
Article

Heraldry in the Republic of Macedonia (1991-2019)

Jovan Jonovski^{1, *}

¹ Macedonian Heraldic Society; jonovski@gmail.com

* Correspondence: jonovski@gmail.com; Tel.: +38970252989

Abstract: Every country has some specific heraldry. In this paper, we will consider heraldry in the Republic of Macedonia, understood by the multitude of coats of arms, and armorial knowledge and art. The paper covers the period from independence until the name change (1991-2019). It covers the state coat of arms of the Republic of Macedonia especially the 2009 change. Special attention is given to the development of the municipal heraldry, including the legal system covering the subject. Also personal heraldry developed in 21 century is considered. The paper covers the development of heraldry and the heraldic thought in the given period, including the role of the Macedonian Heraldic Society and its journal Macedonian Herald in development of theoretic and practical heraldry, as well as its Register of arms and the Macedonian Civic Heraldic System.

Keywords: Heraldry in Macedonia; Macedonian civic heraldry; Republic of Macedonia.

1. Introduction

The Republic of Macedonia became independent from the Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia with the Referendum of 8 September 1991. The Democratic Federal Macedonia was formed during the first session of the Anti-Fascist Assembly for the National Liberation of Macedonia (ASNOM) on 2 August 1944 (it later became the People's Republic of Macedonia, a federal unit of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia). In 1963, the name was changed to Socialist Republic of Macedonia and during the struggle for independence in 1991, dropping "Socialist" from its name. In February of 2019, with the Prespa agreement, in highly controversial process the name was changed in the Republic of North Macedonia. This paper discuss processes prior to name change, therefore the historically correct name is used.

The situation with heraldry in Macedonia before 1991 is described by Jonovski (Jonovski 2021). In this paper we will consider the heraldry in the Republic of Macedonia, understood as the multitude of coat of arms, and the armorial knowledge and art. (Neubecker 1997, 10).

2. State Arms

The Independence of the Republic of Macedonia, with the Referendum of 8 September 1991 happened with the old symbols. "The Coat of Arms of the People's Republic of Macedonia" was adopted on 26 July 1946 (Народното 1946). The purely landscape Socialist style composition, with the sun rising behind the central element, a mountain was created by artist Vasilije Popović-Cico (Jonovski 2020, 30). The following year, the arms was slightly redesigned (Figure 1).

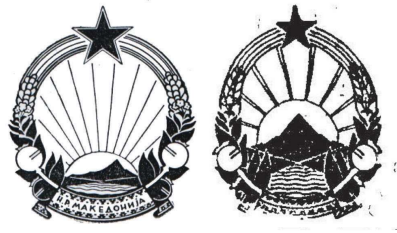


Figure 1. The coat of arms of Peoples Republic of Macedonia 1946 (left) and 1947-2009 (right).

The Constitution of the Republic of Macedonia, dated 17 November 1991, did not determine the state symbols, but provided those to be determined by law adopted by a two-thirds majority vote. According the Constitutional Law, this should have happened within six months. A Public competition was held for the coat of arms, flag and anthem. The anthem remained the same, but the Constitutional Commission was not content with arms and flag proposals. The Commission asked the three “winning” designers to submit further proposals with new golden sun on a red field for the arms and for the flag. The proposal submitted by codname “Feniks 1992” (Kostadin Tanchev Dinkata) was accepted and included in the Commission’s official Draft Law on the Coat of Arms submitted by the MPs Tito Petkovski, Zoran Krstevski, and Kiro Popovski on 20 June 1992, as well as a proposal for a flag with the same sun (Figure 2). The draft proposal states:

“The coat of arms of the Republic of Macedonia is a shield with a red field enclosed with a yellow (golden) edge. In the middle of the shield is a yellow (golden) sun. The sun has 16 primary rays that break into 32 rays, 16 of which are at the top of the primary rays, and the other 16 are in the middle between primary rays. Under the shield is a ribbon on which is written “Република Македонија” (Republika Makedonija)” (Група 1992a) 2018).



Figure 2. Official proposal of the Constitutional Commission (June 1992).

However in the following month after the 16-rayed sun of the flag was chosen, an agreement was reached for the design of a coat of arms with the same sun (Figure 3). Proposal of Todor Petrov, on 30 July 1992:

“The coat of arms of the Republic of Macedonia is a quadrilateral shield with a red field enclosed with a golden-yellow edge. In the middle of the shield is a golden-yellow sun with eight primary and eight secondary rays, slightly thickened in the first half, intermittently and symmetrically arranged around the solar disk. The basic solar rays are directly detached from the solar disk, and the final outer length of all sixteen sun rays coincides with the outer periphery of the sun.

The diameter of the solar disk is one-sixth of the length of the shield. The ratio of the diameter of the solar disk to the length of the basic solar rays is one to two, and the ratio of the length of the secondary and basic sun rays is seven to eight. Under the shield is a red ribbon with a golden-yellow edge on which “Makedonija” is written with golden-yellow letters”. (Група 1992b)



Figure 3. Todor Petrov proposal accepted by the Commission (July 1992).

However agreement for the Arms was not reached and the old Socialist arms continued to be used. For details of the entire process including all the proposals see Jonovski (Jonovski 2018)

The dispute with Greece over the use of 16-rayed sun flag led to an embargo. The conflict over the Macedonian flag, ended with the signing of the Interim Accord in New York on 13 September 1995, according which, the flag should be changed. The design of the new flag of the Republic of Macedonia was entrusted to Miroslav Grčev (Grčev 2011). During the process of designing the new flag, matching designs for the coats of arms were prepared for every proposal for the flag. But the Parliament did not pursue the matching proposal for the coat of arms (Fig. 4).



Figure 4. One of Miroslav Grčev proposal for the coat of arms (1995).

Other proposals then followed: (1) adopting a historical arms of Macedonia from Illiryan armorials; (2) “heraldization” of the existing state emblem, putting the same elements from the oval shield to a heraldic one; (3) keeping the existing state emblem, but without the five-pointed red star. (Jonovski 2021).

Finally, the last proposal was accepted and on 16 November 2009, the new Law on the Coat of Arms of the Republic of Macedonia was adopted, with the old-new design of the state coat of arms (Fig. 5). The Article 2 of the Law on the Coat of Arms of the Republic of Macedonia described it (Службен 2009):

“(1) The coat of arms of the Republic of Macedonia is a field surrounded by stalks of wheat that connect at the top, intertwined with poppy fruits and tobacco leaves, which are connected at the bottom with a ribbon embroidered with folk motifs.

