**Heraldry Events in New York.**

As promised in the September issue John Shannon sends this Report.

On 29 April Bruce Patterson, Saint-Laurent herald of the Canadian Heraldic Authority, addressed a meeting of the College of Arms Foundation at the New York Genealogical & Biographical Society in New York. His subject was “Heraldry and Sport” and it was a most interesting presentation, showing numerous illustrations of armorial bearings of athletes, presidents of the International Olympic Committee (Marques de Samarranch), cities where the Olympic Games have been held (Vancouver) and sporting associations like football clubs or golf clubs. He also showed coats of arms with sporting references, including those of Sir John Major and Lillywhite’s. Those who have been privileged to attend one of Mr. Patterson’s lectures know what a high standard of scholarship and research he sets; and also how informative and entertaining they are.

Almost two weeks later, on 12 May, the Foundation presented two different speakers, who were both intimately knowledgeable about their subjects: the armorial bearings of the New York St. Andrew’s Society and the St. George’s Society. Each is ancient, having been founded in 1756 and 1770 respectively. Each applied for armorial bearings, St. Andrew’s from the Court of Lord Lyon in 2008, when Robin Orr Blair held the office, and St. George’s from the College of Arms in 1999.

Duncan Bruce, a past President of the St. Andrew’s Society, described why the Society requested and obtained the various charges and supporters.

The goal was to marry St. Andrew and New York, that is to say, to create a design that expresses the Society and its locale. It was inevitable that the New York St. Andrew’s Society would contain a St. Andrew’s cross. In this instance it is in the chief of the shield, with an apple at the centre as a reference to New York: the “Big Apple”. The main part of the shield is red and bears a ship between five gold mullets representing the migration of the Scottish settlers to New York, and the five boroughs of New York City. The shield rests on a barrel, which Mr. Duncan said could represent flour – or whiskey. Above the helm is a bluebird, the state bird of New York. The supporters - a relatively rare award - are dexter, an Indian, representing the original natives of New York and sinister a Scottish merchant. The whole achievement rests on a compartment.

Mr. Shannon began his presentation with a review of different emblems that St. George’s Society had used in the past. The problem was, that more than one St. George’s Society used the same emblems, a principal one being a design by Benedetto Pistrucci, produced for the Royal Mint in 1817. In 1996, it was proposed that St. George’s acquire arms from the College of Arms in London. The cost was personally underwritten by members of the board of directors. As in Scotland, a petition (called a “memorial”) to the Earl Marshal, was followed by his warrant to the Kings of Arms. (In England, individuals receive a grant of arms while corporate bodied receive a devisal.) A committee was established to work on the design. As with St. Andrew’s Society, the goal was to express the Society in heraldic terms. The chief elements were determined to be: St. George, New York, and charity. St. George slaying a dragon has been appropriated, both by the Order of the Garter and by the Royal Society of St. George therefore neither could be used by the New York Society but the shield contains a red cross on a white field, the Cross of St. George and flag of England. This is seldom granted nowadays since it is the national emblem. For difference, there are demi-garbs of wheat. New York is represented by the crest: a hemisphere with an American eagle, which is a direct quote from the arms of New York City, surrounded by a circlet of mullets (or American) stars. St. George’s too was awarded supporters, dexter: St. George and sinister: a Lenape Indian with trade goods at his feet. The Lenapes hunted in the environs of Manhattan when the first European settlers arrived there. The achievement rests on a special compartment, a stone wall, which is an allusion to the wall at Wall Street. The combination of supporters, and the compartment, are unique. The arms were delivered to the Society’s annual English Ball in April of 2000.

Meanwhile Duane L.C.M. Galles of Minneapolis, Minnesota writes: “Anent your notice in the September, 2010, Heraldry Gazette about the arms of the St Andrew’s Society of New York, your readers may find of interest a description of those arms in the context of the arms of similar St. Andrew Societies on pages 14-15 of Tak Tent, the July, 2010, Newsletter of the Heraldry Society of Scotland”.

John W. Mitchell comments on the arms of John Blundell; “I quote from the fourth paragraph: “I think I am correct in saying that pure economics has never been on a coat of arms before.” The arms of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales depict the figure of “Economia”. Does this count?”

