



The Blazon

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

AUTUMN 2022

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The previous issue of the Blazon came out in the summer of this year; it seems like it was distributed years ago.

In September we suffered the loss of Queen Elizabeth II. Her Majesty was featured in several of the BLAZON issues since last year as we celebrated the Platinum Jubilee.

This year we also celebrate the 40th anniversary of our branch of the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada. And with the lessening of the public health restrictions in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were able to hold a branch dinner. See page 5 for details as well as a few photographs.

I will have more photographs of the dinner in the 2022 Branch Annual Report that should be published and distributed late January 2023.

October 1st was a busy day this year; we went from famine to feast with two branch heraldry events in Victoria. And I have Dr. Charles Maier to thank for being our guest speaker for both events.

Charles is also the branch president of our Ottawa Valley R.H.S.C. branch.

Having Charles visit Victoria for our lectures is a great way to encourage inter-branch activities.

A few important dates to note include our BC/Yukon Branch annual general meeting date of Saturday, March 5, 2023; no method, venue or location has been finalized by the branch board of directors. I would like to include a luncheon or dinner and a guest speaker; any ideas?.

Another date is the national annual general meeting of the Society planned for Saturday, May 27, 2023 in Montreal QC. The venue and details will be sent out by our national secretary.

Our national board of directors will hold meetings on February 4 and April 9, 2023; I welcome ideas and issues from branch members for discussion at our meetings.

I have shown here the arms of Mary Simon, our Governor General. You can access the details at gg.ca; if you hover over the arms at this site you can see the details of these amazing arms of Her Excellency.

On behalf of the branch board, I wish all members, their family and friends the best wishes for the holiday and 2023.



Arms of Her Excellency the Right Honourable
Mary Simon, C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., C.Q., C.D.
Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada
Image source: www.gg.ca

Steve Cowan
Branch President





WHAT WILL THE KING DO?

Gary Mitchell, Victoria BC



As Canadians continue their transition of sovereignty from our late and beloved Queen Elizabeth II to her son, Charles III; we will begin to see the inevitable changes that occur with the demise of the sovereign.



Royal Cypher of His Majesty King Charles III
Source: www.royal.uk

The Canadian news media have already spoken of the changes to our currency and to the oaths taken by our politicians and the Public Service. The UK press have written about the changes to the royal cypher on the postal boxes and the new image needed for UK coins and bills. No one has mentioned or turned their attention to the need for a new official portrait of King Charles III in Canada (and his other realms overseas) or the changes for the 17 Canadian military units who have our late Queen as their Colonel-in-chief (Captain General for the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery or Hon. RCMP). In addition, there

are the seven Canadian military units who had HRH Prince Phillip as their Colonel-in-Chief. Of course, there will shortly be a discussion on whether or not to have a Coronation Medal struck or to issue a Coronation coin to our school aged Canadians.

These matters will consume a lot of our time in the forth-



Royal Cypher of Her Majesty The Queen Consort
Source: The Daily Mirror of November 7, 2022.

coming months are we prepare for the coronation service in May. I am more interested in the question will King Charles III authorize new “King’s Beasts” prior to the coronation?

We know the Queen’s Beasts were:

The Lion of England

The Lion of England is the crowned golden lion of England, which has been one of the supporters of the Royal Arms since the reign of Edward IV (1461–1483).

It supports a shield showing the Arms of the United Kingdom as they have been since Queen Victoria's accession in 1837. In the first and last quarters of the shield are the lions of England, taken from the arms of Richard I "The Lionheart" (1157–1199).

The lion and tressure (armorial border) of Scotland appear in the second, and the harp of Ireland is in the third.



The Lion of England

The White Greyhound of Richmond

The White Greyhound of Richmond was a badge of John of Gaunt, Earl of Richmond, son of Edward III.

It was also used by Henry IV and especially by Henry VII.

The Tudor double rose can be seen on the shield, one rose within another surmounted by a crown.

