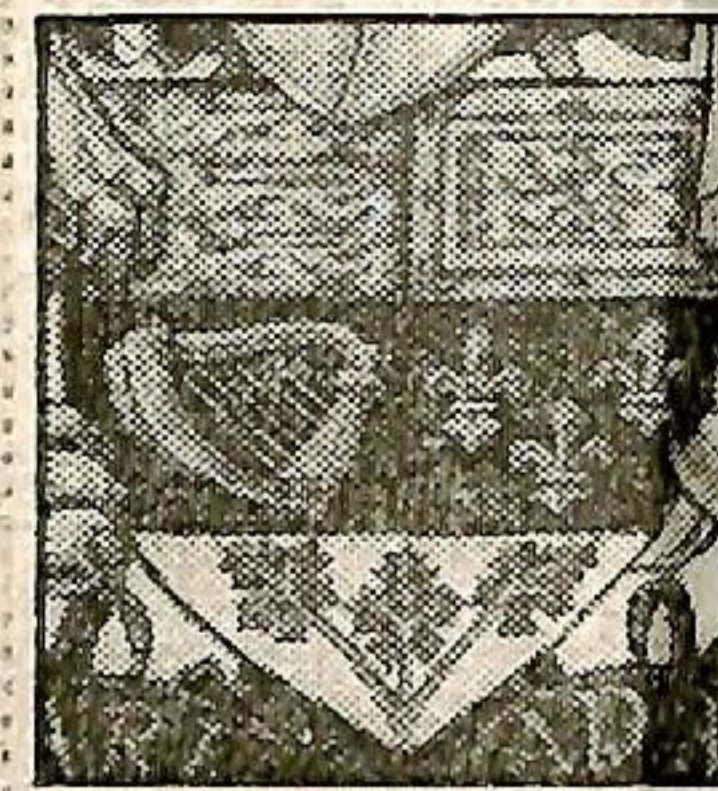


How Canada's splendid Royal Arms evolved

The Shield



The shield at the centre is the most important part of the design. In heraldry, it is the shield "that tells the story" of a country. In Canada's shield, four emblems were placed to symbolize

the four peoples who had been the founders of Canada.

The 3 Royal Lions of England

The lion is the oldest device known in heraldry and, as "king of beasts," the lion was adopted by kings of Norway, Denmark and Holland as their emblem; but the origin of the three royal lions of England still remains a mystery.

In the 11th century, Henry I, known as "the lion of justice," may have been the first English king to use a lion. No one knows why a second lion suddenly appeared, but when Henry II married Eleanor of Aquitaine, whose family emblem was also a lion, it is believed that he added the third lion. There is no question that when Richard I, "Richard the Lion-Hearted" led his English troops in the Crusades, he carried a royal shield emblazoned with three golden lions on a red background and they have been the royal symbol of England to this day.

The Royal Lion and Fleurs-de-lis of Scotland

The royal lion of Scotland was probably first used by King William, who was known as "the lion," but it was certainly used by his son, Alexander III (1241-1286) who made Scotland an independent nation. It is the other royal symbol of Scotland that mystifies many people, today, even Scots.

If you look very closely, you will see a band of the royal fleurs-de-lis of France surrounding the Scottish lion. As England's northern and southern neighbors, the two countries were allies for centuries beginning in the middle ages; and as Shakespeare records, there was an English saying, "very old and true, 'If that you will France win, Then with Scotland first begin.'" In the traditions of heraldry, Scotland records this important ancient alliance in its royal symbol to this day.

The Royal Fleurs-de-lis of France

The fleurs-de-lis was the first heraldic emblem raised in Canada. On July 24, 1534, when Jacques Cartier landed at Gaspé, he put up a cross and affixed the symbol of his sovereign and the royal house of France. There is a legend in France that, in the 5th century, when Clovis, King of the Franks, became a Christian an angel appeared to him bearing in her arms the lilies of France; and these flowers became the symbol of the

kings of France for more than 1,000 years.

The Royal Irish Harp of Tara

There is a hill north of Dublin called Tara. For centuries, this was the religious and cultural capital of ancient Ireland. If you visit it, you will see a 750-foot earthenwork that is said to have been the site of the banqueting hall of Irish kings. Thomas Moore recalls the history of this site in one of the most famous of all Irish lyrics that begins, "The harp that once through Tara's hall the soul of music shed..." There is a legend, recorded in C. W. Scott-Giles monumental work, *The Romance of Heraldry*, that this harp was found and came into the possession of the pope.

