



The *Coat of Arms* of the Lord Mayor of Dublin (overleaf) is derived from the City Arms. The figures of Law and Justice have been omitted, together with the floral emblems, and there are three important additions, the *City Sword*, the *City Mace* and the *Cap of Maintenance*, which are all closely identified with the Lord Mayor. It has been customary to carry a city sword in procession before the Mayors and Lord Mayors of Dublin ever since King Henry IV granted that right to the city by Royal Charter in 1403. The city's *Great Mace* was originally fashioned for Sir Daniel Bellingham, who became Dublin's first Lord Mayor in 1665. The *Sword* and *Mace* still play a prominent part in important civic ceremonies such as the conferring of the Honorary Freedom of the City of Dublin. The *Cap of Maintenance* was a ceremonial chapeau, or hat, which was once borne with the *Sword* and *Mace* in processions through the city. The first *Cap of Maintenance* was a gift from King Charles II to the then Mayor of Dublin in 1661.

The *Coat of Arms* of the Lord Mayor of Dublin is displayed above the entrance to the Mansion House and it may be seen above the portraits of former Lord Mayors. A modified version of the *Lord Mayor's Coat of Arms*, bearing the *Sword* and *Mace*, but without the *Cap of Maintenance*, may be seen on many of the city's lamp-posts.



The *Dublin City Flag*, which was adopted for use in 1885, presents a combination of national and civic emblems, with the harp of Ireland in gold on a green background and the *Three Castles of Dublin* quartered in white on a blue background nearest the flagpole. It is flown at City Hall and at the Mansion House to mark events of civic importance, and at half-mast on the death of a serving or former Lord Mayor or Honorary Freeman of Dublin.

The *Three Castles* have been used as a logo representing Dublin City since 1538 and have appeared in many different forms and styles over the centuries. The present logo, which is also based on the *Three Castles*, was adopted in April 2002 to mark the change of name of the civic authority from Dublin Corporation to Dublin City Council, which came into effect on 1 January 2002.

The *Coat of Arms* of the City of Dublin and of the Lord Mayor encapsulate much of the city's history and traditions, extending back nearly eight centuries. Their continued use today is a sign of respect for the past, and of hope for the future, of the great and ancient city of Dublin.

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DUBLIN CITY *Coat of Arms*



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The *Coat of Arms* of the City of Dublin was first granted officially in 1607 to the then municipal authority, Dublin Corporation, by Daniel Molyneux, Ulster King at Arms and Principal Herald of All Ireland. This 17th century coat of arms incorporates a far more ancient device, the *Three Castles of Dublin*, which has been the symbol of the city since the Middle Ages, and which is shown on the 13th century *Dublin City Seal* (above).

The *City Seal* shows the *Three Castles* as three watchtowers surrounding one of the gates in the medieval city wall. Dublin is evidently under siege; from the central watchtower two sentries sound the alarm, while on each flanking watchtower stands an archer, poised with a crossbow. The scene is symbolic of the readiness of the citizens to defend the city, and it was probably not intended to depict any actual event.

With the passage of time, the three watchtowers became three separate castles, each one bearing three battlemented towers, as shown in the *Coat of Arms* (right). The sentries and archers were replaced by flames leaping from the towers on the castles. It is often mistakenly supposed that the castles are on fire, but in fact the flames symbolise zeal; here they represent the zeal of the citizens in the defence of Dublin.



Looking in more detail at the *Coat of Arms*, we see that the *Three Castles* are borne on a shield which is supported by two female figures. To the left of the shield is a figure representing Law, holding a sword erect in one hand, and in the other, an olive branch. To the right of the shield is a figure representing Justice, likewise holding an olive branch in one hand, and in the other, a pair of scales. At their feet and beneath the shield are groups of flowers, symbolising hope and joy. The *Coat of Arms* is completed by the city's motto in Latin which reads: 'Obedientia Civium Urbis Felicitas'. This may be translated: 'Happy the city where citizens obey.'

The *Dublin City Coat of Arms* is still in use today and is displayed on all municipal buildings. It is on street furniture such as lamp-posts and benches and in mosaic form in the floor of the Rotunda, City Hall.



Dublin City Flag