

ARMORIAL BEARINGS FOR THE SYDNEY SOCIETY FOR SCOTTISH HISTORY

Matthew Glozier

INTRODUCTION

Our founder, Malcolm Broun OAM QC, was a Scottish armiger¹ with a strong enthusiasm for heraldry. He had a suitable appreciation of his Scottish ancestry given his close relationship to the Chief of the Name and Arms of the Broun surname, which enhanced his pride in his use of a differenced version of the Broun arms.² Many of us retain fond memories of Malcolm's banner preceding him at formal events; or of his arms in stained glass at his home in Greenwich; or of the arms painted onto his Tole Box (the container for his Barrister's wig). Malcolm founded the Sydney Society for Scottish History in 1985, with the general aim that it should be a venue for promoting joy in the appreciation of Scottish history. Its deeper purpose was to enhance the academic study of Scotland's history and heritage, being pursued in Australia by a small but committed band of scholars. He particularly wanted to encourage young scholars. Many Scottish armigers were members of the Society and its Journal (published since 1995) has always featured a Scottish coat-of-arms on the cover; first, those of Major Ian MacLulich ED (ret'd), then Malcolm's, and now those of Dr Matthew Glozier.



Figure 1. Armorial bearings of Society members that have appeared on the cover of the Journal of the Sydney Society for Scottish History from 1995 to 2020 – MacLulich, Broun, and Glozier.

Given the joy taken by Malcolm in heraldry, it is perhaps surprising that he did not seek a grant of arms for the Sydney Society for Scottish History. The society has always maintained a small bursary used to assist travel by Scottish academics and Clan Chiefs

Presidential Address by Dr Matthew Glozier FRHistS FSA Scot, 23rd March 2023.

¹ Armiger: a person entitled to armorial bearings.

² Matriculation: re-recording arms with the addition of a small mark of difference.

to speak on its behalf during annual Scottish Week celebrations hosted by the Scottish Australian Heritage Council. These funds were never destined to pay for a grant of arms although it was largely Malcolm's generosity that financed academic travel. After Malcolm passed away in 2015, the humble level of Society funds precluded our ability to contemplate the acquisition of arms for the Society via a new grant of arms from the Lord Lyon King of Arms in Scotland.

Meanwhile, a parallel organisation did indeed acquire a Grant of Arms. That group – known as 'Scottish House' – was granted arms in 2007. No individual is named as having petitioned the Lord Lyon, Robin Orr Blair CVO WS, but the Letters Patent simply affirm the Petition of Scottish House as a corporate entity and state its aims as a group:

To promote and cultivate a spirit of friendship, communication and co-operation amongst all sections of the Scottish community; to foster and encourage interest in all matters pertaining to Scottish culture and tradition ... to collect, collate and preserve all manner of Scottish archival materials, particularly in relation to Scottish activities in Australia.³

How "Scottish House" acquired arms is explained in the following article that comes from the *Journal of the Australian Heraldry Society*. It was written by Stephen Szabo and the Rev. Denis Towner. The text is reproduced here in extended form, because it offers a rare insight into the process of designing and seeking the grant-of-arms:

At the unveiling of the Letters Patent for arms granted to The Australian Scottish Cultural and Heritage Centre Inc, (better known as "Scottish House" and hereafter referred to as such) on Robbie Burns' Birthday (25 January 1800), Mr Rob Ridding, President of Scottish House, gave a brief talk on the path to the grant.

It all began with the visit to Australia in late 2003 by Robin Orr Blair, the then Lyon King of Arms. At that time Scottish House was located in Hornsby in Sydney's far northern suburbs. During his visit, Lyon made a presentation on Scottish arms to a meeting of Scottish House members ... after that meeting, Lyon ... planted the seed in Mr Ridding's mind that a grant of arms would be a fine thing for a Scottish cultural and heritage organisation to acquire.