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**Items for inclusion in the Gazette:** post to the Editor, The Heraldry Gazette, c/o The Membership Secretary (address p.2) or e-mail gazette@theheraldrysociety.com
What on Earth does, “U B” mean?

On the subject of mermaids (see Royat, p.15) the University of Birmingham, once so proud of its coat of arms, is now, shamefully, reduced to the bland letters, “UB” on its website - less meaningful than “UB 40”!

The arms, below, are: “Tierced in piaire reversed in dexter chief Gules a lion with two heads rampant Or in sinister chief Azure a mermaid in the dexter hand a mirror and in the sinister hand a comb Or the base Sable charged with an open book Proper with two buckles, straps and edges Or inscribed, “Per Ardua Ad Alta” (its motto). It was

Granted in August 1900.

The Medical School (est. 1828) uses, “A griffin segreant per fess Argent and Gules” as its Badge (see ‘William Sands-Cox’ p.4). While this was machined on, the University Outfitters (at the bottom of the steps of Christchurch Passage – a regular trysting spot at the time) also produced a spurious version with silver and gilt wire. Incidentally although the steps are still there it is no longer a passage, the intervening buildings having long since fallen victim to Birmingham’s mania for knocking things down. They now form one side of Victoria Square, famous for the Iron (rusting) Man and the “Floozie in the Jacuzzi”, the latter not a patch on the superb mermaid outside the Students’ Union building on campus.

L. Edward Rothwell, F.H.S.

These arms, granted to Mr. Rothwell, F.H.S. are interesting in that John Brooke-Little (his Agent) said that they were the last personal Grant in the West Riding – after which date Edward Heath abolished the much-loved Ridings of Yorkshire. The Grant is dated the 25th of January 1974.

The blazon reads; “Azure a Griffin sejant displayed affronty Or supporting with the forelegs a Mural Crown Gules on a chief Or a Fleur-de-Lys Azure And for a Crest on a wreath of the colours Issuant from an Ancient Crown Purpure a demi Griffin Or bearded armed and winged Azure supporting between the forelegs a Mural Crown Gules each wing charged with a Rose Argent barbed and seeded proper and mantled Gules doubled Argent.”

The blue and gold are from the Arms of de Warrenne, Lords of the manor wherein lies Holmfirth and near where the grantee lives. The Griffins, Fleurs-de-Lys and Ancient Crown have a long heritage in heraldry (the Griffin being a combination of Lion and Eagle). The Fleurs-de-Lys is a charge – not a mark of cadency while the mural crown alludes to the grantee’s long-held Office of Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Armorer. The White Rose, of course, alludes to Yorkshire while the use of Purpure refers to the Earls de Lacy former lords of the Metropolitan district.

College Appointments

Clarenceux King of Arms: by Letters Patent dated 1 September 2010, under the Great Seal, Her Majesty The Queen has been pleased to appoint Patric Dickinson, LVO, formerly Norroy and Ulster King of Arms, as Clarenceux King of Arms, with effect from 31 August 2010. This in the place of Hubert Chesshyre, CVO who retired from the College of Arms on that day.

Norroy and Ulster King of Arms: by Letters Patent dated 20 September 2010, under the Great Seal, Her Majesty The Queen has been pleased to appoint Henry Edgar Paston-Bedingfeld (previously York Herald) as Norroy & Ulster King of Arms, in the place of Patric Dickinson.

Wales Herald Extraordinary: Thomas Owen Saunders Lloyd, OBE, DL, was on 2 August 2010 appointed to this position by Her Majesty The Queen, in the place of Michael Powell Siddons.

Thomas Lloyd, an expert in Welsh heritage, is a former Chairman of the Historic Buildings Council for Wales, and likewise of the Cambrian Archaeological Association and the Pembrokeshire Historical Society.

As Wales Herald Extraordinary, Thomas Lloyd replaces Dr Michael Siddons who has retired after fifteen years’ distinguished service. Michael Siddons is a widely acknowledged leader in the fields of Welsh heraldry and genealogy.
Russ Wayne Copping, U.S.A.

