



ACT Heritage Council

Entry to the ACT Heritage Register

Heritage Act 2004

10002. Armorial Bearings of the City of Canberra

CMAG collection

OBJECTS

This document has been prepared by the ACT Heritage Council.

This entry which was previously part of the old heritage places or the old heritage objects registers (as defined in the *Heritage Act 2004*), as the case may be, is taken to be registered under the *Heritage Act 2004*.

Conservation Requirements (including Specific Requirements), as defined under the *Heritage Act 2004*, that are contained within this document are taken to be Heritage Guidelines applying to this place or object, as the case may be.

Information restricted under *the old heritage places register or old heritage objects register* is restricted under the *Heritage Act 2004*.

Contact: ACT Heritage Council c/o Secretary PO Box 144
Enquiries: phone 02 6207 2164 fax 02 6207 5715

Lynham ACT 2602
e-mail heritage@act.gov.au



ACT Government



environment ACT

Helpline: 02 6207 9777
Website : www.cmd.act.gov.au
E-mail: EnvironmentACT@act.gov.au

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY HERITAGE OBJECTS REGISTER

For the purpose of S12 of the Heritage Objects Act 1991, a citation for:

Armorial Bearings of the City of Canberra

has been approved by the Minister for the Arts and Heritage for entry in the Heritage Objects Register.

The date of Instrument of Approval: 10 April 1996

Enquiries about this object and copies of this citation are available from:

The Secretary
ACT Heritage Council
TUGGERANONG ACT 2901

Telephone: 207 2179

Facsimile: 207 2177

HERITAGE OBJECTS REGISTER

CITATION

Armorial Bearings of the City of Canberra

NOMINATED BY

Museums and Galleries Unit,
Heritage, Museums and Galleries Section,
Department of the Environment, Land and Planning

LOCATION OF OBJECT

Room 11B Homeworld Building
cnr Reed and Ankatell Streets
Tuggeranong ACT

Block 4, Section 4, Greenway

SHORT DESCRIPTION

This citation includes the watercolour on paper, but not the frame or mount.

DESCRIPTION

Watercolour on paper titled "The Armorial Bearings of the City of Canberra Granted by Royal Warrant dated 8 October 1928", inscribed at bottom left "College of Arms London 28 November 1928" and signed bottom right "H F Burke Garter King of Arms". The arms bear the motto "For the King, the Law and the People". The work is mounted on white card, glazed and in a gold and black frame.

The following is a description of the Armorial Bearings of the City of Canberra (D'Arcy, 1993):

Arms

A blue shield in the middle of which is a silver triple towered castle, and at the top of the shield a silver sword of justice crossed under a gold parliamentary mace - the sword pointing upwards to the left of the shield (as you stand behind it) and the mace head points upwards to the right of the shield. The sword's pommel and hilt is of gold and there is an Imperial Crown in its natural colours at the intersection of the crossed mace and sword. At the base of the shield there is a silver rose with leaves and thorns in their natural colours, e.g. green;

Crest

On a wreath of twisted blue and silver silks and in front of a gum tree growing on a mound both in their natural colours (e. g. green), there is a gold portcullis with gold chains. On top of the portcullis there is an Imperial Crown in its natural colours;

Supporters

On the right side of the shield (as you stand behind it) there is a black swan with a red beak. On the left there is a white swan in its natural colours, e. g. yellow beak.

The formal description of the Arms and Supporters are at Attachment A.

The dimensions of the work are : frame H 54cm x W 45.5cm; and sight (i.e. within the mount) H 31.4 x W 26cm.

CONDITION

The watercolour and paper are in very good condition with no apparent damage. The frame is extensively chipped revealing the natural timber underneath.

HISTORY

The development and role of armorial bearings in the establishment of the Federal Capital Territory (now ACT) is founded in traditional recognition and expectation that not only individuals but also cities and states may seek a grant of arms as an honour and an acknowledgement of gentility. This tradition has a long history.

The use of arms as a means of identification of noble families emerged in England about 100 years after the Norman conquest in 1066. The lords and knights, who owed feudal service to the monarch, and therefore had to appear from time to time with their private armies, found it convenient to have a symbol by which they could easily be recognised. They applied this symbol to their shields, flags and on their coat of armour which they wore over their mail. This new and easy method of identification greatly assisted the heralds who were attached to both royal and noble households, whose role included the arrangement of tournaments where large numbers of the nobility and their supporters gathered. Through this role heralds in time became experts in coats of arms and their name came to be used for the ordered system of personal and corporate symbolism we know today as heraldry. The language of heraldry is quite specific and a glossary is at Attachment B.

