

Origin of Macintosh

by *Phil Russell*

Where did the name Macintosh come from? In 1984, Apple employee Jeff Raskin named our computer for his favorite apple (and mine as well). But what is the origin of Macintosh? It comes from a Scottish clan.

The Scottish clan Macintosh is traceable to Shaw McDuff in about 1160. McDuff, who took the name McIntosh and became the first chief of the clan, was awarded lands in Inverness for his support of Malcom IV in opposing a rebellion.

In 1160, Shaw Macduff went on an expedition with Malcolm IV to try to stop rebellion in Morayshire. In 1163, he was made constable of Inverness Castle and granted land in the Finhorn valley. These lands became the heartland of the Macintosh clan and the place where the chiefs would be buried.

The clan name includes the variations McIntosh, MacIntosh, Macintosh, and MacKintosh. The word Macintosh comes from the Gaelic Mac an Toisich, which translates to Son of Thane. Toisich or Thane means "leader", or "chief".

In the Macintosh Coat of Arms (Fig. 1.) we see a red lion at upper left signifying dauntless courage, its red color signifies a warrior, brave, strong, generous, & just.



Fig. 1. Macintosh Coat of Arms

The red hand and heart at upper right shows a hand which signifies sincerity, faith, and judgement. The heart represents clarity and sincerity.

The blue galley at lower right shows a traveler to far places, possibly a naval commander. The blue color depicts truth and loyalty. On the blue galley is a gold boar's head signifying hospitality. A boar stands for bravery; one who fights to the death. The gold color depicts generosity and elevation of mind.

The lower right panel is a ship with blue sails furled, red flags flying.

The Macintosh Coat of Arms is described in ancient Gaelic as: "1st, a lion

rampant Gules, armed and langued Azure; 2nd, Argent, a dexter hand coupéd fessways grasping a man's heart paleways Gules; 3rd, Azure, a boar's head coupéd, armed Proper and langued Gules; and 4th, a lymphad sails furled Azure, flagged and surmounted of her oars in saltire Gules."

Beneath is the Macintosh motto, "Touch not the cat bot a glove," which is a warning to those who would be so imprudent as to engage in battle when the claw of the wildcat is ungloved, where bot means ungloved.

The Macintosh plant badge is the red whortleberry.

The crest of the Macintosh clan is shown in Fig. 2, and the badge in Fig. 3.



Fig. 2. Macintosh Crest



Fig. 3. Macintosh Badge

The rallying cry of the clan is Loch Moigh. Loch Moigh was near Inverness & was the Macintosh clan's home turf)

The tartans show the plaids worn by the Macintosh clan. The Red tartan (Fig. 4.), is the regular tartan worn by all Macintosh. And the darker tartan (Fig. 5.) is the hunting tartan, worn during certain events.



Fig. 4 Macintosh tartan



Fig. 5. Macintosh hunting tartan

In 1938, the twenty-eighth chief died and the title was passed to his cousin, Vice Admiral Lachlan MacKintosh.

And in 1984, Apple introduced the Macintosh computer with the confidence that it would change the world.

And it has.