

Third Series Vol. II part 1.

No. 211

Spring 2006

ISSN 0010-003X

Price £12.00

# THE COAT OF ARMS

an heraldic journal published twice yearly by The Heraldry Society



# THE COAT OF ARMS

*The journal of the Heraldry Society*



Third series

Volume II

**2006**

Part 1

*Number 211 in the original series started in 1952*

The Coat of Arms is published twice a year by The Heraldry Society, whose registered office is 53 High Street, Burnham, Slough SL1 7JX. The Society was registered in England in 1956 as registered charity no. 241456.

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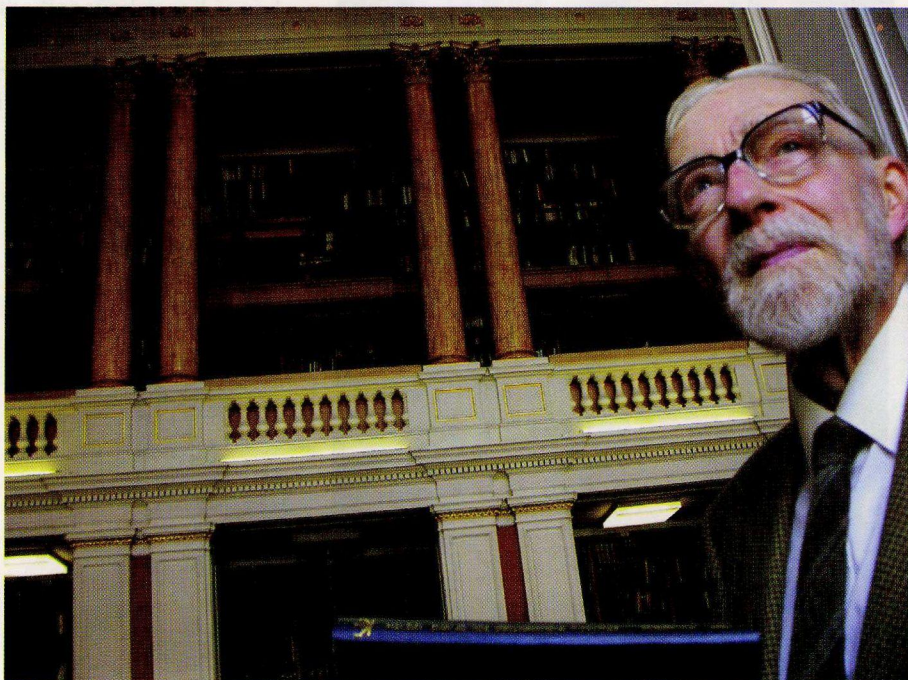
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### PLATE 3

Photo: John A. A. Goodall, F.S.A.



#### JOHN GOODALL (1930-2005)

Photographed in the library of the Society of Antiquaries with a copy of the  
*Parliamentary Roll* (ed. N.H. Nicolas, 1829).

Left (b), the cartouche on the north  
side of the tomb chest, showing the  
Bridgeman, Woodward, Daunt and  
Olepeane quarterings. The poor  
restoration is clearly visible.  
See p. 53.

Photographer: Gareth Thomas, FRPS



## JOHN ARCHIBALD GOODALL, F.S.A. (1930-2005)

John Goodall, a member of the editorial committee of this journal, and once a frequent contributor to its pages, died in St Thomas' Hospital of an infection on 23 November 2005. He was suffering from cancer.

His prodigiously wide learning spread back to the Byzantine and ancient worlds, and as far afield as China and Japan, but particularly focused on medieval rolls of arms, on memorial brasses and on European heraldry. Among other honours he was an associate of the Académie Internationale d'Héraldique, a recipient of the Serbian Society for Heraldry's 'White Eagle' award, and a Bickersteth medallist of the Institute for Heraldic and Genealogical Studies. His scholarly life was celebrated by a symposium held on 27 January this year at the Society of Antiquaries, where he had been a fellow since 1969 and was awarded the Society medal in 1996. The following two contributions, by Sally Badham and Thomas Woodcock, are based on papers delivered at the symposium.

### I.

John Goodall was born on 9 August 1930. His father seems to have little to do with his early life, as was common at that time, and this part of his life was occupied mostly with his mother, grandfather and great aunt. He may have been brought up a Methodist but converted first to Roman Catholicism and later went over to the Orthodox Church. He may even thought studying for the priesthood for a time before becoming disillusioned and leaving the church.