Over the years the original and practical use of personal arms declined. The middle class, comprised of people who were not of the greater nobility but who were rich and powerful, sought to establish their gentility by obtaining a coat of arms. From the middle of the 14th century corporations too started to use shields of arms on both their seals and personal property and sought grants of arms from the kings of arms, who were by this time granting and assigning arms on behalf of the Crown. Corporations were pleased to demonstrate that they were honourable bodies who used and displayed insignia which enjoyed legal protection.

The granting and use of arms became strictly controlled and by the 15th century the process was formalised into what we call today the College of Arms. A grant of arms is an honour. It does not bestow nobility but simply acknowledges the gentility, either innate or acquired, of the grantee. The arms are the grantee's especial and personal mark of honour for exclusive use by the grantee and his legitimate descendants in the male line. As the Crown is the fount of all honour arms stem from the Crown and are protected by the Crown in the Court of Chivalry. These strict rules if challenged would be upheld today by the Court of Chivalry under the civil Law of Arms.

Since the late 19th century the College of Arms has granted arms for use by Australian cities and states. Refer to list at Attachment C. The proposal for the creation of arms for Canberra has its origins in a request made in July 1927 by the Commonwealth Department of Defence to the Commonwealth Department of Home Affairs and Territories. The request was to use the arms of Canberra on the newly commissioned ship, HMAS Canberra. This request was taken up by the Chief Commissioner of the Federal Capital Commission (FCC), Sir John Butters. In August 1927 the FCC announced a competition for the design of a coat of arms for the FCC and the City of Canberra. Although a number of entries were received none met the FCC's requirements. They approached one of the entrants in the competition, Mr C R Wylie, and asked if he would be prepared to modify his design to meet their requirements. Mr Wylie provided a selection of designs, and after much discussion one was chosen by the FCC.

Mr Wylie describes his design in an article in the Royal Australian Historical Journal, Vol XVI, 1930 as follows:

After much discussion of the various designs I sent in, the blue field with a white castle representing a capital city was adopted, with above it, crossed saltire-wise, a sword of Justice and a parliamentary mace, having an Imperial crown at their point of intersection; below everything, at the base of the shield, a white rose, the badge of York, in remembrance of the Princes of that House and their visits to the City.

As the home of the mother of all Parliaments, Westminster's badge of a portcullis was chosen for a crest; behind this, on a green mount, is a gum tree proper, this symbolising the idea the garden city of Canberra is to be, and the Federal Capital Territory, the whole surmounted by an Imperial crown. The crest was made very complete, so that it could be used by itself.

Next came the most difficult part of the achievement to decide upon, namely the supporters. something graceful was wanted which was at the same time Australian...finally I had the idea of using two Australian black swans, the most graceful and unique of all the birds in the Commonwealth. Swans have been royal birds for centuries, that is, white ones, and Leach, the Australian ornithologist, says that nothing she has produced has done so much to advertise Australia as the black swan. So I put in two black swans as supporters, so the final sketch was made and copied and sent to the Heralds College...

As far as the motto appended to the design went, this has been in use for some considerable time at Canberra as the motto of the public seal, which had been designed by public competition, during which time it had caused no comment. It was amusing to notice the adverse criticism of it when it appeared attached to the coat-of-arms. It may be remarked that the motto of the ancient City of Perth in Scotland is "Pro Rege Lege et Grege"...

...the Herald's College had recently granted two black swans as supporters to the arms to the municipality of Perth, Western Australia, and were unable to grant them to Canberra....In this dilemma I at first found things looked rather awkward, but I presently had an inspiration I remembered the aborigine (sic) and the white sailor which were the supporters of the arms of the city of Sydney, so to make a parallel case I replaced the left hand black swan of the Canberra arms by a white one, and the idea was complete.

The design for the Armorial Bearings, drawn by Mr Wylie, were sent to the College of Arms, London, in April, 1928. In July the College advised of the then recent granting of two black swans to the City of Perth, Western Australia. Mr Wylie's solution was adopted by the College and one black and one white swan were incorporated as the supporters. In October 1928 the Royal Warrant for the Armorial Bearings was issued and the Patent of Arms, the Patent of Supporters and a painting of the full Achievement were prepared by the College in November 1928. At the same time a second certified copy of the Armorial Bearings was prepared, which had been requested by the Assistant Secretary, Prime Minister's Department. It is this second copy that is the subject of this nomination.