The Reverend Denis Towner, a long-time member of the Heraldry Society of Australia and an acquaintance of Mr Ridding's was asked to be the designer of the arms. Mr Ridding asked the Reverend Towner to present a number of designs, based on ideas put forward by Mr Ridding and other members of the executive of Scottish House. In the course of discussion and suggestions, no less than thirteen paintings were submitted by Reverend Towner utilising a variety of symbols: thistles, saltires, waratahs, open books, chains, castles and the Southern Cross.

The Scottish House Committee determined to request a design incorporating the Southern Cross and Saint Andrew's cross together with one or more books. An orle of chain was added to signify the society's role in co-ordinating activities of several Scottish/Caledonian societies. It took some time before a design that was acceptable to the committee was finalised.⁴

³ Letters Patent granting arms to Scottish House by Lord Lyon King of Arms in Scotland, Robin Orr Blair CVO WS (29 October 2007).

⁴ Stephen Michael Szabo and Rev. Denis Towner, 'Grant of Arms to Australians "Scottish House,"' *The Journal of the Australian Heraldry Society*, No. 47 (March 2008), pp. 3-9.

Several different designs were considered during the design process:



Above: A simple design, using a rare ordinary known as a rompu. It can represent a roof-line, and combined with the saltire "spells out" the name of Scottish House. The two waratahs represent NSW.



Above: Another simple but striking design which, by use of a castle, alludes in part to arms associated with Edinburgh, and also to Scottish House as an upholder of Scottish culture.



Above: A very elegant and symmetrical design but it does not say very much about the organisation it is intended to represent.



Above: All the design elements are in place, but the final form has not yet been achieved. The motto suggested here sums up the purpose of Scottish House

Figure 2. Four designs developed for the arms of "Scottish House" (arms emblazoned by Rev. Denis Towner).⁵



Figure 3. An alternative initial design, including crest and motto (in Gaelic), with a waratah to represent NSW juxtaposed with Scotland's famed floral symbol, the thistle. The division of the field per chevron also alludes subtly to the peak of a roof, and the lower part of the field is charged with a St Andrew's Cross and a book, here we have another visual allusion to Scottish House and its function (arms emblazoned by Rev. Denis Towner).⁶

⁵ Szabo and Towner, 'Grant of Arms to Australians "Scottish House,"' p. 5.

⁶ Szabo and Towner, 'Grant of Arms to Australians "Scottish House,"' p. 6.

The final form of the arms settled on by the executive of “Scottish House” and accepted by the Lord Lyon was the following:



Figure 4. The final form of the arms of Scottish House as granted by the Lord Lyon King of Arms by Letters Patent dated 29 October 2007 (note: the book bindings should appear as Or, but here appear to be in their proper colours).⁷

When the arms were granted, a special ceremony of inauguration was held to celebrate the newly-acquired armigerous status of “Scottish House”.



Figure 5. The Letters Patent granting arms to Scottish House are unveiled by Mr Laurie Ferguson MP, Federal Member for Granville. At this time, Scottish House was located on the corner of Calliope Street and Military Road, Guildford NSW 2161 (Photograph courtesy of Scottish House via Christopher Lindsay).⁸

⁷ Szabo and Towner, ‘Grant of Arms to Australians “Scottish House,”’ p. 7.

⁸ Szabo and Towner, ‘Grant of Arms to Australians “Scottish House,”’ p. 8.



Figure 6. Rob Ridding, President of Scottish House, and Mal Nicolson, Secretary of Scottish House, unfurl the banner depicting the arms of the “Association Noble”. (Photograph courtesy of Scottish House via Christopher Lindesay).⁹

The AHS article records:

The arms were unveiled to the sound of bagpipes by the local Federal Member of Parliament, Mr Laurie Ferguson, who is of Scottish descent. The Mayor of the Municipality of Holroyd, within the boundaries of which Scottish House is now situated [at Granville], was also present.¹⁰

In the interests of keeping costs to a minimum, a grant of simple arms with plain granting document was sought, without any ornamentation in the borders or dependent seals. It is, nevertheless, a symbol of which Scottish House can be proud and make extensive use of. As can be seen on the following page, it has already been made manifest in the form of a heraldic flag, to be flown above the building or at events in which members of Scottish House are participating. It also serves well on the website of Scottish House (www.scottishhouse.org.au) as the unifying banner that appears on all the pages belonging to the site. It is of a suitable size that all elements are clearly identifiable, unlike the arms used on many websites that are so small that they are unrecognisable.

