

# *Heraldic* SYMBOLS



In the Senate Speaker's Chambers



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# Introduction

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The Speaker of the Senate of Canada takes great pleasure in welcoming you to these chambers. When the Speaker is not presiding over regular sittings of the Senate or representing Parliament abroad, these quarters are the centre of the Speaker's professional activity. This is where legislation is reviewed, speeches are prepared, and meetings are held with parliamentarians, public servants and visiting delegations from across Canada and abroad. On occasion, the Speaker offers study sessions on Canada's Constitution to senior-level students — our country's leaders in waiting.

There is also a ceremonial function associated with the role of Speaker. In this respect, the Speaker has the honour of greeting people from all around the world and sharing some interesting yet little-known aspects of Senate life. Among the guests are foreign leaders, diplomats, academics, government officials, and people from diverse cultural communities. The Speaker is also proud to host members of the military, veterans, Indigenous peoples in Canada, and visitors from across the country.

The Speaker's chambers have long served as a stately setting for conducting parliamentary business. They echo the deliberations of men and women who served as guiding forces throughout a century and a half of Canada's history. At the same time, they are warm and inviting. This warmth comes in part from the various woods found throughout the chambers and the deep carvings.<sup>1</sup> Among the many points of interest in these quarters are the heraldic emblems that adorn the walls and provide accent for the historical furnishings. There is a fascinating tale to be told about these armorial bearings, the art form from which they have evolved, and the unique language created to describe them.

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1 This guide is a companion booklet to *Words of Wisdom in the Senate Speaker's Chambers*. The latter is a guide to Latin inscriptions carved into the woodwork of the Speaker's chambers and drawn from the works of renowned Roman authors. <https://sencanada.ca/en/about/brochure/words-of-wisdom/WordsOfWisdom-e>

## THE COLOURFUL STORY BEHIND

# Heraldry

*Arms are designed with art and include several elements: helmets, crests, mottoes, and supporters (usually animals such as lions, horses or stags) to hold the shield in place.*

In the Middle Ages knights were known to be bold. But the first *chevaliers* were largely unrecognized for their courage on the battlefield or in competition. The reason lay in the fact that their faces could not be seen behind their helmet visors. Hence, an early form of identification was devised long before the advent of ID cards and microchips, one that took hold in medieval jousting tournaments.

Knights began to paint their shields with coloured symbols (called “devices”). This made it easier for the herald (the tournament announcer) to identify the combatants by their correct names. The arms were born!

Eventually, identifying devices were added to noblemen’s seals, which were impressed into melted wax on legal documents; to personal flags; and to the cloth surcoat draped over suits of armour (hence the term “coat of arms,” usually shortened to “arms”).

Arms are designed with art and include several elements: helmets, crests, mottoes, and supporters (usually animals such as lions, horses or stags) to hold the shield in place. Yet something remained to be done to prevent the accidental duplication of arms. By the late Middle Ages, the monarchs of England and France had found a solution: they appointed heralds to oversee a system that would register the identities of nobles, royal families, businesses and governing bodies. Their profession became known as heraldry. The word “heraldry” comes from the term “herald” and it describes the study of arms.

Given the French influence in England during the Middle Ages, the origin of many heraldic terms can be traced to archaic French words. They form a very precise language all to themselves. Indeed, a reputable heraldic artist would be able to create a reasonable facsimile of many existing arms simply by interpreting a written description, which is referred to as the “blazon.”

# Heraldry

## IN A CANADIAN CONTEXT

*Heraldry has become recognized as a vibrant expression of national pride in the heritage and values that speak of Canada.*

Heraldry crossed the Atlantic when English and French explorers reached our shores in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century. These forebears initially borrowed the heraldic devices that had been created by European authorities, using them to identify sovereign states, businesses or private citizens. The first official devices registered specifically to the “colonies” came into use when the heraldic authority for Scotland granted arms to Nova Scotia in 1625, and the College of Arms in London granted arms to Newfoundland in 1638. By the second half of the century, France’s authorities granted the first arms to private citizens for service to Louis XIV in New France. In the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, coats of arms were granted to Canada and each of the provinces by the heraldic authorities in Great Britain.

Throughout the 1900s, the popularity of heraldry in Canada spread far and wide. Municipalities, corporations, societies, the military, as well as individuals, obtained grants of arms in ever-growing numbers to represent their authority, history and identity. In 1988, the Queen of Canada authorized the Governor General to establish a heraldic authority unique to this nation.

This led to the creation of the Canadian Heraldic Authority, to be administered from the Governor General’s official Ottawa residence, Rideau Hall.