A strikingly clear use of black and white is to be found in the Arms of Russ Wayne Copping of Covington, Louisiana; U.S.A. They were designed by the Armiger and Granted 1st May 1995 by the College of Arms. Mr. P.L. Dickinson, Norroy and Ulster King of Arms (then Richmond Herald) was the agent. The blazon reads; “Per bend Sable and Argent a scarp raguly per bend sinister between five cross crosslets fitchy two and three all counterchanged.”

Crest: “Upon a helm within an ancient crown Or a male griffin Sable armed beaked and rayed Argent holding in the dexter claw a two-edged sword erect and in the sinister claw a flash of lightning bendwise Gold. Mantled Sable doubled Argent.”

The rationale, in Mr. Copping’s own words, “The shield is divided per bend sinister as a personal preference. The division into black and white represents the universal polarities, positive / negative, Yin Yang, etc. The scarp raguly sinister represents two ideas; first as representing battlements for an interest in residential architecture and secondly resembling the cut branches of a tree limb representing an interest in Bonsai culture, while being counterchanged reinforces the idea of the polarities. The crosses crosslet fitchy embody the opposing duality of the warrior but modified by Christian principles, five in number being the number of years served as a qualified member of U.S. Army Special Forces as radio operator and supervisor. In the Crest, the Ancient Crown Or represents the interest in heraldry as it is a main charge of the Heraldry Society of Great Britain. The fleur de lys finials of the crown are also representative of the armiger’s city of birth, New Orleans. The male Griffin is in allusion to the crest griffin of the Coppings of Norfolk. The golden sword is taken from the shoulder patch insignia of U.S. Army Special forces. The flash of lightning is for the hobby of amateur radio. The motto “Nil Nisi Bonum” (Nothing unless it be good) is a reference to the armiger’s reputation for excellence in his former profession as a jeweller / goldsmith.”

Congratulations go to Mr. Copping for designing such a striking achievement.

Nanny McPhee

Anyone who has watched the delightful children’s film about an initially fearsome nanny with magical powers will have glimpsed some all too tantalisingly brief shots of a hatchment hanging on the wall of the office of the funeral parlour run by Colin Firth. Googling in key words I came across Stephen J. F. Plowman, TD, FSA Scot; and “Heraldry Online Blog” at www.heraldry-online.org.uk (well worth a visit) and to whom I am indebted for use of his illustrations.

It transpires that this hatchment is recorded in Volume 10 of, “Hatchments in Britain” under Miscellaneous No. 8 page 98 and are those of Thomas Harries of Cruckton, Salop. who married Barbara, daughter and heiress of John Smithson and who died in 1848. On an all-black background are, “Barry of eight Ermine and Azure three annulets Or” (Harries). In pretence quarterly of six, 1st and 6th “Vert three eagles close Argent” (Smithman), 2nd “Chequy Argent and Sable” (?), 3rd, “Argent a chevron Gules between three chapeau also Gules turned up Ermine” (?), 4th “Gules a talbot passant Argent (Comberford) 5th “Azure a lion rampant an orle of fleur-de-lys Or” (Beaumont).

Crest, “A hawk Argent preying on a curlew Argent legs and bill Gules,” mantling Gules and Argent, motto; “Veritas et Libertas”.

The hatchment presumably now belongs to the Props Department of a film studio but does anyone know for sure?
Correspondence

We had an excellent response to previous articles starting with the arms of Ussher

Bill Pollock of Newcastle, Staffs. (Hon. Treasurer, Staffordshire H.S.) asks, “When I read the article I looked up Papworth’s contribution on the Usher family and became more confused than ever (see illus.).

I am looking forward to receiving further enlightenment from more learned heraldists.

Gerard Crotty writes from Castlelyons, Co. Cork; “Pro bono heraldico’ asks (Gazette 116) about the differently tintured versions of the arms of James Ussher, Archbishop of Armagh, as displayed in a window of the Great Hall of Lincoln’s Inn where the lion’s gambs are Sable on Argent and in the Inn’s records of the original Victorian window which show the silver on a red field. It would appear that the modern replacement window shows the correct version. The Funeral Entry of James’ uncle, Henry Usher, also Archbishop of Armagh (d. 1613) shows, Argent three lion’s gambs erect Sable as does that of Walter Usher, Alderman of Dublin (d. 1636).