In the 16th century, when Henry VIII suppressed the Irish people and wanted to be seen as the lawful successor to the kings of ancient Ireland, the pope sent the harp of Tara to England and Henry added it to his royal shield and it has been a symbol of Ireland ever since.

The 3 Maple Leaves

To complete the design of the shield, a symbol was needed to represent all the peoples of every origin in Canada. Throughout the 19th century, the maple leaf had gradually become closely identified with Canada. It was the emblem of the Jean Baptiste society in Quebec.

It had been worn for the first time as a symbol of Canada by Torontonians during the royal visit of the Prince of Wales in 1860. The song, *The Maple Leaf Forever*, written by a Toronto school-teacher, Alexander Muir, in 1867, had become Canada's unofficial national anthem; and during World War I, the maple leaf had been adopted into the badge of every one of Canada's regiments. The maple tree may grow in other parts of the continent but nowhere does it grow taller or flourish more magnificently than in Canada; and, in the most commanding position within Canada's shield, three maple leaves were added to make the shield unmistakably "Canadian."

The supporters



The figures, often ferocious, that stand on either side of the shield are known in heraldry as "supporters." England chose 2 lions. Scotland chose 2 unicorns. The origin of the unicorn in the arms of Scotland is uncertain but it may have had a deeply religious significance.

There is a legend that these mythical beasts always lose their fierceness in the presence of a virgin and lie quietly at her feet; and, over the centuries a unicorn became a symbol of Christ, (i.e. the famed Lady and the Unicorn Tapestries in the Cluny Museum in Paris).

When James VI of Scotland also became James I of England he chose one lion and one unicorn as the supporters of his royal shield. Canada adopted the

same pattern and used a lion bearing the banner of the Union Jack and a unicorn bearing the banner of the royal house of France — the two principal founding nations who had established Canada's most enduring laws and customs.

The Crest



It is only the symbols above the shield that are known as the "crest" in a coat of arms. Canada added a helmet of gold above its shield for these were to be Royal

Arms. As Alan B. Beddoe, the founder of the Heraldry Society of Canada has written, "The sovereign's helmet is always of gold. Lesser figures must be content with silver or steel."

In medieval times, large metal shapes were affixed to the top of the helmet to ward off blows from a battle axe and prevent concussion. Canada added a lion to its helmet.

At the top of the helmet part of the coat, worn by the knight to protect his armor from the heat of the sun, is shown twisted into a wreath; the rest of it is shown billowing out on either side and is shown in the heraldic symbol of a jagged piece of cloth, one that had been cut and slashed in hand-to-hand combat, as a symbol that a knight (or a country) had served valiantly in war.

The 4 floral emblems



At the base of Canada's Royal Arms there are the floral emblems of the four founding nations of Canada.

English Rose

This first became the symbol of England when Henry III married Eleanor of Provence and the golden rose of Provence became England's new floral symbol. From this golden rose came the red rose of the House of Lancaster and the white rose of the House of York. In Toronto's coat of arms, there is a single white rose to recall the days when Toronto was the Town of York.

Scottish Thistle

There is a legend that, in 1010, when the Danes attempted to capture Scotland, they landed secretly at night and, as they approached Stains castle, to avoid making any noise, they removed their shoes. When they reached the castle's moat, they jumped in; but the moat was dry and overgrown with thistles.

The yells of the bare-footed Danes roused the garrison. The castle and Scotland were both saved and, it is said, it is in memory of that night that the thistle became the floral emblem of Scotland.

Irish Shamrock

In Irish legends, it is said that when St. Patrick brought Christianity to Ireland he used the three petals of the shamrock

to illustrate the Holy Trinity and the shamrock became the floral emblem of Christian Ireland.

The French Fleurs-de-lis

Following its adoption as the symbol of France's king, the flower also became the symbol of Christian France. By the 13th and 14th century, the 3 petals of the lily of France were being described by writers as symbols of Faith, Wisdom and Chivalry, and, also, as in Ireland, as symbols of the Holy Trinity.