It symbolizes the union of two of the cadet houses of the Plantagenet - York and Lancaster.



The White Greyhound of Richmond



The Yale of Beaufort

The Yale was a mythical beast, supposedly white and covered with gold spots and able to swivel each of its horns independently.

It descends to the Queen through Henry VII, who inherited it from his mother, Lady Margaret Beaufort.

The shield shows a portcullis surmounted by a royal crown. The portcullis (uncrowned) was a Beaufort badge, but was used both crowned and uncrowned by Henry VII.



The Yale of Beaufort

This grandson of Elizabeth Stuart, sister of Charles I, became George I, King of Britain, France and Ireland.

The shield shows the leopards of England and the lion of Scotland in the first quarter, the fleur-de-lis of France in the second and the Irish harp in the third quarter. The fourth quarter shows the Arms of Hanover.

The White Lion of Mortimer

The White Lion of Mortimer descends to the Queen through Edward IV.

The shield shows a white rose encircled by a golden sun, known heraldically as a 'white rose en soleil' which is really a combination of two distinct badges.

Both of these appear on the Great Seals of Edward IV and Richard III, and were used by George VI when Duke of York. Unlike the Lion of England, this beast is uncrowned.



The White Lion of Mortimer

The Red Dragon of Wales

The red dragon was a badge used by Owen Tudor, after the story of the dragon on Llewelyn the Last's castle grounds.

His grandson, Henry VII, took it as a token of his supposed descent from Cadwaladr, the last of the line of Maelgwn.

The beast holds a shield bearing a lion in each quarter; this was the coat of arms of Llywelyn ap Gruffudd, the last native Prince of Wales.



The Red Dragon of Wales

The White Horse of Hanover

The White Horse of Hanover was introduced into the Royal Arms in 1714 when the crown of Great Britain passed to the Elector George of Hanover.

The White Horse of Hanover



The Unicorn of Scotland

From the end of the 16th century, two unicorns were adopted as the supporters of the Scottish Royal Arms.

In 1603, the crown of England passed to James VI of Scotland, who then became James I of England. He took as supporters of his Royal Arms a crowned lion of England and one of his Scottish unicorns.

The unicorn holds a shield showing the Royal Arms of Scotland, a lion ramping in a royal tressure, adorned with fleur-de-lis.



The Unicorn of Scotland



The Griffin of Edward III



The Griffin of Edward III

The griffin of Edward III Queen's Beast is an ancient mythical beast.

It was considered a beneficent creature, signifying courage and strength combined with guardianship, vigilance, swiftness and keen vision.

It was closely associated with Edward III who engraved it on his private seal. The shield shows the Round Tower of Windsor Castle (where Edward III was born) with the Royal Standard flying from the turret, enclosed by two branches of oak surmounted by the royal crown.

The Black Bull of Clarence

The Black Bull of Clarence descended to the Queen through Edward IV.

The shield shows the Royal Arms as they were borne by Edward IV and his brother Richard III as well as all the Sovereigns of the Houses of Lancaster and Tudor.



The Black Bull of Clarence

The Falcon of the Plantagenets



The falcon was first used by Edward III of the House of Plantagenet as his badge.

It descended to Edward IV, who took it as his personal badge, the falcon being standing within an open fetterlock. Originally closed, the slightly open fetterlock is supposed to refer to the struggle Edward IV had to obtain the throne — "he forced the lock and won the throne."

The Falcon of Plantagenets



The Seymour Panther

What many Canadians do not realize there were other Beasts which the Queen did not include in her selection of her ten "Royal Protectors". All of them were part of the King's Beasts created to celebrate the union of King Henry VIII and Jane Seymour. They included the Seymour Panther, Queen's Unicorn (bearing her shield) and the Queen's Lion (bearing her badge on the shield).

With the accession of King Charles III, the House of Windsor has become part of The House of Glücksburg (shortened from House of Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderburg-Glücksburg).



