

The Great Seal of Maryland



OBVERSE

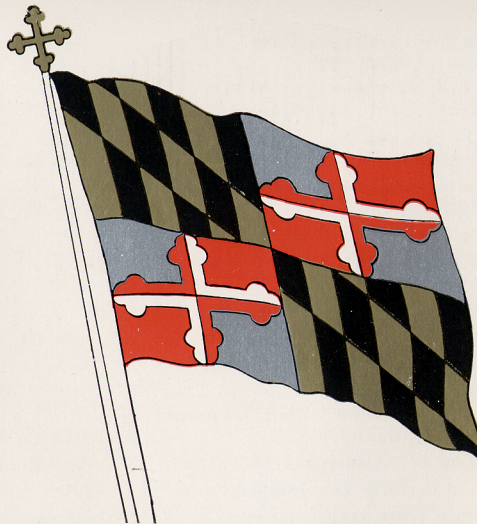


The State Flower



THE Black-eyed Susan is the flower emblem of the State of Maryland (Chapter 458, Acts of 1918).

Maryland State Flag



MARYLAND'S flag bears the arms of the Calvert and Crossland families. Calvert was the family name of the Lords Baltimore who founded Maryland. Crossland was the family of the mother of the first Lord Baltimore. The escutcheon or shield in the Maryland Seal bears the same arms. This flag seems to have been used from the beginning of the colony, although it was not adopted officially until recently (Chapter 48, Acts of 1904).



THE GREAT SEAL

THE Great Seal of Maryland is used by the Governor and the Secretary of State to authenticate the Acts of the Legislature and for other official purposes. The first Great Seal was brought over during the early days of the Colony. It was very much like the one pictured above and it remained in use, although slightly altered, until the Revolution. The State of Maryland adopted a new seal similar in form and spirit to those of the other states. After the passage of a hundred years, Maryland readopted its old seal (Joint Resolution No. 5, Legislative Session of 1876). Only the Reverse of this seal has ever been cut. The Obverse is, however, still considered as part of the seal and is used, among other things, for decorating public buildings.

Obverse

THE Obverse of the Seal shows Lord Baltimore as a Knight in full armor mounted on a charger. The inscription translated from Latin into English is "Cecilus Absolute Lord of Maryland and Avalon, Baron of Baltimore." Avalon was the name of Lord Baltimore's grant in Newfoundland.

Reverse

THE Reverse consists of an escutcheon or shield bearing the Calvert and Crossland arms quartered. Above this is an earl's coronet and a full-faced helmet. The escutcheon is supported on one side by a farmer and on the other by a fisherman, symbolizing Lord Baltimore's two estates of Maryland and Avalon. The Calvert motto on the scroll is usually translated "manly deeds, womanly words." The Latin legend on the border is translated "with favor wilt thou compass us as with a shield." (Psalms v, 12).

The Great Seal of Maryland



REVERSE

The State Bird



THE Baltimore Oriole is the official Maryland Bird. Although it was not so designated by the Maryland Legislature until 1947 (Chapter 54, Acts of 1947), special provisions had been made for its protection since 1882 (Chapter 154, Acts of 1882).