



*Here is the bird that never flew
Here is the tree that never grew
Here is the bell that never rang
Here is the fish that never swam*



*The Armorial Insignia
of the City of Glasgow*

up to nearly the end of

the 19th Century, the City of Glasgow had no official armorial bearings. At that time, there were at least three official seals in use and patent was granted by the Lord Lyon in 1866.

The emblems had been used in various forms and can be traced back to the seals of the Bishop of Glasgow.

The fish was the first to appear, on the seal of Bishop William Wyschard in 1270, to be joined by the bird in 1271, on the seal of Bishop Robert Wyschard.

On a later seal of the prelate the tree, or at least a branch, is shown along with the fish and the bird. The bell first appears in 1321 on the privy seal of the Chapter of Glasgow.

The first seal on which all the emblems are represented together is that of the Chapter of Glasgow used from 1488 to 1540, but it is not until 1647 that they appeared in something like their present combination on a seal 'made by directione of the toune'. There were many subsequent variations, the latest being in April 1996, when the present Lord Lyon granted a patent to the City following Local Government reorganisation.

the tree

is now an oak but it started in the legend as a hazel branch. As a boy in the monastery, Mungo was left in charge of the holy fire in the refectory. He fell asleep and some of the other boys, being envious of him, put out the fire. When he woke and found what had happened, Mungo broke off some frozen branches from a hazel tree and caused them to burst into flames by praying over them..

the bell

may have been given to Saint Mungo by the Pope but there is no definite information as to how he obtained it. At any rate, in the 15th Century, Saint Mungo's Bell had become a notable institution in Glasgow. In 1450, John Stewart, the first Provost of Glasgow left, as did many others, an endowment to have the bell tolled throughout the city to call inhabitants to pray for his soul. The City Treasurers' accounts for 1578 show an entry of two shillings "for one tong to Sanct Mungowis Bell" but the ultimate fate of the bell is unknown. A replacement was purchased by the magistrates in 1641 and this bell still exists in the People's Palace.

the bird

commemorates the wild robin which Saint Serf, Saint Mungo's old master, tamed. It was accidentally killed by some of his disciples who blamed Saint Mungo. He took the dead bird in his hands and prayed over it, whereupon it was restored to life and flew chirping to its master.



TO ALL AND SUNDRY WHOM THESE PRESENTS DO OR MAY CONCERN,



WE, Sir Malcolm Rogivald Innes of Edingight, Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order, Writer to Her Majesty's Signet, Lord Lyon King of Arms, send Greeting: WHEREAS CITY OF GLASGOW COUNCIL City Chambers, Glasgow, having by Petition unto us of date 20 September 1995 *SHOW*: THAT in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1994 City of Glasgow Council was established and will from 1 April 1996 take responsibility for the functions administered by the City of Glasgow District Council; THAT certain Ensigns Armorial were recorded in the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland (Volume 59, folio 5) of date 6 February 1975 in name of the City of Glasgow District Council; AND the Petitioners having prayed that the aforesaid Ensigns Armorial might be confirmed unto them as from 1 April 1996 *KNOW YE THEREFORE* that we have Devised, and Do by These Presents Assign, Ratify and Confirm unto City of Glasgow Council the following Ensigns Armorial, as depicted upon the margin hereof and matriculated of even date with These Presents upon the 40th page of the 79th Volume of our Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland, *videlicet* :- Argent, on a mount in base Vert an oak tree Proper; the stem at the base thereof surmounted by a salmon on its back also Proper; with a signet ring in its mouth Or; on the top of the tree a red breast, and in the sinister fess point an ancient hand bell, both also Proper; Above the Shield is placed a coronet suitable to a statutory Council of a City (*videlicet* :- a mural coronet Or masoned Sable), and on a Wreath of the Liveries is set for Crest the half-length figure of Saint Kentigern, a frontee vested and mitred, his right hand raised in the act of benediction, and having in his left hand a crozier, all Proper; on a Compartment below the Shield are placed for Supporters two salmon Proper, each holding in its mouth a signet ring Or; and in an Escrol entwined with the Compartment this Motto "LET GLASGOW FLOURISH"; which Ensigns Armorial are to be borne by the said Authority as from 1 April 1996; by demonstration of which Ensigns Armorial the said Council is amongst all Nobles and in all Places of Honour, to be taken, numbered, accounted and received as an Incorporation Noble in the Noblesse of Scotland *IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF* we have Subscribed These Presents and the Seal of Our Office is affixed hereto at Edinburgh this 25th day of March in the 45th Year of the Reign of Our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and of Her Other Realms and Territories, Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith, and in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety Six.



Malcolm Innes of Edingight
Lyon

The Coat of Arms must not be reproduced without the permission of the Lord Lyon's office.

the fish

with a ring in its mouth is a salmon and the ring was a present from Hydderch Hael, King of Cadzow, to his Queen Languoreth.

The Queen gave the ring to a Knight and the King, suspecting an intrigue, took it from him while he slept during a hunting party and threw it into the River Clyde. On returning home, the King demanded the ring and threatened Languoreth with death if she could not produce it. The Queen appealed to the Knight who, of course, could not help and then confessed to Saint Mungo who sent one of his monks to fish in the river, instructing him to bring back the first fish caught. This was done and Saint Mungo extracted the ring from his mouth. The scene is represented on the counter seal of Bishop Robert Wyschard, made about 1271.





The city motto 'Let Glasgow Flourish' is a curtailment of the text inscribed on the bell of the Tron Church cast in 1631.

*Lord let Glasgow flourish
through the preaching
of thy word and
praising thy name.*



there are many versions
of the life of Saint Kentigern, but the following is generally accepted. Born in the early 6th century at Culross in Fife, he was the illegitimate son of Urien, Prince of Cumbria and Thenew (later known as Enoch), daughter of the King of Lothian. He trained as a priest at the monastery of Saint Serf at Culross where he was renamed Mungo, meaning dear friend, by Saint Serf. Mungo finished his training around 550AD and visited the home of a dying holy man named Fergus, who died on the night that Mungo arrived. Mungo placed his body on a cart yoked to two wild bulls, commanding them to convey it to the place ordained by the Lord. The bulls stopped at a place then known as Cathures where Fergus was buried. Mungo named the spot Glasgui which translates as 'dear green place' and established a church on the site which is now occupied by Glasgow Cathedral. Mungo died in 603AD, having lived an austere and holy life. He was canonised and became the Patron Saint of Glasgow with a feast day on the 13th of January.

www.glasgow.gov.uk

The Glasgow Mark must not be reproduced without the permission of Glasgow City Council.

