

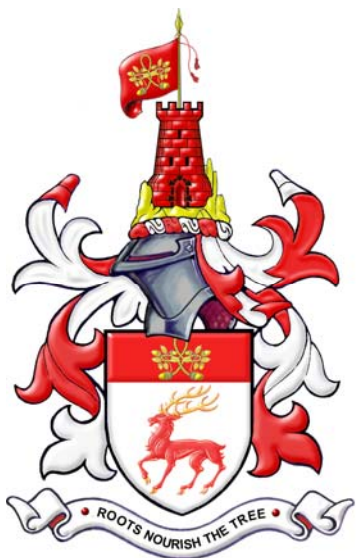
# INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION of AMATEUR HERALDS

## SYMBOLISM OF ARMORIAL BEARINGS



### Tony McCarthy, MA, FGSI

These armorial bearings were designed by George Lucki of Canada and emblazoned by Andrew Tully of South Africa based on suggestions made by Michael Merrigan, Honourary Secretary of the Genealogical Society of Ireland. The symbolism of the arms focuses on his McCarthy heritage, the armiger's avocation of genealogy, his professional work teaching history, his native City of Cork and his appointment as President of the Genealogical Society of Ireland.



**STAG:** The shield contains a red stag on a white field as its principal charge. These are the ancient MacCarthy arms and the armiger is presumed an indeterminate cadet of this many branched family. In keeping with heraldic traditions differences are introduced to distinguish these arms from those of other MacCarthy lines. In this case a Chief was used. The main colours, red and white re-appear in the wreath and mantling of the helm.

**HUNGERFORD KNOT:** The Chief contains a device that used separately serves as the badge of Mr. Tony McCarthy. A different version of the Hungerford knot is the badge of the Genealogical Society of Ireland. The armiger has succeeded to the Presidency of this association. In Heraldry the Hungerford knot is often used to tie together other devices—as Mr. Tony McCarthy is a genealogist and publisher of *Irish Roots Magazine* two sprigs of oak were chosen to represent genealogical knowledge tying together the distinct branches of a



family tree. The sprigs are fruited with acorns to represent the ever-growing and multiplying family trees. The fruited oak sprigs also present an allusion to the armiger's calling as a teacher of history to young people.

**CREST:** The arms of the City of Cork feature two single towers. The Genealogical Society of Ireland has its seat in a historic Martello Tower at Seapoint, Co. Dublin. The single tower depicted in the crest alludes to both but is depicted in a more traditional heraldic form. A tower can also represent authority and learning. The tower flies the personal badge banner of the armiger, who is thus represented at the 'pinnacle' of his professional efforts and as President of the Genealogical Society of Ireland.

Armigers may fly a personal flag or banner of the arms with the shield stretched onto a roughly square flag. Only the armiger may use his arms and banner but his followers and supporters may by tradition display his badge or badge banner. Both his badge and badge banner are contained within the design of the arms.

GEORGE FRANCIS LUCKI  
PRESIDENT