# The Vice-Regal “TOUR”

All vice-regal representatives since Samuel de Champlain have used personal armorial bearings. Until 1952, the great majority of Governors General used inherited arms, so there was generally nothing about them personally in the designs.

The first 12 Governors General appointed after Confederation are commemorated in the Gothic-style dining room, outer office and private study that make up the Speaker's chambers. Their coats of arms are displayed in the form of plaster carvings at the top of the walls. In turn, they are separated by 32 figures in Tudor form known as “corbels.” These carvings represent allegorical characters holding escutcheons (small shields) that display the years covering each respective term in office. There was only enough room at this location to accommodate the armorial bearings of the initial group of twelve: the story that unfolds through these plaster carvings ends with the tenure of Lord Byng, who served from 1921 to 1926.<sup>2</sup>

The heraldic display contains an interesting element of historic symbolism: these were the last Governors General to be politically involved in the actual governance of Canada. Until 1926, they had been the representatives of the British government as well as the Crown. After the term of Lord Byng, the Governor General would serve Canadians strictly as the representative of the Crown, fulfilling the constitutional and ceremonial duties that the sovereign assumes as the head of state who speaks for, and acts on behalf of, the people.

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<sup>2</sup> These chambers were completed in 1922 as part of a massive restoration project. A disastrous fire had destroyed much of the Centre Block on Parliament Hill in 1916, killing seven people.

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In the following pages, the 12 titles printed in bold face are those that each vice-regal representative held at the time of his appointment in Canada. As is the case today, they were styled “Your Excellency” during their time in office. Their brief biographies are followed by the technical description of their coat of arms (or blazon).

Worth noting is the way in which the various elements of the armorial bearings have been arranged within the decorative frieze of the room. Armorial bearings are generally shown with the crest on top of the shield and supporters on either side. For peers, their coronets of rank are placed directly on top of the shield, often with the crest above. In the case of the arms in this room, these elements are separated: each shield of arms is shown with one of the supporters, generally on the (viewer’s) right. The crest is placed on another shield, flanked by the other supporter, to its left. In many cases, the crest is placed on the coronet of rank, which indicates the type of peer the Governor General was (duke, marquess, earl, viscount or baron). In the following descriptions, the elements of their armorial bearings not shown in the sculptures have been indicated in italics.

*Enjoy* **YOUR VISIT!**



## *Lord Monck* (1867–1868)

Canada's first Governor General was Sir Charles Stanley Monck, 4<sup>th</sup> Viscount Monck, a graduate in law who served in Britain's Parliament as a Junior Lord of the Treasury.

Lord Monck had originally been posted as Governor General of all of Britain's provinces in North America, in 1861. He assumed the new position of Governor General of Canada when Ontario and Quebec joined New Brunswick and Nova Scotia to form the Dominion of Canada on July 1, 1867. At the first session of Parliament the following November, His Excellency stated in the Speech from the Throne: "Your new nationality enters on its course backed by the moral support ... and the most ardent good wishes of the Mother Country."

Lord Monck left Canada in 1868 and returned to his native Ireland, leaving a proud legacy as a champion of Confederation and a tireless promoter of Canadian unity. Sir John A. Macdonald wrote: "I like him amazingly and shall be very sorry when he leaves, as he has been a very prudent and efficient administrator of public affairs." Lord Monck died in 1894.

**Arms:** Gules a chevron between three lions' heads erased Argent

**Crest** (shown above the coronet of a Viscount): A dragon passant wings elevated Sable

**Supporters:** Dexter, a dragon; sinister, a lion, both Argent and holding in the forepaw a branch of laurel resting on the shoulder fructed proper







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## *Lord Lisgar* (1868–1872)

Sir John Young, 2<sup>nd</sup> Baronet, and 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Lisgar, was Canada's second Governor General. Like his immediate predecessor, he had been an M.P. in the British House of Commons and served as a government minister.

During Lord Lisgar's term of office, Manitoba joined Confederation (1870). His Excellency paid the first-ever visit by a Governor General of Canada to the United States, meeting President Ulysses S. Grant at the White House.

He also inaugurated a rail link between Massachusetts and New Brunswick, encouraged the colony of British Columbia to join the expanding young nation of Canada in 1871, established the Governor General's Foot Guards army regiment, and, with Lady Lisgar, introduced the tradition of the annual New Year's Levee, an "open house" celebration for the public at Rideau Hall.

