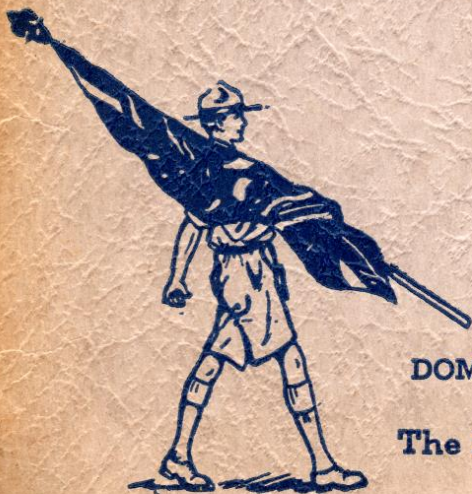


The
Design
of
Scout Flags

By Ramsay Traquair



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THE DESIGN *of* SCOUT FLAGS

by

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Published by

THE CANADIAN GENERAL COUNCIL

of

The Boy Scouts Association

1937

The Boy Scouts Association acknowledges gratefully the assistance kindly rendered by E. Roscoe Chaffey, B. Arch., and by P. Roy Wilson, A.R.I.B.A., both of Montreal, in preparing the drawings here used in illustrating the designs made by
Professor Traquair.

FOREWORD

THIS pamphlet by Professor Traquair was printed with the approval of the Dominion Executive Board, which was convinced that the design of group flags and banners in the past had not received sufficient attention in Canadian Scouting.

What appeals to me particularly is that flags are rallying points around which develop local loyalties and traditions. We have several flags at Dominion Headquarters which we regard with something approaching affection;—the Scout flag which flew over the Scout Hut in France during the War; the flags carried at the World Jamboree at Arrowe Park in 1929; the specially designed flags carried to the World Jamboree in Hungary in 1933 and the Australian Jamboree in 1935, and the Canadian Rover flags taken to the World Rover Moots in Switzerland in 1931 and Norway in 1935.

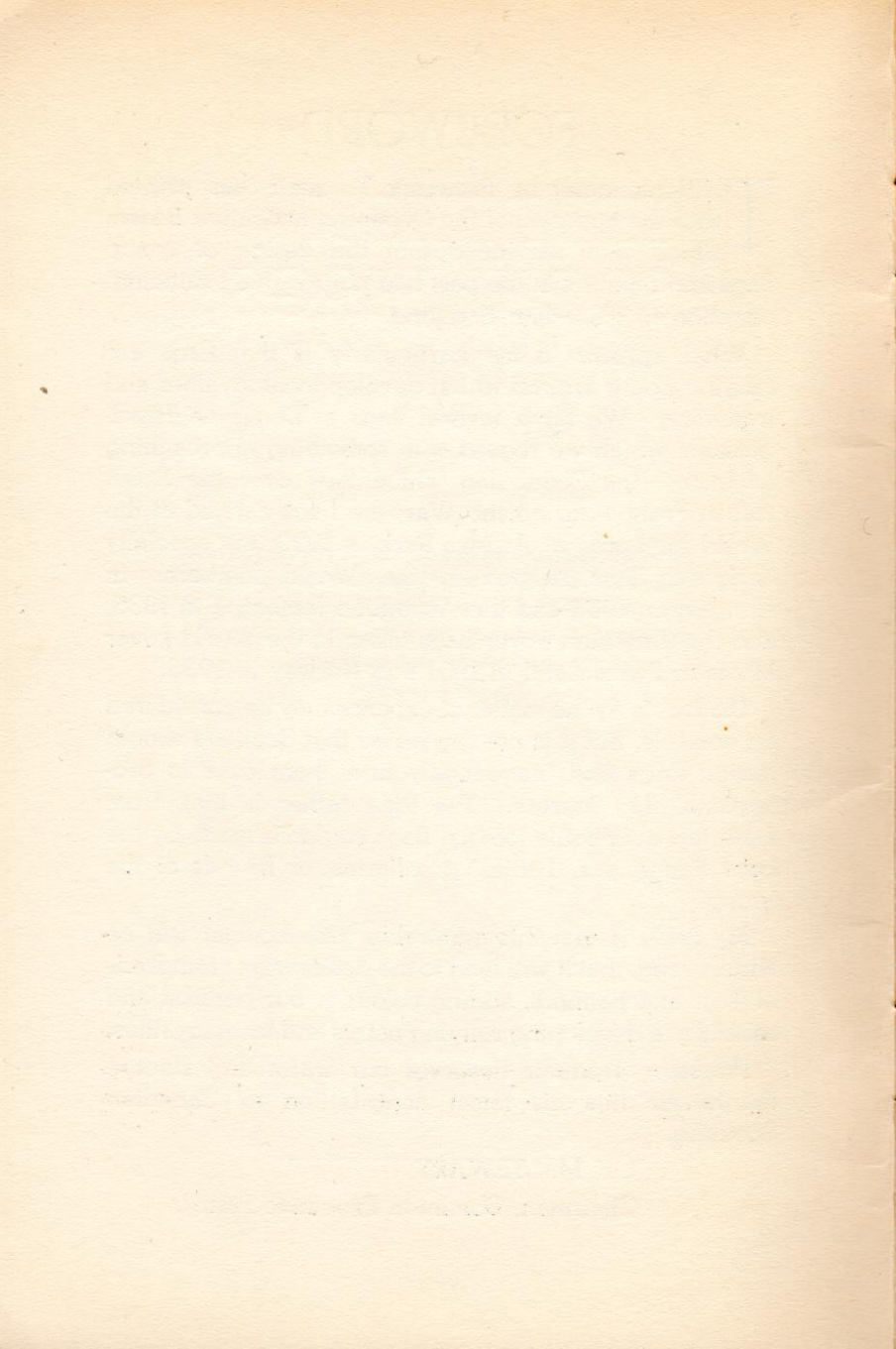
Undoubtedly the matter of expense may be considered an obstacle, but it is not suggested that Scouters should design flags and immediately turn them over to professional flag makers. The idea rather is that, from materials obtainable locally, flags could be made by the boys themselves, Ladies' Auxiliaries, or friends of the group.