(2) In the middle of the field is a mountain, and in the foothills a river flows, and the sun rises behind the mountain.”



Figure 5. Coat of arms of the Republic of Macedonia adopted 2009 after removal of red star.

The last proposal is from 2014 by Jovan Jonovski, the herald of the Macedonian heraldry Society (MHS). In December 2014, the Government accepted the proposed coat of arms: *Or, a lion Gules, and above the shield a mural crown Or*, based on 1581 work of Jerome de Bara, with minor changes (Fig. 6). A mural crown with five towers on a gold diadem with rubies and pearl from Macedonia was added above the shield, in accordance with the Macedonian Civic Heraldic System. Due to beginning of a political crisis, the adoption of the coat of arms was no longer a priority (Jonovski 2021).



Figure 6. The 2014 proposal.

3. Territorial arms

Apart from the Capital, Skopje that got its coat of arms in 1930s, many of the 32 municipalities in the Socialist Republic of Macedonia's arms were adopted during the 60s and 70s. The influence of "socialist heraldry" was strong, with the landscape as the most prevalent concept, with specific real elements of industrial and farming objects approaching photographic presentation. There was no regulation at all (Jonovski 2019).

With the Law on territorial division of 1996, Republic of Macedonia was divided into 123 municipalities plus the city of Skopje (Службен 1996). The Law allowed municipalities to adopt arms and a flag, only prescribing that they differ from those of the Republic of Macedonia, other municipalities in the country and in other countries, and international organizations. The registering office was the Ministry of Self-government. (Службен 1995).

In 2004 the number of municipalities was reduced to 84, and in 2013 the number of municipalities became the current 80 plus the city of Skopje (holding a special status which includes 10 municipalities). Municipalities in the Republic of Macedonia are categorized according to the status of the settlement where the seat of the municipality is located. Thus, there are urban municipalities with a seat in a city (over 3,000 inhabitants) and rural municipalities in a village. The Law regulates the registration process of coats of arms, but there are no penalties prescribed for violating the law (Службен 2004).

The Ministry of Local Self-Government maintains a Register of coats of arms and flags of the units of self-government in the Republic of Macedonia. This regulation put the Republic of Macedonia in the category of countries with some form of "heraldic" authority (Antonov 2007).

The two laws and the practice could be given in three main points:

1. Every Municipality has the right to have its own Coat of Arms and flag. The term Coat of Arms is not regarded in its actual heraldic meaning, but is used generally, to mean a symbol. And some of the municipal symbols could not be classified as a Coat of Arms even under the broadest definition of Arms.

2. Municipalities have right to decide on the process on obtaining Arms and flag and it should be stated in the Municipality's Statute. - The majority of municipal statutes stipulate that arms be chosen through a public competition. Nearly all such competitions require that "The arms should contain elements that represent the historical tradition,

cultural heritage, landscape features, geographic, economic, and other characteristics of the municipality” (Одлука за начинот 2005).

The Municipality then constitutes a commission, usually with no heraldic background, to oversee the competition and to propose the “winning” proposal to the Municipal Council.

3. The Register of the Coat of Arms and Flags of the Units of Local Self-Government which is kept at the Ministry of Local Self - Government, The process of registration is done by an appointed clerk who only checks administrative procedure that the paperwork for Registration is complete; The Municipality Statute has an Article regulating the obtaining of Arms and flag, and the process was as prescribed by it and If there is a text in the Arms or flag, that it is first written in Macedonian language and in Cyrillic alphabet and then in the language of the minorities.

Then, opinion is obtained from the State Office of Industrial Property that it is not similar to other registered Arms and Flags in the 6ter of WIPO. And once the paperwork is done, the Arms enter the Register as proposed. And the document is issued that the Arms and flags could be used. Since the Law does not prescribe any punitive measures, many Municipalities choose simply not to register their Arms and Flags at all.

Territorial heraldry in Macedonia appeared in practice during the socialist period, when “socialist heraldry”—using elements that are more ideological than geographic—had a strong influence. The most common elements were factories, factory chimneys, and cogwheels (symbols of the working class), fields or stalks of wheat (symbols of agriculture), and the sunrise (a symbol of a brighter future).

Most of the current arms depict landscapes and stray far from classical heraldry. In a 2015 study (cf. Јоновски, 2015, 189–222), municipal coats of arms in Macedonia were classified into four categories according to their heraldic potential:

1. **Heraldic**—coats of arms, according to the Macedonian Civic Heraldic System of the Macedonian Heraldry Society, considered heraldic or could become so with only minor changes (15 arms or 18%) (Fig. 7);



Figure 7. Sample of heraldic arms: Centar, Arachinovo, Gjorche Petrov and Bitola.

2. **Potentially heraldic**—coats of arms with heraldic elements that need to be provided with a heraldic blazon, and removal of texts (nine arms or 11%) (Fig. 8);



Figure 8. Sample of potentially heraldic arms: Negotino, Gostivar, Bogdanci, Shtip.

3. **Arms with some heraldic potential**—arms that could be emblazoned heraldically following the removal of non-heraldic items such as text and text scrolls

bearing the name of the municipality (six arms or 7%) (Fig. 9); and



Figure 9. Sample of arms with some heraldic potential:

4. Those impossible to consider heraldic (52 arms or 65%) (Fig. 10).



Figure 10. Sample of emblems impossible to consider heraldic:

Municipal coat of arms often is shown on monochrome or multi-colored flags. Most flags of local self-government units in the Republic of Macedonia were chosen through public competitions, which often required that the flag use the arms (Одлука за начинот 2005), and most have proportions of 1:2, also often a requirement.

The full coat of arms appears on 53 flags (68%), of which 26 have a monochrome field in the colors of white (10), red (8), blue (6), and yellow (2) (the flag of the city of Skopje falls into this category); 20 flags have bicolor fields in red-yellow (7), blue-white (6), red-blue (2), red-black (2), red-white (2), and green-yellow (1); and 7 flags have three or more colors (Јоновиќи 2015, 270).

Some flags will have only some elements of the arms (13 flags), while 12 flags do not use the arms or any elements at all. Flags with three colors use yellow, black, and red (4), yellow, red, and green (2), and other combinations (one each).

