

Sava News

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UNITED STATES BICENTENNIAL MARKED BY THE ISSUANCE OF STAMPS BY MANY NATIONS

To celebrate the Bicentennial anniversary of the Declaration of Independence of the United States of America, postal officials in many countries have issued special stamps. Many of the stamps are of interest to vexillologists as they depict the flags, historical and contemporary, of the U.S. along with those of the country issuing the postage stamps.

Depicted to the left are examples of such; these from Poland. Shown are the flags of the two countries, George Washington, Thaddeus Kosciuszko and Casimir Pulaski (eminent Poles who fought during the American Revolution), and an artistic interpretation of the Battle of Yorktown.

Republican Flag Pole A Landmark

In 1869, a wooden flag pole, 140 feet tall, was erected. It stood on the corner of Fayette and Main Streets in Palmyra, New York for twenty years until a bad windstorm occurred in 1889. The half-rotted flag pole came crashing to the ground.

When Benjamin Harrison's election race came up, the Republicans decided to erect a steel flag pole that would surpass anything of its kind. On October 25, 1892, a steel flag pole, 150 feet tall, was erected at the cost of \$1,000.

The six foot square base rests on a foundation of stone and concrete. The stone and concrete is 15 feet square and nine feet deep. Fifty-six loads of stone and 40 barrels of cement were dumped to make a solid foundation for the steel flag pole.

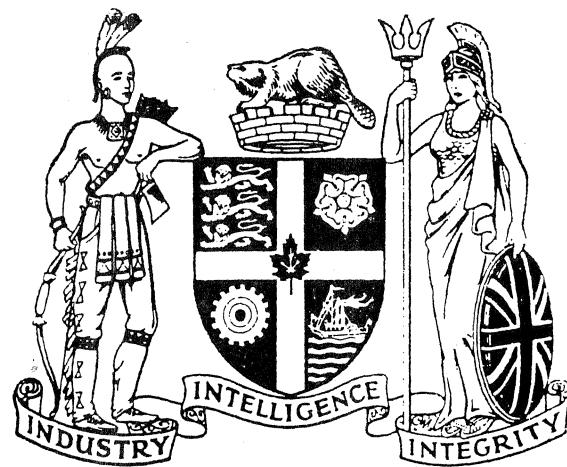
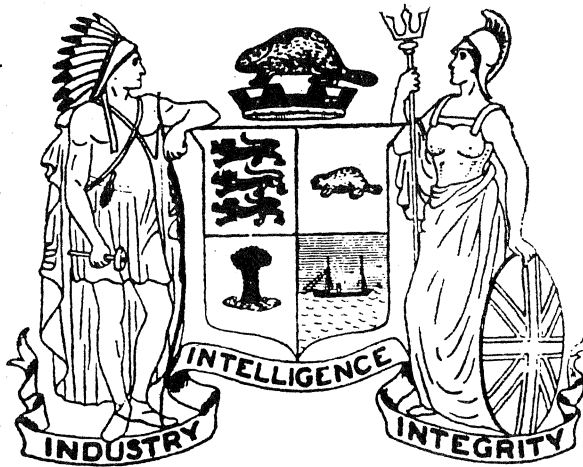
The bottom part of the pole is an imitation of the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France.

Invaders want flag

... returned to the Brigade's survivors.

... The flag that accompanied Brigade 2506 into battle during the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba may be re-

Ellis Rubin, an attorney representing the Bay of Pigs Association, said the United States Department of Justice has offered to return the flag if the veterans can gain approval of a U.S. archivist for a method of preserving the flag and placing it on public display.



—City of Toronto Archives

Toronto's 1834 coat of arms (left) and the current design, revised in 1961.

Toronto's coat of arms offers a history lesson

If you look closely at Toronto's Coat of Arms, you'll discover more history than you'll find in the coat of arms of any province in Canada. Not only does it reveal more than 300 years of Toronto's history, it tells a truer story of the beginning of Canada than you'll find in the coat of arms of Canada itself!

The original coat of arms was designed in 1834 when Toronto became a city. It was revised slightly in 1961. A few weeks ago, a new symbol was proposed for Toronto. It is a design of abstract trees, people and waves and one of its chief advantages is that it would be easier to reproduce on tourist souvenirs than the coat of arms. It is not proposed as a total replacement but if the full story about this city's arms were better known there might be more concern that it may soon begin to disappear.

