

= Coat of arms of Singapore =

The National Coat of Arms of Singapore is the heraldic symbol representing the Southeast Asian island nation of Singapore . It was adopted in 1959 , the year Singapore became self @-@ governing within the British Empire . The committee that created it , headed by then Deputy Prime Minister Toh Chin Chye , was also responsible for the national flag and the national anthem of Singapore .

At the centre of the emblem is a red shield bearing a white crescent (a new moon , representing a rising young nation) and five white stars (representing various national ideals including multiculturalism) , supported by a lion and a tiger (representing Singapore and Malaysia respectively) ; below them is a blue ribbon inscribed with *Majulah Singapura* in gold , Malay for " Onward Singapore " . While the use of the coat of arms is restricted to the government , the symbol enjoys wide use on the national currency and state decorations , and appears on the cover of the national passport .

= = History = =

When Singapore became self @-@ governing in 1959 Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew was determined to create for the new state a coat of arms , among other symbols , to replace the coat of arms of the United Kingdom that had been in use until then . A committee was formed to design the state symbols , headed by the deputy prime minister Toh Chin Chye , who wanted both the arms and flag of Singapore to represent the country 's united , multi @-@ ethnic society .

The coat of arms and the flag were created over a span of two months by Toh and his committee . A law establishing the state symbols of Singapore was presented to the National Assembly by the Minister of Culture , S Rajaratnam , and approved in November 1959 . On 3 December 1959 , the state coat of arms , flag and anthem were presented to the people of Singapore for the first time .

Toh said in a 1989 interview that when tasked with the creation of the state symbols , " apart from the anthem we have to produce the flag and the crest " , and he felt that the new flag of Singapore should be flying next to the Union Jack . Toh further stated :

In the case of the state crest , again we got the five stars and the new moon ... A lion next to the tiger . Tiger of course is a more local animal than the lion . The old City Council had a lion . It did merge with our own ideas of self governing of Singapore .

= = Symbolism = =

The central emblem of the coat of arms is a red shield with five white stars resting above a white crescent , similar to the crescent and stars used on the Singapore flag and such other national symbols as the national ensign for civilian ships . Red symbolises " universal brotherhood and equality of man " and white " pervading and everlasting purity and virtue " . The crescent represents a new moon , which reflects " a young nation on the ascendant " , while the five @-@ pointed stars " stand for the nation 's ideals of democracy , peace , progress , justice and equality " .

The supporters of the shield are a lion and a tiger : the tiger symbolises the nation 's historical and close connections to Malaysia (which Singapore was a state of from 1963 to 1965) while the lion represents Singapore itself . Below the supporters is a blue ribbon on which the national motto , *Majulah Singapura* , is written in gold . *Majulah Singapura* is also the title of the national anthem ; it means " Onward Singapore " in Malay , the national language of Singapore .

= = Uses = =

In 1985 the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) began to issue their second series of coins . The coat of arms is displayed on the obverse side of these coins , surrounded by an inscription comprising the name of Singapore in the four official languages (Chinese , Malay , Tamil and English) and the year of minting . In 1987 the dollar coin entered circulation with this same pattern .

According to the MAS , the coat of arms has also appeared on all Singaporean banknotes since the " Orchid " series of 1967 . State decorations of Singapore also depict the coat of arms on the medallions . For example , the medallions of the Darjah Utama Temasek and the Sijil Kemuliaan use the full achievement of arms , while the Darjah Utama Bakti Cemerlang medal displays the shield .

= = Guidelines = =

According to the Singapore Arms and Flag and National Anthem Rules , the use of the coat of arms is restricted to the government . Without explicit permission from the Ministry of Information , Communications and the Arts (MICA) , no person or group is permitted to physically print , manufacture , display or sell anything depicting the coat of arms , or to allow such actions to happen . It is also forbidden to use any symbol that can be easily mistaken for the coat of arms . Persons who wish to use the coat of arms in a literary work must also obtain prior permission from MICA . The only exception provided by the Rules is that the arms can be used by government officials and ministries on their building 's exteriors and on printed documents .