The sun, a symbol of the “brighter future” in the socialist period, dominates the coats of arms of the municipalities, and therefore the flags. Other flags contain sun rays. Landscapes appear on 31; 19 are quasi-heraldic and 11 appear in logos. But the most frequent charge is the sun, appearing on 33 of the arms and 35 of the flags, for a combined total of 37 arms or flags with the sun.

In heraldry the sun is normally represented in only one way, the “sun in splendor”. It is commonly represented by a disk from which alternating straight and wavy rays emanate (the disk may have the features of a human face). The number of rays, which always emerge directly from the disk, can vary (Brooke-Little 1996, 198).

Various types of suns similar to those that appear on flags appear in current Macedonian municipal arms and therefore should be considered vexillological representations of the sun. However, Macedonian municipal heraldry and vexillography use six main types of sun:

1. Solar disk

This type of sun appears on the coats of arms of four municipalities: Zhelino (Fig. 11), where the sun, part of the landscape, is white over a blue horizon; Studenichani, where a yellow sun rises from behind a mountain on a blue background; Tearce, with a similar rising sun; and Kumanovo, where a circle (which the municipality perceives as a sun) forms part of a complex non-heraldic composition.



Figure 11. Arms with solar disk: Zhelino.

2. Heraldic sun

As noted, the classic heraldic sun has a solar disk and (usually) alternating straight and wavy rays directly connected to the disk. The number of rays is not generally part of the blazon but subject to heraldic artistic interpretation, although the number of rays may have special importance for some armigers.

A sun of this type appears as a crest on the arms of Aerodrom (Fig. 12)—in gold with 24 wavy rays (of which 13 are visible)—but no sun of this type occurs in the shield of any municipality's arms.



Figure 12. Arms with heraldic sun: Aerodrom.

3. Sun with divergent rays

This type of sun has rays that spread radially from the sun disk; they may spread to the edges of the field (the shield) or be coupé (and thus form an emblem).

This type of sun is found in 10 arms, eight of them showing a sunrise—part of the sun is below the horizon. The suns in five arms have five or eight visible rays (Vasilevo, Karbinci (Fig. 13), Kisela Voda, Pehčevo, Sopsishte). The suns in the arms of Zrnovci and Resen have 12 and 13 visible rays respectively. The sun can be found above the horizon in the arms of Butel, Demir Kapija, and Zelnikovo, where the sun is gold on a blue sky.



Figure 13. Arms with sun with divergent rays: Karbinci.

In such suns, the rays can emerge immediately from the disk or with a gap. On these arms, half have suns with rays joined to the disk and half have rays separated from the disk. The rays can be coupé or continue out to the field. Only one coat of arms, that of Resen, has a sun with coupé rays.

4. Sun with convergent rays

The sun with convergent rays is a disk from which rays of a defined length emerge. The rays can spring directly from the disk or be separated by a gap. Rays can be simple triangles or another shape (such as a diamond). However, if the rays begin with a semi-circle, then they are considered a Kutleš-type sun.

This type of sun is found on 10 arms. On five the sun is part of a symbolic landscape showing a gold sun on a blue sky (Gevgelija, Gradsko, Debarca, Negotino, and Novaci). On another five (Bogdanci, Gjorche Petrov, Krivogaštani, Rosoman, and Strumica (Fig. 14)) the sun appears as an emblem in the field, and in two others the sun is combined with another symbol. Three suns have rays joined to the disk and four have rays separated from the disk.



Figure 14. Arms with sun with convergent rays:

5. Kutlesh-type sun

The Kutlesh-type sun, a special subtype of sun with convergent rays, that was placed on 1992 national flag, is very popular and therefore is a separate type. Although this type has been found at other archaeological sites in the country, such as on the 12 ceramic wine glasses found near Samuil's Fortress in Ohrid, on the Macedonian shields in the tomb in Bonche dating from the 4th century BC and other, (Кузман et al 2013, 676), it is named after the sun symbol on the lid of the sarcophagus of the royal tombs in Vergina (Kutlesh).

The Kutlesh-type sun is a small sun disk whose rays begin with a semicircular base and are longer than the diameter of the disk. It usually has an equal number of primary rays and shorter secondary rays (which end at the same distance as the primary rays, such that the rays' ends form a circle). Heraldically, it is actually a star, but in Macedonia, it is considered a sun with small disk. Suns of this type can have 6, 8, 12, or more rays (Јоновски, 2015, 197).

The Kutlesh-type sun appears on five arms (Vinica, Ilinden, Konche, Mogila (Fig. 15), and Rosoman). All of these show a sunrise in gold, four on a blue field and the other on red. Most of the suns have 16 rays of which fewer are visible; two suns have 26 rays



Figure 15. Arms with Kutlesh-type sun: Mogila

6. Linear or socialist sun

The sun in the arms and on the flag of the Republic of Macedonia is of this type.

Regarding the description of the municipal arms done for the study of municipal arms containing the sun, fall into five categories:

1. No official description (Statute of the Municipality or other official documents) at all—municipal officials/employees do not recall having an official description of the arms, just an image of it.
2. No mention of the sun—usually the arms are described such as: “the local landscape,” “surroundings,” “geographic specifics.”
3. The contents of the arms is merely listed—describing the arms by listing the elements: “On the Arms of the Municipality there are: field, sky, sun ...”
4. The sun is described as a sunrise—e.g., the description says: “Behind the mountain there is a sunrise.”
5. A more detailed description—the content of the “arms” is described as: “A half of the sun with 13 visible rays coming out of the sun, the rays being wavy.”

Sometimes, the official description gives the meaning of the element of the coat of arms. In municipality of Butel the description reads: “The sunrise symbolizes the appearance of the new Municipality of Butel.”

The three rays of arms of Zrnovci symbolize its three settlements: Zrnovci, Morodvis, and Vidovište. The municipality of Ilinden describes “There are 12 rays representing 12 populated places”. In the municipality of Krivogaštani, the arms “contain a sun with eleven rays with eleven stars that mark the eleven inhabited places” in the municipality.

In the Municipality of Vasilevo it is also perceived as a “symbol of the desire for light and freedom.” For Kumanovo the sun represents “warmth, hospitality set on a red background, a symbol of revolution, youth, and driving force.” In the Skopje municipality of Gjorče Petrov, the sun is “a symbol of development, perspective, happy and positive life.”