A series of changes were made to this watercolour version of the Arms, but not all the changes were made to the Warrant or Letters Patent. In early 1929 the College approved the addition of white tips to the black swan to correctly represent an Australian black swan and the change was made by Mr Wylie in February, 1929. The motto incorporated in the Arms was that of the FCC and in June, 1929 approval was sought from the College for the motto to be changed to the English translation. Approval was given and recorded by the College in August, 1929. This change was made to this watercolour by an unknown artist. The mace had incorrectly been depicted as placed behind the sword which was corrected by an unknown local artist in that same month. This latter change made also made to the Patents, but not to the Royal Warrant. Following the accession to the throne of Elizabeth II the motto was changed to the "For the Queen...". This change is not evident in the watercolour. The motto does not form part of the grant from the College of Arms and can be changed at will.

Thus this watercolour is the only known definitive version of the Armorial Bearings of the City of Canberra.

This watercolour remained in the possession of Commonwealth departments responsible for the administration of the ACT and by 1981 was in the collection of material held by Mr V Gadsby, Displays Officer with the Department of the Capital Territory. Mr Gadsby passed the work to Ms Jenny Cox, of the same department, then involved in the establishment of an ACT Heritage Committee. The work came with Ms Cox to the Museums and Galleries Unit.

Over the years legal advice has been sought in regard to the ownership and use of the Armorial Bearings of the City of Canberra. In 1982 legal advice indicated that ownership was vested in the Commonwealth as successors to the FCC.

ANALYSIS AGAINST THE CRITERIA

5 An object which is the only known or comparatively intact example of its type.

The watercolour is the only known definitive version of the Armorial Bearings of the City of Canberra.

7 An object which has strong or special associations with a person, group, event, development or cultural phase in local or national history.

The watercolour of the Armorial Bearings has a special association with the Federal Capital Commission and the early development of the City of Canberra as the heraldic identification of the city.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The watercolour is the only known definitive version of the Armorial Bearings of the City of Canberra and has a special association with the Federal Capital Commission and the early development of the City of Canberra as the heraldic identification of the city.

CONSERVATION POLICY

The heritage significance of the watercolour is to be retained as described under the specific conservation requirements.

SPECIFIC CONSERVATION REQUIREMENTS

In accordance with Section 6 (d) of the *Heritage Objects Act 1991*, the following requirements are identified as essential to the retention of the heritage significance of the object :

1. The watercolour is to be held in secure storage. The storage is to be locked and a nominated person made responsible for controlling and monitoring access to the watercolour and its condition. Access is to be restricted to serious researchers.
 2. The watercolour is not to be placed on permanent display.
 3. A professional photograph is to be taken of the watercolour and a print is to be available for general access/display.
 4. The watercolour is not to be exposed to direct natural light and is to remain sealed against dust.
-

RESTRICTED INFORMATION

Not applicable

PREVIOUS ASSESSMENTS

Not known

REFERENCES

Australian Archives: Series No A431, Item No 1951/1694 Coat of Arms City of Canberra General File Part I; Series No CP205/1 Item No NN Box1 Designs and Notes submitted in competition for Coat-of Arms for Canberra; Series No A2910 Item No 410/1/93 Canberra Coat of Arms.

Brooke-Little, J P, 1988 *An Heraldic Alphabet* London

D'Arcy, Michael, 1993 The Heraldic Achievements of the Capital Cities of Australia *The Ancestral Searcher* Vol 16 No 2 The Heraldry and Genealogy Society of Canberra

Department of the Interior File No 69/3996 *City of Canberra Coat of Arms - Holders of Warrant*

Low, C (ed.) 1971 *A Roll of Australian Arms* Rigby Adelaide

Woodcock, T & Robinson, J M, 1988 *The Oxford Guide to Heraldry* Oxford

Wylie, C R, *Heraldry and Symbolism of Australia* Royal Australian Historical Society Journal and Proceedings Vol XVI 1930 Part I

The Royal Warrant and Patents are deposited at the Canberra Office of the Australian Archives. They are described as follows.

The **Royal Warrant for the Arms** of the Federal Capital Commission and the City of Canberra is from King George the Fifth to Edmund Bernard, Viscount FitzAlan and Bernard Marmaduke, Duke of Norfolk, requesting them to see the order served and kept and registered in the College of Arms. The Warrant grants the request of the Federal Capital Commissioners for Arms and is dated 18 October 1928.

