**History**

Scotland is a country steeped in myth folk tales and legends. In the past, folklore and superstition influenced the clans more than their holy men and women and the unspoiled nature of the land with lochs, rivers, salmon and stags is a well-known for backdrop to many bloody battles.

According to legend, King David I of the Scots, the son of King Malcolm Canmore lll and Saint Margaret, was hunting during a Holy Day in 1128, in the forests at the edge of Edinburgh.

While hunting he saw a huge silver stag, or "hart", and while giving chase he was thrown from his horse. The King tried to protect himself against the antlers by raising his arms. At that moment a crucifix appeared between the antlers of the stag and when he held the cross the stag calmed down and walked away. In gratitude for his miraculous escape from the enraged stag David I established the same year a monastery at the site and granted a charter to the adjacent burgh which was to become Canongate. At the same time he placed a Holy “Rood” where he had seen the silver stag. [The word 'rood' is a name for the Holy Cross].

His mother Margaret is said to have brought the "Holy Rood", a fragment of Christ's cross, from Hungary to Scotland with her. It was known as the **Black Rood of Scotland** but was removed from Scotland by Edward 1 of England in 1296, along with the Stone of Scone and other treasures, but the Black Rood was returned in 1328 but lost again in war with the English after which it was held in Durham Cathedral until the Reformation of 1540, when it was presumably destroyed. “The Dream of the Rood' is a famous poem that tells the story of Christ’s crucifixion as a dream dreamt by the wooden cross. Lines from 'The Dream of the Rood' are carved into the Ruthwell Cross which can still be seen in Dumfrieshire today .

Today, the Black Rood is lost, but you can visit Holyrood Abbey and Saint Margaret’s Chapel, at the foot of the Royal Mile next to Holyrood Palace, and look for stone carvings of a stag with a cross between its antlers in Edinburgh’s Old Town. It’s location is but 1km from the Waverley Area of Edinburgh where the original work of the Scottish Silver Stag originated in 1937.

The Celtic people considered the silver stag to be a magical messengers from otherworld and believed that it would appear when one was transgressing a taboo, Throughout the centuries, from Christianity to the Scout movement the white stag has been a prominent feature until today it appears in Harry Potter books as a Patronus Charm and in both the Warcraft series of PC games where it appears as a demi-god of nature and in the PC game Quest For Glory where it appears just before the moment that the hero meets the Dryad .

**Stag: Today**

In mythology , silver stags were considered to be from the Otherworld and, their appearance always heralded some profound change in the lives of those in the story. Considered in Celtic mythology to be among the oldest creatures in existence many tales suggest its presence heralded coming change. Often the stag led those who took up the chase on a quest, or by its mere appearance, signaled that the time for a quest was at hand.

Today the silver stag can represent peace or a truce or a time of change. In Scotland the silver stag is regarded as the most noble and proud of animals, shrouded in both mystery and majesty. For us and our Company it represents quality and strong product dependability. It’s image is both an invite to you the consumer to embark on a quest of changing the way you engage with the economic market and make decisions about how and what you buy but also an invite to you to enjoy the uniqueness of our products knowing that they are original Scottish products produced in Scotland using many of the hand craft cottage industries skills and knowledge that have been our expertise over the centuries.