**Arms:** Argent three piles Sable, each charged with a trefoil slipped Or, on a chief Sable, three annulets Or, and in canton the augmentation of a baronet being an inescutcheon, a sinister hand erect couped at the wrist and appaumé Gules

**Crest** (shown above the coronet of a Baron): On a wreath Argent and Sable, a demi-lion rampant Gules, charged on the shoulder with a trefoil slipped Or, holding in the dexter paw a sprig of three maple leaves all proper

One of the depictions of the crest is placed above Lord Lisgar's motto, PRUDENTIA. Lisgar did not use supporters.





### *Lord Dufferin* (1872–1878)

Canada's third Governor General was Sir Frederick Temple Hamilton-Temple-Blackwood, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Dufferin, born in Italy in 1826 but of Scottish descent.

Lord Dufferin brought an immense passion for Canadian unity to his duties and was equally at home in English and French. During his tenure, Prince Edward Island joined confederation (1873), and the Royal Military College and the Supreme Court were established. Lord and Lady Dufferin were the first to use La Citadelle in the city of Québec as a second vice-regal residence. Residents of that city long had a particular regard for Lord Dufferin after he persuaded municipal officials not to tear down the walls of the Old City to accommodate the provincial capital's expansion.

Lord Dufferin established the Governor General's Academic Medals to reward excellence by Canadian students in high schools, colleges and universities, and they are still awarded today. After serving in Canada, Lord Dufferin was appointed Viceroy of India (1884 to 1888), took up several high-profile ambassadorial posts, and died in Ireland in 1902.



**Arms:** Quarterly, 1 and 4 Azure a fess Or, in chief a crescent Argent between two mullets Or and in base a mascle Argent; 2<sup>nd</sup> quarterly, 1 and 4 Or an eagle displayed Sable, 2 and 3 Argent two bars Sable, each charged with three martlets Or; 3<sup>rd</sup> Gules three cinquefoils pierced Ermine, on a chief Or a lion passant Gules; overall the augmentation of a baronet being an inescutcheon Argent charged with a sinister hand erect couped at the wrist and appaumé Gules

**Crest:**

- 1) On a cap of maintenance Gules turned up Ermine, a crescent Argent;
- 2) (shown above the coronet of a Marquess), On a ducal coronet, a martlet Or;
- 3) A demi-antelope affronté Ermine attired and unguled Or holding between the hoofs a heart Gules

**Supporters:** Dexter, a lion Gules armed and langued Azure gorged with a tressure flory-counter-flory Or; sinister, an heraldic tiger Ermine gorged with a like tressure Gules; each supporter supporting a flag-staff proper therefrom flowing a banner Or charged with a peacock in his pride also proper

**Note:** The heraldic elements here represent Lord Dufferin subsequent to his career in Canada.



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## *The Marquess of Lorne* (1878–1883)

In 1878, Sir John Douglas Sutherland Campbell, Marquess of Lorne, arrived in Ottawa to serve as this nation's fourth Governor General. Lord Lorne was the husband of Queen Victoria's fourth daughter, Princess Louise Caroline Alberta and, at 33, was the youngest Governor General in Canadian history. He had already served as an M.P. representing a Scottish constituency.

The Governor General and Princess Louise brought their life-long passion for education and culture to their stay in Canada. They were instrumental in the establishment of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts, which later became the National Gallery of Canada.

His Excellency made it a point to meet First Nations peoples during his extensive voyages, at one point urging Prime Minister Sir John A. Macdonald to call for greater respect for Métis and Indian treaties. In 1881, he covered 12,000 km of Canada, with the vice-regal party often "roughing it" in horse-drawn wagons and sleeping in the great outdoors under canvas.

The vice-regal couple returned to England after their five years in Canada. The Marquess became the 9<sup>th</sup> Duke of Argyll in 1900 and died in 1914. Princess Louise died in London in 1939.

**Arms:** Quarterly, 1 and 4 gyronny of eight Or and Sable; 2 and 3 Argent a galley or lymphad Sable, sails furled, flag and pennons flying and oars in action proper

**Crest (shown above the coronet of a Duke):** On a wreath Or and Sable, a boar's head fessewise erased Or, armed Argent

One depiction of the crest is shown above the two insignia of office that are generally shown crossed in saltire behind the arms of the Duke of Argyll:

- 1) A baton Gules powdered with thistles Or, ensigned with an imperial crown proper, thereon the crest of Scotland (for the office of Hereditary Great Master of the Household in Scotland);
- 2) A sword proper hilt and pommel Or (for the office of Lord Justice General of Scotland).

**Supporters:** Two lions rampant guardant Gules

**Note:** The heraldic elements here represent Lorne later in his life, when he succeeded to the title of Duke of Argyll. When he was Governor General, Lorne used these arms with a three-point label, and with a Marquess's coronet.