The **Patent of Arms** of the Federal Capital Commission and the City of Canberra was granted by H Farnham Burke, Garter, Arthur Cochran, Clarenceux and J Woods Wollaston, Norroy and dated 7 November 1928

The Patent reads:

To All and Singular to whom these Presents shall come Sir Henry Farnham Burke Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order, Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Garter Principal King of Arms, Arthur William Stewart Cochran, Esquire, Member of the Royal Victorian Order, Clarenceux King of Arms and Gerald Woods Wollaston, Esquire, Member of the Royal Victorian Order, Norroy King of Arms, Send Greetings. Whereas His Majesty by Warrant under His Royal Signet and Sign Manual, bearing date the eighth day of October last, signified unto Edmund Bernard Viscount FitzAlan of Derwent, Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order, Companion of the Distinguished Service Order. One of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council and Deputy to the Most Noble Bernard Marmaduke, Duke of Norfolk, Earl Marshal and Hereditary Marshal of England, that He had been graciously pleased to give and grant unto the Federal Capital Commissioners, Australia and their successors in their corporate capacity His Royal Licence and Authority to bear and use on their Common Seal and upon the Common Seal of the City of Canberra and upon Shields or otherwise, according to the Laws of Arms, the Arms following vizt. : A triple towered Castle, between in chief a Sword of Justice point upwards to the sinister surmounted by a Parliamentary Mace head upwards to the dexter in a saltire charged at their point of intersection with a representation of the Imperial Crown, and in base a Rose, barbed and seeded (being the badge of York), and the Crest: In front of a Gum Tree issuant from a Mount a Portcullis ensigned with the Imperial Crown, as in a drawing thereunto annexed, the same being first duly exemplified and recorded in the College of Arms, otherwise the said Royal Licence and Permission to be void and of none effect. And forasmuch as His Lordship did by Warrant under His hand and the Seal of the Earl Marshal bearing date the seventeenth day of the same month authorize and direct Us to exemplify such Arms accordingly. Know Ye therefore that We the said Garter Clarenceux and Norroy in obedience to the Royal Command in pursuance of His Lordship's Warrant and by virtue of the Letters Patent of Our Several Offices to each of Us respectively granted do by these Presents exemplify unto the said Federal Capital Commissioners, Australia the Arms following that is to say : Azure a triple towered Castle, between in chief a Sword of Justice point upwards to the sinister Argent Pomel (sic) and Hilt Or surmounted by a Parliamentary Mace head upwards to the dexter Gold in saltire charged at their point of intersection with a representation of the Imperial Crown proper and in base a Rose also Argent, barbed and seeded proper (being the badge of York). And for the Crest: On a Wreath of the Colours In front of a Gum Tree, issuant from a Mount proper a Portcullis chained Or ensigned with the Imperial Crown also proper as the same are in the margin hereof more plainly depicted to be borne and used for ever hereafter by the said Federal Capital Commissioners and their successors in their corporate capacity on their Common Seal and upon the Common Seal of the City of Canberra and upon Shields or otherwise according to the Law of Arms : In witness whereof We the said Garter Clarenceux and Norroy Kings of Arms have to these Presents subscribed Our names and affixed the Seals of Our several Offices this Seventh day of November in the Nineteenth year of the Reign of Our Sovereign Lord George the fifth by Grace of God of Great Britain Ireland and the British Dominions beyond the Seas King, Defender of the Faith etc and in the year of Our Lord 1928. [Signed from left to right] H Farnham Burke, Garter, Arthur Cochran, Clarenceux and J Woods Wollaston, Norroy.

In witness whereof I the said Garter Principal King of Arms have to these Presents subscribed my name and affixed the seal of my Office this Ninth day of November in the Nineteenth year of the Reign of Our Sovereign Lord George the Fifth by Grace of God of Great Britain Ireland and the British Dominions beyond the Seas King, Defender of the Faith etc and in the year of Our Lord One thousand nine hundred and twenty eight. [Signed] H Farnham Burke Garter.

GLOSSARY (Brooke-Little, 1988)

Achievement

The complete armorial bearings. Used in contradistinction to its various parts - arms, crest, supporters, motto etc.

Armorial Bearings

Synonym for an achievement of arms.

Arms

This term is often freely used when referring to the complete achievement, but really should be applied only to the actual shield and what is borne upon it.

Clarenceux King of Arms

The senior of the two English provincial kings of arms. His jurisdiction lies south of the River Trent...