Toronto was once known as Royal York because of the three lions in the shield in its coat of arms. They're the lions of the Royal Arms of England and during the early 19th century the lieutenant-governors of Upper Canada had the right to fly the Royal Colors over the town and because of this the town was often referred to as Royal York. In 1834, when the Town of York changed its name to the City of Toronto, these royal lions were placed in its coat of arms but no one bothered to inform the College of Heralds in London. In 1959, when it was decided to submit a slightly revised design to the college there was great concern that the lions could be lost. Throughout English history, only a few nobles had ever been granted the right to use them but Toronto reasoned that since the lions had been a part of the city's arms during the reigns of six monarchs since 1834, the city could, perhaps, have a special claim on them. A few months later, a letter from Queen Elizabeth's secretary informed the city that the queen agreed.



**HISTORICAL
TORONTO**
Donald Jones

Greater controversy

There was much greater controversy over the ship in the shield. In 1834, the steamship *Great Britain* had been chosen as a symbol of Toronto as a great shipping port. She was one of the newest and largest ships on the Great Lakes, 147' long with 28' paddlewheels.

Symptomatic of Canada's later economic problems, the ship had been built in Canada but was owned by Americans. In 1959, the College of Arms informed Toronto that a steamship wasn't a proper heraldic design and recommended it be changed to a classic galleon. But the idea of using a 16th century ship that was chiefly associated with the fleet of the Spanish Armada was considered hilarious and though there were many who thought that the *Great Britain* looked more like a Mississippi Riverboat, it was decided to ignore the college's suggestion and the historic old *Great Britain* was retained. In 1834, she had challenged the American steamship, *United States*, to a race and lost. Later, either to save money or because her engines wouldn't work, she was turned into a sailing ship and was eventually wrecked trying to enter Burlington Bay.

The original 1834 design had two beavers. The college recommended that the beaver in the shield be replaced with the white rose of York to symbolize Toronto's earlier name despite the fact that the decision to call the town York had been one of the most controversial acts in John Graves Simcoe's three years as our first lieutenant-governor. In the defini-

tive history of the Town of York, Edith Firth documented that Simcoe had chosen the name in 1793 when news reached him that the Duke of York had saved Holland from invasion by the French. Later, a second report informed him that the Duke had actually been involved in a minor skirmish that had had little effect on the final outcome of the war. Even despite his mistake, few people ever cared for the name. There were already far too many Yorks in the world and the town was forever being called Little York to distinguish it from the bigger New York. In 1834, most people were happy to see the name changed back to the original Indian name of Toronto.

Chose a wheatsheaf

In 1834, Toronto had placed a wheatsheaf in its original coat of arms. In 1961, this was changed to a cogwheel to symbolize Toronto's industrial economy. As was pointed out at the time, the wheatsheaf was no more symbolic of Toronto in 1834 than it was in 1961. Toronto had never been an agricultural town.

The figure at the right is known as Britannia, the poetic name for Britain personified as a woman. In 1834, most Torontonians were from Britain and they chose this figure to symbolize their heritage. They were also more historically minded than most because they also included symbols of Toronto's French and Indian history. But their knowledge of Indians was rather vague because the Indian they chose wore a feather headdress and costume of an Indian of the far west.

In 1961, this was corrected and he was given the costume of an eastern tribe, the Mississaugas, who were a sub-tribe of the Chippewas and members of the great Algonquin tribe. They took their name from a river in Northern Ontario, the Mississagi, and their name means "large outlet of a river". In the early 1700s, they began moving south into lands vacated by the Huron Indians and on Sept. 23, 1787, it was the Mississaugas who sold the English 250,000 acres, including the site of Toronto, for £1,700.

But the most astonishing fact is that Toronto's arms contains the one symbol of the true beginning of Canada that is missing from the coats of arms of all the provinces and territories of Canada and from even the coat of arms of Canada: The historic beaver! In 1930, Harold Innis, the father of Canadian historians, documented for the first time that the search for the beaver had not only been the major factor in the original development of this country by the Europeans, it was the route of the fur traders that had established the eventual boundaries of Canada.