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## *Lord Lansdowne* (1883–1888)

The fifth Governor General to serve following Confederation was Sir Henry Charles Keith Petty-Fitzmaurice, 5<sup>th</sup> Marquess of Lansdowne, a former member of the British Parliament and Lord of the Treasury.

Lord Lansdowne travelled far and wide throughout the west, was an early supporter of the concept of cultural diversity, and met with Canada's Aboriginal communities. He explored the Rockies by boat and on horseback on his first western visit because the railway had not yet reached British Columbia.

On his second tour in 1886, he became the first Governor General to take the Canadian Pacific Railway (finished the year before) all the way out west.

A skillful diplomat, Lord Lansdowne helped resolve a serious fisheries dispute with the United States and did much to promote the advancement of science and learning. He was also ahead of his time in that he acknowledged that much of the success associated with his term was due to the work of his wife, Lady Lansdowne.

After Lord Lansdowne left Canada in 1888, he remained active in public service until 1900 and died in 1927. Lansdowne Park, a major sporting venue in Ottawa, was named in his honour.

**Arms:** Quarterly, 1 and 4 Ermine on a bend Azure a magnetic needle pointing to a polar star Or, 2 and 3 Argent a saltire Gules, a chief Ermine

**Crest:** 1) On a wreath Argent and Azure, a beehive beset with bees diversely volant proper; 2) (Shown above the coronet of a Marquess) On a wreath Argent and Gules, a Sagittarius proper, the part from the waist Argent

**Supporters:** Two pegasi Ermine bridled, crined, winged and unguled Or, each charged on the shoulder with a fleur-de-lis Or





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## *Lord Stanley* (1888–1893)

Canada's sixth Governor General was Sir Frederick Arthur Stanley, Lord Stanley of Preston and 16<sup>th</sup> Earl of Derby. Before being named Queen Victoria's representative in Canada, Lord Stanley had served as an officer in the Grenadier Guards, an M.P. in the British Parliament, and a member of the Cabinet.

Lord Stanley was an avid traveller throughout Canada and spent considerable time in the western provinces. There he made many friends among First Nations communities, ranchers and farmers.

He is remembered primarily for his donation of the Stanley Cup, the symbol of supremacy in professional hockey. He is also the only Governor General to be honoured in the Hockey Hall of Fame.

After leaving Canada, Lord Stanley became the Lord Mayor of Liverpool and the first chancellor of that city's university. He died in 1908.

**Arms:** Argent on a bend Azure, three stags' heads caboshed Or, a crescent azure for difference

**Crest (shown above the coronet of an Earl):** A cap of maintenance Gules, turned up Ermine, an eagle wings extended Or, preying on an infant in its cradle proper swaddled Gules, the cradle laced Or

**Supporters:** Dexter, a griffin wings elevated; sinister, a stag, each Or and ducally gorged with a line reflexed over the back and charged on the shoulder with a crescent Azure

**Note:** The heraldic elements here represent Stanley as Earl of Derby, a title he inherited from his older brother shortly before the end of his term as Governor General.





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## *Lord Aberdeen* (1893–1898)

When he was sworn into office in the city of Québec in 1893, Sir John Campbell Hamilton Gordon, 7<sup>th</sup> Earl and 1<sup>st</sup> Marquess of Aberdeen and Temair, became the seventh Governor General to represent Queen Victoria since Confederation.

At the time of his vice-regal appointment, Lord Aberdeen and his wife had already visited Canada. What distinguished this vice-regal couple was the particular interest they took in the lives of less privileged Canadians. Today, Lady Aberdeen is best remembered as the founder of the Victorian Order of Nurses, which is still a key part of Canada's health-care system.

A major highlight of his tenure was the discovery of gold in the Yukon in 1896, which led to the Klondike Gold Rush.

Lord Aberdeen transformed the role of Governor General; he built upon the duties as representative of the sovereign, making the office an ever more Canadian symbol answering to the interests of all citizens. After his term in Canada, he returned to Great Britain and took up the post of Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, which he had held earlier in his career. Lord Aberdeen died in 1934; his wife died in 1939.

**Arms:** Azure, three boars' heads couped Or armed proper langued Gules, within a tressure flowered and counterflowered interchangeably with thistles, roses and fleurs-de-lis Or

**Crest** (shown above the coronet of a Marquess): On a wreath Azure, Or and Gules, two arms holding a bow and arrow straight upwards in a shooting posture and at full draught all proper

**Motto** (above the crest): FORTUNA SEQUITUR

**Supporters:** Dexter, an earl in his robes; sinister, a doctor of law in his robes both proper

**Note:** The coronet in the crest represents Lord Aberdeen after 1916, when he was made a marquess following his service as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.





