

THE STORY OF OUR ASAC EMBLEM

by Herschel C. Logan, Past President



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the President



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During the El Paso meeting several members made inquiry as to the origin of the emblem and lapel pin used by the Society. Here then is the story of how it came into being.

Subsequent to the organizational meeting of the Society it was suggested that anyone desiring to submit a design for an emblem, to be used on stationery and membership cards, to bring their sketches to the next meeting.

The minutes of that meeting, May 15-16, 1954, of the American Society of Arms Collectors at St. Louis, Mo., contains this paragraph.

“President Knode appointed a committee of Frank Horner, John Moran and George Missbach to go over the designs submitted for stationery and membership cards, and report later in the day.”

Later

“The committee made its recommendation on stationery and membership cards. President Knode will look after the details of having some made up.”

The design selected by the committee was one submitted by me as I am a commercial artist as well as a longtime collector of antique arms. As is often the case in designing an emblem it is a process of evolution. . . and our emblem was no exception. Fig. 1 shows the first rough draft. Fig. 2 came next, and was the one selected as a basis by the committee. It is shown in Fig. 3 as it appeared incorporated into the actual letter-head drawing, which was also presented at that time.

One very important suggestion was made by the committee and President Harry Knode. Since the Society's name was the “American Society of Arms Collectors” it was felt that the gun used should be some fine old American arm. . . rather than an early European piece. And. . . what would be more appropriate than a Harpers Ferry flintlock pistol. . . one of the most beautifully designed of early American martial. Fig. 4 shows the final design that was adopted as the official emblem of the Society. . . and the one used in all our printed material over the years since.

When it was suggested that the members would like some sort of distinctive lapel pin member William O. Sweet kindly offered to adapt the emblem to such a pin. With his ability and skill the American Society of Arms Collectors has one of the most unique pins in the arms fraternity. It is one which each member of the Society can, and does, wear with pride.

As to the meaning of the emblem itself. . . one could, of course, go into a long discourse as to the shape of the shield and its significance . . . most of which wouldn't mean a thing. Because our emblem was designed with an eye for utility, simplicity and beauty rather than following some foreign heraldic shield, that would have no American meaning.

This then, in brief, is the story of how our emblem came into being.

Editor's Note.

I believe it was at the same time, possibly later that a request was made for a design for our “BULLETIN” cover and again Herschel's design was adopted. I know that Herschel would want credit be given to another that submitted, two designs, Mr. John Stapleton of Fayette, Mo. John's designs were very good and showed a lot of thought and work. But as Herschel's work tied in with the design of the pin we again went along with Herschel's ideas. Besides the design as now used Herschel submitted the other design shown.



Bulletin