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JOHN PHILIP BROOKE-LITTLE C.V.O., M.A., F.H.S (1927-2006)

John Brooke-Little (John Philip Rudolph Dominic Aloysius Mary Brooke-Little, as he appears in the British Library Integrated Catalogue, or more simply JB-L), founder of the Heraldry Society and of this journal, died just as our last issue was going to press. In the interim his life and achievements have been recounted in the form of obituaries and eulogies in a wide range of forums from the pages of the national press to the newsletters of local heraldry societies. The *Heraldry Gazette* printed a fine obituary which covered many aspects of JB-L's contribution to the popularization of the subject through the society and in other ways. At this stage, rather than add to the general plaudits, it seems wiser to concentrate on two specific types of contribution. Below, an opening attempt is made at the task of preparing a bibliography of John Brooke-Little's published writings, as well as some writings about him; later on in the number, an account of his major achievement as Librarian of the College of Arms, the setting up of a Conservation Department and a description of its present-day activities.

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As stated above, this bibliography is bound to be far from complete, even within the limited terms it sets itself. It does not list the numerous book reviews by the trinity of JB-L, OSTJ and FXL; they are for a future attempt, as are letters in the press and other periodicals. It must also be remembered that every number of *CoA* from the first down to the last in Series 2 (no. 207/8) carried an editorial piece; only those from nos. 182 to 198 bear titles and only they are listed below.

Books

Royal London. The story of London's Royal pageantry and ancient customs. London: Pitkins, 1953. 32 pp.

The Pictorial History of Oxford. The University City and the Colleges. London: Pitkins, 1955. 24 pp.

Knights of the Middle Ages. With illustrations by John Mollow. London: Evelyn, 1966. 32 pp.

With Sir Anthony Wagner, Rodney Dennys and Francis Jones. *Royal and Princely Heraldry of Wales.* London: Tabard, n.d.

JB-L is expressly credited with 'Heraldry' (p. 7) and 'The Princes of Wales' (p. 9). *The Prince of Wales. The title and its holders through seven centuries.* Edited by Jack Le Vien. London: Harrap, 1969. 24 pp. + 15 documents in reproduction.

Beasts in Heraldry. With Marie Angel. Brattleboro, Vermont: Green Press, [1974]. 94 pp.

Heraldry. Illustrated by Peter Spurrier. Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1975. 61 pp.

The British Monarchy in Colour. Poole: Blandford Press, 1976. x + 202 pp.

Royal Ceremonies of State. Feltham: Country Life Books, 1980. 144 pp.

- An Heraldic Alphabet*. London: MacDonald, 1973. x + 226 pp. Revised edition 1975. Paperback edition, London: Robson Books, 1985. Reprinted 1988.
- Royal Heraldry: Beasts and Badges of Britain*. Derby: Pilgrim Press, 1977. 24 pp.

Revisions of books by others

- A. C. Fox-Davies, *A Complete Guide to Heraldry*. First published 1909. Revised, annotated and prefaced by J. P. Brooke-Little, Richmond Herald of Arms. London: Thomas Nelson and Sons, 1969. xii + 513 pp. Re-issued, London: Orbis, 1985.
- Boutell's Heraldry*. 4th edn., revised by C. W. Scott-Giles and J. P. Brooke-Little. London and New York: Frederick Warne, 1963. xii + 316 pp. 5th and subsequent edns., revised by J. P. Brooke-Little. London and New York: Frederick Warne, 1970 (xii + 343 pp.), 1973 (xii + 355 pp.), 1978 (x + 357 pp.), 1983 (x + 368 pp.)

Other separate publications

- With Ann Tauté and Don Pottinger. *The Kings and Queens of Great Britain. A Genealogical Chart showing their descent and relationships*. London: Thomas Nelson and Sons, 1970.
- With John George. *St Pauls Cathedral Wallchart*. London: The Times, 1974.
- The Guilds and Livery Companies of the City of London*. London: Heraldic Heritage Ltd., n.d.

Introductions, forewords etc.

- Foreword in *The Colour of Heraldry* by various authors (East Knoyle: The Heraldry Society, 1958).
- Foreword in *Heraldry* by Sir Gerald Woods Wollaston (Swalcliffe: The Heraldry Society, 1960).
- Foreword to *Heraldry at the Fitzwilliam. Catalogue of an Exhibition of Heraldry at The Fitzwilliam Museum Cambridge, September and October 1970* (London: The Heraldry Society, 1970).
- Foreword in *Heraldry Galore. June 1st - 5th 1971 In the Crypt of the Banqueting House, Whitehall* ([London: The Heraldry Society, 1971]).
- Introduction to *An Outline of Heraldry in England and Scotland* by Robert Innes-Smith (Derby: Pilgrim Press, 1973).
- Introduction to *Papworth's Ordinary of British Armorial*, ed. Alfred W. Morant (1874: reprint London: Heraldry Today, 1977).
- Foreword in *Discovering Heraldry* by Jacqueline Fearn (Aylesbury: Shire Publications, 1980).
- Foreword in *Heraldry Now 1975-1981. An Exhibition of Contemporary Heraldic Art and Design arranged by The Heraldry Society and held at The Victoria and Albert Museum from 15th April to 31st May 1981* ([London]: The Heraldry Society, 1981).
- Foreword in *The Peerage of Ireland. With lists of all Irish Peerages past and present* by Ronald P. Gadd (n.p.: The Irish Peers' Association, 1985).
- Preface in *Cardinals and Heraldry* by Mark T. Elvins (London: Buckland, 1988).

