

small eagle feathers instead of three. If the chief-tain is also a peer he may add the coronet of his rank on top of the circlet, or he may wear his chief's crest badge like any other clansman.



Armigers: Persons who have registered their own arms and crest or have inherited them according to the laws of Scotland from ancestors who recorded them in the Lyon register [and matriculated them personally with the Lord Lyon] may wear their own crest as a badge either on its wreath, crest, coronet or chapeau or, more usually, within a plain circlet inscribed with his motto. An armiger is entitled to one eagle feather behind the circlet, and if also a peer may add his appropriate coronet on top of the circlet. An armiger may choose instead to wear the crest badge of his chief.

Clansmen and Clanswomen: i.e., the chief's relatives, including his immediate family, even his eldest son, and all members of the extended family called the "Clan," whether bearing the Clan's surname or that of one of its septs, in short all those who profess allegiance to that chief and wish to demonstrate their association with the clan.



It is correct for these to wear their chief's crest encircled with a strap and buckle bearing their chief's motto or slogan. The strap and buckle is the sign of the clansman, and he demonstrates his membership of his chief's clan by wearing his chief's crest within it.

Although the crest badge is purchased by and is therefore owned by the clansman, the heraldic crest and motto on it belong to the chief and not to the clansman. They are the chief's exclusive heraldic property which the clansman is only permitted to wear by grace of the chief. It is illegal for the clansman to appropriate the chief's crest and motto for any other personal use, such as decorating his own silver, writing paper, or signet ring. Legally, clan societies, of-

ficials, and clansmen who have reason to use the crest badge on stationery should add beneath it the words "crest badge of a member of the Clan Mac..." to make it clear that the user is not misappropriating the property of the chief.

It is the badge of all clansmen, whether members of clan societies or not, and non-members may not be excluded as long as they are clansmen.

From Information leaflet No. 2, Court of the Lord Lyon



This familiar rendition of the crest badge is used by the Clan Macnab Society, UK, the Clan Macnab Society in California, and was used by this society at its inception. Director B.G. MacNabb writes that he has articles with the same rendition dating back more than fifty years, and he remembers that the same rendition was used by his father before him.

Since the crest badge is not the property of the Society but of the Chief of the Clan, the editor, also speaking as chairman of the Board of Directors, will continue to use the traditional rendition above.

The editor sees no law or custom which forbids a different artistic rendition of the crest badge, as it is the heraldic description "a savage's head erased" which is the proprietary item. He would welcome any authoritative information, preferably with citations, to clarify this interesting bit of punctilio.

We believe in artistic freedom and applaud freehand renditions for the personal use of the artist. But it comes down to custom, tradition, taste, and "if it ain't broke..." we will continue to use the traditional crest badge.