John was Sir Anthony Wagner's assistant at the College of Arms from the early 1950s. He later became a freelance researcher, carrying out much work in cataloguing private archives and in heraldic and antiquarian research for private clients and for friends. For a time in the 1980s he was also employed in Colletts Chinese Gallery, where he assisted in the acquisition of books concerning museum collections in mainland China. He found it interesting because such books were not readily available here and with his specialist knowledge he could make an informed choice of publications that would aid other scholars.

John will be best remembered for his work on English and continental heraldry and seals, but he was a man of quite phenomenal erudition and wide antiquarian learning. Encouraged by his good friends, John Page-Phillips and Malcolm Norris, he was very actively involved in the Monumental Brass Society in the 1960s and 1970s. He collaborated with Page-Phillips on a corrected and augmented reprint of the Wallers' *Series of Monumental Brasses*, also providing considerable assistance to Page-Phillips in the latter's work on palimpsest brasses and to Norris, whose magisterial three volume study of brasses remains the standard work on the subject nearly thirty years after it was published in 1977-8. Both works are full of important discoveries made by John, providing ample evidence of his talents as the antiquarian equivalent of Sherlock Holmes. He also had an interest in other types of funeral monument, joining forces with his long-standing friend, Claude Blair, to produce two articles on medieval carved effigies at Winchelsea and Wiltsthorpe.

## THE COAT OF ARMS

John produced many articles and reviews – an attempt is made at listing them below – but not the string of authoritative books that one would expect of such a notable scholar. His name appears more commonly among the list of significant acknowledgements in the work of his many acquaintances than in the author line. He wrote only a single monograph: *Heaven and Earth: 120 album leaves from a Ming Encyclopedia*, published in 1979, dedicated to his closest friend, Hilary Eastmead. He left a mass of papers at his death, many of which he had intended to publish when he was satisfied that he could take the work no further. Friends and institutions often received draft or finished copies of unpublished papers (of which it has not been possible to take account in the bibliography). His great wish when he knew that he was terminally ill was to complete his catalogue of the Society of Antiquaries' collection of seals, on which he continued to work on as best he could while in hospital, but perhaps the most important of the projects he left incomplete was *Aspilogia 4*.

John's acquaintance was wide, but he remained a very private man and, apart from Hilary Eastmead, even those who had known him for half a century knew little of his background and personal life, about which he rarely talked. Hilary remembers him as a wonderful, loving and caring man, with a marvelous sense of humour. During the early years of their acquaintance, John's interest in Asian studies grew and they regularly attended the Japanese tea ceremony of Hatsugama and Joyugama. John paid much attention to exhibitions and concerts performed by Chinese, Mongolian, Tibetan and Japanese visiting musicians and artists. In his leisure time John also went to concerts of Asian and early English music with Hilary, the while amassing an extensive collection of recordings, as well as making their own. The pair also gave lectures and talks at the City Literary Institute, the Far Eastern Painting Society and many other places.

Another of John's interests was gardening. In this connection he watched most gardening programs and was particularly fascinated by the reconstruction of lost gardens and the history of the development of the garden. This interest expanded to the study of indoor miniature gardens in the form of ikebana and ferns, the latter an interest which had been shared by his grand-father and great-grandfather, whose magnificent glasshouses housed highly prized collections of ferns and orchids. John collected and amassed a large number of books relating to this subject from China and Japan, which helped in the identification of plants and the symbolic associations attached to them by the peoples of both those countries.

John will be remembered not just for his remarkable knowledge, but also for the generosity with which he shared his time and the fruits of his scholarship with others, whether distinguished F.S.A.s or young scholars. Those whose work would have been the poorer without John's encyclopaedic knowledge and endless willingness to help others are legion. His passing leaves an enormous void for those whom he knew and for the antiquarian world.

Sally Badham



## II.

A tremendous knowledge of and interest in heraldry was a continuing thread through John Goodall's life and was based on his work at the College of Arms. The exact date of John's arrival at the College is obscured by a slight fog like much concerning John but it was certainly at least six months before 3 November 1955 when Anthony Wagner, then Richmond Herald, asked for permission for his clerk Mr. John Goodall to use the Record Room. There is a rule at the College that one has to have been employed for more than six months before permission to use the Record Room can be obtained. John left the College in 1971 ostensibly after a dispute over who should be in charge of Garter's Ordinaries although he must have been disappointed not to have been included in the list of four pursuivants appointed the previous year.