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## *Lord Minto* (1898–1904)

Canada's eighth Governor General was Sir Gilbert John Murray-Kynnynmond Elliot, 4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Minto.

Lord Minto crossed Ontario, Quebec and Western Canada, seeking out former battlegrounds where he had earlier served during the North-West Rebellion. In total, he traversed 180,000 km across the country, sometimes visiting six towns per day. He placed great emphasis on Canadian patriotism and unity, and the creation of the National Archives of Canada grew directly from his concern to preserve Canadian heritage.

The Governor General donated the Minto Cup, the championship award of the Canadian Lacrosse Association, and founded the Minto Skating Club in Ottawa in 1903, which continues to produce champion skaters to this day.

Lord Minto left Canada in 1904, writing in his journal: "... it has been a great wrench parting from so many friends and leaving a country which I love and which has been very full of interest for me." He died in 1914 and his wife, Lady Minto, died in 1940.

**Arms:** 1 and 4, grand quarters, quarterly 1 and 4 Argent a hunting horn Sable stringed Gules, *in dexter chief point a crescent also gules, on a chief wavy Azure, three mullets Argent*; 2 and 3 Azure a chevron Argent *between three fleurs-de-lis Or*; 2 and 3, grand quarters Gules on a bend engrailed Or, a baton Azure, within a bordure Vair; over all, a chief of augmentation Argent charged with a Moor's head coupé in profile proper

**Crest** (shown above the coronet of an Earl): On a wreath Argent and Azure, issuant from clouds a dexter arm embowed throwing a dart all proper

**Motto** (above the crest): NON EGET ARCU

**Supporters:** Dexter, an Indian sheep; sinister, a fawn, both proper







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## *Earl Grey* (1904–1911)

Sir Albert Henry George Grey, 4<sup>th</sup> Earl Grey, a veteran of the British House of Commons, was sworn in as the ninth Governor General of Canada in Halifax in 1904. During his tenure, Alberta and Saskatchewan were welcomed into Confederation.

Lord Grey was the first Governor General to visit the then Crown Colony of Newfoundland and invited its people to join Confederation (which they eventually did in 1949). A dedicated promoter of the arts, he established the Grey Competition for Music and Drama, first held in 1907. Two years later, he donated the Grey Cup to the Canadian Football League, a trophy that became a symbol of excellence on the playing field.

After returning to England, Lord Grey died in 1917. (The popular Earl Grey tea was named after the 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl Grey, not the Governor General.) Lady Grey died in 1911.

**Arms:** *Quarterly 1 and 4 Gules, a lion rampant within a bordure engrailed Argent, in dexter chief point a mullet Or; 2 and 3, barry of six Argent and Azure, on a bend Gules a bezant in dexter chief; overall the augmentation of a Baronet, an inescutcheon argent, a sinister hand erect couped at the wrist and appaumé gules*

**Crest** (shown above the coronet of an Earl): On a wreath Argent and Gules, a scaling ladder Or, hooked and pointed Azure

**Supporters:** Dexter, a lion guardant Purpure ducally crowned Or; sinister, a tiger guardant proper





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HRH *Arthur William Patrick Albert*,  
Duke of Connaught, Earl of Sussex (1911–1916)

The next Governor General was the third son of Queen Victoria and the first member of the Royal Family to be appointed to the vice-regal post in Canada.

During the Duke's term of office, Canada was expanding and maturing under the government of Prime Minister Robert Borden. In 1914, however, the advent of the First World War gave the young nation one of its greatest challenges. Against the background of war, the Governor General stressed the importance of Canadian military contributions to global peace.

During the Duke's last year in office, the Centre Block of Parliament Hill was destroyed by fire (February 3, 1916). He laid the cornerstone for the new Centre Block the following September.

The Duchess of Connaught died the year after the couple left Canada. The Duke died much later, in 1942.

**Arms:** *The royal arms of general purpose with an inescutcheon of Saxony and differenced with a label of three points Argent, with 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> charged with a fleur-de-lis Azure, the 2<sup>nd</sup> charged with a cross Gules*

**Crest:** *On the coronet of a Royal Duke, a lion statant guardant Or, wearing a like coronet charged on the shoulder with a label as in the arms*

**Supporters:** *Dexter, a lion rampant guardant Or wearing the coronet of a Royal Duke and charged on the shoulder with a label as in the arms; sinister, a unicorn Argent, armed, crined and unguled Or, gorged with a coronet Or composed of crosses patée and fleurs de lis a chain affixed thereto passing between the forelegs and reflexed over the back also Or and charged on the shoulder with a label as in the arms*





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## *The Duke of Devonshire* (1916–1921)

Canada's eleventh Governor General was Sir Victor Christian William Cavendish, 9<sup>th</sup> Duke of Devonshire. Major events during his term included the Winnipeg General Strike and women being given the right to vote.