Of the 80 municipalities in the Republic of Macedonia, 37 (46%) have a sun on their arms and/or flag. On 24 (30%) the sun is on the coat of arms on the flag; 3 municipalities have the sun only on the coat of arms, and 4 have a sun only on the flag, while 5 municipalities have different suns on the arms and flag. Counting these as different suns, the total number is 42. Of these 42 suns, 22 (19 on arms and three on flags) or 52%, are depicted only as part of the landscape or as a sunrise. This comes as no surprise, as the sun in the national coat of arms is defined as “the sun rising behind the mountain,” and the anthem also sings of “the birth of new sun”—the sunrise. Another four arms (or 9%) depict a fully-risen sun, for a total of 61% showing the sun as part of the landscape.

3.1 Macedonian Civic Heraldic System

According to the law, all local self-government units (municipalities) (LSGU) in the Republic of Macedonia, can have coats of arms and flags, where term „coat of arms“ denotes the official insignia of the municipality, regardless whether it is a heraldic coat of arms, some kind of free composition or a logo. Most of the current arms depict landscapes and stray far from classical heraldry. High percentage are non-heraldic and landscape socialistic “heraldry”. Out of 83 Arms, 52 or 65% are Non-Heraldic, nor can be even made heraldic. Together with the hardly heraldic 6 or 7% makes 72% non-heraldic. The shields present in Macedonian territorial heraldry were classified in 10 types, with Spanish (16 arms) and Renaissance (15 Arms) leading (Јоновски 2015, 213-216.)

In order to harmonize the design of arms, Macedonian Heraldry Society (MHS) has adopted rules that make up a system by which arms can be create and adapted. This Macedonian Civic Heraldic System (MCHS) complies with the laws of the Republic of Macedonia prescribed by the Local Government Act and Territorial Organization of Local Self-Government. The MCHS, apart from civic heraldry also covers state heraldry: the state coat of arms and the state seal. The state coat of arms is composed by a shield and

the state mural crown. The state mural crown stands for expressing the highest status of the state. It is a symbol of the republican order and represents its territorial integrity and sovereignty (Fig. 6). The state mural crown can be used within the military – heraldic system of the Army of the Republic of Macedonia and the police and heraldic system of the Ministry of the Interior (Nacevski 2014).

The MCHS standard is of Gothic type with a large radius of the lower sides, where the curve starts at half-height of the shield. The ratio is 6x5 (Fig. 16). This shield is similar to the shield on the Arms of Mavrovo - Rostushe (Jonovski 2014).

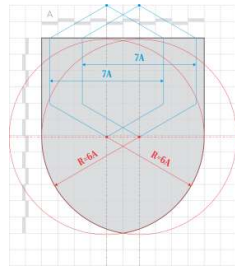


Figure 16. The MCHS standard shield.

MCHS prescribes: heraldic Coat of Arms (in three forms: small, middle and greater) flags, badges and heraldic seals. Greater arms is consist of shield, mural rank crown and a floral wreath (Fig. 17).

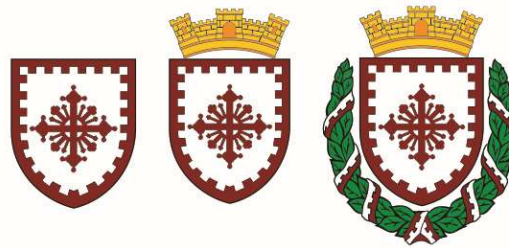


Figure 17. Small, middle and greater arms of Radovich.

Rank crowns can be divided into two groups: urban and rural, appropriately for municipalities with urban or rural seats. (Службен 2004). The urban mural crowns can be: basic, of a historic capital, of a municipality within the City of Skopje and of the capital, depending on the decoration of the diadem. There is one rural palisade crown.

The main city crown is a golden mural crown with two side towers and one central rectangular tower with a port placed on a golden diadem. No distinction is made between the crowns of municipalities of different sizes because they serve only as a means of showing status (Јоновски 2015). For the historical capital, diadem is embellished with ruby and pearls. This crown is reserved only for the municipalities of Ohrid (Fig. 18) and Prilep.



Figure 18. Coat of arms of Ohrid.

The diadem of the city municipalities of Skopje is decorated with pearls. The mural crown of the capital, city of Skopje, is a golden mural crown with four towers placed on a golden diadem embellished with ruby and pearls (Fig. 19). (Nacevski 2014).



Figure 19. The arms of Skopje, unofficial (A. Kurov, J. Jonovski)

The rural crown represents a palisade crown made up of a series of seven palisades placed on a golden diadem (Fig. 20).



Figure 20. Palisade crown of Novo Selo.

The arms of the LSGU can have heraldic wreath, motto and decorations if such are owned by the holder of the Arms. The wreath highlights the uniqueness of each municipality; the wreath of historical capitals consists of two oak twigs. Skopje city municipalities have a wreath of two linden leaf branches (Fig. 21a). Radovich has a wreath of tobacco leaves, Novo Selo a wreath of chestnut leaves, Ohrid a wreath of oak branches, Sveti Nikole a wreath of wheat class (Fig. 21b), Demir Hisar a wreath of beech and Cheshinovo – Obleshevo a wreath of rice class.



(a)



(b)

Figure 21. (a) Coat of arms of Karposh, unofficial; (b) Coat of arms of Sveti Nikole (2014-2018).

The purpose and use of each of the three forms of the Arms are prescribed by the Rulebook for the Use of Arms and the Flag (Rulebook 2013).

Heraldic badges, can be based on the Arms, but may also be independent of it. Heraldic badges in no way constitute a complete copy of the small Arms and are worn only as insignia of the staff in the administration of the municipality.

The seals of municipality use the middle form of the Arms. This is designed to highlight the official status of the seal and is in accordance with the use of the forms of Arms prescribed by the Rulebook for their use.

The acceptance of MHS as an expert body in the local heraldry was slow. In 2008, MHS delegation participated in the analysis of the three proposals for the coat of arms of the municipality of Kriva Palanka. The Commission for determining the coat of arms and the flag of the municipality chose from the received proposals at the competition. They also conducted a heraldic analysis.

Macedonian Civic Heraldic System was passed in 2013, and the new system was applied to the coat of arms of the municipality of Radovich. Then followed the coat of arms of the Municipalities of Novo Selo, Ohrid, Sveti Nikole, Cheshinovo – Obleshevo and Demir Hisar, designed by members of the MHS. The coat of arms of the municipality of Probishtip, contains the formal elements of the system, but is of different style. In 2018 Sveti Nikole has returned to the old non heraldic arms.