Whilst at the College John converted first to Roman Catholicism, John Brooke-Little being his godfather, and then to the Greek Orthodox Faith, attending the Cathedral in Moscow Road – though he complained bitterly after going on a Greek Orthodox retreat that there had been no hot water with which to shave. It should also be noted that all the most difficult medieval genealogy was given to John by Sir Anthony Wagner whilst John was at the College of Arms, although it is now heraldry more than genealogy with which he is associated. On the subject of John's own antecedents, while some may know that John's mother was an ice-skating champion, one small and improbable snippet of interest is that his grandfather Archibald Goodall was a well known international footballer who played four hundred and twenty three times for Derby County, in two FA Cup Finals and for Ireland where he was born, though his father was from Clackmannanshire. The 1903 FA Cup Final, when John's grandfather Archie Goodall captained Derby County, was one of the duller on record and the last thirty minutes were played to a half empty stadium.

John's first article in *The Coat of Arms* was published in 1954 and is about a grant of arms in 1490 by John Writhe, Garter, to Hugh Vaughan of Wales. However, it is an article by John published in *The Coat of Arms* for October 1956, and entitled 'The classification of rolls of arms: some further suggestions', which leads on to the work which John was recently engaged in for the *Aspilogia* series of volumes published under the aegis of the Croft Lyons Committee of the Society of Antiquaries. *Aspilogia 1* was Sir Anthony Wagner's *Catalogue of English Medieval Rolls of Arms* (1950), which lists chronologically approximately one hundred different collections of English arms dating between about 1250 and 1500. Sir Anthony divided rolls of arms into five groups, namely (i) 'illustrative rolls' where the shields appear in the margin of manuscripts; (ii) 'occasional rolls' which give the names and arms of those present on a particular occasion; (iii) 'general rolls' which usually began with Sovereigns of the World and continued downwards through English Earls, Lords and Knights; (iv) 'local rolls' relating to a particular part of the country; and (v) ordinaries, arranging coats of arms by design. John suggested in his article of October 1956 two further categories, namely (vi) 'feudal rolls' composed of the coats of arms of feudal tenants or the holders of a particular fief; and (vii) 'family rolls' of the fifteenth century which were the precursors of sixteenth-century pedigree rolls. An example of a family roll which he gives is Friar Brackley's Book of c. 1440-60. This

## THE COAT OF ARMS

article was partly based on an expedition which John made to Norwich in May 1956 to inspect Friar Brackley's Book, which was presented to Norwich Public Library by Walter Rye and shows 'shields of arms relating to the Pastons, their alliances and descents'.

*CEMRA* was designed to be followed by editions of the rolls described therein in chronological order. *Aspilogia 2* containing the three earliest English rolls of arms edited by T. D. Tremlett and Hugh Stanford London was published in 1967; *Aspilogia 3* published in 1997 for The Society of Antiquaries contained the eighteen rolls of arms of the reign of Edward I and was edited in two volumes by Professor Gerard Brault of Pennsylvania State University.

John was asked and agreed to edit *Aspilogia 4*, originally conceived as the rolls of arms of Edward II's reign (1307 to 1327), but extended by John to 1334 to include the Carlisle Roll and the Second Dunstable Roll so that the rolls relating to both the first tournament at Dunstable in 1308, the first roll of the reign, and the second tournament in 1334 (which he re-dated to 1333) were included, as was the roll of those mustered at Carlisle in 1334, many of whom attended the tournament at Dunstable.

In total *Aspilogia 4* is to contain twelve rolls and John envisaged it as occupying two parts or volumes. The first part would contain his notes on *Aspilogia 3* in the form of corrigenda and addenda and the Great Parliament Roll of c. 1312 which contains 1,110 entries and is only slightly smaller than all the remaining eleven rolls added together which contain 1,416 shields. Of these eleven rolls John had sent me completed versions of six; and edited or partly edited texts of the others may exist among his effects. The problem was the Great Parliamentary Roll of which twenty-two copies of its original form are listed in *Aspilogia 1* together with a further sixteen of a mid-fourteenth-century version. No one who knew him will be surprised to learn that John had found further copies.

John was always generous with his knowledge. He was also the victim of his own wide range of interests as he was for ever finding new rolls of arms and pursuing side issues such as horse harness pendants of which he and I exhibited a number to the Antiquaries in 1991. In June 1999 he sent me a forty-three page medieval Scots armory which he had compiled. In August 1999 I received a nine page edition of a new roll which he had discovered and called the Tewkesbury Abbey Founders Roll. John regularly suggested that his new discoveries should be included in the medieval ordinary of *The Dictionary of British Arms*. This I resisted as they have not been included in Volumes I and II.

I shall miss John's regular visits to the College of Arms where he always arrived punctually at two p.m. and stayed till after four so that I had to accompany him out to unlock the gate. His enthusiasm for whatever he was pursuing was such that I would find myself continuing a conversation through the locked gate once I had let him out, whatever the weather. I doubt that anyone quite like John will be seen again.

Thomas Woodcock



III.

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## THE COAT OF ARMS

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