There are many other ways in which the arms of Scottish House can be used in a suitable and dignified fashion, and this will no doubt develop over time and at need. In the meantime, the committee and members of Scottish House can take great pride having been granted “Ensigns Armorial” by one of Scotland’s pre-eminent cultural institutions.¹¹

Sadly, by May 2017 Scottish House was defunct, its offices closed, and its volunteers

⁹ Szabo and Towner, ‘Grant of Arms to Australians “Scottish House,”’ p. 9.

¹⁰ Szabo and Towner, ‘Grant of Arms to Australians “Scottish House,”’ pp. 3-9.

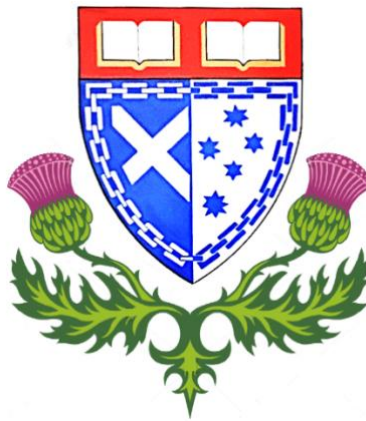
¹¹ Szabo and Towner, ‘Grant of Arms to Australians “Scottish House,”’ pp. 3-9.

dispersed. But its corporate identity lived on in the form of its armorial bearings. By that time, Carol Budlong (MacArthur) was the custodian of the beautifully illuminated Letters Patent, granting the arms to Scottish House. It still resides in her living room as an historical document.



Figure 7. Grant of Arms made to “Scottish House” by Lord Lyon King of Arms in Scotland, Robin Orr Blair (29 October 2007).

Explanation of the symbolism in the arms.



The arms contain the Scottish National Flag, a white saltire cross on a blue field. The saltire symbol sits alongside the Southern Cross constellation, representing Australia (depicted in the official colours of the Commonwealth of Australia, blue and white). These two national symbols are “impaled”, meaning the shield is split down the middle. Around the national symbols is a chain, which signifies the bonds of affinity and family across the seas. It is a feature of many Clan and Family Associations. At the top of the shield is a red “chief” with two open books. The books represent research and reading (being the chief means of interpreting and understanding our Scottish heritage). The red and gold colouring echoes the Royal Arms of Scotland with its red lion on a golden field.

The AHS article gives further detail:

The symbolism is quite easily explained. The white saltire on a blue field, known as St Andrew's Cross, is a widely recognised symbol of Scotland's patron saint, and by extension symbolises Scotland itself. It is Scotland's national flag. The blue Southern Cross on a white field is taken from the Australian flag (in reversed form), and so represents Australia. These two symbols placed side-by-side represent the old country and the new being on the same level.

The two books in the chief are there to represent the research into the culture and heritage of Scotland and of Australians of Scottish descent carried out by members of the centre, and the fact that the books are open symbolises the place of Scottish House as a repository and disseminator of information to all with an interest in such matters.

An orle of chain is a common charge used by the Lyon Court to symbolise an organisation established to promote a particular aspect of Scottish culture. It appears, for example, in the arms of the International Federation of Clan Campbell Societies, while linked rings feature in the arms of the Clan Murray Society, among others. For Scottish House, the links in the chain represent individual societies joined together to celebrate Scottish culture.¹²