4 Personal heraldry

There is no known family heraldry before the end of 20th century, when there was increasing interest, and many individuals and families are acquiring arms. In the Republic of Macedonia, anyone who has enough interest and commitment can have a “burger” coat of arms. Burger coat of arms are without elements indicating status and position, such as supporters, large mantles, crowns (except crest coronet) and medals and symbols of knightly ranks. The legislation in the Republic of Macedonia regulates only the municipal coats of arms. So, coat of arms are not formally regulated.

The Macedonian Heraldic Society (MHS) maintains Register of Coats of Arms. The register exist in digital form and is published on the society website, and in Macedonian Herald. It contains personal, corporate, and municipal coat of arms, mostly designed by members of the MHS. The first coat of arms, the coat of arms of MHS, was registered on 1.10.2004, and until the current registered on 7.7.2021, the registry contains a total of 58 coats of arms: 39 personal, 8 organizational, 6 municipal coats of arms, as well as 5 of position (Figure 22).

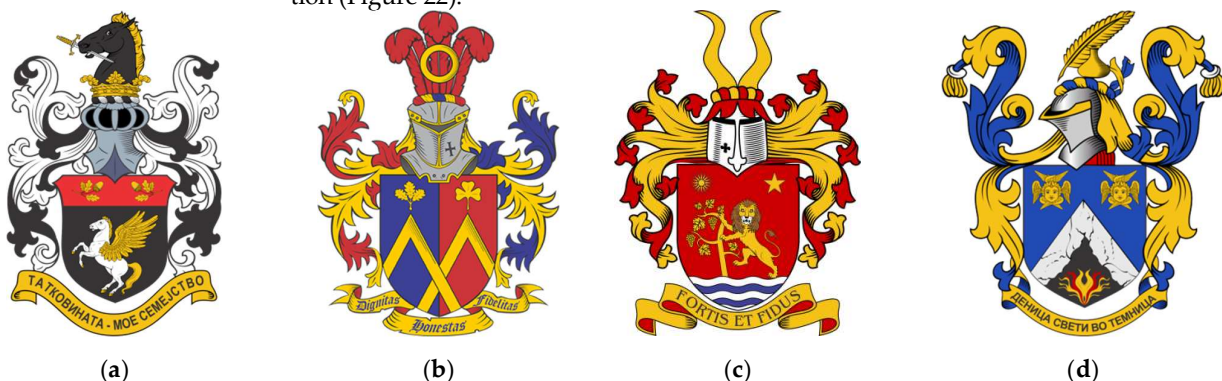


Figure 22. Samples of personal heraldry, coat of arms of (a) Ivan Nacevski; (b) Aleksandar Janchevski; (c) Bojan Kocovski, (d) Mojso Popovski.

MHS creates new coats of arms, with the heraldic rules and spirit are taken into account, as well as local specifics. The application of the lion rampant and the sun type Kutlesh, which are considered state symbols, is avoided. It is also important that the coat of arms is not pretentious, ie to indicate to the public the connection with historical families, titles, positions, etc. with which the coat of arms has no legal connection.

In Macedonian heraldry, the type of helmet does not indicate status and titles, and crowns are considered to be crest coronets, which do not indicate a title or rank. Supporters are also not used, which in many jurisdictions indicates nobility.

Procedure for registration of a coat of arms in the register of the MHS is by submitting petition and a heraldic analysis is performed on the requested blazon. In case of a positive answer from the heraldic analysis, the coat of arms is entered in the register of coats of arms of the MHS, and matricula is issued (Figure 23).

Thus, by registering the coat of arms in the register, the existence of the coat of arms is made official with a public document. This document is accepted by most other heraldic associations as an act for the existence of the given coat of arms in the Republic of Macedonia.



(a)



(b)

Figure 23. Matricula (a) Hardcover version; (b)Framed version.

Registration is performed only on heraldic coats of arms that meet the heraldic rules, including the rule of uniqueness and unpretentiousness. Only “burger” coats of arms are registered, foreign titles and rank symbols are not recognized. Only orders and medals of the Republic of Macedonia are recognized. All previously registered elements with other heraldic jurisdiction, like additional paraphernalia, as well as augmentations and signs of cadence must be documented during the registration.

The register of the Macedonian Heraldic Society has the status of a public document as proof of ownership of a given coat of arms. Matricula from MHS is not proof of the legal or any other status of the armager. If the armature abuses the blazon, in the sense of using changes and additions to the blazon that is already registered, it may lead to deletion from the register of the Macedonian Coat of Arms.

Of the 39 personal coats of arms, most of the arms, 26 or 66% are on the Gothic shield, as is the standard shield of MHS. Then there are 3 Renaissance, 2 Spanish, and one German, and one Polish. Two are marshaled coats of arms consisting of separate fields partitioned per pall and per fess.

Representation of main colors and metals: Gules-Or 10, Gules-Argent 7, Azure-Or 6, Azure-Argent 5, Sable-Or 4, Sable-Argent 4, Vert-Argent 2, and Vert-Or 1.

As the most frequently occurring figures, whether it is primary, secondary, or on the crest, is lion (8), horse (5), cross (4) and wolf (43). Ordinaries that appear are chevron (7); base (5); bend (3); chef (2); saltire (2); bordure, and fess once. That is, 19 coats of arms or 60% have ordinaries and subordinaries.

As authors of the blazon and the emblazon of the personal coat of arms in the register there are the following members: Jovan Jonovski with 25 blazons and 21 emblazon, then Ivan Nacevski with 6 blazons and 5 emblazons, Stojanche Velichkovski with 2 blazons and emblazons, Kosta Stamatovski with 1 blazons and 2 emblazons, Aleksandar Gizharovski with 1 blazons and emblazons, Petar Gajdov with one blazon, Matej Bogdanovski with 2 emblazon and Alexander Kurov with 1 emblazon. There are 5 registered arms designed by non-members.

All have motto, the most in Latin in 26 arms, 8 are in Macedonian, 2 with Glagolitic letters and one in Old Slavonic and in Polish.

Some former members are creating arms without registering them with MHS.

