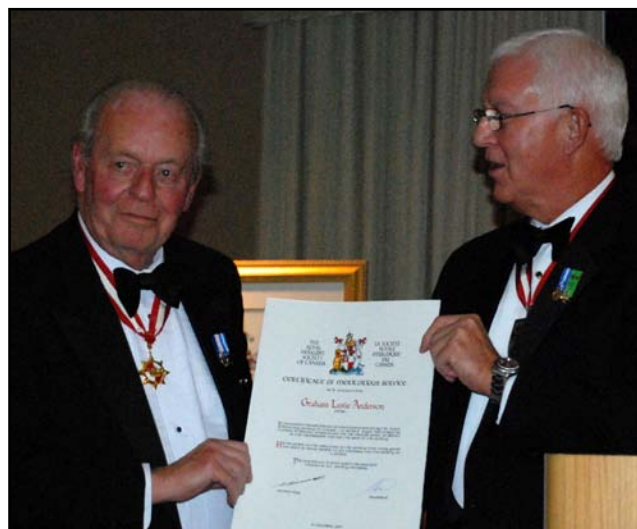
1999-2012



Badge of Cowichan Herald Extraordinary granted by the Canadian Heraldic Authority on May 2, 2001 Volume IV, page 116 of the Register of Arms, Flags and Badges.

One of the founders of the B.C./Yukon Branch was this popular and legendary teacher of History, Latin and other subjects at Shawnigan Lake School on Vancouver Island. Graham, as he told me a number of times, developed a fascination for heraldry as a boy, and pursued it actively all his adult life. Our acquaintance was forged in the meetings of the Branch in the mid 1980s. As you can easily imagine, no one on the Coast was a more eager supporter of the campaign to establish a Canadian Authority. Nor was anyone in this part of the Canadian world more delighted than Graham when the campaign was successful and then Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, encouraged by his Secretary of State, David Crombie and the Deputy Prime Minister Don Mazankowski, made the Authority a reality. Graham poured his passion for heraldic art and science into various advocacies as the heralds in the Authority took up the task of developing a Canadian heraldic system. He encouraged local government bodies to petition for Canadian arms. One stands out for me in those early years, a grant from 1990, to the District of North Cowichan very close to where he lived in southern Vancouver island, at Cowichan Bay. I may be remembering this one especially because

the name of the municipality includes a First Nations name, one that became the heraldic title given to Graham when he was appointed a Herald Extraordinary in 1999. He served in that capacity until his death in November 2012 less than two weeks after his esteemed herald colleague, Dr. Helen Mussallem. For more than a decade he was a tireless advocate for lawful heraldry and never missed an opportunity to share his enthusiasm for arms with anyone who would give him a half hour to convince them that heraldry was one of our most beautiful inheritances from Europe and could now be made in Canada by Canada's experts in the field.



Graham Anderson, Cowichan Heraldry Extraordinary being presented with his Meritorious Service Award certificate from Alan Bird, President of the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada at the 2007 A.G.M. Dinner.

Photo credit: Carl Larsen

His badge, (shown at the top of the opposite column) which was granted in 2001, was a pictorial salute to the word Cowichan, which means "place warmed by the sun". The need for an indigenous symbol to honour the beliefs of the Cowichan people, led to the granting of a commission to Salish artist Wayne Charlie. His vision of the form of the horned dog Wagaas and the eagle Yuhwala blazoned Gules on a sun in splendour Or is permanently placed in the Public Register in Volume IV page 116.



Graham appreciated deeply that the domestication of heraldry in Canada brought many benefits, not least that First Nations symbols and art would come to be celebrated by the wider community. He was proud to be the first to bear this beautiful badge.



Arms of Graham Anderson, Cowichan Herald Extraordinary originally granted August 2, 1983 by the Court of the Lord Lyon, Edinburgh and then registered by the Canadian Heraldic Authority on June 22, 1992 Volume II page 166 of the Register of Arms, Flags and Badges.

**Dr. Helen Kathleen Mussallem,
C.C., F.R.C.N.**

**Capilano Herald Extraordinary
2006-2012**



Badge of Capilano Herald Extraordinary granted by the Canadian Heraldic Authority on June 26, 2007 Volume. V, page 155 of the Register of Arms, Flags and Badges.

