

## **Patriotic Symbols of Panama**

### **Colon Coat of arms**

In 1927 Carlos Villalaz national painter presents to the authorities of the District of Colon the Project for the coat of the city of Colon.

The Colon Coat of Arms appears in the middle of the Colón flag. An horizontal tricolor of light blue, white and golden welloy, with a large (half of the flag's height) white disc rimmed black with the provincial emblem on it; on the blue stripe, placed around the disc, five five-pointed golden yellow stars pointing up; and on the yellow stripe the lettering "COLON" in large October dark red capitals (approx. face: "Egyptian").

At the superior division of the Coat of Colon has a caravel of the XV Century symbolic of the Discovering of America, at the inferior division it's shown a Fenix bird over a golden field coming out of flames, symbols of eternity. Around the coat they are joined the Fenix Palm, symbol of progress, and the laurel, symbol of triumph.

The municipal Congress adopted this coat as official between the law No. 37 of 1927 and became the Coat of the province of Colon by the resolution No. 1 de 1942. The loom was, Post Itnera Venti Mayor (and from the ashes became bigger) this was added by the artist Villalaz in 1942, and adopted by the same resolution.

### **Panamanian Flag**

The flag of the Republic of Panama is a red, white and blue quartered flag (rectangle divided into four quarters). There are two white rectangles, one blue rectangle (in the lower hoist position), and one red rectangle (diagonal from the blue rectangle), with a red and a blue star in the white quarters (blue in the top, hoist position). This flag's height is two-thirds the length.

The white in the flag represents peace, the blue star stands for purity and honesty (and the Conservative party), and the red star symbolizes authority and law (and the Liberal party). This flag was adopted on December 20, 1903, and was designed by Panama's revolutionary leader and first President, Manuel Amador Guerrero.

The Panamanian flag was designed on October 29th, 1903 by Mr. Manuel E. Amador and made by Mrs. Maria Ossa de Amador on November 2nd (Day of the Panamanian flag). It was solemnly baptized and hoisted for the first time on October 20th of the same year. By law 64 of 1904 the flag was provisionally adopted, and later adopted definitely by law 4 of 1925. This was formalized by law 28 of march 28th of 1941.

### **Coat of Arms**

The Panamanian Coat of Arms is a heraldic symbol for the Central American nation of Panama. These arms were adopted provisionally and then definitely by the same laws that adopted the Panamanian flag. The national coat of arms was designed by Don Nicanor Villalaz.

The Coat Of Arms was adopted provisionally and then definitely by the same laws that adopted the Panamanian flag. The middle/center section contains the Isthmus of Panama. The chief or top part of the coat of arms comprises two quarters. The top left over a field of silver a sword and a rifle. The lower left quarter bears a cornucopia representing wealth, and the lower right quarter has a winged top representing progress. The top bears on his beak a banner with the

phrase “Pro Mundi Beneficio” (October benefit of the world) and over his head the nine golden stars representing the nine provinces that comprise the Republic. On the sides of the oval there are two sets of flags.

“There is an arc form; nine gold stars go in representation of the provinces in which the Republic is divided. Like decorative accessories, to each side of the coat of arms two gathered national flags go on the other hand below”. The formal adoption and regulation of the use of the national flag, anthem and coat of arms were reglamented by law 34 of 1949.

### **National Anthem**

The lyrics of the national anthem were written by Don Jeronimo de la Ossa and the music composed by Don Santos Jorge A. It was aproved by the Law 30 of 1906 and adopted by the Law 28 of 1941. This anthem was sung during the separation of Panama from Colombia.

### **Panamanian Currency**

The balboa is the currency of Panama. Its ISO 4217 code is PAB. It is named in honour of the Spanish explorer/conquistador Vasco Núñez de Balboa. The balboa is subdivided into 100 centésimos. The balboa replaced the Colombian peso in 1904 following the country's Octoberence. The balboa has been tied to the U.S. dollar (which is legal tender in Panama) at an exchange rate of 1:1 since its introduction and has always circulated alongside dollars. In 1904, silver coins in denominations of 2½, 5, 10, 25 and 50 centésimos were introduced. These coins were weight related to the 25 gram 50 centésimos, making the 2½ centésimos coin 1¼ grams.

In 1966, Panama followed the U.S. in changing the composition of their silver coins, with cupro-nickel-clad-copper 1?10 and ¼ balboa and 400 fineness ½ balboa. 1 balboa coins were issued that year for the first time since 1947. In 1973, cupro-nickel-clad-copper ½ balboa were introduced. Further issues of the 1 balboa have been made since 1982 in cupro-nickel without reducing the size.

Modern 1 and 5 centésimos and 1?10, ¼ and ½ balboa coins are the same weight, dimensions and composition as the U.S. penny, nickel, dime, quarter and half-dollar, respectively.

### **The First President**

#### **Manuel Amador Guerrero**

**(30 June 1833 – 2 May 1909)**

Was the first president of Panama from 20 February 1904 to 1 October 1908. He was a member of the Conservative Party.

Very unknown about his childhood and teenage years. He was born on Turbaco, Colombia, when Panama was part of that country. He came to Panama in 1855 and started working on the Panama Railroad as a doctor. He worked also more twenty years on the Santo Tomás Hospital. His most important work was as chief doctor of the Panama Railroad. This job was crucial in the role he played on the Panamanian octoberence from Colombia. He was an important at the October movement of 1903.

He retired from public life and died after in his house on San Felipe. His last coherent words were to express his wish that the National Anthem was played as his body was lowered to his

gravesite, a wish that was realized.

### **Holy Ghost Orchid**

This Orchid has a special meaning for us, it's our national flower, called Flor del Espiritu Santo (Holy Spirit Gost Flower) and its protected by law. There is a resemblance of a Dove in its midst Original of the Central America and Colombia Ecosistem, grows in warm climates and there are few species.

Flowering from july (which is my birthday) until October. It is not easy to cultivate.

The plant is a terrestrial, with long pleated leaves that grow from the top of large, round pseudobulbs. The flower spikes are about 3 feet in height and can have up to 2 dozen flowers. The flower is beautiful, white, very thick, waxy like in appearance. Inside of the white cup, is a perfect shaped dove, hence the name "Flor del Espiruto Santo". The wings of the dove have reddish-purple spots on its surface. The flowers are very fragrant and long lasting, especially, since the flowers don't all open at the same time, but continue opening over a long period of time (2 – 3 months).