In both cases, however, this coat appears in positions 2 and 3 of a quarterly arrangement, precedence being given to the much better-known coat, Azure a chevron Ermine between three batons Or. Beside Archbishop Henry’s shield is the note “1 4 Ussher/2&3 Uschere”.

This raises a broader question regarding families who bear two different coats and often quarter both together, a phenomenon which, at least in Ireland, is not as rare as we might imagine. In the case of Ussher it is possible that one coat was recorded in England and the other in Ireland and it would be interesting to know which coat should be regarded as ‘Ussher ancient’ and which as ‘Ussher modern’?

The following list of families who seem to have double coats, both for the same surname, is offered in the hope that readers may be able to add to it or, conversely, shorten it, by showing some of the ‘second’ coats to be mis-identified quarterings: Belairs, Beresford, Bernard (Earl of Bandon), Caldwell, Cobbe, Cosby of Stradhallly, Fowler, Hackett, Kenney of Kilclogher, Loftus, Lovett of Liscombe, MacDermot, Melville (possibly a normal quartering), Neville (Marquess of Abergavenney etc.), Ormsby and Sankey.”

John J. Fitzpatrick Kennedy sent; “I was intrigued to read An Heraldic Query by Pro Bono Heraldico and the depiction of the arms of Archbishop James Ussher. I was both surprised to see his arms blazoned as Argent three lions’ gambs erect and erased Sable (or indeed as Gules, three lions’ gambs erect and erased Argent). The good Archbishop not only believed that the world had begun on 23 October, 4004BC, but also responsible for the acquisition of the Book of Kells which eventually came to the Trinity College, Dublin Library. He also descended from the Usshers of Dublin who had a long and very prominent position in the Dublin oligarchy in Ireland. Arland Ussher, his ancestor had been Lord Mayor of Dublin in 1469. So the Most Rev. James Usher, (D.D., Oxon 1626), Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland from 1625, was prominent in the Church in Ireland. The arms traditionally borne by members of this family, however, were: Azure, a chevron ermine between three batons Or. Crest: an Arm couped below the elbow and erect, vested bendy Or and Azure, holding in the hand proper a baton Or.

Archbishop Ussher’s genealogy is admirably set forth in,”Burke’s Irish Family Records (MCMLXXVI), London, pp. 1154-1160.” Moreover, his position as Preacher at Lincoln’s Inn in 1647 is mentioned there as well. Rather than answering Pro Bono Heraldico’s question directly, this adds a new more complex question as to their attribution in restored Lincoln’s Great Hall of c. 1950s”.

Meanwhile Ron Fiske of Morningthorpe, Norfolk states; “The questions raised by ‘Pro bono heraldico’ are worthy of comment. He tells us that the original arms in the glass for Sir Harbottle Grimstone were a quarterly of nine but this is not how Thomas Willement recorded it, showing a single shield of arms as in the 1950s replacement but with a baronet’s badge in the centre chief.

As regards the arms of Archbishop Ussher, Willement’s drawing is again similar to the 1950s replacement save for the gambs being coupled, not erased. But this is not the end of the matter as Willement also owned an Ordinary of Arms which he says ‘appears to have been the MS from which Edmondson printed the Ordinary at the end of the first volume of his, “Complete Body of Heraldry” and which he there calls Glover’s Ordinary of Arms, ‘Augmented and Improved’. In this manuscript the arms of William Ushere are as shown. It will be noticed that the ‘gambs’ are not only coupled but they are inverted. To discover the reason for this we need to look back before the introduction of the term gamb in English heraldry. In Wall’s manuscript, “Blazon of Arms” C1533 the arms of Uschere are given as ‘ar ij Lyons legge copped sab armed g’. Elsewhere in his Blazon he describes lion’s gambs which have had their claws upwards as paws. This seems eminently sensible but not