

November fifteenth, 1927

Board of Managers
Chicago Yacht Club

Gentlemen:

I am today delivering to the Belmont clubhouse the new Chicago-Mackinac Trophy. This Trophy is of solid silver and was designed and executed by Spaulding & Company of Chicago and the Gorham Company of New York.

The bowl has been patterned after a large pottery vase made by the Chippewa Indians and now a part of the Hamilton Collection. The peculiar decorations on the bowl were meant by the Indians to represent an Indian townsite. This piece of pottery has been illustrated by the Bureau of American Ethnology in one of their annual reports.

The small decoration on the bowl is Odjib'we's Chippewa honor badge. Odjib'we was one of the great leaders of the Chippewa warriors and because of his valor he was entitled to wear this skunk-skin badge on his right arm.

The column supporting the bowl is typical of an Indian support, introducing primitive Indian ornamentation, and on either side of the column are figures of Chippewa Indians with the typical Chippewa bows and arrows. The figure of the Indian was modeled from a photograph of a Chippewa Indian named Main-Gans. The Indian headgear shows nine eagle feathers, each indicating a Sioux scalp. As the Sioux were the proverbial enemies of the Chippewa's, this headgear was a mark of great distinction. The moccasins were designed from a description of the Chippewa moccasins in the book of American Ethnology by Densmore.

The decoration on the column and base includes cattails, leaves of lilies and reeds that are emblematic of fresh water. On the obverse side of the column appears the seal of the State of Illinois while on the reverse side appears the seal of the State of Michigan.

The turtles are emblematic of Mackinac Island, as the original name of the island was Michimackinac, meaning "great turtle". The Indians believed in a story that the earth was supported on the back of a turtle, and consequently they were greatly impressed by the form of Mackinac Island, resembling as it does a great turtle lying upon the water. The turtles were modeled from a type that is commonly found in and around Mackinac Island.

Cordially yours,

GEORGE WOODRUFF, Commodore