

THE MEMBERSHIP PLAQUE

A description of its symbols and its historical parts

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This plaque has been in process of development for several years. The difficulties have been in the historical research in different sections of the country, and then finding an artist that could weave appropriate selections into a design that would be suitable.

Researches have been conducted at the Library of Congress at Washington, the Garcia old Spanish library at Austin, and thru consultations with ~~many~~ artists, architects and historians. Researches also have led into the history and developments of flags from remote times, and into descriptions of ancient heraldry, and of coats of arms, and into the spirit and character of knighthood of the old Spanish period. The Spanish art and romance reached supreme pinnacles in the period of the Empire.

The banner of red and gold reflected the fine art of that period. The Moorish period that antedated the Spain of Ferdinand and Isabella is noted for the refinements of its art and architecture. The old missions in America, even though built far out in a wild and savage country, are expressive of those refined feelings. Great stone structures at San Antonio, Texas, Tucson, Arizona, and along the California coast, remain to amaze present-day travelers. Some have said the red and gold symbolizes the blood that was shed in the search for the gold they craved--all the races of the American conquest have much to answer for in this respect.

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The design is according to the old Spanish art of the discovery period.

The ROYAL BANNER was the flag of Spain, symbolizing the kingdoms of castles and lions (Castile and Leon) of Isabella. Ferdinand was of Aragon.

The WHITE BANNER was the flag presented to Columbus by Queen Isabella. The P and Y symbolize Ferdinand and Isabella. The green cross symbolizes Christianity; green is the color of hope. White symbolizes the purity of their purposes. Columbus planted first the Royal Banner, then the White Banner.

This ROYAL BANNER was the flag of the American Conquests as those remarkable men carried on their discoveries and the occupation of the country.

The NAMES AROUND THE BORDER are of outstanding discoverers and conquistadores of the period.

The SCROLL WORK is copied from old designs.

The HELMET AND FEATHERS symbolize the knighthood of the period. The feathers indicate a knight or noble.

The SHIELD is a historic shaft for the period.

The BAND OF THE SHIELD.— The SHIELD symbolizes adventures beyond the sea. It was also used by the padres in their religious rites and is found incorporated into the mission architecture. The CROSS like an X symbolizes crusades or crusaders. The ERMINE symbolizes the purity and distinction of knightly purposes. The SUN SYMBOL of the New Mexican Indians symbolizes faith and worship of original Americans of the Spanish Southwest.