

WHICH CREST BADGE IS IT?

For many who are new to ancestry, specifically Clan Donnachaidh, there seems to be some confusion on which is the proper crest badge. This article will attempt to clear the confusion.

The crest badges used by members of Scottish clans are based upon armorial bearings of the chief recorded by the Lord Lyon, King of Arms. Wikipedia offers this definition: 'Scottish crest badges are heraldic badges used by members of Scottish clans to show their allegiance to a specific clan or clan chief. Even though they are commonly used by clan members, the heraldic crest and motto within the crest badge belong only to the clan chief - never a member'.

Crest badges consist of a crest and a motto/slogan within a strap. These elements are heraldic property and protected by law in Scotland. Crest badges may be worn by anyone who wishes to show unity with a particular clan and allegiance to its Chief. With that information in mind, one can understand why it is so very important that the *proper* crest badge be utilized. The **only** crest badge for Clan Donnachaidh displays a hand supporting a crown, with the words 'Virtutis Gloria Merces' (translation: Glory is the Reward of Valor) on the strap. See the correct crest badge below:



The crest within this badge is the property of Alexander Gilbert Haldane Robertson of Struan, 23rd chief of Clan Donnachaidh. Lord Lyon, King of Arms, describes Struan as *Chief of the name and head of Clan Robertson otherwise entitled Clan Donnachaidh*. Clan Donnachaidh literally translates as the **Children of Duncan (Donnchadh)**. Quite often, when searching for merchandise displaying the 'Clan Donnachaidh' crest, we are presented with items bearing crests displaying a ship, particularly when searching for items with the surname Duncan. While these crests with a ship are official crests for particular Duncan individuals, Lord Lyon, King of Arms, does not recognise a Clan Duncan, nor a chief for Clan Duncan. Thus **crest badges bearing a ship ARE NOT the proper badge to be utilized to show allegiance to Clan Donnachaidh**. A sample of these crests are below:



Crest Badge of:
Admiral Robert Duncan
Baron of Lundie, Earl of Camperdown



Crest Badge of:
Alexander Duncan of Parkhill



Crest Badge of:
John A. Duncan, Sketraw

Several retail merchants and merchant websites, both in the U.K. and U.S., **DO NOT** have the correct crest badge on their merchandise. A few of these websites also offer 'search' information that is incorrect when pertaining to Clan Donnachaidh, especially with the surname Duncan. For example, when on these websites there is the option to search your surname. When 'Duncan' is searched you are directed to a 'Clan Duncan Society, Scotland' and merchandise items with the ship crest are presented.

Efforts are in the making to request that vendors correct their information output as well as their merchandise products. In the meantime, we can all be mindful of what we purchase, display and wear so that respect is given where due.

Please see a complete explanation on heraldry on the website of the Clan Donnachaidh Society:
<http://www.donnachaidh.com/heraldry.html>

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Approved by the Council of the Clan Donnachaidh Society, 23 April 2016