



The Cartography of Imagined Communities

Andrew Lochhead



The Printed Word

The spread of literacy, made possible through The Enlightenment and commercial networks allowed for readers to imagine others like themselves. Others who shared with them a common language. This process forms the basis of the titular imagined communities.

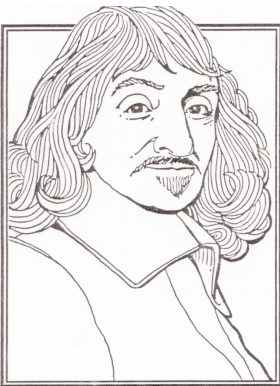


The Anchor and Caduceus

Symbolic of Commerce, the anchor as employed in the shield symbolizes how commerce and capitalism in general contributed to the creation of a national imaginary.

The presence of the Caduceus, symbol of the Greek god of commerce Mercury, further emphasizes the connections between trade, economics and the building of a national identity.





Renee Descartes: Founder of Modern Philosophy

The Age of Enlightenment encouraged new ways of conceiving the self in relation to others. These new modes of discourse rendered possible the liberation of the individual from traditional power structures. Structures in which the monarch, ordained by God held dominion over land and people.

The Ancient Oak

Representative of generational attachment to the land, resilience to the ravages of time and familial heritage in general, the ancient oak motif can also serve as a representation of the nation itself.





The Rampant Lion

A signifier of Royalty, the lion in heraldry is associated with bravery, valour and courage.

For the purposes of this emblem, the lion can be seen as a representative of the old order of power. Its purpose is largely symbolic as it serves as a link to the distant past, as well as a medium through which we too imagine ourselves as ancient.





The Owl, Guardant, Crowned

The owl is symbolic of knowledge, its guardant or front facing attribute indicates vigilance. Crowned, the owl comes to be seen as the ruling element of the heraldic blazon.

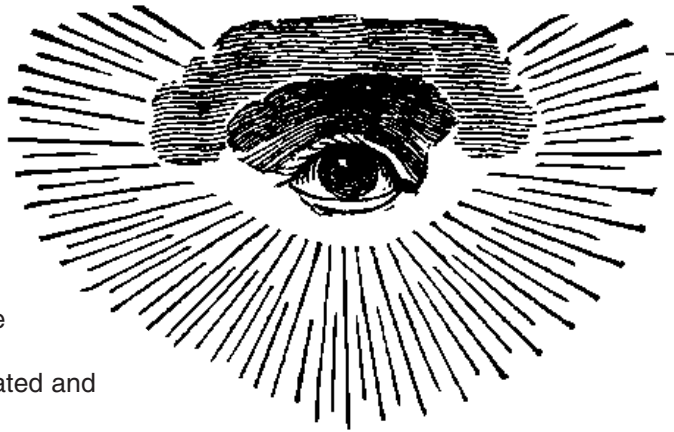
In this particular blazon, the owl represents knowledge as privileged through The Enlightenment. It stands in contrast and compliment to the lion, as indicative of contemporary and historical conceptions of power.



The Divine Eye/Eye of Reason

Initially a symbol of divine surveillance, the divine eye for the ancient nation symbolized the sacred sanction of the monarchs rule.

For the modern nation-state, the eye of reason, as the symbol was known during the French Revolution, became symbolic of the triumph of knowledge and the power associated and potentially asserted in the act of knowing.



Ego Mos Non Memor

From the Latin for "I Will Not Remember" the slogan alludes to a process central to the mythology of the nation-state; that is the forgetting of the circumstances under which the nation came to be imagined.

It is this selective, collective amnesia that allows the narrative of the nation to function as successfully as it does



Andrew Lochhead is a part of a new generation of artists interested in re-exploring the conceptual art of the 1960s-70s. His works, often humorous in nature, cross multiple artistic practices in order to deal with a broad range of issues including; nationalism, popular music, identity, lifestyle and the visual politics of urban/suburban space. He obtained a BA (Art History) from the University of Windsor in 2006 and is currently pursuing his Masters degree in Visual Critical Studies at the School of The Art Institute of Chicago.

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Special Thanks to the House of Toast Film and Video Collective, Windsor, ON

To view the video visit: www.andrewlochhead.com



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