- Introduction to *The Dictionary of Heraldry. Feudal Coats of Arms and Pedigrees* by Joseph Foster (London: Bracken Books, 1989).
- Introduction to *Heraldic Designs* [a selection of plates from *The Art of Heraldry*] by Arthur C. Fox-Davies (London: Studio Editions, 1991).
- Foreword in *Ulster's Office 1592-1800. A History of the Irish Office of Arms from the Tudor Plantations to the Act of Union* by the MacCarthy Mór, Prince of Desmond [i.e. Terence Francis MacCarthy] (Little Rock: Gryfons, 1996).

Contributions to works by others

- 'An introduction to heraldic terms', in *Reading Exhibition of Heraldry 1963. Arranged by the Heraldry Society at the invitation of and in co-operation with the Reading Museum and Art Gallery 12 October 1963* (Reading: Reading Museum and Art Gallery, 1963), pp. 14-20.
- Heraldic consultancy to *The Lives of the Kings and Queens of England*, ed. Antonia Fraser (London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1975; rev. edns. 1993 and 1998).
- Two volumes in a Cassell series entitled *A Royal History of England*, which was in large part a repackaging of this book, credit JB-L with the provision of heraldic illustrations, viz.: Neville Williams, ed. Antonia Fraser, *The Tudors* (London: Cassell, 2000).
- Andrew Roberts, ed. Antonia Fraser, *The House of Windsor* (London: Cassell, 2000).
- 'Royal heraldry', in *Burke's Guide to the British Monarchy*, ed. Hugh Montgomery-Massingberd (London: Burke's Peerage Ltd., 1975), pp. 94-100.
- Contributions to *Heraldry: Sources, Symbols and Meaning* by Ottfried Neubecker (London: MacDonald and Jane's, 1977).
- Contributions to *A New Dictionary of Heraldry*, ed. Stephen Friar (London: Alphabooks, 1987).
- 'The House of Lords and the peerage', in *Dod's History of Parliament* (London 1991).

Articles in periodicals

- 'Heraldry', *CoA* 1 (1950-1), no. 1, p. 2; no. 2, pp. 39f.; no. 3, p. 76; no. 4, pp. 117f.
- 'The Heraldry Society', *ibid.* no. 4, p. 124.
- 'The arms of Oxford University and its colleges', *ibid.* no. 5, pp. 158-61; no. 6, pp. 198-200; no. 7, pp. 235-8.
- 'Heraldry in country houses: Longleat', *ibid.* 2 (1952-3), no. 9, pp. 20-4.
- 'Hatchment of King George VI', *ibid.* no. 10, p. 52.
- 'Heraldry in country houses: Beaulieu Abbey', *ibid.* pp. 65-8.
- 'Marshalling', *ibid.* no. 16, pp. 299-300; 3 (1954-5), no. 17, pp. 26-8; no. 18, pp. 66f.; no. 20, pp. 155f.
- 'A brief account of the proceedings in the High Court of Chivalry on 21st December, 1954', *ibid.* 3 (1954-5) no. 21, pp. 166-8.
- 'Arms on a coffee pot', *ibid.* no. 23, p. 279.
- 'The Third International Heraldic and Genealogical Congress 1955', *ibid.* 4 (1956-8), no. 25, pp. 13-16.