The current Lord Lyon King of Arms in Scotland, Dr Joe Morrow CBE, visited Australia in 2019. During the course of his visit he mentioned to Carol the possibility that the arms could be transferred to another group. When Carol mentioned this to me, in passing in late 2019. I was intrigued and so I began thinking about whether it would be appropriate for the Sydney Society for Scottish History to take on these arms. They were attractive in appearance, and their symbolism appeared to contain an appropriate statement of our purpose and function. Furthermore, I felt Malcolm would have enthusiastically supported the idea of the Society becoming armigerous. With this in mind, I consulted the SSSH executive (and Wendy Broun, Malcolm's widow), who all agreed with my initiative. I then asked Carol MacArthur if she would contemplate such a transfer. She very kindly supported the idea, and offered to contact Dr Morrow to discover if it was possible and, if so, how it might be affected. Dr Morrow confirmed the feasibility of such a transfer, and he even suggested its appropriateness in this case. In late March 2020, Dr Morrow explained:

The matter of the reallocation of the Arms in hand is not a complex one. The process involves a submission to the Lord Lyon to record the same arms in the name of the Sydney Society for Scottish History and a resignation of the arms into the hands of the Lord Lyon for the purposes of this reallocation. To do this formally would require a repainting of the arms in the register under the name of the new society ... [incurring] the repainting costs and the government fees ... Should you require a new set of Letters Patent then depending on how elaborate they wish these to be there would be the cost of the production.¹³

Dr Morrow said he would "like to see the Arms in continued use in Australia". When I pursued this matter with Dr Morrow, he asked the Lyon Clerk to provide more formal advice on how this should take place, including the costs. At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was not possible to conclude the matter "in short compass" because the offices in Edinburgh were formally closed and the staff were working from home as individuals dealing with other work which had a sense of urgency to it. One further

¹² Szabo and Towner, 'Grant of Arms to Australians "Scottish House,"' pp. 3-9.

¹³ Personal communication, J. J. Morrow to Carol Budlong, Re: Grant of Arms to Scottish House, Tuesday, 31 March 2020 5:42 PM.

observation made by Dr Morrow to Carol related to the original Letters Patent granted to Scottish House:

As for the Letters Patent which relate to Scottish House these would not need to be returned and I would be happy for them to remain in your custody and to hang in your house as described. They would become a formal historic record of the original organisation. I can think of no better custodians than you [Carol] and Ed for these and a note can be kept in the Court Books of the transfer and we are the originals are kept.¹⁴

Dr Morrow committed himself to doing his “best to facilitate what I think is a good solution in this situation relating to Scottish House”.¹⁵ The Lord Lyon also ensured the process incurred as little cost as possible. Early in May 2022, Russell Hunter, as Lyon Clerk and Keeper of the Records, prepared the interlocutor for signature by the Lord Lyon to append a docquet to the entry in the *Public Register* noting that the arms of “Scottish House” had transferred to the Sydney Society for Scottish History. Before doing so, he checked with me to ensure I was aware that this method involved only the appending of a docquet to the original entry in the *Public Register* updating the name of the grantee.¹⁶

Edinburgh, 17 May 2022; The Lord Lyon King of Arms Grants Warrant to the Lyon Clerk to append a docquet to the entry at Volume 81 Folio 57 of the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland in name of The Australian Scottish Cultural and Heritage Centre Australia Inc. trading under the name “Scottish House” having office at Scottish House Library, Calliope Street and Military Road, Guildford, New South Wales, Australia updating the name and details of the grantee to the Sydney Society for Scottish History, c/o Sydney Grammar School, 10-12 College Street, Darlinghurst, NSW 2010, Australia.

Figures 8a and 8b. Text of the Warrant authorising the docquet (above) and the text of the docquet that will be appended to the relevant entry in the *Public Register* (below).

By Warrant dated 17 May 2022 the Lord Lyon authorised the Lyon Clerk to append this docquet to the entry at Volume 81 Folio 57 of the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland in name of The Australian Scottish Cultural and Heritage Centre Australia Inc. trading under the name “Scottish House” updating the name and details of the grantee to the Sydney Society for Scottish History, c/o Sydney Grammar School, 10-12 College Street, Darlinghurst, NSW 2010, Australia.

Below is an image of the letterhead of the communication containing the receipt for payment of fees.