My hope is that this admirable little booklet will be widely read, that it will lead to the designing of hundreds of flags and banners, adding colour to our parades and assisting in developing rallying points and local loyalties.

Professor Traquair deserves our warm and sincere thanks for this his latest contribution to Canadian Scouting.

J. F. M. STEWART,

Chairman, Dominion Executive Board.



THE DESIGN *of* SCOUT FLAGS

* * *

A FLAG, or banner, is a sign of distinction and of recognition. Taking its origin in war, when it was essential that the combatants should recognise one another easily, either as foes to attack or as friends to help, it was natural that the flag should bear the personal device of the leader. So flags have always been a branch of heraldry,—the science, or art, of distinguishing badges.

Today we are not much interested in the old personal heraldry of the Middle Ages, though if we have an old coat-of-arms in the family we may take a sentimental pride in it. But, in practice, a heraldry of institutions has taken the place of the old personal heraldry. All modern cities and universities, and many business corporations, have coats-of-arms or badges. The modern trade mark is as truly heraldry as was the knight's gay badge of olden days.

This modern heraldry, however, is far more complicated, and less beautiful, than was the old heraldry; though there is no particular reason why this should be so. Modern heraldry might be as straightforward and as beautiful as was the old.

Originally national flags were the personal badges or coats-of-arms of the ruler of the country. The three fleurs-de-lys of Old France was the coat-of-arms of the King, placed on a banner. To this day when the King of England is present his banner is displayed bearing his personal arms, the three golden leopards of England, the lion rampant of Scotland and the golden harp of Ireland.

This banner may only be shown when the King is actually present. If he is not present, the Union Jack

is used as the King's flag, and distinguishes buildings, corporations, or bodies of men in his service. This is the real meaning of the Union Jack; it was not in its beginning a national flag.

With the coming of republican forms of government the flag, formerly the King's badge, became the nation's badge. So the Tricolour of France or the Stars and Stripes of the United States are true national flags. They do not belong to any individual but to the corporate state. In the British Empire the Union Jack has been by general consent adopted as the badge of Empire. It is common to the whole Empire, but not distinctive of any part of it.

As is well known, the Union Jack is composed of the two diagonal crosses, or saltires, of St. Andrew and St. Patrick, combined with the cross of St. George, in a very ingenious but strictly heraldic manner. The correct heraldic description, or blazon, as proclaimed in 1801 when the present flag was authorised, is as follows:

Azure the crosses saltire of St. Andrew and St. Patrick quarterly per saltire counterchanged argent and gules, the latter fimbriated of the second, surmounted by a cross of St. George of the third fimbriated as the saltire.

As subjects of H.M. the King and members of a service recognised by him, Boy Scout troops are entitled to carry the Union Jack as their principal flag.

Flag identification is well illustrated by the use of flags at sea, where it is important that the nationality and identity of a ship may easily be determined. A British Merchant ship must fly its national flag and, in addition, its "house flag"—that is, a flag bearing the device of its owners. The house flag in no case includes the national flag or any part of it; indeed a shipping

company would not be permitted to fly such a composite flag.