5. Heraldic thought in the Republic of Macedonia

The interest in heraldry in the Socialist Republic of Macedonia was active during the 60's and beginning of the 70's, then it slowed down. It resurfaced in 1990 when, with the collapse of Yugoslavia, and the question of a possible coat of arms for the future independent Macedonia (Jonovski 2020).

At the beginning of the 21st century, the Macedonian heraldic thought enters a new stage. Heraldry, treated as an auxiliary science was thought together with other auxiliary sciences in the subject of the same name in one semester at the Faculty of Philosophy - Institute of History since 1960s.

5.1 Macedonian Heraldry Society

A group of interested people with modest heraldic knowledge, but with great love for heraldry, vexillology and phaleristics gathered around web site "Heraldry in Macedonia" by Jovan Jonovski in 2000. The website initially posted information and images from the book "Coats of Arms of Macedonia" by Aleksandar Matkovski (Матковски 1990).

From this group, on 15 June 2003 Macedonian Heraldry Society (MHS) was formed, a body concentrated on the study of heraldry as well as vexillology, phaleristics and emblematics. MHS aim was to raise the heraldic awareness through the popularization of the heraldry, research of heraldic heritage in and related to Macedonia, designing coats of arms, flags, decorations and establishing a heraldic register. Jovan Jonovski was elected president and herald, Snezhana Filipova, MA as vice president, and Petar Gajdov as secretary. In 2004, the vice president, Snezhana Filipova, introduced the elective subject of heraldry in the Middle Ages program of the Institute of Art History.

The first lecture of MHS was held by guest speaker André Wocial from France, in April 2004. Next one was held at the on the International Museum Day in May 2005. at the Museum of Macedonia titled "The Wonderful World of Heraldry". At the same event, the first issue of the Macedonian Herald - the MHS gazette was promoted, in which articles were published in Macedonian and English. On the International Museum Day in May 2007, at the Museum of Macedonia a lecture was delivered and the promotion of the second issue of the Macedonian Herald.

During 2007-8, in cooperation with the Museum of Macedonia, several lectures and workshops on heraldry took place, in coordination of the MHS member Lena Angelkoska. Lectures were held by guest lecturers: Dr. Stoyan Antonov from Plovdiv (Bulgaria), Prof. Dr. Vojislav Ivanisevic from Belgrade (Serbia), Prof. Dr. Nikos Causidis from Skopje, and Prof. Dr. Ivan Balta from Osijek, (Croatia). Also lectures on heraldry started at the Faculty of Philosophy, Institute of Art History with Archeology, which were held by Dr. Snezhana Filipova, as an optional subject.

In March 2009, permanent exhibition of heraldry in Macedonia at the Museum of Macedonia was opened with a lecture and a promotion of the 3rd issue of the Macedonian Herald. The main advisor in collecting and selecting the material was the President of the MHS, Jovan Jonovski, MTh. Same year, a documentary was recorded on heraldry in Macedonia for Macedonian Television with Jonovski and Filipova.

The same year, Jonovski was appointed as a member of the Commission for decorations of the President of the Republic of Macedonia, Gjorge Ivanov. Shortly afterwards team from MHS led by Jonovski, with Stojanche Velichkovski with Petar Gajdov, engaged in designing Coat of arms of the President (Figure 24).

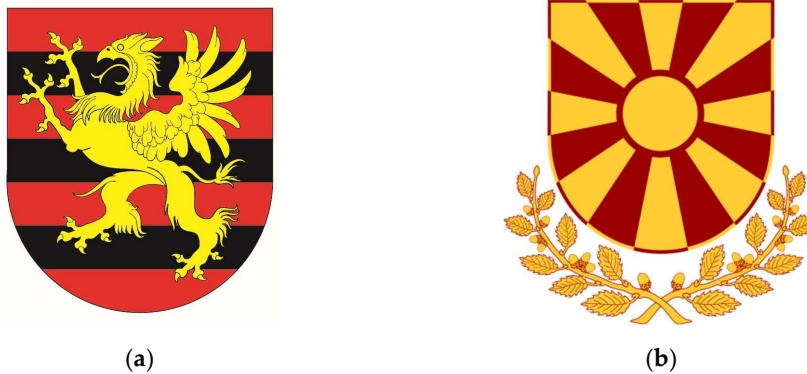


Figure 24. (a) Proposal for the arms of the President of the Republic of Macedonia; (b) Official arms of the President of the Republic of Macedonia.

Jonovski and Velichkovski worked on the coat of arms of the Macedonian Orthodox Church – Archbishopric of Ohrid (Figure 25).



Figure 25. Coat of arms of the Macedonian Orthodox Church – Archbishopric of Ohrid.

The lectures and workshops on heraldry at the Museum of Macedonia continued into 2010. Afterwards they continued in different locations.

At the XXIX International Congress of Genealogical and Heraldic Science in Stuttgart, Germany on the 14th of September 2010 MHS became a full member of CIGH, and on 2 August 2011 at the XXIV International Congress on Vexillology, in Washington, USA, MHS was accepted for full membership in the FIAV (International Federation of Vexillological Associations).

In 2014 the Government considered possible solution on the coat of arms of the Republic of Macedonia. In the process of defining the arms and its visual design, Jonovski was the main consultant, who, together with Kosta Stamatovski, drew the vector image of the arms which was based on the work of Jerome de Bara.

In 2015, the book "Symbols of Macedonia" was published, in which Jonovski deals with theoretical heraldry, vexillology, phaleristics and Hymnology. The historical development of the coats of arms, flags, orders and the anthem of Macedonia is given. That same year, Jonovski enrolled in doctoral studies at the Institute of National History with the theme "The Sun and the Lion as Symbols in Heraldry and Vexillology of Macedonia".

In 2016 Jonovski also worked on a series of 7 documentary shows on the symbols of Macedonia. Three of which he appears as an author: the Heraldry, the Land coats of arms, and the Eagle and the lion as symbols. Documentaries were broadcasted in 2017. Ivan Nacevski and Kosta Stamatovski participated in the recording of the documentaries.

On 15th of July 2018, on the 15th anniversary of its foundation Macedonian Heraldry Society ceased. During the 15 years of existence, members of the Executive Board were:

- Dr. Jovan Jonovski, President (2003-2018),
- Dr. Snezana Filipova, Vice President (2003-2007) - Professor at the Department of Art History at UKIM, Skopje.