A distinguished, dynamic nurse, the first Canadian nurse to receive a doctorate from Columbia University, she was a veteran of nursing in the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps in World War II and an accomplished administrator, teacher and researcher. She shaped a marvellous career over many decades and was a leader in her profession, recognized ultimately with a promotion to become a Companion of the Order of Canada. Her roots were in British Columbia notably in Maple Ridge, but much of her life was spent in Ottawa as well as internationally. I came to know her through her niece, Dr. Lynette Harper, with whom I worked at the Vancouver Museum in the 1970s and 1980s. After I started working in the Chancellery at Rideau Hall I met Helen at a number of events there. This led to her decision to petition for a coat of arms. What a pleasure it was to work with her on the creation of these arms, which were granted in March 1996. Part of the excitement for her was to discover her eligibility to be granted supporters as a Companion of the Order of Canada. She so enjoyed these arms that among the many applications of them which she chose was to commission a superb set of glass doors in her home, embellished with a sand blasted version of her achievement.



To dexter is Sheila Marie Cook,, C.V.O. who was the Herald Chancellor at the Canadian Heraldic Authority from 2006 to 2011. To sinister is Dr. Helen Mussallem, C.C., F.R.C.N., Capilano Herald Extraordinary. The occasion they were attending was the presentation of the collars of office in 2010 in Ottawa.

Photo from the estate of Dr. Helen K Mussallem

Continued page 16



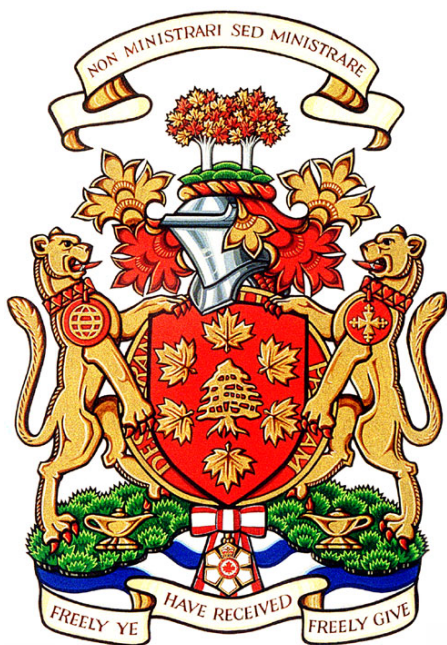
While heraldry was a subject that she became aware of in later life, she embraced it with marvellous enthusiasm. Her philanthropy resulted in the gifts to the Crown, notably a marvellous set of official collars for the Governor General as Head of the Heraldic Authority, the Herald Chancellor and Deputy Herald Chancellor, the Chief Herald and all the other heralds. The photo shows the occasion in 2010 at her home in Ottawa when a number of these collars were received and celebrated. Helen had a vision for the importance of symbols and she made it possible for Canadian heraldry to be displayed in ceremonies in this superb way. At the same time, once she had become an armiger herself she was a wonderful advocate among close friends and a number of organizations of which she had been the President or Executive Director including the Canadian Nurses Association, whose arms were granted in 2008. The importance of her advocacy was recognized formally in 2006, when she was appointed Capilano Herald Extraordinary. The badge, shown here, like the Cowichan badge, features Salish art, recognizing the great river which drains the watershed in the centre of the ancestral lands of the Squamish First Nation on the north side of Vancouver harbour.

**Robert Douglas Watt,
L.V.O., A.I.H., F.R.H.S.C.
Rideau Herald Emeritus**



Badge of Rideau Herald Emeritus granted by the Canadian Heraldic Authority on June 26, 2007 Volume V, page 157 of the Register of Arms, Flags and Badges.

I have written elsewhere about my great good fortune in being invited to become the first Chief Herald of Canada. At the time I was living with my family in North Vancouver and it is perhaps not surprising that my formative years growing up in West Vancouver and my involvement in the world of Canadian heraldry through the RHSC and its branches before 1988, would give a West Coast flavour to some aspects of Canadian heraldry as the Heraldic Authority evolved from 1988 forward.



Arms of Helen Kathleen Mussallem, Capilano Herald Extraordinary granted by the Canadian Heraldic Authority on March 5, 1996 Volume III page 78 of the Register of Arms, Flags and Badges.



