

SUMMARY

Interested in church heraldry, the autor of this monography at several instances came in contact with ecclesiastic coats of arms designed in surprisingly modern style. He found out that these were created by Zdenko G. Alexy. The contact with him showed that he was ready to give detailed information about his armorial activities and to be helpful with counsel as far as the autor's intention was concerned to create coats of arms for newly (2008) established Slovak dioceses and deaneries.

The autor was impressed by the nuber of ecclesiastical coats of arms created by Alexy and of the fact that along with these he was actively interested in both civic and family arms. It is worth while to draw the reader's attention to the rather surprising professional career of Z. G. Alexy. Having attended economic universities in Bratislava and in Switzerland (St. Gallen, Neuchâtel), he switched over to historical auxiliary sciences (heraldry, genealogy) at Universitas Carolina in Prague. The first years of his professional career were spent in diplomatic service in Bern and Prague, followed by leading positions in industry, foreign trade and economic research. For the last three years he served as director general of the Bratislava Stock Exchange.

Along with these successful activities he was studying both science and art of heraldry and was cultivating contacts with personalities active therein. He attended congresses and colloques of the Académie internationale d'héraldique since 1980 and became académicien AIH in 1996.

At the AIH Congress in Madrid (1982) he presented his first important work-coats of arms created and designed by him for 35 localities in the Slovak High Tatra region. Tens of other municipal arms as well as of family arms followed.

Being inspired mainly by Bruno Heim's designs of church arms, Alexy has created and designed arms of Slovak bishoprics. Diocesan arms were unknown in the country before. Ensigns armorial of deaneries and parishes followed, along with those of clerics in charge of the respective offices.

In this monograph the autor is presenting first the arms created for the West-Slovakian territory where during the last fifty years several forms of organization followed.

The Trnava Apostolic Administration was transformed to Archbishopric Trnava first, later to Bratislava-Trnava Archdiocese and since 2008 back to the Archbishopric Trnava. The diocesan coat of arms has been changed accordingly. For several deaneries in this region, as well as many parishes, Alexy designed their coat of arms. Beside these, 13 personal coats of arms for bishops, vicars general, deans and parsons were created. They are presented in bookplates or seals.

Since 1977 Alexy was engaged in creation of the Nitra diocesan coat of arms. Several variants with historical background were presented and discussed. Finally, in 2000 the last variant was approved, coming back to elements from the family arms of Pope John VIII, reminding that under his pontificate the diocese was established, using further the specific form of a patriarchal cross adjudged in the 16th century to this diocese, but never used. Finally the glagolitic letters K and M were included, symbolizing the Holy Slave Apostoles Kyrillos and Methodios. Alexy has further proposed armorial ensign for the seven titular abbeys and chapters in the territory of diocese, as newly formed in 2008. Two of them are based on the respective mediaeval seals, others use armorial attributes of ecclesiastic orders or of the bearers' holy patrons.

Until 1925 the diocese of Košice was headed by bishop Fischer-Colbrie who in his personal arms included the attributes of patrons saint of the diocese. When creating (1987) the diocesan arms, Alexy completed this composition by a fleur-de-lis taken from the arms of Pope Paul VI, founder of the diocese. These diocesan arms, quartered with his personal symbol, from the arms of Mons. Onderko, sede vacante ordinary of the diocese, as appearing in his bookplate. Simultaneously, coats of arms of 19 deaneries, presented in respective seals, were created.

The coat of arms of the Rožňava diocese reminds of Pope Pius VI who has established the diocese, by three mullets of eight points of his armorial shield. The bridge serves as attribute of

St. Jan Nepomucký the local patron saint. These arms took their place in armorial shields (quartered or impoled) of bishops and administrators of this diocese. In 1979 Alexy has proposed coats of arms of the six deaneries.

For the bishopric Spiš (Diocese Scepusiensis) Alexy has created the diocesan arms, reminding of their pontifical founder in the same way as described above. The arms dominant element was taken from ancient local seals. Thanks to the administrator of the diocese, interested in heraldry, Alexy has had the opportunity to create arms of all deaneries and for the majority of parishes, where along with the respective saint's attribute, the diocesan arms or those of the respective deanery appear. In several parochial seals heraldic symbols of local ancient monasterys or of the monachial orders in question were placed.

The Slovak Military Ordinariate, consecrated to St. Sebastian, has his attribute (three spears) in its shield, combined with the patriarchal cross of Slovakia. The three vicariates have the ordinariate's arms in their shields and the respective sign for difference, appearing always in a sinister canton. There are three deaneries within the vicariate of the Defense Ministry, with their specific arms. For several of the parishes arms were created, with symbols of patrons saints, along with those of the respective vicariate or deanery.