Crown of masonry

At the top of Toronto's arms there is a crown of masonry as a symbol of an incorporated city and above it Toronto placed a beaver in recognition of this city's early history as one of the French trading posts of Canada. In 1834, the first Torontonians were well aware that the city's history hadn't begun with Simcoe in 1793. They could still see the remains of the third and last French trading post where the Exhibition Grounds now stand. And we now know that there were Frenchmen here three centuries ago at a time when Shakespeare was still alive.

Toronto's use of an Indian as one of the chief symbols in its arms was also more important historically than anyone could have known in the 1830s. It wasn't until a century later, in 1933, that Percy J. Robinson wrote Toronto During the French Regime and documented the astounding news that the Indian trail that began in Toronto and called by the French, "Le Passage de Toronto" was not only one of the greatest thoroughfares in North America, it was as old as the history of recorded human life on this continent.

Other coats of arms in Canada contain a maple leaf but Toronto has a unique claim to it. In 1860, the Prince of Wales, later Edward VII, made a royal visit to Canada and during the plans for his reception it was decided that a symbol was needed that would distinguish Canadians from all others in the parades. In Landmarks of Toronto, John Ross Robertson reports that the decision was made at a meeting in the St. Lawrence Hall and the first time that a maple leaf was worn by Canadians as a symbol of Canada was during a parade on Sept. 7, 1860, on King Street in Toronto. At the centre of Toronto's Coat of Arms, the symbols in the four quarters of the shield are united by a small maple leaf.

And it is this historic coat of arms that may soon be replaced with a collection of abstract trees and figures and wavy lines as the new symbol of the City of Toronto!



The new design proposed this year

MOON FLAG DISINTEGRATED IN HEAT

On July 20, 1969, astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin set foot on the surface of the moon. Part of

Project Apollo, this marked the first time in history man walked on a celestial body other than the earth. During their 22-hour visit, the astronauts gathered samples of lunar material and set up scientific equipment that would keep on working after they left. They also conducted many experiments that would help scientists back on earth learn more about the moon.

The flag of the United States of America was planted near the landing craft, the Eagle. It was held out rigidly with steel rods. Our flags on the earth flutter and wave in the breeze, but there is no wind on the moon. Although there is no atmosphere to speak of, the nylon flag has probably disintegrated from the intense heat. Lunar days are two earth-weeks long, and temperatures soar up to 250 degrees F. That's hotter than boiling water.

(The above is a reprint from "Ask Andy" which appeared in the Toronto Star, 4/10/76)

IOWA BARN ROOM DESIGN FLYS FLAG FOR BICENTENNIAL

Perhaps the most unusual asphalt shingle roof is on a barn near Cedar

Falls, Iowa. For the Bicentennial, the roof has been covered with red, white and blue shingles to create a 26-by-42-foot United States flag.

(News item from The Pittsburgh Press, 4/25/76)

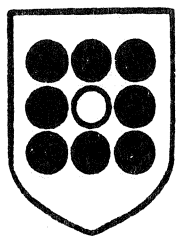
UNITED STATES FLAG FLIES BRIEFLY OVER OTTAWA

House of Commons Speaker James Jerome promised an investigation of security

procedures after a university student slipped past guards and hung a United States flag from the Peace Tower on Parliament Hill. The student, Pierre Government, said he raised the flag as a prank.

(News item from the Toronto Star, 2/7/76)

Anthem's author



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From The Pittsburgh Catholic - 2/6/76

Francis Scott Key is best known as the author of "The Star Spangled Banner," which was officially adopted as our national anthem in 1931. But he was also a devoted churchman who once considered becoming a clergyman, was a delegate to the general conventions of the Episcopal Church, served as a lay reader in St. John's Church in Georgetown and was a manager of the American Sunday School Union.

It was in this latter capacity that, in 1830, he called a meeting with Washington to discuss methods of extending Sunday schools to the frontier regions of the Mississippi Valley and persuaded Daniel Webster to lend his oratorical skills to advocating this enterprise.

Key, a lawyer by profession, wrote "The Star Spangled Banner" as the British were attacking Baltimore during the War of 1812. Throughout the night bombardment of Sept. 13-14, 1814, he remained on the deck of an American ship and watched the attack

At daybreak he was overjoyed to see the flag still flying over Fort McHenry



FRANCIS SCOTT KEY

and began to compose the poem. A week later it was set to the well-known English tune, "To Anacréon in Heaven," and soon gained nationwide popularity.