

# Emblazoning the Official PLM Blazon

Following the fundamental rules of Heraldry observed universally across the globe, PLM subscribes that **“The blazon is constructed from the perspective of the bearer of the heraldic icon instead of that of the observer.”** Considering this Heraldic Rule perfected since the Middle Ages, the Official Blazon is dissected below to provide a careful comparison on the degree of compliance between the Old Incorrect Yellow Seal and New Correct Golden Seal, as against said Official Blazon approved by the Board of Regents under BOR Res. No. 39.

Official Blazon (Pursuant to BOR Res. No. 39)	Old Incorrect Yellow Seal (Incorrect Seal)	New Correct Golden Seal (Correct Seal)	Remarks
The seal of the University is a circular shield framed with fourteen triangles, depicting a sunbeam, with embossed inscription: "Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila 1965" all in gold.	Not Complied	Complied	The Resolution mandates that the stated elements must all be in Gold. The Incorrect Seal is in Black. N.B.: The Resolution originally stated that the foundation year of PLM is 1967, but was modified into 1965 (when the Phil. President signed RA No. 4196), upon the recommendation of the then-National Historical Institute in 1995.
The field within is divided quarterly.	Complied	Complied	
The upper dexter field is in red...	Not Complied	Complied	The Incorrect Seal has violated the fundamental rules of Heraldry.
the lower sinister field in light blue...	Not Complied	Complied	The Incorrect Seal has violated the fundamental rules of Heraldry.
and the upper sinister field and lower dexter field in white.	Not Complied	Complied	The Incorrect Seal has violated the fundamental rules of Heraldry.
On the upper dexter side, the sunburst in white and gold rays are placed on a red field.	Not Complied	Complied	The Incorrect Seal has violated the fundamental rules of Heraldry.
The upper sinister side has a flaming torch on the tip of a bamboo handle superimposed over the symbol of the atomic orbits with electrons in red, placed on a white field.	Not Complied	Complied	The Incorrect Seal has violated the fundamental rules of Heraldry. The electrons of the Incorrect Seal are in Black, instead of Red.
On the lower center point is a book superimposed with a bamboo scroll with ancient Tagala script...	Not Complied	Complied	In the Incorrect Seal, the bamboo scroll does not appear to be a bamboo at all. In the Correct Seal, the “book of knowledge,” as in universal depictions like medals of achievement, etc., was opened instead of closed, since a <i>closed book</i> signifies the lack of access to knowledge, while an <i>open book</i> signifies that wisdom is open or available to all, including the poor, which is the basic purpose and concept of the free education or scholarship in PLM.
balanced by a branch of the Nilad shrub in light green...	Not Complied	Complied	In the Incorrect Seal, the Nilad shrub did not at all “balance” the book (superimposed with a bamboo scroll). It appeared rather off-place since it was placed between the <i>dexter chief</i> and the <i>dexter base</i> , instead of <i>middle base</i> . In the Correct Seal, the book was “balanced” by the Nilad shrub, both correctly occupying the <i>lower center point</i> , in such a way that the book is shown being “supported” by the Nilad. This is an essential depiction that the City of Manila, represented by the Nilad branch, is supporting the free scholarship in PLM, represented by the open book. This is the specific intent of the PLM Charter, otherwise known as Republic Act No. 4196.

all placed between the lower white and light blue fields.	Not Complied	Complied	In the Incorrect Seal, as earlier pointed out, the Nilad shrub is placed somewhere else, instead of being “placed between the <b>LOWER</b> white and light blue fields.” Glaringly, the Incorrect Seal placed the Nilad shrub “between the <b>UPPER</b> white and light blue fields,” which is grossly incorrect.
From the lower dexter side to the lower sinister side are inscribed in gold: "Karunungan, Kaunlaran, Kadakilaan."	Not Complied	Complied	In the Incorrect Seal, the motto was graphically inscribed asymmetrically or unbalanced, if not incoherently or irregularly. It was unceremoniously displaced or dislodged from its correct location, which is principally caused by another mistake of misplacing the Nilad shrub as explained above. Further, the motto was not in Gold, as prescribed by the Resolution or the Blazon, but in black-outlined white. At this point, it can be determined that the author of the Blazon is perfectly aware of the fundamental rule of Heraldry that the Blazon is constructed from the perspective of the bearer of the heraldic icon. The Blazon mandates that the motto must be inscribed from the lower dexter to the lower sinister (simply put, this means from right to left). From the perspective of the Bearer of the Seal, this is correct, as this translates to “left to right,” from the perspective of the Observer, when emblazoned. Sadly enough, the Incorrect Seal was emblazoned incorrectly.

In April 2009, the discrepancies between the Official Blazon and the Old Incorrect Yellow Seal were discovered, and the latter was described as irreverent or disrespectful of the Resolution by the Board.

Considering the above comparison, the PLM Top Management, as an offshoot of a careful study of the rudiments of Heraldry, approved the “institutionalization of the unified official use of the correct emblazon of the PLM Seal consistent with the specifications by the pioneer Board of Regents.” The Presidential approval, a milestone official act, was stamped on 16 August 2011, based on the recommendation of the Executive Vice President (EVP), dated 15 August 2011, stating that “From discussions and research on rules of heraldry, it appears that the ‘new emblem’ of PLM is the accurate representation of Board Resolution No. 39.”

The EVP’s recommendation was a result of the extensive research on Heraldry to institutionalize the unifying heraldic icon of PLM. On 01 August 2011, the senior attorney at the Office of the University Legal Counsel tasked to study the matter has recommended that “The seal, as provided by Director Garry de Gracia, is reflective of Resolution No. 39. The rules on heraldry suggest that the designation of ‘dexter’ and sinister are considered from the point of view of the person carrying the seal and not from the view of the observer.”

Earlier on, on 19 June 2009, the previous Top Management Team, headed by the former University President, formally presented in public the New Correct Golden Seal as one of the highlights of the 44<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of PLM, in tandem with the launching of the PLM website which also carried said Seal.

PLM is now racing its way towards its 50th anniversary or Golden Year. Milestone as that occasion will be, the incumbent Top Management Team is eyeing to unveil the New Correct Golden Seal. This formal unveiling, should it pushes through, will come two (2) years after its official Presidential approval, and more than four (4) years after its first formal public presentation by the then-Top Management. A formal Board approval ratifying the correct emblazon of the Official PLM Blazon, which the BOR first approved in 1967 under BOR Res. No. 39, will serve as impetus for this.