

Pride and Passion

A coat of arms is work of art



This spectacular piece of jewellery is made of diamonds, rubies, sapphires, gold and platinum – plus a lot of passion and pride.

It is a coat of arms created for a Canadian family, designed by Queen Elizabeth's flag maker. The customer then asked an Oakville, Ont. jeweller to turn it into a brooch.

The story continued when that jeweller asked Chris Knight, president of Platinum Unlimited, to design and create the brooch. More than 750 hours of stone cutting and bench time was required to fabricate the piece, which has a platinum body.

Each of the gemstones were cut, one by one, as the piece progressed. Each of the five maple leaves is different. Rudi Wobito, CEO of Custom Gem Cutting, cut the amazing maple leaf rubies, as well as the many rubies of different shapes in the curved mantling. Knight says, "In my opinion, Wobito is the only craftsman in the country capable of creating work of this intricacy."

The coat of arms is approximately 50 mm (2 in.) wide and 76 mm (3 in.) long. The banner at the base was created to showcase the customer's diamond collection. Combining the old and the new in the piece symbolizes two families merging to become one.

The piece was created over a period of seven months. Its estimated worth is almost half a million dollars.

Knight says this would be the type of masterpiece created in the early 20th century.

"It's like a lost art that hopefully we can revitalize and people will have an appreciation for." ♦



The reverse side of the brooch, shown actual size.