

A little bit of fun!

The most striking feature when you enter the Hall is the College Badge positioned high above the stage. The wooden badge was crafted many years ago by Mr. Leung, our former Art Master (Head of Visual Arts). During the renovation of the Hall over the past 5 months the badge has been wrapped up and stored to prevent any risk that it might be damaged. Last Friday it was taken back to the Hall ready to be hoisted up and returned to its original position.

I decided to take a photograph while it was propped up against the wall. It is unusual to see the badge up close and after taking the photograph I noticed some interesting details. At the centre of our College Badge is the Bible which is depicted as an Open Book inviting us to read the Word of Our Lord. The Bible has two columns of 5 lines and 9 lines respectively on the left page and a single column of 7 lines on the right page. The question I asked myself was: why are there three columns of 5, 7 and 9 lines?

By now my mind was working overtime and I decided to take a closer look at the badge to see if there were any other interesting details, particularly relating to the numbers 5, 7 and 9.

Let me start with the number 5. Apart from the 5 lines on the left page of the Bible there are also five letters in the words Saint and Paul's. There are also 5 colours used to decorate the badge. I accept that these are somewhat tenuous relationships but let us now look at the number 7.

There are seven letters in the words College and Founded. But what of the symbols placed around the Bible? You will notice that the Crown has 7 spikes that are tipped with 7 golden globes. You will also see that the blade of the Key has 7 cuts to open the door to the Kingdom of Heaven. It is also intriguing to note that there are 7 small crosses on each arm of the main Cross that surrounds the badge. I wonder why there are 7 small crosses and not another number.

However, it is the number 9 that really stretches the imagination. Below the Bible is the scallop shell symbolising pilgrimage. There are 9 segments to the shell. Now look at the Shepherd's staff. There are 9 golden spheres decorating the handle. Finally, the College motto is written on the banner at the bottom of the badge. Yes, there are 9 Chinese characters to the motto. And by the way, the College motto comes from Proverbs Chapter 9!

After an interesting 9 minutes studying the College Badge and taking 7 photographs at 5 megapixels, I returned to my office on the 6th floor – back to the real world.

J.R. Kennard

Post Script: Next time you walk along Bonham Road take a look at the College Badge on the wall of the Wong Ming Him Hall that faces the University of Hong Kong. What do you notice?

The photograph below shows the College Badge that hangs in the Hall.



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