- Mr. Kiril Trajkovski, Vice President (2007-2012) - Curator-adviser in the Museum of Macedonia.
- Petar Gajdov, Secretary (2003-2012), Vice President, (2012-2015) - Lawyer.
- Aleksandar Gizharovski, Secretary (2012-2015) - Software engineer. (Jonovski 2018b)

On the same day, Macedonia **Heraldic** Society continued the work with the Executive Board: Dr. Jovan Jonovski, President, Dr. Ivan Nacevski, Vice President, and Gen. Dr. Pavle Arsoski, Secretary.

The first issue of the Journal of the association of Macedonian Herald was published in 2005 on 16 pages multiplied on a b/w photocopier, as a bilingual journal, in Macedonian and English. The first circulation contained 100 copies, increasing many times over the years. The second issue came out in 2007 on 16 pages, but in color and in 200 copies. The third issue came out in 2009 in color on 28 pages in 500 copies. From the fourth issue, the Macedonian Herald began to be published regularly every year until the tenth issue appeared in 2016. From the issue 11 from December 2018, (40p) Macedonian Herald has International editorial board and is issued twice a year (72p).

The articles about heraldry, vexillology, phaleristics, symbolistics etc. are peer reviewed. Heraldic articles are total of 34 authored by: Jovan Jonovski with 19 articles, Ivan Nacevski with 11, followed by Stojanche Velichkovski with 3, and Aleksandar Gizharovski with 3, and 8 other authors with one article.

5.2 Macedonian Heraldry Authors in 21 century

5.2.1 Snezhana Filipova

Prof. Dr. Snezhana Filipova (1965), Institute of Art History, Vice President of the Macedonian Heraldry Society (2003-2007), started publishing articles in the same year (Filipova 2005 2007) and in 2015, 7 previously published texts related to heraldic motifs on frescoes and one with the Mijak flag were published in the book "Studies on Macedonian Heraldry". (Филипова 2015)

Snezana Filipova defines heraldry as "the study of the origin, development and application of coats of arms. It is based on a set of rules according to which figures, objects and their placement in the shield are arranged, drawn, described (blazoned)." (Филипова 2015, 7)

5.2. Boban Petrovski

Prof. Dr. Boban Petrovski (1972) Professor at the Faculty of Philosophy - Skopje - Institute of History of the subject Auxiliary Historical Sciences and at the Faculty of Pedagogy - Skopje in the subject of Heraldry. Petrovski published the book "Heraldry and Insignia" in 2009, which is the first modern heraldic textbook, intended as a course-book for a subject with same name at the European University. The book provides more modern understandings of heraldry and the coat of arms. It also presents the heraldic jurisdictions in Europe, as well as an overview of the heraldists from the neighborhood countries (Петровски 2009).

Boban Petrovski mainly adheres to Matkovski's definition: "auxiliary historical science, which deals with the study of the origin, historical development and artistic making of coats of arms in general or on individual coats of arms." (Петровски 2009, 11) Petrovski fully accepts this definition with insignificant interventions (Петровски 2009, 34).

5.3. Jovan Jonovski

Dr. Jovan Jonovski (1971), herald, President of the Macedonian Heraldry Society (2003-2018) and the Macedonian Heraldic Society (2018-), Associate Member of the International Academy of Heraldry. He is member of the International Commission of

Order of Chivalry, as well as member of Order and medals commission of the President of the Republic of Macedonia (2009-2019). Jonovski publishes 14 articles, as well as a Macedonian heraldic terminological dictionary in the Macedonian Herald, in which heraldic terminology in Macedonian is defined in 10 issues so far. For full bibliography see (Jonovski 2021b). Jonovski participates in international congresses in heraldry (Stuttgart, 2010; Cieszyn 2012, Oslo 2014, Glasgow 2016, Cieszyn 2018).

In 2015, the book "Symbols of Macedonia" by Jovan Jonovski is published. Besides the theoretical part, it also contains an analysis of the historical coats of arms related to Macedonia, as well as a basic analysis of the lion and the sun (Јоновски 2015). In 2018 Jonovski defends his doctoral dissertation entitled "The sun and the lion as symbols in the heraldry and vexillology of Macedonia" at the Institute of National History under the mentor prof. Dr. Dragica Popovska. The dissertation was published in its entirety in 2019 (Јоновски 2019).

Jonovski gives this collective definition: science, which deals with the study of: the origin, historical development and legal relations related to coats of arms belonging to individuals, families or communities; the principles and rules according to which the figures in the shield are arranged, drawn, described and their artistic representation and description on the coat of arms. (Јоновски 2019, 32)

Jonovski gives a collective definition: the coat of arms is a symbolic representation that indicates the coat of arms, ie some of his rights and aspirations, expressed by artistic means that are painted on a shield, according to heraldic rules, described with a blazon (Јоновски 2019, 20).

5.4. Ivan Nacevski

Dr. Ivan Nacevski (1985), Dentist, Vice President of the Macedonian Heraldry Society. Nacevski from 2011 starts publishing in the Macedonian Herald. It concentrates on the coats of arms of Macedonia (land and European coats of arms) (Nacevski 2015) and the attributed coats of arms of Alexander the Great (Nacevski 2016) as well as the terminological dictionary. For full bibliography (Nacevski 2021).

6 Conclusion

Heraldry in Socialist Republic of Macedonia had its modest start in 1960s and beginning of 1970s, followed by almost two decades of blackout. The interest in heraldry resurfaced in 1990 at the dissolution of Yugoslavia, and the question of the possible coat of arms of the new independent Macedonia, looking in historical coat of arms. The Republic of Macedonia got its new "old" coat of arms, with removing the five pointed red star in 2009. With the change of the Law on the municipalities in 1997, all 120 municipalities were given right to have Coat of arms. Although this was not heraldically regulated, some arms were heraldic.

At the beginning of 21 century, the heraldry in the Republic of Macedonia had its next phase in the development. Especially with creation of Macedonian Heraldry Society (2003) as a body to increase interest and research on heraldry and Macedonian heraldry heritage. In its journal *Macedonian Herald* (2005), dozen authors have publishing articles on heraldry, among the other similar sciences and disciplines. This, together with other four books on heraldry published in Macedonian in the last two decades, has surpassed the previous knowledge of heraldry by lot.

The personal heraldry developed in 21 century, mainly through the work of MHS and its Register of coats of arms. Development of the Macedonian Civic Heraldic System busted the civic heraldry by creating heraldic arms for the municipalities in the Republic of Macedonia.