Arms and Batons of the Chief Herald of Canada granted by the Canadian Heraldic Authority on January 15, 1994, Volume II, page 281 of the Register of Arms, Batons and Badges.

Continued page 17



But the first use of the Canadian heraldic prerogative was not in the west but in Québec. I remember clearly being in the Chancellery just a few days after the ceremony at Rideau Hall when The Prince Edward presented Governor General Sauvé with the Royal Letters Patent. Not even a week later I was meeting in his office with General François Richard, the first deputy Herald Chancellor. His phone rang and he motioned me to stay. The call was from his close long time friend Michel Pelletier, then Mayor of Quebec City. M. Pelletier had heard the news of the Royal Letters Patent and wanted to know if Quebec City could request a coat of arms.

He wanted the first centuries-old capital of Canada to be first to take advantage of the patriation of this unique form of identity and honour.



The first arms proclaimed by Robert Watt as the first Chief Herald of Canada. The arms of the City of Québec granted by the Canadian Heraldic Authority on September 20, 1988 Volume I, page 3 of the Register of Arms, Flags and Badges.

General Richard and I realized what a wonderful opportunity M. Pelletier was offering. Thanks to an all hands-on deck team effort, and particularly with the blazoning skills of Auguste Vachon and the availability of Gordon Macpherson, I was able to stand in the Council Chamber in The City Hall in Quebec City, and proclaim the Letters Patent in the presence of Mme. Sauvé, and hundreds of distinguished Québécois and Québécoises. Since the proclamation was read entirely in French, I practised a lot beforehand.

This was to be the first of hundreds of similar proclamations which have taken place in every part of Canada since 1988. It has been a very im-

portant element in the strategy of sharing the good news of new Canadian heraldry and dramatizing its beauty and utility. Many of those in the first three decades of the Authority's life have taken place in B C and the Yukon. Early on, I discovered that it was helpful in the process of inviting potential petitioners to consider a grant of arms, to have one of the heralds with roots on the Coast to offer in-person orientations to the process for petitioning and the process for developing arms. From the outset, the Canadian heraldic system was designed to be user friendly and accessible. British Columbian and Yukon governments, universities and colleges, institutions, corporations and individuals have embraced the visual splendour and meaning of heraldry. When I think of proclamation ceremonies in B C and Yukon, as well as grants, many come crowding to mind; District of North Vancouver, West Vancouver, New Westminster, Mission, Burnaby, Sidney, Abbotsford, Penticton, Oliver, Kamloops Indian band of the Shuswap Nation, Nisga'a Nation, Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows, Port Moody, Chilliwack, Malaspina University College, Nanaimo Golf Club, Murchie's Tea and Coffee Parksville, Castlegar, Fernie, Prince George, College of New Caledonia, and Whitehorse. All Lieutenant Governors since David Lam in 1989 have received grants; Garde Gardom, Iona Campagnolo, Steven Point, Judith Guichon, and Janet Austin. I enjoyed so much working on these and many other armorial projects and have also enjoyed the ways in which the armigers have decided to use their arms.



Confirmation of impaled Arms of Office of Robert Watt in recognition as Chief Herald of Canada from 1988 to 2007 by the Canadian Heraldic Authority on December 15, 2010 Volume VI, page 19 of the Register of Arms, Flags and Badges.



Arms and Supporters of Robert Douglas Watt, Chief Herald of Canada. Robb's original Arms were recorded in the records of the College of Arms, London, England and then registered June 15 2001, Volume IV, page 99 of the Register of Arms, Flags and Badges. Subsequently, the Supporters are an augmentation to his Arms by a Viceregal Warrant with a Grant of Supporters on April 15, 2009, Volume V, page 435 of the Register of Arms, Flags and Badges.

I believe that Canada has shown the world how to create a dramatic, vigorous and aesthetically pleasing heraldic system, which takes advantage of the multicultural character of the country and gives a special place to the symbol systems of our indigenous peoples. In part this has been a creation of individual heralds who have roots in British Columbia and Yukon.

Official photographic portrait of Robert D. Watt as the Chief Herald of Canada and Director of the Canadian Heraldic Authority. Robb is wearing the Collar of Office and holding the Baton of Office.

Robb was the first Branch President of the BC/Yukon Branch and also the twelfth President of the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada, in 1987-1988.

