

A Few Rare Collar Insignia

The US Army officers started to wear branch related collar insignia in 1892. While the various arms and services had been represented by a variety of designs since the early 19th century, the creation of the 1892 coat is the source from which most of today's branch insignia descend. Some of the seldom seen branch insignia worn by officers follow.



The Records and Pension Office received the above branch insignia in April 1899 and it lasted only until April 1904—five short years. Only two or three officers were assigned to the office at any given time.

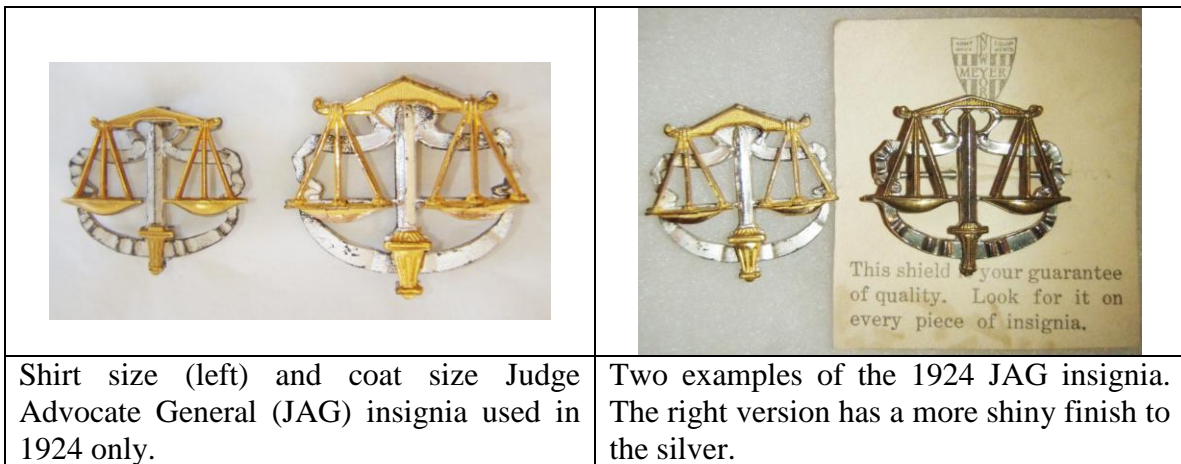
<p>A bronze colored 1903 Bureau of Insular Affairs insignia with the area between arrows solid. The bronze color lasted until 1923.</p>	<p>A gilt insignia with the arrows pierced. This was worn by the last survivor of the few officers assigned to the bureau.</p>	<p>The 1936 design, modified from the earlier version by Arthur E. DuBois while he was in the Heraldic Section of the Quartermaster Corps.</p>

The Bureau of Insular Affairs received its designation in July 1902, having started as the Division of Customs and Insular Affairs in late 1899. Those assigned to the bureau wore a special insignia—a winged bundle of seven arrows—starting in December 1902. Initially only the chief wore the insignia. In 1905 the only officer assigned to the bureau was the chief, Colonel Clarence R. Edwards, who remained as chief for ten years. Promoted to brigadier general in July 1906, he served in that position until 1912. A second officer was assigned in March 1907. In 1912 Frank McIntyte, previously assigned to the bureau in 1910 as colonel, became the brigadier general and bureau chief and under him were a colonel and a major. These same three officers remained in the bureau into the 1920s. Throughout this time the wings on the seven-arrow bundle

drooped, but in 1936 the Quartermaster Corps redesigned the insignia with straight wings, but this later design lasted only three years as the army ceased having officers in the bureau after July 1939 when the functions transferred to the Department of the Interior.









While the **US Military Academy** had civilian professors since its early days, these men wore special uniforms, often with engineer buttons, and in 1872 they received modified army uniforms. Finally in 1902 the professors started to wear standard army uniforms with the insignia of the Military Academy replacing the insignia of the arms and services. The number of professors at the military academy was small: eight in 1905; ten in 1910; while in 1918 the number was down to nine. Two versions of bronze insignia are shown above. This design was worn only between 1902 and 1923 since a new 1923 the design reversed so the eagle and the Greek helmet and sword to face the other way.



For eleven months in 1924 members of the **Judge Advocate General's Department** had as their insignia a gold pair of scales balanced on sword point, with a silver ribbon completing the design. Despite the short time of use, various versions exist. One is a smaller device for the shirt collar, shown next to the version for the standing coat collar. Also shown is a second version made by N. S. Meyer Company, still on the original sales card.

Even though the JAG Department consisted of nearly 100 soldiers in 1924, few of them wore the new insignia due to both the unpopularity of the design and its short existence. Most of these lawyers just wore the crossed pen and sword over a wreath until it again became the official insignia.

	
<p>The collar insignia for the 11th Cavalry's veterinarian, circa 1903.</p>	<p>Inspectors of Small Arms Practice started to wear small Ordnance insignia in 1914.</p>
	
<p>Chaplains wore a cross below the crossed arms between 1902 and 1914.</p>	<p>The field artillery used a wheel at the center of short cannons, 1902 to 1905. Adjutants added a shield below.</p>
	

Starting in 1902 and continuing until 1924, various **staff officers** for infantry, cavalry, and artillery regiments and engineer battalions added special staff devices to their collar insignia. Many of these insignia have been reproduced for collectors since the 1980s due to their desirability and scarcity. Above are a few of original staff insignia from before World War I.