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Theme: “Heads of State: Ancestry, Coats of Arms, and Flags”



### CHANGES OF THE COAT OF ARMS OF OLOMOUC IN THE CONTEXT OF HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

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Summary (in English)

The coat of arms of the city of Olomouc has a rich and long history, which is reflected in its gradual development. It symbolises the rich history and tradition of the city and combines elements of Moravian heraldry and Roman inspiration. The city of Olomouc has used the Moravian chequered eagle in its coat of arms and seals since the 13th century. The only difference was the red tongue of the Olomouc eagle, as the Moravian eagle has a golden tongue. After 1558, the letters SPQO, which stands for Senatus Populusque Olomucensis (Senate and People of Olomouc), began to appear in the corners of the Olomouc coat of arms as a reference to the Roman Empire abbreviation SPQR (Senatus Populusque Romanus, which translates as Senate and People of Rome). According to a traditional legend, the founder of Olomouc was supposed to be Gaius Julius Caesar himself. In 1758, Queen Maria Theresa improved the Olomouc coat of arms by adding the so-called Babenberg shield to the breast of the eagle, which was wrapped with a gold chain and bearing the initials FMT (the initials of Emperor Francis I and Maria Theresa) in memory of the unsuccessful siege of Olomouc by the Prussians. After the establishment of Czechoslovakia in 1918, these initials were removed and at the request of the town, a complete return to the plain chequered eagle was made in 1934. In 1993, however, the letters SPQO returned to the coat of arms. The author of this last modification of the coat of arms is Jiří Louda, a well-known Olomouc heraldist and leading expert on this subject.

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