References

- (Antonov 2007) Antonov, Stoyan. (2007). "Heraldry as a system of symbols", lecture, 1.11. 2007, Museum of Macedonia, Skopje.
- (Brooke-Little 1996). Brooke-Little, J.P (1996). *An Heraldic Alphabet*. London: Robinson Books.
- (Филипова 2015) Филипова Снежана (2015), *Студии за македонската хералдика* (Скопје: Македоника литера).
- (Grčev 2011) Grčev, Miroslav. 2011. "In Search of the New Flag". In *Macedonian Herald* 5. Skopje: Macedonian heraldry Society.
- (Група 1992а) Група пратеници, Предлог за донесување закон за грбот на Република Македонија со предлог на закон, 20.7.1992. ДАРМ Фонд 1304, Собрание на РМ 1991-1994, седница 41, точка 3,4,5 кутија 46.
- (Група 1992б) Група пратеници, Амандман на Предлог за донесување закон за грбот на Република Македонија, поднесен од група пратеници, Петковски, Крстевски и Поповски, 30.7.1992. ДАРМ Фонд 1304, Собрание на РМ 1991-1994, седница 41, точка 3,4,5 кутија 46.
- (Јоновски 2015), Јоновски Јован (2015), *Симболите на Македонија*, (Скопје: Силсон).
- (Jonovski 2018b) Jonovski, Jovan (2018), „History of the Macedonian Heraldry Society“, *Macedonian Herald* 11.
- (Jonovski 2018) Jonovski, Jovan. 2018. "The Coats of Arms and Other Forms of State Emblem Proposed for the Republic of Macedonia, and the Process of Their Adoption, 1992–2014" *Genealogy* 2, no. 4: 52. <https://doi.org/10.3390/genealogy2040052>
- (Jonovski 2019) Jonovski, Jovan (2019), „Territorial Heraldry in the Republic of Macedonia and Macedonian Territorial Heraldic System“, *Jurnal Heroldi* #8, The State Council of Heraldry at the Parliament of Georgia, Tbilisi. რესპუბლიკა მაკედონიის ტერიტორიული ჰერალდიკის სისტემა, გამომცემელი – საქართველოს პარლამენტთან არსებული ჰერალდიკის სახელმწიფო საბჭო, ჟურნალი ჰეროლდი #8, თბილისი საქართველო 2019.
- (Јоновски 2019а) Јоновски, Јован (2019), Сонцето и лавот како симболи во хералдиката и вексилологијата на Македонија (Скопје: Македонско грбословно друштво).
- (Јоновски 2019б) Јоновски, Јован (2019б), „Развојот на македонската хералдичка мисла“, *Историја, Здружение на историчарите на Република Македонија*, год. LIV, бр. 1
- (Jonovski 2020) Jonovski, Jovan (2020), *The Sun and the Lion as Symbols of the Republic of Macedonia: A Heraldic and Vexillological Analysis*, Flag Heritage Foundation, Danvers, 2020.
- (Jonovski 2021) Jonovski, Jovan (2021), „Heraldry in Macedonia with Special Regard to the People's/Socialist Republic of Macedonia until 1991“ *Genealogy* 5, no. 2: 43. <https://doi.org/10.3390/genealogy5020043>
- (Jonovski 2021b) "Dr. Jovan Jonovski", <https://heraldika.org.mk/en/jovan-jonovski/> Accessed on 23.8.2021
- (Кузман et al 2013), Кузман, Паско. Елизабета Димитрова, Јован Донеv. ред. (2013), *Македонија, милениумски културно историски факти*, Медиа Принт Македонија, Универзитет Скопје „Евро-Балкан“, Том 2.
- (Матковски 1990) Матковски, Александар (1990), *Грбовите на Македонија – прилог кон македонската хералдика* (Скопје: Мисла).
- (Народното 1946) „Народното собрание на Народна Република Македонија изгласа неколку закони важни за нашиот народ“ (1946), *Нова Македонија*, 28.7.1946.
- (Nacevski 2014) Nacevski, Ivan (2014) "Macedonian municipal heraldry system", *Macedonian Herald* 8,
- (Nacevski 2015) Nacevski, Ivan (2015) "The ratiot between the lion gules and the lion or in the work „The Arms of Macedonia“ by Academician Aleksndar Matkovski", *Macedonian Herald* 9,
- (Nacevski 2016) Nacevski, Ivan, (2016), "The Blazon of the Lion in the Attributed Arms of Alexander III of Macedon," *Macedonian Herald*, No. 10, 12-19.
- (Nacevski 2021) "Dr. Ivan Nacevski". <https://heraldika.org.mk/en/ivan-nacevski/> Accessed on 23.8.2021.
- (Neubecker 1997) Neubecker, Ottfried (1997), *A Guide to Heraldry* (New York: Barns & Nobles.).
- (Одлука за начинот 2005) „Одлука за начинот и постапката на утврдување на грб и знаме на Општина Карпош“, Гласник на Општина Карпош, број 6, 20.6.2005.
- (Petrov, n.d.) Interview Todor Petrov with the author, n.d.
- (Петров 1992) Петров, Тодор. 1992. *Предлог за донесување Закон за грб, знаме и химна на Република Македонија со Предлог-закон*. June 1 (ДАРМ, Фонд 1304)
- (Петровски 2009) Петровски Бобан (2009), *Хералдика и инsigни* (Скопје: де Гама).
- (Службен 1992) Службен весник на Република Македонија 19/92.
- (Службен 1995). Службен весник на Република Македонија 52/95.
- (Службен 1996). Службен весник на Република Македонија 49/96.
- (Службен 2004). Службен весник на Република Македонија 55/04.
- (Службен 2009) Службен весник на Република Македонија 138/09.
- (Стенографски 1992) Стенографски. 1992. Стенографски белешки од Првото продолжение на Четириесет и првата седница на Собранието на Република Македонија. одржана на 11 август 1992 година.
- (Војновска 2009) Војновска, Оливера. 2009. "Падна петокраката од државниот грб". *Утрински весник*, November 17.
- (Закон 1946) Закон за грбот на Народна Република Македонија (1946). 26 July 1946.
- (З. Д. 1992) З. Д. 1992. „Конечни предлози за државните симболи“. *Нова Македонија*, June 5.