The Seymour Lion

Queen Margrethe II of Denmark, King Harald V of Norway, former king of Greece Constantine II, former Queen Anne-Marie of Greece, Queen Sofia of Spain and King Charles III of the United Kingdom are patrilineal members of cadet branches of the House of Glücksburg.



The Seymour Unicorn

King Charles III, through HRH Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh, can consider the heraldic symbols of Denmark and Greece as well as the Mountbatten family (Prince Phillip's family name in the UK). These symbols include the Lion of Hesse, the Mountbatten (Battenberg) Lion and the Blue Lion of Denmark (Glücksburg).

The Lion of Hesse would be described a Lion rampant double-queued barry of ten Argent and Gules armed and langued of the last crowned Or. As with the current Queen's Beasts, each beast bears a shield. The Hessian Lion's shield could be the Argent two Pallets sable of the Battenbergs (the original family name of Mountbatten).



Arms of Prince Louis, 1st Marquess of Milford Haven Battenberg



The Mountbatten Lion (a Lion double-queued and crowned all Or) and its shield could be the Argent two Pallets sable of the Battenbergs. Or in recognition of the King’s father, the shield could honour Edinburgh - upon a rock Proper a castle triple towered Sable, masoned Argent, windows, port, turret-caps and vanes Gules.

As HRH Prince Phillip was a Prince of Denmark, another option for a new King’s Beast could be the Blue Lion of Denmark and its shield could bear:

the Danish cross,

the Battenberg shield, or

the Edinburgh castle.

I hope our new sovereign will chose to have King’s Beasts honouring his reign and included in the new 10 Royal Protectors are new choices reflecting upon the lineage of HRH Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh, Prince of Denmark and Greece.

Editor:

Gary Mitchell, M.A.S., F.R.H.S.C. is the secretary of the BC/Yukon Branch of the R.H.S.C. He is the retired B.C. Provincial Archivist. Gary achieved his Fellowship in our Society this past May of 2022.

OUR BRANCH DINNER

It was great getting together on Saturday, October 1st, for our first branch dinner since March 7th, 2020. Besides seeing friends again and new guests, the salient part of the evening was the heraldic lecture by guest speaker Dr. Charles Maier.

Also in attendance was the Honourable Angélique Bernard, O.Y., Commissioner of the Yukon. And the after-dinner presentation by Charles was the “The Arms of Yukon”; very appropriate as Her Honour is our Distinguished Yukon Patron.

Representing our Distinguished BC Patron was Mr. Darren Findlay from Government House.

Piper David Hjalmarson leading the head table guests to their table.

Photo credit: John Neill



Members and guests upstanding for a toast during our dinner. Photo credit: John Neill

After the lecture, Charles was presented with a table shield of his arms and crest (see bottom photo). Presented to Madame Bernard was a portrait shield of her arms to hang in Taylor House in Whitehorse. A similar shield of our current BC Lt. Governor’s arms as well as those of a former Lt. Governor were presented to Mr. Darren Findlay. These portrait shields were presented of behalf of our branch in recognition of 2022 being our 40th anniversary year.

Also attending our dinner was Rev. David Spence and Donna Otto of the Royal Commonwealth Society of Canada and Judge (retired) Gerry Pash of the Monarchist League of Canada.

Canadian maritime and naval historian Dr. Barry Gough and Marilyn Gough also joined us for the evening as well as the afternoon lecture..



In the dexter foreground is guest speaker Charles Maier and Valerie Maier to sinister with Steve and Judy Cowan in the background. In the centre is the table shield presented to Charles in appreciation for his two presentations.

Photo credit: Barry Gough



Platinum Jubilee Reception

Steve Cowan, Comox BC



This summer I had the honour of accompanying our branch secretary, Mr. Gary Mitchell, to a special gathering at Government House in Victoria. The occasion, on August 23, was the Honourable Janet Austin, O.B.C., hosting a reception of representatives of Her Honour's patronage organizations.

