

= Coat of arms of Munich =

The coat of arms of Munich (Münchner Wappen) depicts a young monk dressed in black holding a red book . It has existed in a similar form since the 13th century , though at certain points in its history it has not depicted the central figure of the monk at all . As the German name for Munich , München , means of Monks , the monk in this case is a self @-@ explanatory symbol (canting arms) who represents the city of Munich .

Appearing on a document of May 28 , 1239 , the oldest seal of Munich has a picture of a monk wearing an open hood . While all seal impressions show the monk with the book in one hand and three outstretched fingers in the other , the monk has varied slightly , appearing in profile , then later full @-@ faced and bare @-@ headed . By the 19th century the figure was portrayed as youthful and became known as the Münchner Kindl or Munich Child . The coat of arms in its current form was created in 1957 and is still an important symbol of the Bavarian state capital .

= = The Monk = =

As the German name for Munich , i.e. München , means " of Monks " , the monk in this case is a self @-@ explanatory symbol who represents the city of Munich . The figure is portrayed wearing a golden trimmed black cowl with a black hood and red shoes . The right hand is raised and the left carries a red book .

The open right hand of the monk is interpreted as an oath @-@ making gesture , or a blessing gesture in Christian tradition . The red book in the left hand refers to the oath book of the city (in accordance with the gesture of the right hand) , or the municipal law book which is bounded in red and has been handed down since 1365 . Another interpretation is that it is a gospel book .

When the Munich town administration developed a constitution of its council , a seal was necessary for the purposes of asserting the authenticity of town @-@ council documents . Appearing on a document of May 28 , 1239 , the oldest seal of Munich has a picture of a monk wearing an open hood . While all seal impressions show the monk with the book in one hand and three outstretched fingers in the other , the monk has varied slightly , appearing in profile , then later full @-@ faced and bare @-@ headed . The monk as a sole heraldic figure can be found on a seal dating from the year 1304 , and on flags of the city since the middle of the 14th century . Colourful representations of the town 's coat of arms stem from the 15th century .

= = = Münchner Kindl = = =

In the course of the few centuries up until the current version of 1957 , the coat of arms has undergone some distinctly visible changes . While some 15th @-@ century portrayals already show a child figure instead of the monk , the monk in representations onwards began to lose its serious disposition , with curly hair and a more youthful @-@ looking face . By the 18th century and especially the 19th century , the monk had been minimised into the Münchner Kindl , Bavarian for Munich Child , a reference to the figure first documented in 1727 , although it is not clear when it appeared on the coat of arms for the first time or who coined the term . The transformation was brought about by artists such as sculptors and painters as well as copper and seal engravers , as opposed to a legal order .

In the second half of the nineteenth century , local artists also supplemented the figure with items such as radishes , pretzels , laurel wreaths and foaming beer steins . The symbol diversely appears in numerous places such as on manhole covers , beer steins and the top of the tower of the town hall . While the symbol as a man through being a monk was previously clear , its gender has become ambiguous since being designated the Kindl . One interpretation is that it is simply genderless , however in the 1920s a female inclination became apparent , and portrayals in person are to this day by young women .

= = History = =

The Munich coat of arms is verifiable from seals in 1239 and 1268 . These seals show a monk in a gate , above which is an eagle , referring to the Bishop of Freising . The city belonged to him and this was probably derived from his coat of arms . From 1313 , the city was in possession of the Wittelsbach Dukes and the eagle was replaced with a lion , a symbol of the old Bavarian and Palatine Wittelsbachs since the Fiefdom of Duke Ludwig in 1214 .

== Coat of arms after ratification by Max I. Joseph ==

In 1808 , King Maximilian I Joseph granted the city a historicist city emblem depicting a classical portal , atop which the King 's crown lies . A golden lion sits in the gate 's threshold with a sword in one paw and a shield with the letter " M " in the other . As an enlightened monarch , Max I. Joseph wanted the city 's symbol to show its culture and at the same time dispel the stereotype of the " Mönchsbarbarei " , or the barbarianism of the monks . However , the township decided against the complete elimination of the historical reference to the monk and thus in 1818 the M was replaced with the previous monk 's head design .

== Coat of arms after ratification by Ludwig I ==

In 1834 , King Ludwig I granted the city its old coat of arms again in the form of large and small crests . These embodied the small crest seal of 1304 and the large one of 1323 . The 1835 coat of arms had a blue background , though this was later corrected to argent under Ludwig II in 1865 . The background was rarely changed . One example of its occurrence , however , was when or was used in the 16th century instead .

== Coat of arms in the Third Reich ==

From 1936 to 1945 , the lion was once again replaced by an eagle , only this time the one of the Nazi party , the Reichsadler . Deemed the Hauptstadt der Bewegung (Capital of the Movement) , Munich was a significant place in terms of the Nazi ideology . The city was home to the NSDAP headquarters , the Beer Hall Putsch and also saw the establishment of Dachau , the first Nazi concentration camp . Post @-@ war designs were not pursued until 1949 .

== New coat of arms ==

Both a small and large coat of arms existed from 1949 until 1957 based on representations of them prior to 1936 . In 1957 both the large and small city coat of arms were newly arranged by the designer Eduard Ege . At the same time , the city council set the resolution on the December 17 , 1957 that the large one was no longer for official use but only for particular representative purposes .