In addition to its national and house flags a ship displays distinguishing colours on its funnels and hull,—just as a mediaeval knight wore his colours on his surcoat.

Thus every institution is entitled to at least two flags, its national flag and its house flag; every Dominion or State within an Empire is entitled to its Dominion and Empire flags; and an institution within a Dominion may be entitled to three flags, the Empire flag, the Dominion flag and the house flag. Normally only those flags will be used which are necessary for identification, and suitable for the occasion; but it may easily happen that a Scout Group may fly all three flags at once.

Coats-of-arms in the British Empire are granted by the King on the advice of his heralds, and the grant of arms carries with it the right to use those arms as a banner. When used in this way the arms are not placed on a shield in the middle of the flag, as is sometimes done, but occupy the whole of the oblong flag.

The provinces of Canada have all been granted coats-of-arms by His Majesty, and these are in regular use on official notepaper and in other ways. It follows from this that each province is entitled to fly a banner of its arms over its Parliament Buildings, or over any other property which it may have. The Province of Nova Scotia actually does this, using her old arms of the Seventeenth Century as a flag, the "Ensign of Nova Scotia". This flag may frequently be seen in Halifax and elsewhere in the province.

A few Canadian educational institutions also have their own flags. McGill University, for instance, flies her flag over the Arts Building when the University is in session.

In Great Britain many cities, corporations and universities fly their own flags, and are encouraged to do so by the authorities, who prefer this to the indiscriminate use of national flags.

London's flag is displayed over the Guildhall, the flag of Edinburgh over the City Chambers and the flag of Durham over its ancient buildings. Indeed the custom is very general.

We see, therefore, that the use of corporation, city or house flags is fully established; that every corporate body is entitled to more than one flag,—the Imperial flag when it is necessary to distinguish itself from other countries, the Dominion flag to distinguish itself from the other Dominions of the Empire, and the house flag to distinguish itself from other institutions in the Dominion.

Similarly, each Boy Scout Group is entitled to its individual flag.

At a Conference of Provincial Commissioners and Presidents in Montreal, April 30, 1936, preceding the annual meeting of the Canadian General Council of The Boy Scouts Association, the flag shown on page 9 (that carried by the Rover Scouts representing Canada at the Rover Moots in Switzerland in 1931 and in Sweden in 1935) was adopted for carrying:

"by such Scout Groups as would be visiting other countries and representing the whole of the Canadian organization".

In Montreal some attention has been given to the designing of these flags, and a considerable number are borne or displayed most effectively on suitable occasions. The boys themselves have shown keen appreciation, and pride in the flags, with their special heraldic devices.

For the sake of uniformity the flags for Montreal District Groups have been made of one size, 36" high by

45" long. This is a convenient size to carry, but flags for special purposes could be made of other sizes. The Montreal Group flags are made of wool bunting, without fringes or cords or tassels. Silk flags are not only expensive, but heavy and easily soiled.

Each flag bears a device suggested by the name, affiliation, or situation of the Group, and is kept as simple as possible, in order that it may easily be cut and sewn, and readily recognized at a distance, even on a fluttering flag. Initials and numbers may be added, but should not be the principal feature. Printing on a flag is not legible and should be avoided. A monogram is permissible if it is large and simple.

The usual Scout Group flag device alludes to the dedication of the Group. Sometimes it is a little difficult to find a suitable idea, but thought and time will always produce something. A legend, a local feature, a rebus on the name, the coat-of-arms of some person connected with the Group, these are the motives amongst which we seek for some simple, direct device. The colours usually will be those of the Group neckerchief, but not always. For instance, a Scottish Group may wish to use as part of its flag Scotland's white diagonal cross on a blue ground. In this case the colours must remain blue and white, regardless of the neckerchief colour.

Clear, simple colours should be used, and not too many of them. Two well contrasting colours are best; three may be used, but no more.

A very good heraldic rule for selecting colours is: "White and yellow may be contrasted with any other colour, but not with themselves; any other colour must be contrasted with either white or yellow."

Shades should not be used, only direct, full colours.

Each flag should bear but one device. If there are

two ideas or motives they should be combined into one device, and this should be drawn with the simplest lines possible, without shading or perspective. A flag is not a picture.

If several Groups belonging to the British Empire parade together it is not necessary that each should proclaim its membership in the Empire by flying the Empire flag; one Union Jack will suffice for all, and will indeed emphasize their unity.