Robb is also the current President of L'Académie Internationale d'Héraldique, a prominent international heraldry organization based in Switzerland.

Photo credit: Rideau Hall.

When I retired in 2007, I have remarked that I was let down very gently indeed, being named Rideau Herald Emeritus and being granted a badge of office. Thanks to the kindness of the late Dr. Claire Boudreau, and now Dr. Samy Khalid, the second and third Chief Heralds of Canada, I have been able to stay connected with the national heraldry program and been able to be a volunteer resource for new petitions from British Columbia. So my great good fortune, which began even before 1988, continues.



Grant of Arms of the Canadian Heraldic Authority registered January 15, 1994 Volume II, page 281 of the Register of Arms, Flags and Badges. Original concept of Robert D. Watt, Chief Herald of Canada, assisted by the heralds of the Canadian Heraldic Authority.



Heraldry in British Columbia

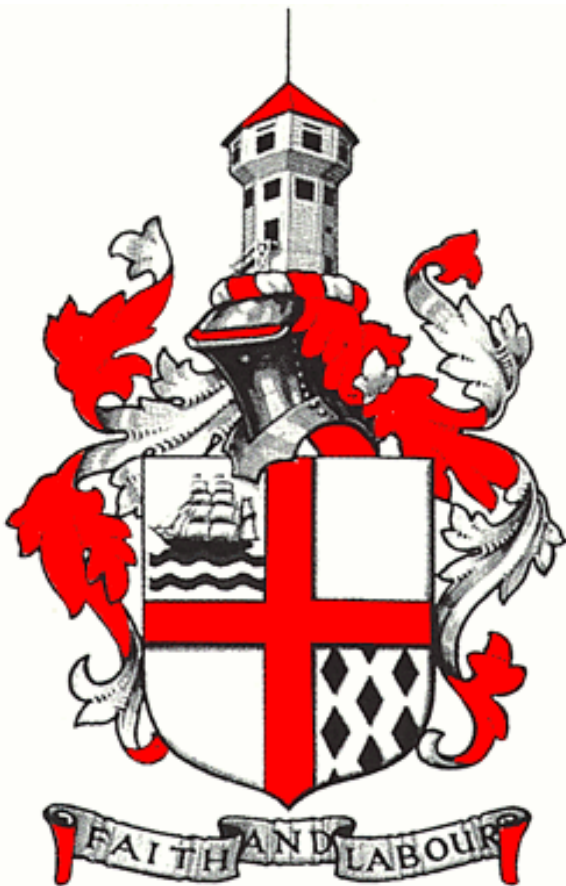
Gary Mitchell, Victoria BC



While we celebrate the 150th Anniversary of B.C. and the Canadian Confederation and explain the Provincial arms, there are other aspects of heraldry that are active in B.C. From 1871 to 1988 any individual, municipality, institution or organization who desired a grant of arms had the choice of either using the College of Arms in London, England or the Court of the Lord Lyon in Edinburgh, Scotland. In 1988 Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II created the Canadian Heraldic Authority; the only such heraldic authority in the Commonwealth outside of the British Isles.

COMMUNITY ARMS - There are some 163 incorporated cities, towns, villages and special municipalities in B.C. Of these there are 64 that are armigerous. Most of these have arms that were granted by the Canadian Heraldic Authority since its creation in 1988. There were some municipal arms granted before this time and the earliest arms granted to a B.C. municipality are the arms to the City of Nanaimo granted by the College of Arms on September 28, 1951. These arms were subsequently registered with the C.H.A. on February 15, 2001. The most recent grant of arms to a B.C. municipality is to the Resort Municipality of Whistler on March 16, 2016.

PERSONAL ARMS - All Canadians, regardless of gender, can apply to the Canadian Heraldic Authority for a grant of arms. As arms are personal to the grantee they can reflect both personal and family aspects of an individual's story.



Arms of the City of Nanaimo., B.C. granted by the College of Arms on September 28, 1951 and registered by the Canadian Heraldic Authority on February 15, 2001 Volume IV, page 98 of the Register of Arms, Flags and Badges.



Arms of Shirley Greenwood, F.R.G.S., F.R.H.S.C. (Hon), granted by the Canadian Heraldic Authority on September 15, 2003 Volume IV, page 313 of the Register of Arms, Flags and Badges.
Digital artwork by Laurie Patten, F.R.H.S.C.



