

CLUB INSIGNIA: BADGES, PENDANTS AND PINS

KEN THOMSON

Over the years, the Club has commissioned several physical indications of membership, officialdom or possession; Chapter 10 of the Centenary Book (Sheila Murray, 1987) is entitled "Emblems, Arms and Gifts". This note attempts to expand that account somewhat, and to bring it up to date.

Pre-War

From 1925 onwards, the Club appears to have set up arrangements with one or more local outfitters (e.g. Alexander Booth at 49/51 St. Nicholas Street; and Dugan & Mitchell at 448 Union Street) to sell various items in Club colours (i.e. "gold and dark brown"), such as "silk ties, hummel doddies, woollen scarves, sweaters"; these were advertised in the Club Journal between no. 65 (June 1927) and no. 81 (1940). Ties at least were "well in evidence" at the New Year Meet at Braemar, as recorded in *CCJ* no. 64 (July 1926).



"Bronze" badges or buttons were first designed in 1926 by Club member A. G. Nicol Smith, one with "CC" and a thistle, and a second with the Lochnagar corrie, though with sunrays coming from a very odd direction – unless the *aurora borealis*?

The cover of the Club Journal has always borne two crossed ice-axes, entwined with the letters CC, and surrounded by a rope, a candle lantern, and "1889" - the year of the first official meeting although the Club was actually founded

by Loch Avon in 1887.

Post-War

CCJ no. 85, 1946-47, p.84, contains:

"Regarding Insignia: The device on the Club button is a representation of Lochnagar; the Library stamp is an ice-axe, entwined with climbing rope; the decoration on the Journal cover brings the total of Club emblems to three, where, it has been suggested, one token would suffice. The Committee is considering a proposal that the cover design be adopted as the single badge,

bookplate, and voucher, but would welcome other suggestions, with designs, if necessary. No prize is offered! The stock of Club buttons is now exhausted."

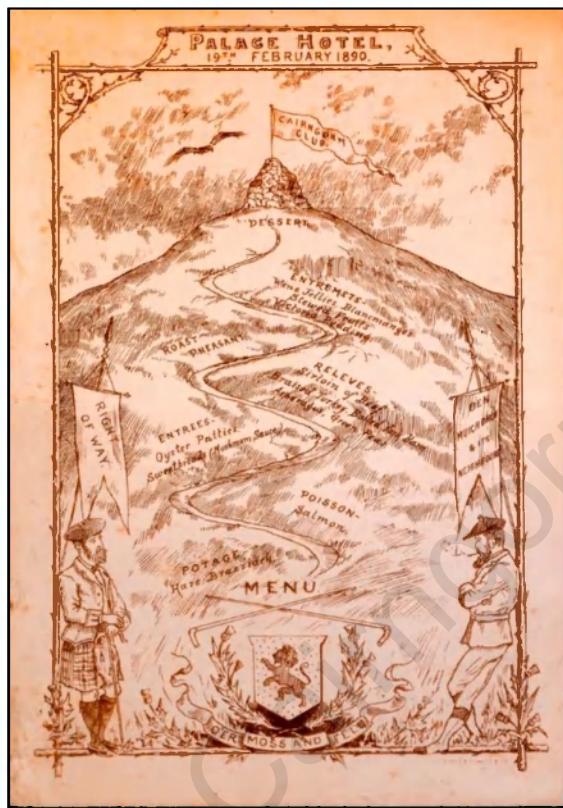
The outcome of this post-war "proposal" is not known, but in 1965 the Lord Lyon King of Arms granted the Cairngorm Club "Ensigns Armorial", or Coat of Arms, in the following terms, as recorded in CCJ no. 93 (1968), p.226:

"Per chevron Azure and Gules, a chevron Argent between in chief a cross-crosslet fitchèe in dexter and an antique crown in sinister both Or, and in base two ice-axes, head upwards also Or, and in an Escrol this Motto clac-dian"



The same CCJ issue goes on (p. 227) to record that "receipt of this honour by the Club was due entirely to the initiative of the late Dr G. A. Taylor". The design suggests the foundation of the Club at the Shelter Stone or *Clac Dian*, its main activity by the crossed ice-axes, and the locality by features of the arms of local families, i.e. the cross-crosslet for the Earl of Mar, and the five-pointed

crown for Grant of Grant, on Speyside. The chevron suggests a mountain peak, while the lower red (*gules*) field recalls *Monadh Ruadh*, the old name of the Cairngorm range, the upper blue (*azure*) the sky, and the silver (*argent*) chevronel a covering of snow – the latter two features not always characteristic of the Cairngorms these days!



Crests etc.

The first Club design that I have been able to trace is a crest at the foot of the menu for the Club's First Annual Dinner, held on 19th February 1890. Against a sketch of an ascent route from "*Potage – Hare Braeriach*", through "*Entrée – Oyster Patties*", "*Relevés* [another form of entrée] – *Sirloin of Beef ...*" and three more courses, to "*Dessert*" (unspecified), and between two bearded gentlemen lounging at their ease, the Lion Rampant of Scotland appears below two crossed walking sticks and above the slogan "*O'er Moss and Fell*" It is not known if the glee was actually sung! The Annual Dinner was not repeated until 1920, when

Mr. George R. Gowans "*designed an artistic menu card*", and spoke in response to the sentiment, "Art and Artists". Later menus, as archived by the Club, i.e. for Annual Dinners in 1931, 1933, 1934, 1938, 1947-1950, and 1952-1955, and 1957-1960, carry no logo or crest on the cover, but rather a photograph, usually taken in the Cairngorms but occasionally the Alps. An exception was the 1955 menu, which carried a crest much like the Library stamp, e.g. crossed ice-axes, entwined by the letters "CC" within a circle of rope between the digits "18" and "89", and a lantern hanging below. The number of courses on the menu was still 7 in 1938 but had shrunk to 3 in 1947. From 1968 (possibly 1967) onwards, the Dinner menus carried the Club's crest, as awarded in 1965, with the motto "*Clac Dian*" in a scroll below. This has been repeated each year since, with the notable exception of the Centenary Dinner in 1987, when the crest

carried the dates “1887-1987”, and appeared above a sketch of the Shelter Stone, by N. E. Shepherd.

Clubwear, Glassware etc

Following a 1987 Centennial precedent, in 1997 the Club arranged a supply of 110 specially labelled bottles of whisky. Further appearances of the Club’s insignia took place in the 1990s, when a range of “clubwear” such as fleeces and T-shirts was produced for sale to members, each garment emblazoned with the Club’s badge: a few examples are still worn by elderly members on special occasions! In total, this raised around £1000 by the mid-2000s.

And from the 2000s onwards, Club-engraved glassware and quiches have been occasionally commissioned to commemorate achievements by various Club members, mainly “completion” of all the Munros or Corbetts.

There is also a book stamp (date and origins unknown) for Library items, showing an ice-axe entwined with climbing rope. And a number of coloured tie pins and brooches, and cloth badges, remain from previous stocks.

Current Insignia

The President is presented with a lapel badge and a neck pendant: as well as the Club coat of arms, the latter carries a cairngorm stone, and was first presented in 1976 by Sheila Murray, the Club’s first female President (1970-73), to Sandy Black (President 1973-76), who shortly afterwards passed it on to Harold Watt, the succeeding President. Lapel badges also exist for the Hon. President, both Vice-Presidents, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, and up to 15 Past-Presidents.