- 'A curious grant of arms', *ibid.* no 31, pp. 294f.
- 'Obtaining a grant of arms', *Overseas* (journal of the British Overseas League) 45 (1960), no 481, pp. 12f.
- 'Miserere', *CoA* 6 (1960-1), no 41, p. 37.
- 'Heraldic designs no 40: the arms of Lord Battersea', *ibid.* 8 (1964-5), no 57, pp. 2f.
- 'Heraldic designs no 43: the arms of Hazelbury Bryan', *ibid.* no 60, pp. 134f.
- 'Whither heraldry' (as F. X. Lee), *ibid.* pp. 4-6.
- 'Heraldic designs no 46: the arms of Walter Aston Blount, Clarenceux', *ibid.* no 63, pp. 264f.
- 'Hazards facing the tourist in his search for British ancestry', *The Times* 14 January 1971, p. 16.
- 'Mr M. Trappes-Lomax, former Somerset Herald' (a tribute), *The Times* 27 November 1972, p. 16.
- 'Story of the real Order of St John', *The Times* 22 December 1973, p. 10.
- 'The Heraldry Society', *CoA* 2nd ser. 2 (1976-7), no. 100, pp. 94-99.
- 'How do you acquire a coat of arms?', *Australian Municipal Journal* 57, no. 899 (Oct. 1977), p. 100.
- 'Why have a coat-of-arms', *ibid.* no. 900 (Nov. 1977), p. 136.
- 'How do you use a coat of arms?', *ibid.* no. 901 (Dec. 1977-Jan. 1978), p. 166.
- 'Commemorative heraldry', *Journal of the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce* 133 (Sep. 1985), no. 5350, p. 724-31.
- 'Commemorative heraldry', *CoA* 2nd ser. 7 (1988-9), no. 140/141, p. 74-83.
- 'Editorial thoughts', *ibid.* no 144, pp. 206f.
- 'Forty years on', *ibid.* 2nd ser. 8 (1989-90), no 149, pp. 142-8.
- 'The managing editor', *ibid.* 2nd ser. 9 (1991-2), no 157, p. 225.
- 'Chaos', *CoA* 2nd ser. 11 (1995), no. 172, pp. 169f.
- 'More chaos', *ibid.* 2nd ser. 12 (1997), no. 177, pp. 17-9.
- 'The Heraldry Society, in the Beginning, Now, and Forever', *ibid.* no. 181, pp. 178-82.
- 'Loyalty and respect', *ibid.* no. 182, p. 222.
- 'Australia: whither heraldry?', *ibid.* no. 183, p. 266.
- 'Celebrating the Millennium', *ibid.* no. 184, p. 310.
- 'Heraldry and the European Union', *ibid.* no. 185, p. 2.
- 'The White Lion Society', *ibid.* no. 186, p. 46.
- 'Arms of Lord Battersea', *ibid.* no. 186, p. 76.
- 'An Order of St. David?', *ibid.* no. 187, pp. 90f.
- 'On one use of a Royal Licence', *ibid.* no. 188, p. 134.
- 'A golden jubilee', *ibid.* no. 189, p. 178.
- 'John Campbell-Kease', *ibid.* no. 190, p. 224.
- 'Whither cadency?', *ibid.* no. 191, p. 270.
- 'Adopting children', *ibid.* no. 192, p. 316.
- 'Is the Court of Chivalry obsolescent?', *ibid.* 2nd ser. 14 (2001-2), no. 193, p. 2.
- 'Requiescant in pace', *ibid.* no. 194, p. 40.
- 'Wanted: a museum', *ibid.* no. 195, p. 86.

- 'Irish grants still flow', *ibid.* no. 196, p. 134.
'Sixty turbulent years', *ibid.* no 197, p. 184.
'A bonus for life peers', *ibid.* no 198, p. 230.

Festschrift volume

Tribute to an armorist. Essays for John Brooke-Little to mark the Golden Jubilee of 'The Coat of Arms'. Ed. John Campbell-Kease. No place given: The Heraldry Society 2000. xii + 254 pp.

Newspaper obituaries of John Brooke-Little

- The Daily Telegraph*, 16 February 2006, p. 25.
The Herald (Glasgow), 17 February 2006, p. 37 (by Gordon Caseley).
The Times, 17 February 2006, p. 75. Follow-up tributes were published in the edition of 2 March 2006, p. 68.
The Times Colonist (Victoria, British Columbia), 17 February 2006, p. B13.
The Independent, 21 February 2006, p. 54 (by P. L. Dickinson).

Other references and citations

It is scarcely surprising that one who not only wrote widely used manuals and guides to heraldry, but gave lectures and made public appearances at home and abroad, should accrue a rich array of citations, references and mentions in the writings of others. A citation index entry for JB-L would be very long. Two of the odder references are offered here, one journalistic, the other from an unexpected academic discipline.

Andrew Moncur, 'Diary', *The Guardian* 5 December 1991, p. 23.

A piece recounting how JB-L dined with trouser-loss during a ceremony in Canterbury Cathedral, after forgetting his braces.

Dana N. Mackenzie, 'Triquetras and porisms', *College Mathematics Journal* 23 (1992) 2, pp. 118-131 at 120 (note 3).

JB-L's entry in *An Heraldic Alphabet* on the triquetra, the main element in his own badge (a badge also used by the heavy metal band Led Zeppelin), is cited in relation to the writer's 'triquetra theorem'. The theorem is as follows: Given three intersecting circles of equal radius r such that their centres lie on a circle of radius c , choose any three intersection points not all on any one of the circles, and let their circumradius be a . Let the circumradius of the remaining three intersection points be b . Then one of the equations $\pm ab \pm ac \pm bc = r^2$ must hold where two of the \pm signs are positive and one is negative.