INDIGENOUS ARMS - Aspects of history and heritage of First Peoples within B.C. can be seen in both personal and municipal arms. Shown below are the arms of The Honourable Steven Point,, (Xwě lī qwěł tēl), O.B.C. An additional feature of these arms are the two Supporters and Compartment. For individuals these components in a coat of arms signify a senior position in our Canadian society in this case the vice regal position of the Lieutenant Governor of B.C. While in this position he was the Distinguished Patron of our Branch. The Honourable Steven Point is currently the Chancellor of the University of B.C.



Arms and Supporters of Badge of Steven Point, O.B.C, former Lieutenant Governor of B.C. granted by the Canadian Heraldic Authority on March 20, 2009 Volume V, page 428 of the Register of Arms, Flags and Badges. From 1975 to 1999, Steven Point served as Chief of the Skowkale First Nation. From 1994 to 1999 he served as Tribal Chair of the Stó:lō Nation and subsequently appointed Grand Chief. Digital artwork by Laurie Patten, F.R.H.S.C.

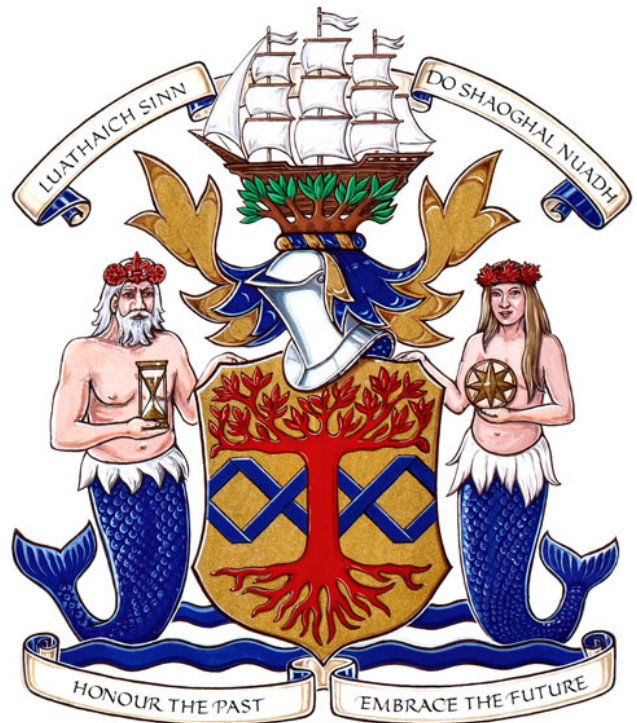
The Canadian Heraldic Authority has a separate section specifically for Indigenous emblems called the First Peoples register. One of the few grants to a First Nations within territorial B.C. is the heral-

dic badge of The Nisga’a Nation at New Aiyanih, B.C.



Badge of The Nisga’a Nation at New Aiyanih, B.C. granted by the Canadian Heraldic Authority on June 15,2004 Volume IV, First Peoples page 1 of the Register of Arms, Flags and Badges.

CORPORATE ARMS - While people and communities can have arms, so can corporations. Currently there are 19 corporate grants within B.C., they range from golf clubs, hotels, private schools and private companies. An added feature is corporate arms can also have Supporters to help make their mark.



Corporate Arms and Supporters of Gen-Find Research Associates of Nanaimo. Grant of Arms, Supporters, Flags and Badge by the Canadian Heraldic Authority September 15, 2010 Volume. V, page 550.



Editor - One item that came to light in researching B.C. heraldry for this publication was a copy of the official ceremony program titled *The Granting and Proclamation of the Complete Coat of Arms of British Columbia* by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II October 15, 1987 The Law Courts, Vancouver. Below is a re-print, with kind permission of the author, of a heraldic history from the official program. And the author is Robb Watt who, at the time of the ceremony in 1987, was the Director of the Vancouver Museum and President of the Heraldry Society of Canada. Robb and his son, Michael, attended the unique ceremony. In 1988 Robb became the first Chief Herald of Canada when the Canadian Heraldic Authority was created by Her Majesty.