The illustrations following (with the exception of the Canadian Scout flag) will show what has been achieved in devising special heraldic flags for the Scout Groups of Montreal:—

Shoulder and pocket badges afford a further opportunity for design. The shoulder badges are used to distinguish local areas. So the Montreal area Scouts have the triple mountain surmounted by a crown in green and gold—(Flag 9). The Quebec Province Scouts bear the three golden lilies of Old France on a blue ground. The St. Johns Scouts have the eagle of the Evangelist above waved lines for the Richelieu River. The Province of Quebec Sea Scouts have a small badge of the Scout fleur-de-lys on a background of blue and white waves, showing that they are Scouts afloat. The Thomson Rover Scouts, named after the late Minister of Aviation in Great Britain, have a T with wings.

HINTS ON DESIGNING AND MAKING FLAGS

SOME general hints have already been given on the best way to design flags. Simplicity is always distinguished, and in heraldry most of the oldest and best badges are very simple. Bright clear colour is good, and an "idea" is no disadvantage.

Now one's own ideas are always the best, and in any case they are always better than someone else's, particularly than the ideas of some outsider. So the first idea should come from the troop. In the first place, if they do not want a flag, they will not trouble about it; if they do, they should first try to design a very simple one for themselves. It need be only the colours of the scarf set on a flag. But this is not very interesting, and an "idea" is better, some badge or device suggestive of the name or origin of the troop. If no member of the troop is enough of an artist to sketch this, then perhaps one of them has a friend who knows something of drawing and decoration, an architect or an artist. He should be consulted. Someone will probably be found who is interested enough to make a sketch. This should be submitted to the Provincial authority, just to make sure that it has not already been used by some other troop, and that it is appropriate, and will go well with the other troop flags. The design must then be drawn out full size (wrapping paper is good enough), with a good strong black line. The bunting is then cut to the patterns and sewn up, rope and toggle are added and the flag is ready. For any drawing or black lines on the flag black spirit varnish will be found useful. It is sold in little bottles for renovating straw hats. Monograms are easiest made of tape sewn on one side only, as they are illegible if they show through. Monograms should always be large and simple. Avoid printing or inscriptions.

There need be no great expense in making flags. Scouts make many more difficult things than flags; and the best thing of all would be for each troop to design and make its own flags. No one else could do it quite so well. But the very worst thing that could happen would be for a lot of ready-made flags to be handed out no matter how nicely designed they were.

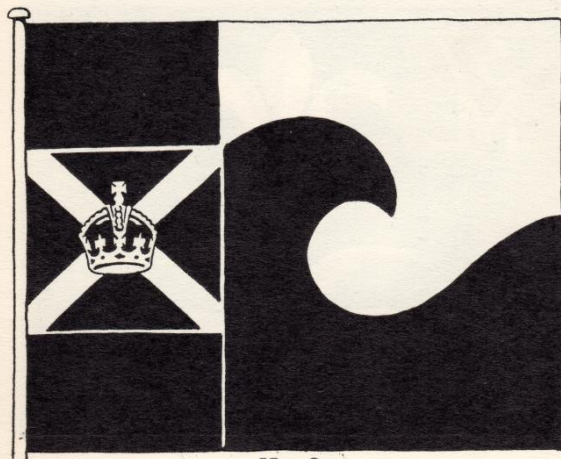
The illustrations in this book only show how we in Quebec have tried to interest ourselves with flags; and every flag here has been designed with the co-operation of the troop concerned. We seem to like it this way, but, if others like it another way they should go ahead in their own way,—for them it will be better.



No. 1—The Canadian Scout Flag

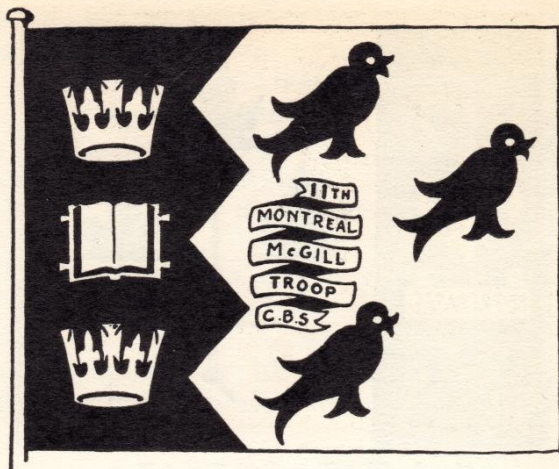
(For use only by Scout Contingents officially representing Canada in another country.)

Next to the staff is the Scout Badge and Motto in gold on a green ground. (Note: Gold is always yellow and silver is white.) The main flag is white with three green maple leaves of Canada, taken from the coat-of-arms of the Dominion. A flag of this pattern was first carried by the Rover Crew representing Canada at the 1931 World Rover Moot in Switzerland.



No. 2

The Sea Scouts have the flag of the Royal St. Lawrence Yacht Club next to the staff; the flag is long, for use afloat, with a green wave on a white ground.