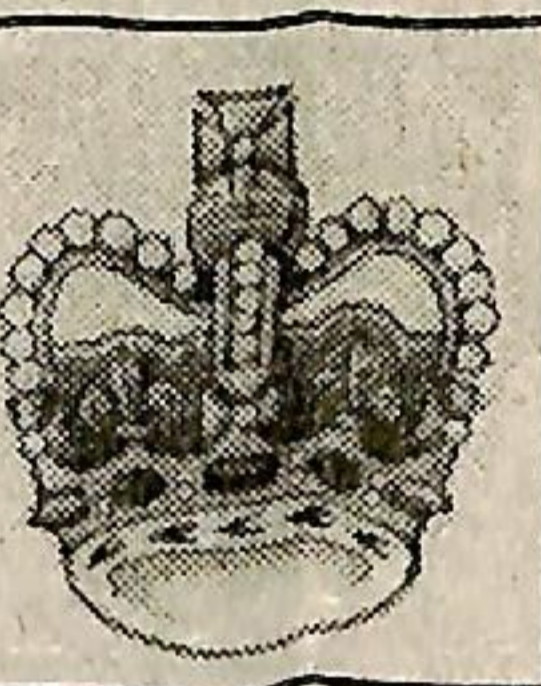
Canada's Motto



Canada's famous motto "From Sea to Sea" was not chosen

by the Fathers of Confederation as many believe. They were words used by a Nova Scotia minister, George Munro Grant, who travelled across Canada in the 1870s "preaching powerful Presbyterian sermons" based on Psalm 72:8 "He shall have dominion from sea to sea and from the river unto the ends of the earth." He was an ardent patriot and proposed that words from this psalm become the motto of this new country to unite its far-flung lands. They became a rallying cry in the west and were carved into the mace of the legislative assembly of Saskatchewan. Grant became the principal of Queen's University in Kingston and the author of many books, among them, one about Canada titled, *Ocean to Ocean*. In 1921, 20 years after his death, the words he proposed were adopted as Canada's motto and, translated into Latin, appear on the Royal Arms of Canada as "A Mari usque ad Mare."

St. Edward's Crown



The shapes of the symbols in a coat of arms can be altered by an artist since heraldry is an art as well as a science; but the symbols themselves can never be changed without formal approval. In

1957, when Canada's arms were to be slightly modified into a cleaner more contemporary design, the Queen was asked if there was any change she would prefer and she replied that she would prefer the original Tudor crown of the 1921 design be changed to a crown that would represent not just one of the royal families of English monarchs, but centuries of kings and queens of England.

She preferred the crown of that deeply religious figure who was called "more a monk than a king," who founded Westminster Abbey and whose body lies buried there and who was later declared to be a saint: St. Edward. It is the crown called St. Edward's Crown that has been used at the coronation of kings and queens in Westminster Abbey for centuries; and in the newer design of Cana-

Canada's Royal Arms it is the crown of St. Edward you will see at the very top.

It is the "royal" nature of Canada's arms that makes it one of the rarest of all the royal coats of arms of the world. In 1921, there were only two nations within the British Empire entitled to "Royal Arms:" England and Scotland. Since the time of James VI of Scotland who became James I of England, England and Scotland have remained separate kingdoms, each giving allegiance separately to the same sovereign. In 1921, Canada's proposal to use a crown of gold was unprecedented for centuries but the proposal was readily approved since these were to be the Royal Arms for the use of the sovereign in right of Canada.

In 1931, when the highest court of appeal for Canada was transferred from Westminster to Ottawa, Canada's Royal Arms became both the Royal Arms of the Sovereign of Canada and the Royal Arms of Canada as a symbol of its sovereign independence.

Today there are only three Royal Arms within the British Commonwealth: The Royal Arms of England, The Royal Arms of Scotland and the Royal Arms of Canada; and Elizabeth II is, at once, but separately, Queen of England, Queen of Scotland and Queen of Canada.

The Lion and Maple Leaf



The only controversy that ever raged about the 1921 design was the color of the maple leaves. Many argued strongly that they should be green to symbol-

ize a young country. Red, it was said was the color of the leaf when it died. In 1921, the color of the three maple leaves in the shield was green (it was changed to red in 1957) but the single maple leaf at the top has always been red. In 1921, parliament officially approved the choice of Canada's national colors. They would be red and white. White, it was said, was symbolic of the snow, so characteristic of this northern land. Red, in heraldry, had a far more serious meaning. Red was the color of blood and the symbolic color of sacrifice.

In 1921, memories were strong of the more than 500,000 Canadians who had fought, and the many who had died, for their country in World War I. The mantle, symbolic of Canada's heroism in war, would be red and white.

A single maple leaf would be red and would be held by a lion, the most ancient of all heraldic devices, a symbol of valor and of courage, a creature strong of body and a foe to fear. In 1965, in a tradition that has marked the history of so many other nations of the world, it was from the single, most meaningful symbol in the arms of this country that our national flag was born.