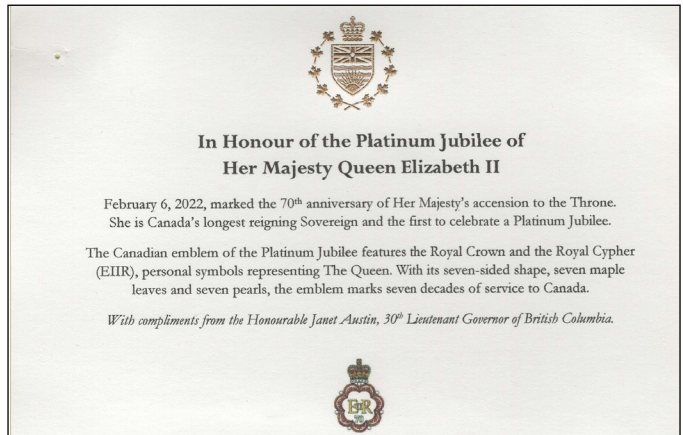
Other VIPs present with Her Honour were His Honour Ashley Chester, Mr. Michael O'Connor, President of the Government House Foundation and Mr. Timothy Vernon, the Artistic Director General of Pacific Opera. During this event recognition was made to winners of the Lieutenant Governor's Arts and Music Awards that were won by Joelle Rabu, Amanda Shatzko and Jodi Proznick.

Besides partaking in the excellent cuisine provided by Government House, we enjoyed meeting other guests representing other Patronage organizations. This included Judge (retired) Gerry Pash and Lieutenant-Commander (retired) Gene Federly of the Monarchist League of Canada, and Mr. Jamie Webb, President of the Maritime Museum of B.C. Board who had also served for several years as an Honorary Aide-de-Camp at Government House. Fellow BC/Yukon branch member Honorary Colonel Stephen Klimczuk-Massion was there from the Guild of Waggoneers and Artificers who were kind enough to provide the wine for this reception.



Our Distinguished BC Patron addressing the audience of representatives of Patronage Organizations at a Government House reception on August 23, 2022. Photo courtesy of Government House.

Her Honour is the Distinguished Patron of some 100 organizations in British Columbia. And our branch of the R.H.S.C. has enjoyed patronage of the B.C. Lieutenant Governor for nearly 40 years. (Refer to The Blazon Number 2, Volume 17, summer issue of 2022 for the article Our Vice-Regal Arms.)



Above is the card that was given with the Platinum Jubilee pin to the attendees at the Platinum Jubilee Reception Honouring Patronage Organizations on August 23, 2022.



To dexter the cover of the special Jubilee tea from Murchie's Tea Company. Above, Murchie's arms from the CHA Public Registry.

The salient event of the reception was Her Honour's tribute to the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. As the guests left they were given a souvenir package of tea provided by Murchie's, Canada's oldest tea company, founded in 1894. We were also given a Platinum Jubilee pin and card in celebration of the Queen's 70th anniversary of February 6, 2022.



The reception was a very memorable event and a fitting tribute of the 70 years of service and devotion of our late Sovereign Lady to Canada and the Commonwealth.



