

## SEAL USES FACT, LEGEND

Shortly after Samuel Fisher Babbitt was named in January 1966 to the presidency of the then chartered but as yet only partially defined Kirkland College, the new president and his wife talked of a seal for the college.

The location of Kirkland on the site of an apple orchard and the classic significance of the apple gave them reason to develop the theme.

Then a Hamilton alumnus on the Young and Rubicam creative staff developed sketches,

and elements from several were combined into the Kirkland Seal, approved by the Board of Trustees in October 1966.

The Seal is a wide oval in shape containing a stylized apple tree, roots, and five branches. Three branches show early leaf, the apple blossom, and the fruit. The Seal depicts an organic object appropriate for Kirkland as an organic institution, growing, changing, and developing.

Many ancient sources give significance to the apple tree. It appears constantly in ancient myths which far pre-date the Adam and Eve myth and in which it represents attributes of knowledge, salvation, and immortality.

Robert Graves in *The White Goddess* refers to the apple tree in its appearance in Irish, British, Welsh, and European myths as "the salvation of poets," "the noblest tree of all," and "the tree of immortality-through-wisdom."

The five-pointed star, emblem of immortality, is found within the apple when halved crosswise. Coincidentally, Kirkland's incorporators were five in number.

As represented in the Kirkland Seal, the three connected yet distinct phases of growth—leaf, blossom, and fruit—represent the distinct phases of the female life upon which the educational philosophy of the new college is based.