No. 3

The Troop of the McGill University Settlement bears a modification of the arms of the university with which it is affiliated. This was the first flag designed and has too much printing and fringe.



No. 4

Notre Dame de Grace Troop bears the lily of Our Lady in white on a red ground, these being the troop colours.



No. 5

The Highlands Troop, No. 107, bears a windmill, which is a feature of the local landscape.



No. 6

The Montreal West Troop bears the setting sun, the badge of the west.



No. 7

The Lachine Troop has a very conventional representation of the Lachine bridge across the river St. Lawrence.



No. 8

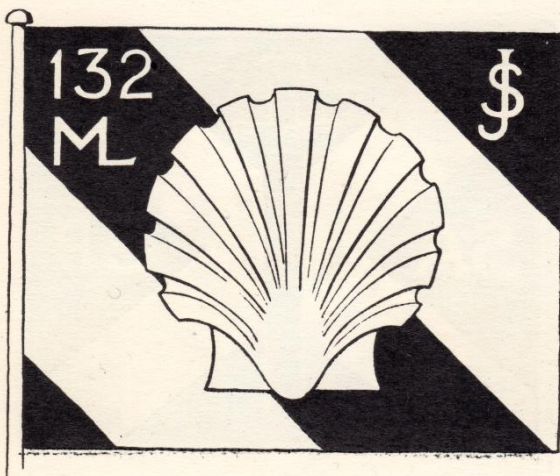
No. 96. Town of Mount Royal Troop has the royal mountain (therefore crowned) with the tunnel through it. The mountain tunnel emerges near Mount Royal.



No. 9

Mount Royal School Troop has the triple crowned mountain of Montreal. The highly conventionalised drawing of the mountain may be noted.

A number of the troops are connected with churches and here the dedication of the church usually provides a motive. So:



No. 10

The St. James Troop bears the white cockle shell of St. James of Compostella, the pilgrim badge of the middle ages. It is on a striped background of the troop colours, green and blue.



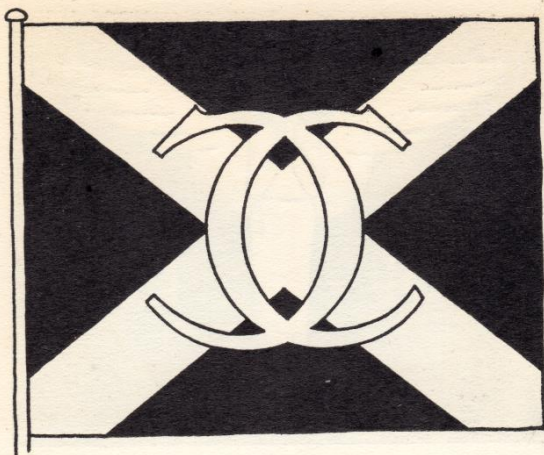
No. 11

The Troop of St. Barnabas bears the mitre and book symbolic of that saint, in the colours of the troop, purple and yellow.



No. 12

The St. Andrew and St. Paul Troop bears the white saltire of St. Andrew on a blue ground with set on it the red sword of St. Paul. This is a case where two motives have been combined.



No. 13

Chalmers Troop is in a congregation of predominately Scottish origin. It bears the national flag of Scotland, the St. Andrews Cross, surmounted by a monogram of crossed C's. This is a good example of the use of a monogram as a device.



No. 14

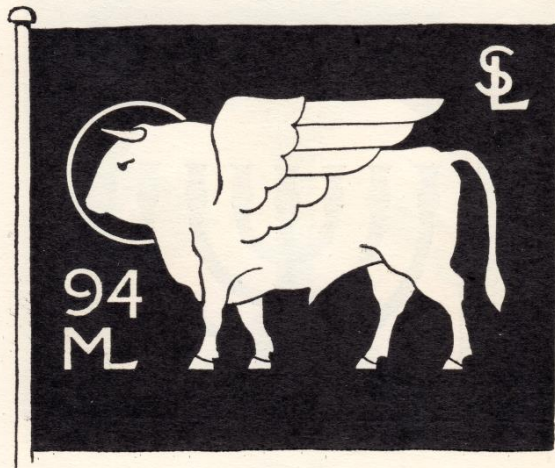
The Shaar Hashomayim Troop is Jewish, and bears the seven branched candlestick in gold on white in an archway, or gate of maroon.