BRANCH 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

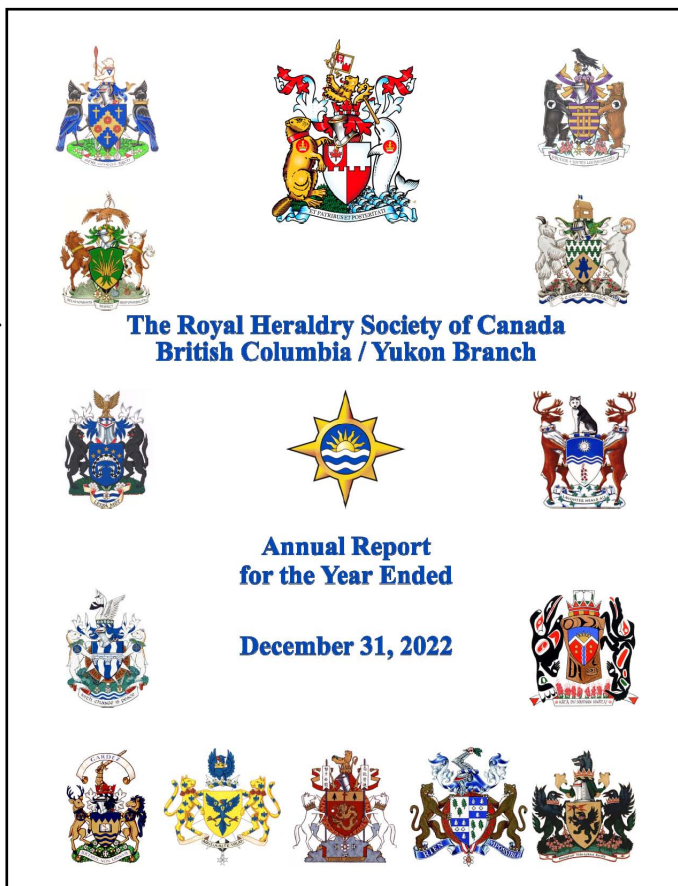
With the end of the year approaching, the 2022 Annual Report is now underway.

The cover will feature the arms of the B.C. and Yukon vice-regal appointments that were shown in the previous BLAZON, volume 17, number 2, Summer of 2022. This 5-page item was written as part of our 40th anniversary of our BC/Yukon Branch, names and describes the vice-regal armigers.

The annual report also includes two financial reports that will outline the financial items that helped our activities during the year.

Besides the reports from the president and the treasurer, we also list the branch directors and executives; all volunteers who strive to provide activities that make Canadians aware of our history, heritage and heraldry.

The annual report will also show and describe various branch activities during the year; we offer all members the opportunity to assist the branch board if possible.



BRANCH MEMBERS MAN HERALDRY BOOTH AT THE CAMPBELL RIVER HIGHLAND GAMES



Following the fun and enjoyment of participating in a public outdoor event at the Victoria Highland Games in May, our branch also had our heraldry booth up and running in August. Over the weekend of August 6 and 7, 2022, we enjoyed the sunny hot weather of the 4th Annual Campbell River Highland Gathering. John Neill worked the booth both days, with Darren George on the Saturday and Steve Cowan on the Sunday. We were aided in our aim of promoting Canadian heraldry by having a supply of the amazing heraldry booklets provided by the Canadian Heraldic Authority.



Sunday crew of John Neill and Steve Cowan, in his kilt. Our booth was not too far from the ice cream truck. Photo source: Steve Cowan



To dexter is John Neill performing crowd control and decent duty at our heraldry booth. Photo source: Steve Cowan



Naval Heraldry in Canada



Branch members and guests at the Naval Heraldry lecture at St. Peter and St. Paul's Anglican church, Esquimalt, BC.
Photo credit: Steve Cowan

Besides our branch dinner on October 1 (see page 5), we also enjoyed an additional heraldic lecture the same day by Dr. Charles Maier. Since Charles was travelling to Victoria as our dinner speaker, he accepted our request to be a special heraldry lecturer as part of our Shirley Greenwood Heraldry Lecture program. And with naval heraldry as the theme, the naval church of St. Peter and St. Paul in Esquimalt BC was the ideal location. Charles gave a very interesting and informative presentation. And it was not just on the history of naval heraldry in Canada, he also added stories and details behind some of the interesting characters involved in the early naval history off our west coast.



Naval heraldry seen in the Royal Canadian Navy centennial memorial window, made by branch member Tom Mercer, at the St. Peter and St. Paul's Anglican church, Esquimalt, BC.
Photo credit: Steve Cowan

THE BLAZON

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Articles are welcome for submission
to the Blazon Editor

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