

**THE COAT OF ARMS
FOR THE
DAGMAR COMMANDERY OF DENMARK
SOVEREIGN ORDER OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM, KNIGHTS HOSPITALER**

HERALDIC BLAZON



- ARMS:** Gules on a cross Argent the Cross of Dagmar Proper all within a bordure Azure.
- SUPPORTER:** A double headed eagle wings displayed Sable beaked and membered Or each head bearing a coronet of Denmark also Or overall a Amalfi Cross Argent;

THE QUEEN DAGMAR CROSS (DAGMARKORSEF)

The cross is a Byzantine relic cross believed to date from A.D. 1000, made of solid gold and enamel with the cloisonné technique. On one side, Christ is depicted on the cross, and the inscription in Greek letters at the top reads: "Jesus Christ."



On the other side, the Virgin Mary is depicted to the right of Christ and St. John the Apostle-Evangelist to the left. Above and below Christ, we see two saints – Basilios (St. Basil) and John (St. John Chrysostom), nicknamed Golden Mouth.



The Dagmar cross was found in 1683 at Queen Dagmar's gravesite in St. Bendt's church in Ringsted. Queen Dagmar was the beloved queen of Valdemar the Victorious who was from Bohemia and died early in the 13th century. The grave is located near the altar in St. Bendt's church, and when a bride passes over the grave, she will often be wearing a pretty replica of the Dagmar cross. In 1695 the original Dagmar cross was donated to the National Gallery of Denmark and is now on display at the National Museum in Copenhagen. In 1863, King Frederik VII of Denmark donated a replica of the cross to Princess Alexandra of Denmark, daughter of the later King Christian IX of Denmark when she married the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII of England.

The Dagmar Cross, made in silver, is a traditional christening gift for girls in Denmark.