No. 15

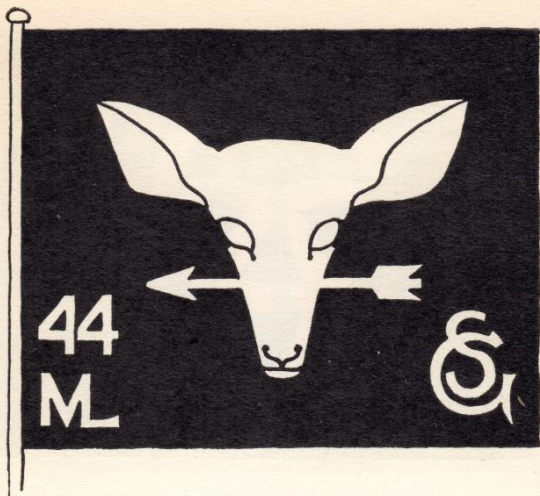
St. Matthew has the golden angel on a black ground. This is one of the symbols of the Evangelists which are so much used in decoration.

So again:



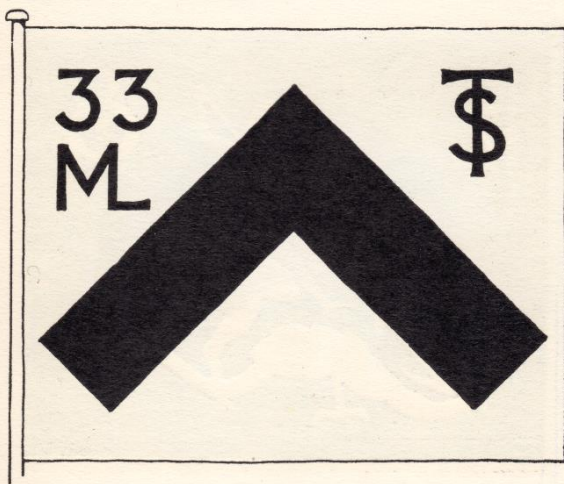
No. 16

St. Lukes Troop has the white ox on a black ground. One of the most successful of all.



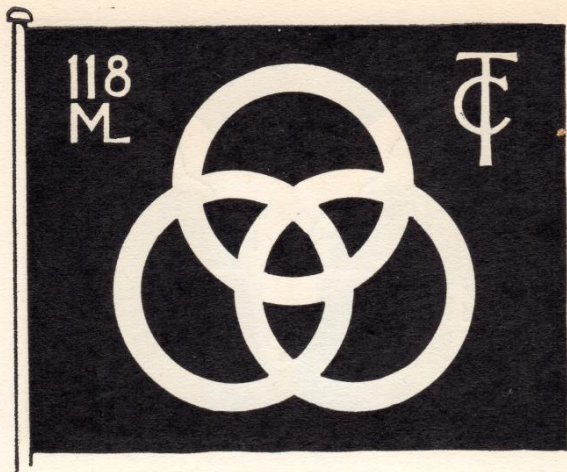
No. 17

St. Giles is known by his hind or deer, wounded by an arrow. For flag purposes this is amply shown by a hind's head transfixed by an arrow.



No. 18

St. Thomas is the patron Saint of carpenters and architects. His troop bears a carpenter's square.



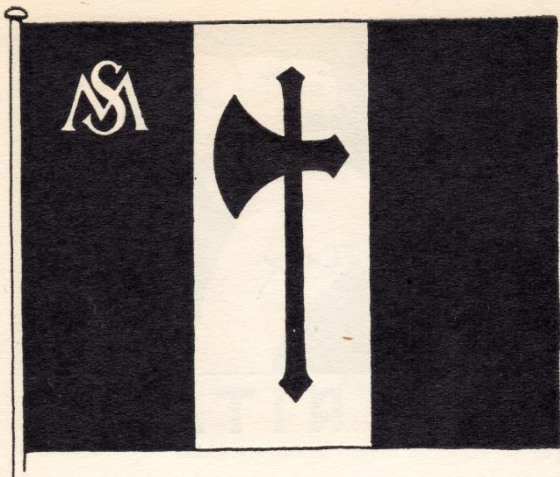
No. 19

Trinity church troop bears three interlocking circles in gold on a blue ground, symbolic of the Trinity.



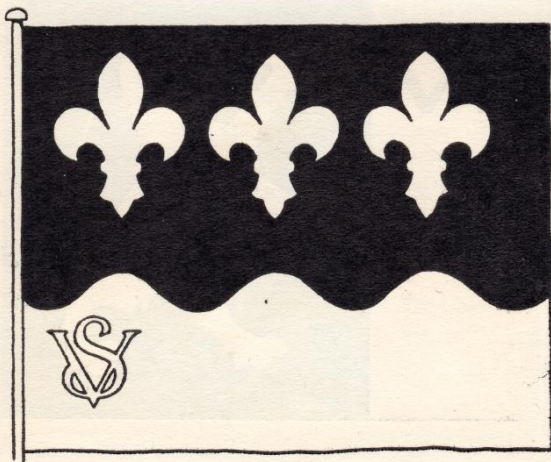
No. 20

St. Georges Troop of course have their saint killing his dragon, in white on green, the troop colours.