The Greek-Catholic (Byzantine Rite) Church in Slovakia is represented by the Prešov archdiocese and dioceses in Košice and Bratislava. For the Prešov diocese the coat of arms was created by Alexy. In his solemn declaration of 1980 Mons. Hirka, the diocesan bishop, has pronounced the coats of arms of the nine deaneries. Their impaled shields consist of the diocesan arms combined with the respective saint's armorial attribute. The Apostolic Exarchate (diocese) of Košice was established in 1997 and Alexy has had the opportunity to create its arms based on Byzantine tradition. This symbol has later taken part in the administrator's quartered armorial shield as well as in the arms of the six deaneries (protopresbyteriates). In 2008 the eparchy of Bratislava was established and its arms combine attributes of patrons saint Virgin Mary and Sts. Peter and Paul, accompanied by an escallop from the arms of Pope Benedict XVI, founder of this diocese.

Close to Slovak border in Užhorod, is the seat of the Mukačevo diocese of Byzantinian rite, and in 2003 Mons. Šášik, Slovak by birth, was consecrated as its bishop. The diocese not having ensigns armorial, has asked Alexy to create these. Symbols of their patrons saint were placed in the shield. Together with Mons. Šášik's personal symbol, the quartered episcopal coat of arms was created.

Three of the six clerical seminaries in Slovakia adopted their coats of arms about ten years ago. To differentiate them, they put an open book (with Greek letters A and Ω) on the upper part of the shield. In the arms of the Košice seminary elements of the diocesan arms and the seminary's patron saint were placed. The arms of the remaining two seminaries did not respect the rules of heraldry sufficiently. Alexy has decided therefore to create the remaining five coats of arms. In four cases he placed elements from heraldic symbols of the seminary's founders. In two of them (Banská Bystrica and Nitra) the dominant position is reserved for the diocesan arms. In Bratislava, Prešov and Spiš, it is the symbol of the patron saint or the personality, whose name the seminary bears.

Similar activities continued in several dioceses in Bohemia and Moravia. In 1977 the territory of the Olomouc archdiocese was composed of three archpresbyteriates and 34 deaneries. Alexy's task was to create coats of arms for all of them, taking in consideration symbols of spiritual patronages, of bishops born in respective localities, religious orders. All these coats of arms were published 1986 in the archdiocesan schematism and dominant elements of same were applied in numerous parochial coats of arms created shortly thereafter. Special attention was paid to the Collegiate Chapter of Kroměříž, founded in the 13th century, not using any armorial symbol by now. Based on the arms of its founder and on the attribute of its patron saint, there were created the arms of the chapter, of the provost's parish office, the local deanery (these to be used on seals), as well as the coats of arms of the chapter's great provost and the dean, both presented in colour in their bookplates. Bookplates with similar armorial contents were designed for five other deans and parsons.

In the diocese Brno coats of arms for several deaneries and parishes were created by Alexy, with special attention to the locality Mikulov. The provost of the Mikulov Collegiate Chapter was interested in creation of renewed arms for this institution. These took place i. a. in arms with impaled shield, presented in the provost's coloured bookplate. Designing of the deanery's arms followed which later took place in several coats of arms applied in the respective parishes seals.

The Bohemian diocese Hradec Králové did not have their own coat of arms, instead the symbol representing the patrociniun of the local Cathedral Chapter was used in several different designs. Wishing to differentiate heraldic symbols of both these institutions, Alexy proposed to design for the diocese a coat of arms presenting its heraldic attributes of St. Clement and St. Jan Nepomucký, both patrons saint of the diocese. The new ensigns were first published in the 1997 diocesan schematism, together with the quartered arms of the vicarius capitularis, temporarily in charge of the diocese, and those of the 13 deaneries where the shield shows the diocesan arms impaled with the local symbol. Later numerous parishes in the Hradec Králové and Litoměřice dioceses were interested in their own heraldic symbols to be used in seals. Alexy has created ten of them.

When creating and designing ensign armorial, Alexy adhered strictly to principles having their roots in the Middle Ages. As to church heraldry, fully respected was B. Heim's advice to prefer heraldic attributes of saints, patrons of institutions or clerics, eventually combined with other simple signs related to the arms bearer.

When studying the history of Slovak clerical arms, Alexy was impressed by several coats of arms of canons, where below the shield the respective chapter's pectoral cross appeared suspended on a ribbon. The results of his studies of this theme were published in his *Distinctive Ensigns of Chapters in Formerly Habsburg Dominated Countries*, Vienna 1996 (219 pp.).

The author came to the conclusion that Alexy's active participation in heraldry in general and especially in church heraldry has to be summed up and presented to serve as example of creative approach to be continued.