¹⁴ Personal communication, J. J. Morrow to Carol Budlong, RE: Grant of Arms to Scottish House, Tuesday, 31 March 2020 5:42 PM.

¹⁵ Personal communication, J. J. Morrow to Carol Budlong, RE: Grant of Arms to Scottish House, Tuesday, 31 March 2020 5:42 PM.

¹⁶ Personal communication, R. Hunter to Matthew Glozier, RE: Scottish House, Monday, 9 May 2022 8:04 PM.

Dr. Joseph J. Morrow, Q.C.
Lord Lyon King of Arms

Russell G. Hunter, Esq.
Lyon Clerk
and Keeper of the Records



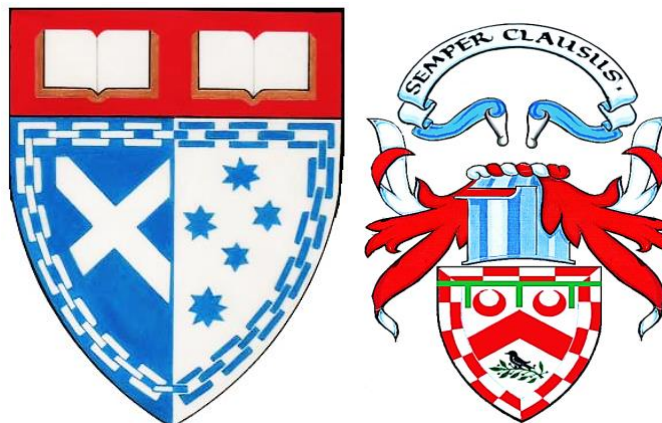
THE COURT OF THE LORD LYON
H.M. NEW REGISTER HOUSE
EDINBURGH EH1 3YT
Tel. 0131 556 7255

RECEIPT

Sydney Society for Scottish History
17 May 2022

No new vellum was created or issued. But it remained, of course, open to the SSSH to commission a library painting of the arms. The final fee was £100, which I readily paid.

I matriculated my own arms in 1997, as heir next after my father to the arms of my grandfather (who himself was the third son of my great-grandfather, to whom arms were granted in Scotland).¹⁷ When I matriculated arms, both my father and grandfather were living.¹⁸ In consequence, I used a five-point label to show I was the heir next to the arms up until 2007, when my grandfather passed away. Currently, I employ a three-point label to show I am heir to the arms that belong to my father. The label is Vert (green) based on advice received from Mrs Elizabeth Roads LVO, sometime Snawdown Herald and formerly Lyon Clerk. My son, Maximilian Matthew Glozier, now uses the five-point label to differentiate his personal arms.



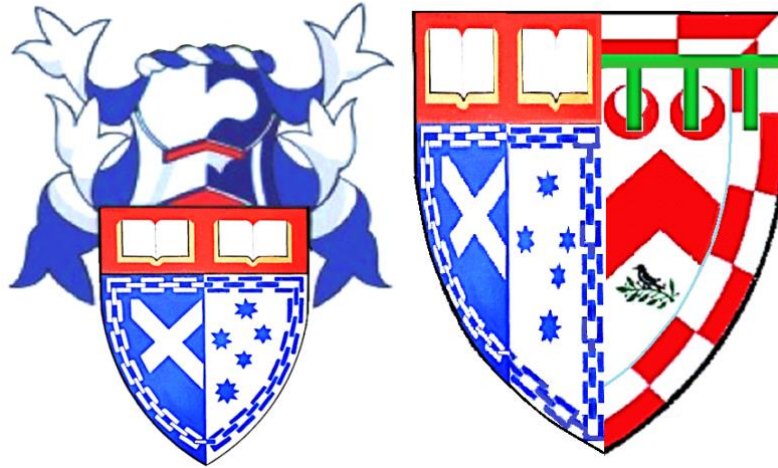
Figures 10. The new armorial bearings of the Sydney Society for Scottish History (left), alongside those of its President, Dr Matthew Glozier (right).