A Brief History of the Coat of Arms of British Columbia by Robb Watt

Today's ceremony brings to completion a lively and intriguing story that stretches back over a century. Our Coat Of Arms is a symbol of sovereignty as these are the arms of Her Majesty in right of

British Columbia and a symbol of our co-sovereign status as a province of the Canadian federation. Through the beauty of heraldry, an ancient and honourable form of identification, important elements in the character of our province are revealed: our heritage as a constitutional monarchy; our historic position in the Empire and now, the Commonwealth, and the riches of our natural environment.

Somewhat surprisingly, the evolution of the Coat of Arms has taken over ninety years and has at times provoked some rather heated debate. When British Columbia joined Canada in 1871 it had no official heraldry although in the colonial period the Royal Arms, including the Royal Crest of the crowned lion standing on the imperial crown, was widely used on official documents. This was general practice throughout the Empire. However, in this province, from the 1870's the Royal Crest flanked by the initials "B.C." began to be used as a type of provincial insignia. While this use of the Royal Crest was undertaken without any authorization by the Sovereign, it was undoubtedly meant



Shown above are members of the Official Party for the ceremony of the Granting and Proclamation of the complete Coat of Arms of British Columbia. In the centre of the photograph is Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada. Dexter to Her Majesty seated in order is The Honourable David Crombie, P.C., Secretary of State of Canada, The Honourable Elwood N. Veitch, Provincial Secretary and Minister of Government Services and Dr. Conrad Swan, C.V.O., York Herald of the College of Arms, London. Addressing the audience from the podium is The Honourable William N. Vander Zalm, Premier of British Columbia. Photo provided by Government of B.C.



to express the strong tie British Columbians felt to Britain and particularly to Queen Victoria, who had a special interest in the creation of the colony of British Columbia.

In the early 1890's the need to renew the Great Seal of the Province seems to have provided an opportunity for the Province's first heraldic enthusiast, Canon Arthur Beanlands of Victoria, to encourage the government of the day to adopt a more elaborate device. In 1895 he designed a Coat of Arms for the Province which was adopted by Order-in-Council on July 19th that year and which Cabinet directed be used as the Great Seal of the Province. This armorial device is quite similar to the completed arms being assigned by Royal Warrant today. The symbolism of Beanlands' design reflects sentiments and beliefs widely held in turn-of-the-century British Columbia. The Union Jack, then the national emblem, was placed in the lower part of the shield to represent unity with the British nation by descent and government. The wavy blue bars and the setting sun symbolized the sea and the assured permanence and glory of the Province, the latter point reinforced by the motto which freely rendered means "brilliance without setting". The two supporters, the wapti stag of Vancouver Island and the big horn sheep of the Mainland represented the Union of the two colonies in 1866. Above the shield was the Royal Crest, used, in Beanlands' opinion, as an expression of loyalty to the Crown.

Beanlands had a good grasp of heraldic design but less understanding of the legal principles involved. The dependence of provincial officials on his views lead to a prolonged and sometimes acrimonious battle with officials in London when the Province attempted, as it did in 1897, to register the arms at the College of Arms, the part of the Royal Household which administered the Sovereign's armorial prerogative in England and the colonies. At the heart of the dispute which then unfolded lay misunderstanding about the difference between devices appearing on a great seal and Coat of Arms. The designs appearing on the Great Seal were fully within provincial control under the



Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada, signing the Royal Warrant officially granting a complete Coat of Arms of the Province of British Columbia. The ceremony took place at the Vancouver Law Courts on October 15, 1987. To dexter assisting Her Majesty is Dr. (later Sir) Conrad Swan, York Herald of Arms of the College of Arms, London, and to sinister is the Honourable David E. Crombie, Secretary of State of Canada.

Photo credit: Ian Lindsay/Vancouver Sun

The photograph was taken from the book titled "A King From Canada" by Sir Conrad Swan (1924-2019).

terms of a federal statute of 1877. However, Coats of Arms were grants of honour from the Crown created via an exercise of the Royal Prerogative. For the government of a British territory arms had to come into being via a Royal Warrant drawn up on the advice of the Crown's armorial officers, that is the Heralds at the College of Arms. Unfortunately apart from misunderstandings about these matters of principle, there were some problems with Beanland's design. The heralds pointed out that the Union Jack was in an inferior position on the shield. As well, the Royal Crest could not be granted to the Province as this would infringe the Sovereign's exclusive right to the symbol and violate an essential element of heraldic practice, that no arms or parts of an armorial achievement could be borne by another. Furthermore, at that time, the Heralds felt that a grant of the honourable distinction of supporters to British Columbia was premature since no other province had yet received them. Resolution of the various issues took several years and letters flowed steadily between Victoria and London from 1904 to 1906. Joseph Pope, Under-



secretary of State for Canada, was a deeply interested bystander since he hoped for agreement so that official arms for the province would be included in the Canadian Coat of Arms.

