



# Our Coat of Arms Activity Sheet

In 1831, we elected our first Assembly of Legislators, and sought to have our own identity through the creation of a Public Seal. It would take more than a century for our islands to attain self autonomy as a direct dependency of England and gain the right to bear a Coat of Arms.

Commissioner Donald's actions gave birth to our first national symbol. Major Donald came from Basutoland, known today as the Kingdom of Lesotho, a British Crown Colony in southern Africa. He served as Commissioner from 1956 – 1960.

Commissioner Donald's proposal to adopt a Coat of Arms for the Cayman Islands was approved by resolution of the Legislative Assembly of Justices and Vestry on 3 April 1957.

It is believed Commissioner Donald also chose the motto, "He Hath Founded it Upon the Seas".

Reverend Arthur Saunders, a Member of the Heraldry Society, spearheaded the development of the Arms and Crest. Saunders work entailed translating the desires of Cayman's legislators into heraldic language.

Though used as the seal of government, and for special occasions, it is the simplicity of the Coat of Arms design which has gained it most recognition.

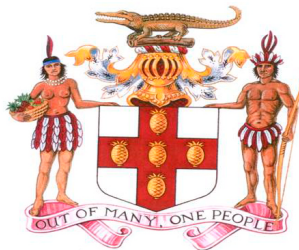
James 'Jimmy' B. Ford, an American businessman and owner of the former Yacht Club—present day site of the Wharf Restaurant on North Church Street—is credited for his assistance with the final design of the Coat of Arms.

Archival references to Jimmy are lacking though living memory accounts indicate that he was a friendly person who spent numerous hours, mainly afternoons, at the Government Offices working on his design. Jimmy could also be found in the Yacht Club's bar openly working on sketches of the design with his friends.

Originally signed by Her Majesty the Queen, the first Royal Warrant was destroyed when the old Government Admin building burnt down. This important document explains the Coat of Arms, and grants its official usage as the symbol of the Cayman Islands.



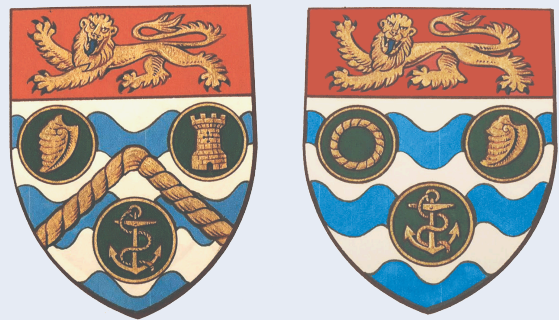
(a) United Kingdom Coat of Arms



(b) Jamaica Coat of Arms

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What year did the Cayman Islands receive its first symbol of national identity?
2. Jimmy Ford is recorded as playing what role in the development of our Coat of Arms?
3. What do all of the symbols on our Coat of Arms represent?
4. Which verse in the Bible is our Motto taken from?



*Proposed designs B & C sent with Garter's letter of 1957.*

5. Do you think that any of the elements on the proposed designs should have been adopted? Why or why not?



*Arms & Crest (design A) that was chosen.*

8. What is the Royal Warrant? What happened to the original Royal Warrant?

6. How does our current Coat of Arms make you feel?
7. List the differences between the Jamaica, U.K., and our Coat of Arms. [See images to the left]