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St. Norbert College

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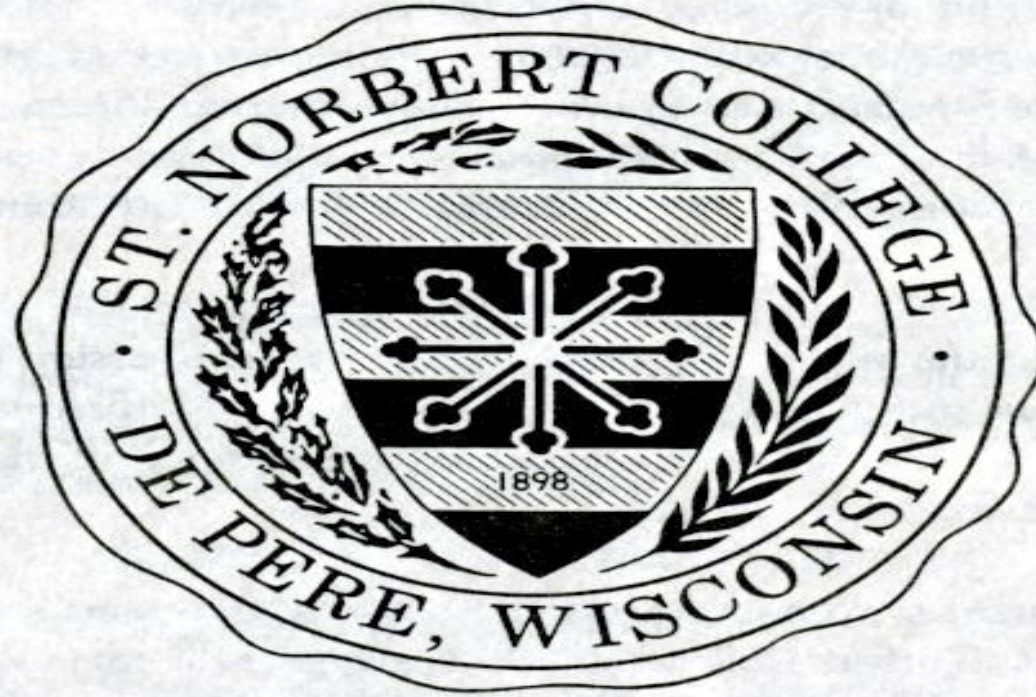
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## The Coat of Arms of St. Norbert College

**A** Coat of Arms or Crest is defined as a shield marked with insignia or designs (heraldic bearings) of a person, family or institution. The St. Norbert College coat of arms is modeled after that of Berne Abbey in Holland, the abbey from which the founders of the Norbertine Order in the United States came in 1893.



**B**erne Abbey took its coat of arms from Fulco of Berne who gave his castle to a group of religious. The Norbertines were the first permanent occupants, and Berne Abbey was the last of the Norbertine abbeys founded by St. Norbert himself. Fulco's coat of arms had alternating stripes, three red and three blue, with eight scepters superimposed. The eight scepters indicated that Fulco was related by eight lines to the Emperor of the Holy Roman empire.

**I**n medie'al times the first son could claim the same coat of arms that his father had, but the second son "differenced" the same design by using different colors. Thus, in a sense, when the Berne Abbey Norbertines came to the United States they were, in their own right, "second sons" of the original abbey founded in the castle of Fulco.

**T**he development of a coat of arms for the first Norbertine school in America, St. Norbert College in 1898, suggested a copying of the Berne Abbey coat of arms as second sons, but a change of colors for "differencing" the crest became necessary. The choice of colors arose from the suggestion of a lay teacher on the college staff, a man from Dartmouth College. And also from the favorable impressions of Dartmouth formed by an early Rector of St. Norbert, The Rev. John A. Van Heertum, O.Praem. As a result, the Dartmouth colors of green and white for the alternative stripes, and gold for the scepters were adopted.

**T**he leaves, sometimes depicted with the coat of arms, and the motto 'Ad Omne Opus Bonum Paratus', 'Prepared for Every Good Work', which is the motto of the Norbertine Order, do not belong properly to the coat of arms as such. The oak leaves on the left are symbolic of the sturdiness of medieval life. The laurel on the right stand for honor and glory.

## The College Anthem

**T**he words and music for a college anthem have gone through three timely developments. In 1930 the first appearance of anything like a real school song came at the Fall football season, when Frank Goldman's "On The Campus" march was presented by the college band. The anthem appeared in both the March 7, 1931 and October 13, 1933 issue of *The St. Norbert College Times*.

**I**n 1934 a new college anthem called "Varsity Toast" was used at the Lawrence football game. The song was composed from a number of suggested verses written by students and sung publicly for the first time at the 1934 Oshkosh game. Here are the words:

*A toast to our alma mater,  
A cheer for the team,  
Who guard her noble standard,  
Who plunge into the fray;  
By true loyalty surrounded  
her hallow'd towers gleam,  
And greater glory circles round  
the green and gold today.*

**I**n 1985 two St. Norbert students, seniors Dan Perrone and Jim "Iggie" Richards, decided to write a new popular anthem. The two had to write the words and find a melody for the song. They named their song "The Pride of Main Hall" and chose music set to the theme of "Chicago's Own Southside Irish." The chorus is as follows:



*We're the St. Norbert Green Knights  
and we're proud of the green and gold.  
We have a reputation of being strong and bold;  
And when it comes to spirit,  
we rise above them all.  
We're the St. Norbert Green Knights,  
The pride of Old Main Hall.*

The two students were to present the chorus to the Student Life Committee for approval. Nothing has since appeared in the *St. Norbert College Times* to indicate the results of their presentation.

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