Finally in 1906, the Province received arms by Royal Warrant of Edward VII on March 31st. Interestingly, only the shield and motto were granted. Beanland's concept survived but with the sun and Union Jack reversed to conform to proper heraldic practice and with a golden antique crown in the centre point of the Union Jack. For the time being the Province decided not to seek a grant of the crest and supporters which also had been adopted in 1895, although they continued to be used and in fact have been used down to the present day.

Since its adoption in flag form in 1960, the shield has become the most widely recognized provincial symbol. For over 70 years the full arms, with official shield and motto and unofficial crest and supporters have been the principal device to identify British Columbia's government and its services. As such, it is a most important element in our visual heritage appearing on countless documents, proclamations and as a decoration on public buildings.

Despite several attempts to regularize the situation, the difficulty posed by the use of the Royal Crest seemed insurmountable. Happily, as today's events prove, a beautiful and historic solution has been found and in the process, the Province has been uniquely honoured by the Sovereign. With Her Majesty's agreement, the Royal Crest is for the first time in history being granted, with an appropriate differencing mark, to another sovereign entity. Henceforth the lion will bear a garland of dogwoods, the Province's official flower.

Three other changes are being made. The golden helmet of sovereignty is placed between the shield and the crest as a mark of British Columbia's co-sovereign status in Confederation, an appropriate signal of the completion of the patriation process. Above the helmet are the traditional heraldic ele-

ments of a wreath and mantling. These are red and white, Canada's national colours as established in the Canadian Coat of Arms granted in 1921. The provincial flower is featured a second time by entwining dogwoods around the motto scroll.

The evolution of the arms of British Columbia is now complete. It is fitting that this has taken place in the same year that the Canadian government has hosted the first national forum on Canadian heraldry in recognition of the ongoing importance of heraldry in this country. It marks the granting of the Province's augmented Coats of Arms as a unique occasion in Canadian history. This is the first time that the Sovereign and Her representative in a province, the Lieutenant-Governor, one of Her Majesty's Officers of Arms, a Premier and his Ministers, and the Secretary of State have all been present to witness the signing of a Royal Warrant.

These completed arms are both beautiful and historic. They symbolize important traditions and the bounty of a magnificent land. May they continue to serve and to inspire us in the future as they have in the past.

Robert D. Watt

Fellow of the Heraldry Society of Canada



Carving of the complete Arms of the Province of British Columbia displayed at the B.C. Legislature Building, Victoria B.C. Artist unknown.

Photo credit: Times Colonist Newspaper of Victoria.



The Honourable Janet Austen holding her new table shield.
Photo credit: Rachel Rilkoff, Communications and Events Officer, Government House, Victoria BC.

At the BC/Yukon Branch Annual Dinner held in March 2020 a table shield was presented to our Yukon Patron, The Honourable Angélique Bernard, O.Y. Commissioner of Yukon. And a few days later the COVID-19 crisis happened and we could not arrange the presentation of a table shield to our B.C. Patron.

Shown above is our B.C. Patron, The Honourable Janet Austin, O.B.C., Lieutenant Governor of B.C. holding her special table shield. While we could not make the presentation in person, Her Honour wrote expressing her appreciation for the table shield and her best wishes to the branch members. Behind Her Honour is a Northern Style carved totem pole, eagle on top, bear face holding a fish, human face on body of fish, red and black painted accents on cedar. It was carved by Dempsey Bob (Tahtlan-Tlingit from Telegraph Creek).

THE BLAZON

President - Steve Cowan C.D., U.E., L.R.H.S.C.,

Tel: 250 890 0225 bc_yukon@heraldry.ca

Editor - John W. Neill F.R.H.S.C. (Hon.)

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Articles are welcome for submission
to the Blazon Editor

bc_yukon@heraldry.ca

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