

Plate Scottish

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White plate with brown and gold vegetal frieze. In the center is the crest (coat of arms) of the Scottish clan Mackenzie. It is blue, with a stag's head and antlers. It features a Latin motto in a red banner and two sprays of flowers.

Accession Number 2022.26.03

Materials ceramics

Measurements 2,2 x 19,3 cm

Historical context

Traditional Scottish society is clan-based. Each clan is a grouping of members of the same family, descended from a common ancestor and recognizing a leader. In this society, several distinctive signs are associated with clans, such as the tartan, the motif found on kilts, or the crest.

Clan Mackenzie is located in the Ross-shire district of the Highlands. Its coat of arms is the one painted in the center of this plate. Its motto means “I shine, but I don’t burn”. As with many Scottish clans, the foundation of Clan Mackenzie dates back to the Middle Ages: it is thought to have been established at the very end of the 13th century. Today, Scottish clans are celebrated in many parts of the world. Groups of descendants can be found in many countries, such as the Canadian Clan Mackenzie Society.

In fact, the name Mackenzie is present in Canada. It is associated with several important historical figures, such as Sir Alexander Mackenzie (1764-1820). A leading explorer in Canadian popular culture, he owes many of his discoveries to the help of aboriginal peoples. Others include Alexander Mackenzie (1822-1892), Canada’s second prime minister, and William Lyon Mackenzie (1795-1861), Toronto’s first mayor and one of

the leaders of the Upper Canada Rebellion in 1837.

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