No. 21

St. Matthias Troop have a purple flag with a gold stripe in the middle on which is the axe of the saint.



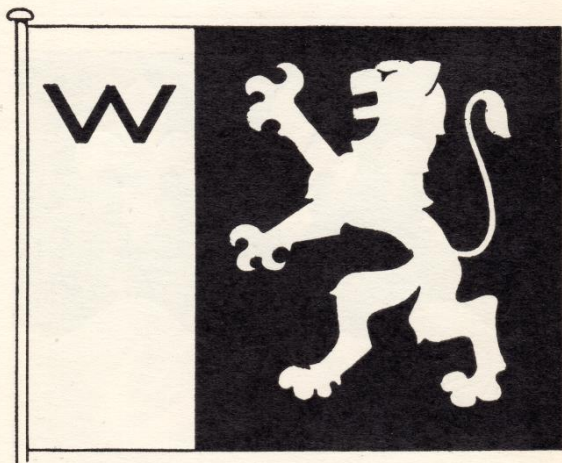
No. 22

Strathmore-Valois Troop have a wavy base in red, representing the lakeside. Above this are the three golden fleur-de-lys on a blue ground of the old family of Valois.



No. 23

The Selwyn House School Troop have the crest of the school in gold on a black ground, a demi-lion with the motto VERITAS.



No. 24

The Willingdon Troop bear a device taken from the arms of Lord Willingdon. The white lion on a red ground. Next to the staff in a compartment of blue with the letter W. This carries out the troop colours.

APPENDIX ONE

FLAG USAGE

1. "Scouts may use any of the following:
 - "(a) The National Flag. On land, the Union Jack; at sea, the Red Ensign.
 - "(b) **Scout** Flags. Flags of appropriate colour and design bearing, if desired, the **Scout** badge and the name of the Group."
2. "The foregoing Flags, being symbols of the Empire and of The Boy Scouts Association, should be treated with suitable honours. When presented to a unit they may be dedicated to their appointed use by some fitting religious ceremony. Such dedication, however, does not imply that the particular pieces of bunting are in any way sacred. The purpose of the ceremony is to emphasize the reverence and respect with which our Flags should be treated."
3. "The Union Jack is used with the **Scout** Flag on all ceremonial occasions and on parades. It is carried on the right of the **Scout** Flag."

N.B. The foregoing paragraphs are from Canadian Policy, Organization and Rules, Section 106, March 1934.
4. When not in use Flags should be placed in an honourable position on the wall of the **Scout** room or hall. They should never be used as draperies, decorations or tablecloths.
5. When a number of units parade together the Union Jack should be carried by a special flag party near, but not at the head of the parade. Each unit will then carry only its **Scout** Flag.

6.

FLAG CARRYING



1.



2.

(a) On the March.

(i) Slope, fig. 1. Sloped over right shoulder, flag gathered in right hand, left arm swinging free.

(ii) Carry, fig. 2. Pole vertical, butt in carrier, held in right hand, back of hand to front, level with mouth; elbow square and level with hand; flag gathered in; left arm swinging free.

(iii) Carry, flying free, fig. 3. Same as 2, but flag not gathered in.

USE. The 'slope' is the normal method. The 'carry' is used when marching past or when specially ordered. The 'carry, flying free' is the salute at the actual moment of passing the saluting point. Flags are never 'lowered' on the march.

NOTE. The attitude of the 'carry' is tiring and should be used sparingly.



3.

(b) At the Halt.

(i) Order, fig. 4. Flag held vertically at right side, butt on ground, gathered in right hand.

(ii) Carry, fig. 5. As on the march but left arm to side.

(iii) Carry, free. As on the march but left arm to side.

(iv) Lower, fig. 6. Point of pole



4.



5.



6.

on ground, pole under right arm.

USE. The 'order' is the normal position. The 'carry' or 'carry free' on occasions, such as inspection, when ordered.

The National Flags and **Scout** Flags will be lowered to the King or his representative, the Governor-General, members of the Royal Family entitled to the prefix "Royal Highness", foreign Monarchs and Presidents of Republics. Such flags will not be lowered during the playing of the National Anthem unless one of the persons above mentioned is present.

At a salute to the Chief Scout it would be correct to lower **Scout** flags but not Union Jacks.