As one of the largest agricultural landowners in England, and a man vastly knowledgeable and experienced in this area, the Duke was especially keen to foster the development of agriculture in Canada. He spoke to farmers about their concerns at every opportunity, inspected livestock at agricultural fairs, and encouraged the creation of innovative agricultural enterprises, the most noteworthy of which still exists in Ottawa as the Central Experimental Farm. The Duke had a sincere and profound interest in the lives of Canadians and travelled all across the nation. He was a devoted hockey fan, a patron of the arts and a champion of all things Canadian.

The Duke of Devonshire returned to England to work for the League of Nations and served in the British Cabinet until 1924. He died in 1938, and his wife in 1960.

**Arms:** Sable three bucks' heads caboshed Argent

**Crest** (shown above the coronet of a Duke): On a wreath Argent and Sable, a serpent nowed proper

**Supporters:** Two bucks proper *each wreathed round the neck with a chaplet of roses alternately Argent and Azur*





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## *Lord Byng* (1921–1926)

The city of Québec was the site of the swearing-in of Canada's twelfth Governor General, Sir Julian Hedworth George Byng, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Byng of Vimy. A career soldier and veteran of the Boer War, Lord Byng served as Commander of the Canadian Expeditionary Force at Vimy Ridge during the First World War.

Lord Byng was immensely popular in Canada and took up his duties with great enthusiasm. He established a new tradition by appointing only Canadian officers as his aides-de-camp (among them Georges Vanier, a future Governor General).

Governor General Byng is best remembered for the constitutional crisis that forever linked his name to that of Prime Minister Mackenzie King ("the King-Byng Affair"). Its outcome resulted in a transformation of the role of the Governor General into the representative of the Crown and not the representative of the British Government.

Lord Byng died in 1935; Lady Byng returned to Canada during the Second World War and died in Ottawa in 1949.

**Arms:** *Quarterly Sable and Argent in the first quarter a lion rampant also Argent, overall in bend sinister a representation of the colours of the 31<sup>st</sup> Regiment. A crescent gules for difference*

**Crests:** 1) Out of a mural crown, a dexter arm embowed grasping the colours of the 31<sup>st</sup> Regiment and pendent from the wrist by a ribbon the gold cross presented by command for Lord Stafford's gallant achievement, all proper, and on a scroll the word "Mouguerre"; 2) A heraldic antelope statant Ermine attired Or

**Supporters:** Dexter, a heraldic antelope Ermine attired Or; sinister, a lion Or, *each charged on the shoulder with a rose Gules*

Instead of Lord Byng's arms, there is a depiction of an insignia, probably that of the Military division of the Order of the Bath, of which Byng was a Knight Grand Cross, over which is the coronet of a baron, and under which is his motto, TUEBOR.





# Three Cyphers AND THEIR ROYAL ORIGINS

Cyphers are customized designs that identify the person for whom they were created. Royal cyphers for the families of British monarchs have been designed for over five centuries by the heralds of the College of Arms in London, which was established by King Richard III in 1484. These personal devices usually include the initials of the person and have traditionally been impressed upon royal or state documents, duty stamps, legal documents and personal correspondence. (A variation of this form of identification can be found in desktop embossers from stationery stores, which people use to imprint their monograms into books.)

Three cyphers carved out of Indiana limestone adorn the Speaker's chambers. The first is the royal cypher of King George V, the paternal grandfather of Queen Elizabeth II, and features the initials G R (George Rex) along with a royal crown; the second belonged to Her Majesty Queen Mary and displays the initials M R (Mary Regina) with the crown of a queen; the third was that of Edward, Prince of Wales and includes the plumes of the heir to the throne emerging from a coronet as well as the motto ICH DIEN ("I Serve").<sup>3</sup> The cyphers are located above the door to the outer office and above the two doors facing the dining room.<sup>4</sup>

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3 It is common belief that *Ich dien* finds its roots in the Battle of Crécy in 1346. King Jan of Bohemia sided with the French against the victorious English, early in the Hundred Years' War. King Jan was killed, and young Prince Edward, the Black Prince, was so impressed with his rival's valour that he may well have adopted his German motto. Another theory exists, however: in Welsh legend, King Edward I promised the people of Wales he would provide them with a son who would not be English-speaking. When Edward of Caernarvon was born, the King presented him to the assembly and said in Welsh: "Eich dyn" (*Behold the man*).

