



Symbolism of the Coat of Arms of the City of Côte Saint-Luc

A community's coat of arms is a "signature through pictures." A coat of arms generally includes designs that differentiate one city from others.

The City of Côte Saint-Luc was named after Saint Luke, whom Saint John saw in the form of a winged bull during his apocalyptic vision. Since then, a winged bull has been the symbolic beast of Saint Luke. A winged bull is illustrated on the shield.

The lower part of the shield has an argent- and sable-coloured pattern—the heraldic tinctures for white and black, which are colours of railroad signals. This pattern represents the location of Côte Saint-Luc as a railroad junction. The disposition of the pattern suggests the tracks of a marshalling yard, diverging in every direction.

The crest, formed of ears of wheat, reminds us that Côte Saint-Luc was, until the end of the Second World War, almost exclusively a farming community.

The two banners, wavering over both sides of the shield, are symbolic of Côte Saint-Luc being both a modern Canadian city and an old Quebec community.

The Golden Book and the Coat of Arms of the Town of Côte St-Luc were created and realized in the year one thousand nine hundred and fifty-five by L'Institut d'Art Héraldique Enrg., on the request of the Municipal Council, composed of the following members:

H.H. the Mayor: J. Adalbert Paris

Aldermen: Messrs. F. Warren Baily
Harold E. Conklin
Auguste Décary
Edward J. Kirwan
Maurice E. McAlear
Harry E. Rand

Secretary-Treasurer: Mr. Charles W. Houston

Legal Advisers: Messrs. E. Lacroix, Q.C.
J. Viau, Q.C.

Consulting Engineers: Messrs. Charles Crawford Lindsay;
Lalonde, Girouard & Letendre



as pattern-setting in the industry. The fact is embodied in the base gyronny argent and sable - the heraldic tinctures for white and black, well known as colours of railroad signals - whose disposition suggests the tracks of a marshalling yard, diverging in every direction.

The crest, formed of ears of wheat, recalls that Côte St-Luc owes its origin and growth to agricultural activities and was, until a relatively recent date, almost exclusively a farming community.

The two banners, wavering over both sides of the shield, are symbolic of the double patriotism of Côte St-Luc, which is, with every right, proud of being both a modern Canadian town and an old Quebec community.

The motto: "Civibus meis", offers a double and suggestive meaning, as it can be translated either as "For my Citizens", or as "By my Citizens". Through its motto, the Town of Côte St-Luc pays tribute to all of its citizens, whose civic mind made possible its splendid development, and gives also expression to its ideal, which is to work, in every way, for the welfare of all the citizens in the community.



SYMBOLISM OF THE COAT OF ARMS
OF THE
TOWN OF COTE ST-LUC

A community's coat of arms should be, one could say, a "signature through pictures". In order to play its full role as a true "portrait" of the town concerned, such a coat of arms must include peculiar designs featuring the town's individuality. First of all characteristic features of a town is its name.

The Town of Côte St-Luc was named after Saint Luke, one of the four Evangelists, whom Saint John saw, during his apocalyptic vision, in the form of a winged bull. Since then, a winged bull has always remained the symbolic beast of Saint Luke. On the escutcheon of Côte St-Luc, the winged bull expresses the very name of the Town.

The lower part of the shield is indicative of the important situation of Côte St-Luc as a railroad junction. As stated in the above historical summary, the Canadian Pacific Railway operates in Côte St-Luc a vast and ultra-modern freight yard, which is regarded



away, more or less symmetrically, on either side of the escutcheon. The outside of the mantling must be of the principal colour of the arms, and the lining, of the principal metal. Thus, in the Coat of Arms of the Town of Côte St-Luc, the mantling is gules, lined or.

A "motto" is a short sentence written on a ribbon which is generally displayed below the shield. The motto of the Town of Côte St-Luc is: "Civibus meis".



1. England (gules, three lions passant guardant in pale or); 2. Scotland (or, a lion rampant within a double tressure flory and counterflory gules); 3. Ireland (azure, a harp or); 4. France (azure, three fleurs-de-lis or); on a base argent, a sprig of three maple-leaves vert."

The sinister banner is of the arms of the Province of Quebec: "Tierced in bar: 1. azure, three fleurs-de-lis in bar or; 2. gules, a lion passant guardant or; 3. or, a sprig of three maple-leaves vert."

The "crest" is an ornament which is placed on the top of a helmet, the latter, in turn, set upon the upper edge of the shield. In the armorial bearings of towns and cities, the helmet, as a rule, is a "closed profile helmet argent". This means a tilting helmet, with closed visor, depicted in profile and silver in colour. In the Coat of Arms of the Town of Côte St-Luc, such a helmet is supporting, as crest, "a panache of five ears of wheat or". "Panache" means that the ears of wheat are displayed fanlike.

The "mantling" is a hewn piece of fabric, with scalloped edges, which depends from the helmet, falling



A field or charge "gyronny" is divided per cross and then per saltire, making eight divisions. In the Coat of Arms of the Town of Côte St-Luc, the base is gyronny "argent and sable". That means that the eight divisions of the base are alternately silver and black. "Argent" is the French word for "silver". "Sable" is a black fur-mammal ("sobol" in Russian).

Once the shield has been blazoned, its "exterior ornaments" have to be described. In the Coat of Arms of the Town of Côte St-Luc, two square banners, with their staffs crossed in the shape of an X behind the shield, are displayed over the upper corners of the escutcheon. It is not necessary to specify in the blazon that both banners are wavering towards the outside of the achievement. Care, however, must be taken that their edge against the staff is considered their dexter. It follows from this that the charges on the dexter banner must be reverted and depicted looking towards the sinister side of the achievement (the right hand of the onlooker), a rare exception in heraldry.

In the Coat of Arms of the Town of Côte St-Luc, the dexter banner is of the arms of Canada: "Quarterly:



In the present case, the field is "gules", i.e. red. The word "gules" is derivated from the Arabian "ghiul", which originally meant "the rose", and later was used to term every object red in colour.

After the field has been blazoned, the various "charges" are to be described. In heraldry, "charge" means every emblem which is pictured on a shield. The principal charge - the one which occupies the chief position - should be mentioned first. In the escutcheon of the Town of Côte St-Luc, this principal charge is "a winged bull statant or".

"Statant" means that the bull has all four hoofs resting upon the ground. Unless otherwise stated in the blazon, the bull, like all other heraldic beasts, is depicted in profile, looking towards the "dexter" side of the shield (the left hand of the onlooker).

"Or" is the heraldic term (simply the French word) for "gold".

The bull is "standing upon a base gyronny". The base is a charge which occupies the whole lower part of the shield. Its height should be equal to about one-third of the height of the escutcheon.



THE COAT OF ARMS
OF THE
TOWN OF COTE ST-LUC

The Town of Côte St-Luc bears:

"Gules, a winged bull statant or, standing upon a base gyronny argent and sable. Two square banners in saltire behind the shield, the dexter of the arms of Canada, the sinister of those of the Province of Quebec. Crest: upon a closed profile helmet argent, a panache of five ears of wheat or. Mantling: gules, lined or. Motto: 'Civibus meis'."

Above is the "blazon", i.e. the description, in specifically heraldic terms, of the Coat of Arms of the Town of Côte St-Luc. Blazon is subjected to certain precise rules and should follow a rigid course. The commencement of any blazon is of necessity a description of the shield of arms, which is the most important part of every heraldic achievement - in fact, the sole essential one. The tincture of the "field", or in common language the ground of the shield, has to be stated first.

