

## THE BADGE OF THE UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS' ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

by Conrad Swan, Herald of Arms-in-Ordinary to Her Majesty the Queen



*“Within a wreath quarterly of maple leaves Gules and Oak Leaves Vert fructed Or charged with four crosses formy - the letters and figures G III R also gold.”*

The badge of the Association consists of a wreath made up of red maple leaves and oak leaves and acorns. Maple leaves occupy the upper left and lower right quarters of the circle; oak leaves make up the remainder; each quarter is separated by a cross formy (i.e. a cross made up of four triangular shapes equal in size).

The maple leaves are an obvious relevance, as the Association is “of Canada.” On the other hand, the oak leaves and acorns are a long-held symbol of loyalty and fidelity to the monarchy. In the British traditions, this has been particularly so since Charles II was hidden in the oak tree after the Battle of Worcester in 1651. As a consequence, he chose an oak tree as the symbol for his Coronation Medal following the Restoration; ever since, the oak has had this particular symbolism of fidelity for Loyalists.

The crosses formy placed at each point where the maple and oak come together in the Badge is inspired by that form of cross that has long been used by the Association. In the centre is the cypher used by the Association. In the centre is the Cypher G III R, signifying Georgius Tertius Rex, the sovereign to whom the Loyalists gave their devotion and their service in such a preeminent manner. This cypher is similar to the one actually used by George III during his lifetime.