4 There is a fourth carving over the door to the Speaker's office which represents a coronet of a British princess. It does not relate to a particular sovereign.



## King George V

From 1910 to 1936, Canada's King was George V, the son of King Edward VII and the grandson of Queen Victoria. Along with his wife, Queen Mary, he was beloved among Canadians for loyalty, profound commitment to duty, and genuine affection for Canada.

George V was born in London in 1865 and entered the Royal Navy in his 20s, rising to the rank of Captain. As Duke of York, he visited Canada with his wife, the Duchess of York, in 1901, at which time they were welcomed in the city of Québec by Lord and Lady Minto. The royal couple crossed the country from east to west and back again on the Canadian Pacific Railway.

George returned as Prince of Wales in 1908 to take part in the Tercentenary Celebrations celebrating the founding of the city of Québec in 1608. At a banquet at the Citadel, the Prince of Wales gave the then Governor General, Lord Grey, a cheque for \$450,000 towards the preservation of historic sites around the city.

In 1921 (by which time he was King George V), His Majesty granted to Canada its own coat of arms and designated red and white as the nation's official colours. As a result of the Imperial Conference held in London in 1926, which was hosted by George V, Canada and the other dominions of the Commonwealth were further affirmed as autonomous and equal in status, united by a common allegiance to the Crown.

During his reign, George V brought the royal family closer to the public throughout the entire Commonwealth. In 1932, he became the first monarch to broadcast a Christmas message to the people by radio. His Majesty died in 1936.





## Queen Mary

Princess Victoria Mary of Teck was born in 1867, the great-granddaughter of George III and goddaughter of Queen Victoria. In 1893, the young princess married George (then styled Duke of York), and became the queen consort when George ascended to the throne in 1910. She bore five sons (two of whom would later become king) and one daughter.

Throughout their life together, Queen Mary accompanied her husband on visits that covered more territory worldwide than any previous members of royalty. Their tour of the Empire in 1901 took eight months to complete. In addition to joining the King on goodwill trips to see the Allied troops at the Western Front, Queen Mary also paid regular visits to wounded and dying soldiers in hospitals.

In widowhood the dowager Queen provided counsel and support to her son Albert when he ascended the throne and took the name George VI. She was also very closely involved in the upbringing of her grandchildren, Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret. Queen Mary outlived King George VI, who died in 1952, the third of her children to predecease her. She herself died in 1953, ten weeks before the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. Queen Mary Veterans' Hospital in Montreal, along with many buildings, parks and schools across Canada, was named in her honour.





## Prince of Wales

The man who would become King Edward VIII was born in 1894, the first child of George V and Queen Mary. Edward often represented the King at home and abroad during the 1920s and made six visits to Canada during his lifetime.

In 1934, the Prince of Wales was romantically linked to an American socialite, Wallis Simpson. She had already been divorced, was in her second marriage, and the scandal caused great distress to the Crown, government and much of the Commonwealth. King George V's death in 1936 compounded the problem. Although Edward could legally have married once Mrs. Simpson got a second divorce, and technically could have remained king, the prime ministers of the realms opposed the marriage as few people at that time would accept someone as queen who had a colourful past. Edward knew the Cabinet would resign if he married. This could have imposed an election on the nation, jeopardizing his politically neutral status. Rather than give up Wallis Simpson, he abdicated in favour of his brother Albert (who became George VI) in a historic live radio broadcast. Edward was the only monarch in the history of the Commonwealth to relinquish the throne, his reign lasting 325 days during 1936. The couple married in France and retreated to Paris as the Duke and Duchess of Windsor. Apart from wartime service as Governor of the Bahamas, the Duke undertook no other official duties until his death in 1972.





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# Glossary OF TERMS

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The following is by no means a complete list of heraldic terms. More exhaustive glossaries with hundreds of unique terms can be found through a Web search using the key words "heraldic terminology."

**Affronté:** pertaining to an animal or object placed to show its full front to the observer

**Annulet:** a ring

**Appaumé:** relating to an open hand displaying the palm

**Argent:** the colour silver, usually represented as white

**Armed:** pertaining to the teeth, talons, and horns of beasts and birds; when applied to human limbs it is synonymous with *armoured*; also pertains to arrows