As President of an armigerous corporate entity, I can use the Society's arms alongside my own in a manner called "impaling". This is commonly seen in marriage arms, where the armorial bearings of each armigerous partner are shown side-by-side on the shield, with the husband's arms on the dexter (heraldically speaking, the dominant left-hand

¹⁷ Though he was Australian born and bred, he had many Scottish connections, including his cousin Albert Edward Glozier, BEM (sometime Battery Sergeant-Major, Royal Artillery), who died at his residence in Cambuslang, Lanarkshire, in 1981.

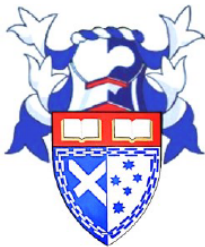
¹⁸ *Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland*, Vol. 76, Fol. 86 (15 September 1997).

side as seen by the viewer). This is also a common manner for depicting the arms of the principal member of an armigerous corporation (typically including colleges, schools, and religious bodies). In this case, the institution's arms take the dexter side.



Figures 11. (left) The armorial bearings of the Sydney Society for Scottish History topped by a “salet” helm, the type of helmet used in Scottish heraldry for armigerous corporate bodies; (right) The armorial bearings of the Sydney Society for Scottish History, impaling those of its President, Dr Matthew Glozier

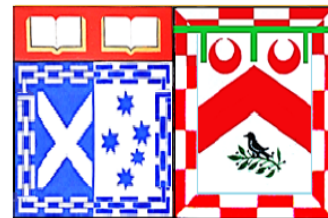
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Figures 12. Presidential letterhead, showing the arms of the Sydney Society for Scottish History alone (left), and impaled with those of its President (right).

As President of the Sydney Society for Scottish History, I created heraldic artwork showing a banner, displaying the Society's new arms. Finally, as a tribute to the Scottish cultural inspiration that created Scottish House, I created heraldic artwork displaying a pipe banner. This is a small heraldic flag that is traditionally given to the piper of an institution, regiment, or other organisation, containing the arms of its chief member. In our case, the Sydney Society for Scottish History pipe banner displays the arms of the Society impaling those of its current President.

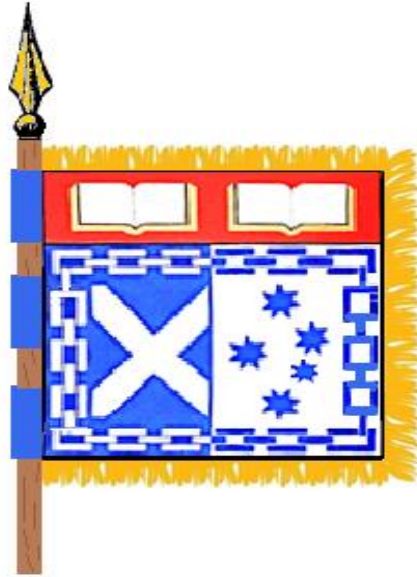


Figure 13. The armorial banner of the Sydney Society for Scottish History.

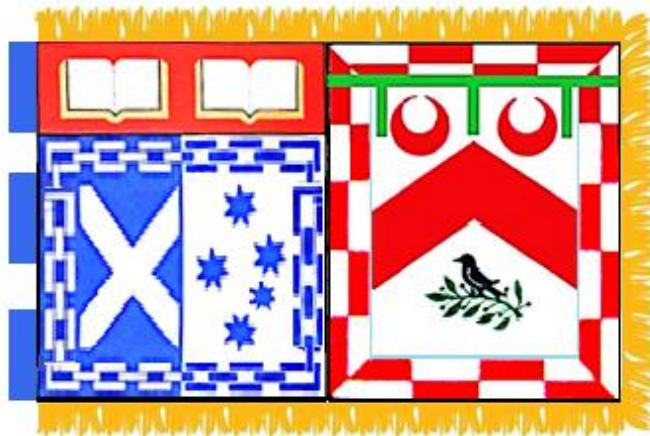


Figure 14. An heraldic pipe banner, bearing the arms of the Sydney Society for Scottish History impaling those of its President.