NOTE. When parading with other bodies common sense should be used in departing from these rules. For example:—on Armistice Day in many places the Legion lower flags during the sounding of the Last Post—Scouts should conform.

At the International Conference of 1935 it was decided that at International parades each nation should conform to its national practice.

7. **CONCERNING THE CANADIAN SCOUT FLAG**

A Canadian or Dominion Scout Flag of the design shown in Illustration 1. has been authorized for the use of **Scout** groups officially representing Canadian Scouting while visiting foreign countries or other parts of the Empire.

When all three flags (the Union Jack, the Canadian Scout Flag and a Group Flag) are displayed, the Union Jack is placed in the centre, the Canadian Scout Flag at the right and the Group Flag on the left.

At large assemblies or Jamborees the Union Jack and the Canadian Scout flag will be flown together on separate poles, the Union Jack to the right and the Scout Flag to the left.

Groups visiting foreign countries are recommended to take with them the National Flag of the country which they are visiting and to fly it as a courtesy, if suggested. It is well in all such places to ask the person in charge of the camp or parade as to what course will be most agreeable to the Scouts whom you are visiting.

N.B. When printed in bold type the word **Scout** includes Cubs and Rovers.

APPENDIX TWO

SUGGESTIONS FOR DEDICATION AND PRESENTATION OF FLAGS IN CHURCH

The Flags to be presented should be laid on or against the Altar.

The donor of the Flags may accompany the Scout-master, who should stand at the Chancel Steps facing the officiating minister.

A colour party for each Flag consisting of a Patrol Leader, as colour bearer, and two Scouts will advance to the Chancel Steps. The officiating minister will say:

Dearly beloved in the Lord, Forasmuch as men at all times have made for themselves signs and emblems of their allegiance to their rulers, and of their duty to uphold these laws and institutions which God's providence has called us to obey, we, following this natural and pious custom, and remembering that God Himself led His people Israel by a pillar of fire by night, and a pillar of cloud by day, are met together before God to ask His blessing on this Flag (or these Flags), which is to represent to us our duty to Him and to our Troop. Let us, therefore, pray Almighty God of His Mercy to make it to be to those who follow it a sign of His presence with them at all times, and to increase their faith and hope in Him, Who is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Or some equally suitable words.

Proceeding to the Altar the officiating minister will dedicate the Flag (or Flags) saying:—

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we do dedicate and set apart this Flag (or these Flags) that it may be a sign of our duty to God and to our Troop in the sight of God. Amen.

Or some equally suitable words.

The officiating minister will then present the Flag (or Flags) to the donor, who will hand it to the Scout-

master, who will deliver it to the Patrol Leader, who will receive it kneeling.

The congregation will then kneel. The Troop and colour party remain standing with the Flag (or Flags) at "the carry". The officiating minister will say:

O Lord, Who rulest over all things accept, we beseech Thee, our service this day. Bless what we have blessed in Thy Name. Let Thy gracious favour rest on those who shall follow this Flag (or these Flags) now committed to their trust. Give them courage, and may their courage ever rest on their sure confidence in Thee. May they show self-control in the hour of success, patience in the time of adversity, and may their honour lie in seeking the honour and glory of Thy great Name. May they walk worthily in the vocation to which they are called, in dependence on Thy blessed Will, and mindful that without Thee they can do nothing. Guide the counsels of those who shall lead them, and sustain them by Thy help in the time of need. Grant they may all so faithfully serve Thee in this life, that they fail not finally to obtain an entrance into Thy Heavenly Kingdom through the merits of Thy Blessed Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Or some equally suitable prayer.

O Lord our God, Who from Thy Throne beholdest all the kingdoms of the earth, have regard unto this fair land of Canada, that it may continue a place and a people to serve Thee to the end of time. Guide the governing of this Great Empire, here and in the far corners of the world and grant that all who live beneath our flag may be so mindful of the threefold cross, that they may work for the good of others, according to the example of Him Who died in the service of men, Thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Or some equally suitable prayer.

The officiating minister will then give The Blessing. During the Blessing, the colour party should kneel on one knee; after which the colour party will advance to

the Altar with the Flag at "the carry" and stand facing the Altar while the National Anthem is sung.

The colour party will then "about turn" and march slowly down the Church followed by the whole Troop.

CEREMONY OUT OF DOORS OR IN A HALL

The Troop should be formed into three sides of a square with a table covered by a Union Jack in the centre on which the Flags should be laid. The colour party composed as above should stand facing the Troop. Dedication and presentation may be as far as possible the same as in Church, but should always end with the General Salute and the National Anthem.

Should there be an address from the officiating minister or speech from the Commissioner or other person, it should come before the actual ceremony of dedication.