Coat of Arms

Originally this meant just the arms which were borne on the coat of armour worn over the armour itself. Today it is commonly used to refer to the full achievement of arms.

College of Arms (also Heralds College)

The familiar name for the Corporation of the Kings, Heralds and Pursuivants of arms... The College is owned and governed by a Chapter, composed of the three kings, six heralds and four pursuivants of arms, which meets monthly. Garter King of Arms presides over Chapter and Earl Marshal has what, in the cause of simplicity, may be described as visitorial powers.

Compartment

The base, be it a scroll, grassy mound, waves of the sea or whatever, on which the supporters rest. If it is not part of the official blazon it may be omitted or altered at will, but if it is actually granted it must always be shown as blazoned.

Crest

An hereditary device, modelled onto the top of the helm and part of the achievement of arms.

Dexter

The right-hand side of the shield from the point of view of the bearer, but the left as observed from the front.

Earl Marshal

The great Officer of State who is responsible for State ceremonies. He is also the hereditary judge in the Court of Chivalry and has jurisdiction over the officers of arms and matters of heraldry, honour and precedence. The title, which was originally simply 'Marshal' but is now 'Earl Marshal and Hereditary Marshal of England', is vested in the Duke of Norfolk as male heir of John Howard, the first Duke.

Garter King of Arms

The principal English king of arms. Garter (as he is generally known) has no province but is chairman of the Chapter of the English officers of arms. He grants supporters, arms to peers, signs all grants of arms together with the appropriate provincial kings and has special duties in connection with the Order of the Garter.

Grant of Arms

A bestowal of arms by a competent authority. In England the king of arms grant arms by Letters patent under their hands and seals on receipt of a Warrant from the Earl Marshal.

Helmet (also Helm and Heaume)

The helmet is included in an achievement of arms simply because the crest was anciently fixed to the top of it, it is therefore the appropriate vehicle for the display of the crest.

King of Arms

Originally a king of heralds of arms. The senior rank of officer of arms.

Letters Patent

An open (Latin patere-to open) document addressed to everyone and with seal or seals pendant. Arms are granted by Letters Patent, the document being referred to as a Patent of Arms.

Motto

The motto is either a war cry or other aphorism...The motto is usually written on a scroll, placed beneath the arms, although it is sometimes placed over the crest particularly if it is a war cry...Mottoes are frequently depicted in grants of arms but seldom actually form part of the grant, thus many people use the same motto and often change their motto at will.

Norroy King of Arms

The junior of the two provincial English kings of arms. His jurisdiction used to lie north of the River Trent. The name Norroy has been consistently used for the northern king since 1464. In 1943 the office was joined to that of Ulster King of Arms..

Shield

The principal vehicle for the display of the actual arms. This is one of the marks which distinguishes heraldry from other forms of symbolism. There are no rules as to what shape of shield shall be used in any given armorial display

Sinister

The left hand side of the shield from the point of view of the bearer, but at the right as observed from the front.

Supporters

Figures placed on either side of a shield to support it...Today supporters are granted only to peers of the realm, Knights of the Garter, Thistle and St Patrick and to knights of the first class of the various orders of chivalry and the Order of St John. Such supporters are personal to the grantee except in the case of hereditary peers, where the supporters are inherited with the peerage...Supporters are also granted to certain corporations...Although this is done to a great extent on an ad hoc basis, the following classes of

corporation are not normally denied the privilege of supporters: country, city and borough councils, the London livery companies, nationalised bodies and bodies incorporated by royal charter...

Wreath

The strands of material twisted and wreathed about the base of the crest where it is affixed to the helmet.

Armorial Bearings of the City of Canberra

ATTACHMENT C

Corporate Arms in Australia - Capital Cities and States/Territories

Queensland		1893
NSW		1906
Sydney	1908-9	
Victoria	1910	
Commonwealth	1912	
Tasmania		1917
Perth		1926,1949
Canberra		1928
Adelaide		1929
South Australia	1936	
Melbourne		1940, 1970
Brisbane	1947	
Hobart		1953
Western Australia		1969

NOMINATION NUMBER 9

DATE OF NOMINATION 22 September 1994

REGISTER NUMBER

DATE OF GAZETTAL :
INTERIM REGISTER
REGISTER

FILE NUMBER 93/08067

TYPE OF OBJECT Manufactured

OWNER ACT Government

KEEPER Museums and Galleries Unit, Department of the Environment,
Land and Planning

Prepared by Pamela Fabricius
4 July 1995