**Armorial bearings:** another term for coat of arms

**Arms:** design on a shield; in a liberal interpretation, the complete coat of arms

**Attired:** bearing antlers

**Augmentation:** honourable addition to an armorial insignia, often granted by the sovereign of the day

**Azure:** blue

**Bar:** horizontal ordinary, narrower than a fess

**Barry:** division of the field into an even number of horizontal parts

**Bearings:** heraldic device or figure borne in arms

**Bend:** a geometric form with two diagonal lines from dexter chief to sinister base

**Blazon:** technical description of a heraldic insignia

**Bordure:** border on the outer edge of a shield

**Caboshed:** relating to an animal's head affronté, severed and showing no part of the neck

**Canton:** rectangle in dexter chief, taking up less than a quarter of the shield

**Cap of maintenance:** cap of crimson velvet lined and turned-up ermine; often forms the base of the crest

**Chapeau:** see "cap of maintenance"

**Charge:** figure or object placed on a shield or on any other object in an armorial composition; the shield or other object is thus said to be charged

**Chevron:** geometric figure in the form of a reverse "V"

**Chief:** field of colour occupying the top third of a shield

**Cinquefoil:** stylized floral form with five petals

**Coronet:** small crown

**Couped:** cut short and evenly

**Crest:** distinctive device atop a helmet (e.g., plumes, decorations). This term is often used incorrectly, particularly in Web sites, to signify the full coat of arms

**Coat of arms:** see “arms”

**Demi:** halved

**Device:** motto or emblem

**Dexter:** right-hand side of the shield as seen from behind (i.e., the view the mounted knight would have had); to the viewer, it is the left

**Difference:** to add to or change pre-existing arms in order to achieve a more distinctive appearance

**Displayed:** with the wings expanded; unfolded

**Ducal coronet:** small crown of four strawberry leaves, three of which are visible

**Embowed:** bent, curved

**Engrailed:** pertaining to an ornamental line that divides a shield into parts, or outlines a figure on the shield, and comprised of semi-circles with outward points

**Erased:** torn off and leaving ragged edges

**Ermine:** fur with black tails on white

**Escrol:** a ribbon or scroll, often bearing a motto

**Escutcheon:** another term for a shield

**Field:** surface of a shield

**Grand quarter:** a quarter that is further quartered

**Guardant:** signifies a beast with head turned to face the observer

**Gules:** red (from the Arabic *gul*, a red rose)

**Gyronny:** relating to a shield divided into triangles radiating from the mid-point

**Inescutcheon:** small shield (a regular-size shield is a “scutcheon”)

**Issuant:** proceeding from or out of

**Langued:** refers to the colour of an animal’s tongue

**Lymphad:** an ancient ship, also called a galley

**Martlet:** a swallow with feather tufts at the ends of its legs but no feet

**Mascle:** a hollow lozenge

**Mullet:** star with five points

**Mural crown:** crown modeled after the walls of a castle

**Nowed:** twisted

**Or:** gold, sometimes yellow

**Ordinary:** geometric shape such as a bend, chevron, chief, pale, etc.

**Pale:** geometric shape formed by two vertical lines containing the central section of a shield

**Passant:** walking past

**Pile:** wedge-shaped figure issuing from the chief

**Proper:** in natural or normal colours

**Quarterly:** cut in fourths

**Rampant:** position of a beast poised on one hind foot with the other three raised, the tail erect, while the beast faces its front (i.e., in profile)

**Sable:** black

**Saltire:** diagonal cross in the form of an X

**Sinister:** left-hand side of the shield from the perspective of a person behind it; to the viewer it is the right-hand side

**Slipped:** pertaining to a flower, leaf or twig with stem still attached

**Statant:** pertaining to a beast in a standing position with no paws raised

**Supporters:** figures supporting a shield from both sides

**Surcoat:** a light coat worn over armour

**Torse:** a wreath formed by a twisted ribbon of two colours, placed between the crest and the helm

**Trefoil:** a stylized leaf with three lobes, usually attached to a stalk

**Tressure:** narrow band inside the edge of a shield, usually doubled

**Unguled:** used when referring to the hooves of animals

**Vair:** fur with white and blue pieces representing a grey squirrel

**Vert:** green

**Volant:** flying

**Wreath:** see "torse"

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The heraldic content of this booklet was prepared in collaboration with the heralds of arms of the Canadian Heraldic Authority



1893  
Aberdeen

1898  
Minto

1904  
Grey

1911  
Connaught

1916  
Devonshire

1921  
Byng

# Dining Room

Diagram of ceiling frieze depicting dates of office and coats of arms of the Governors General from 1867 through 1921.

Diagramme de la frise du plafond illustrant la durée du mandat et les armoiries des gouverneurs généraux de 1867 à 1921.

# Salle à manger

NORTH  
NORD

SOUTH  
SUD

1888  
Stanley

1883  
Lansdowne

1878  
Lorne

1872  
Dufferin

1869  
Lisgar

1867  
Monck