

Third Series Vol. III part 2.

No. 214

Autumn 2007

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 III

2007

Part 2

Number 214 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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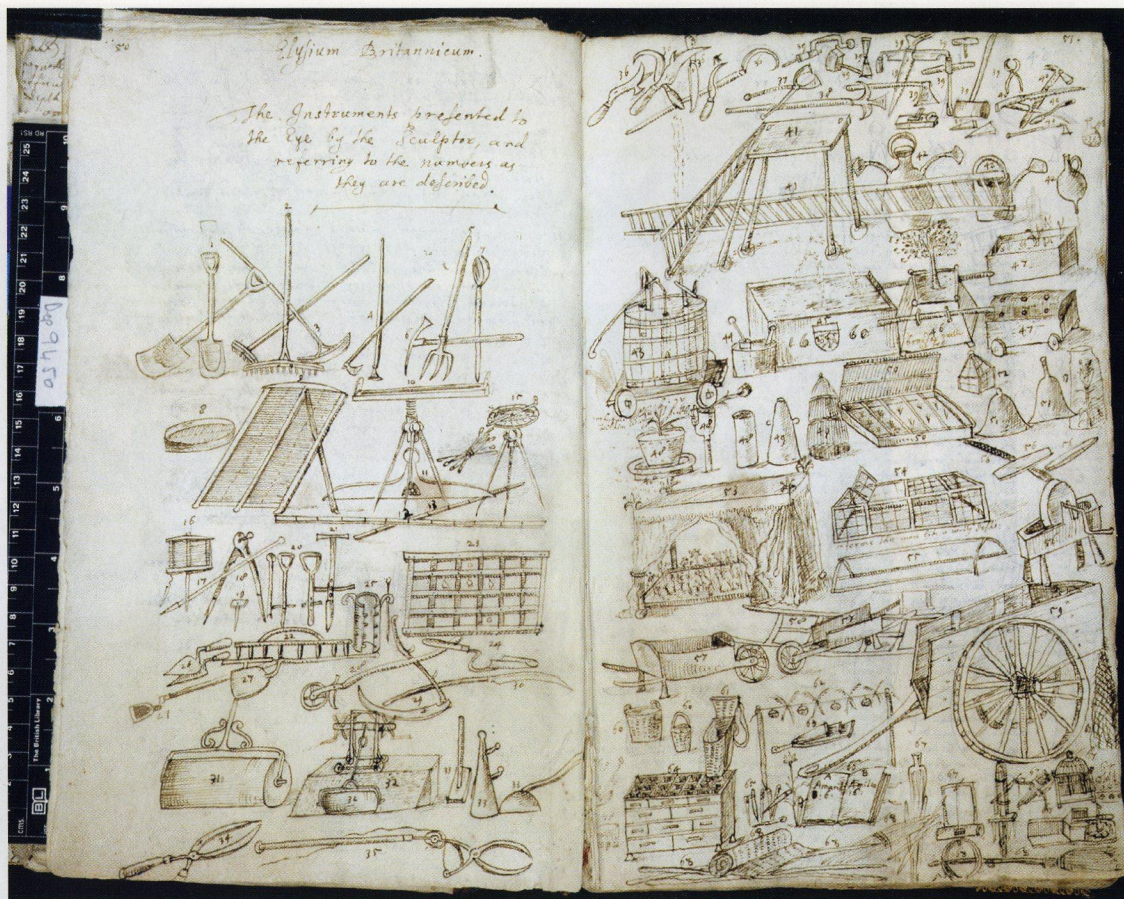
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British Library Additional Ms 78342 (Evelyn papers vol. clxxv: 'Elysium Britannicum'), fos. 57v-58r.
John Evelyn, diagram of equipment and utensils for husbandry and gardening, 1660. See pages 159-61.

The arms and accoutrements of the army of Merchants
of Great Britain Trading in the South Seas and East Indies, by Captain
Christopher and Norway, King of arms, 31 October 1711. Catalogue of Manuscripts
See page 148.

SHORTER NOTES

The silver seal of Robert Fitzwalter, died 1235. *John Cherry writes:* The seal of Robert Fitzwalter is one of the finest medieval silver equestrian seal matrices to survive (see **Plate 5**). Found in Stamford, Lincolnshire, in the reign of Charles II, it came to the British Museum in 1841. Earlier this year it was chosen to represent the exhibition 'Good Impressions', which was mounted in the British Museum with the generous help of Dr John Rassweiler, from January to May; the exhibition was reviewed in this journal by Paul A. Fox, *CoA* 3rd ser. 3 (2007), pp. 75f.

The first account of the seal was given by John Charles Brooke, Somerset Herald, in *Archaeologia* for 1777 (vol. 5, pp. 211-5). He thought that it was the Robert Fitzwalter who died in 1325, and believed that the shield of arms under the horse's head was that of Eleanor, daughter of Robert de Ferrers, Earl of Derby, who married Robert Fitzwalter in 1298 and died in 1304, the Ferrers arms being derived from those of Quincy through the marriage of Roger de Quincy's daughter and co-heiress in 1238 to William, Earl of Derby. Although in his catalogue of the seals in the British Museum, Walter de Gray Birch assigned the seal to Robert Fitzwalter who died in 1235 (*BM Seals* 6015f.), the Brooke interpretation was followed by Sir Anthony Wagner in 1939 and C. H. Hunter Blair in 1943.

The correct background and dating of the Fitzwalter matrix were to be clearly and thoroughly explained by George Henderson in his article 'Romance and politics on some English medieval seals', in *Art History* 1 (1978), pp. 26-42. Robert Fitzwalter and Saher de Quincy were political accomplices and allies, and the prime movers in the Barons revolt against King John, and both were together in the French army, which was defeated by the royal army in 1216. The Fitzwalter arms occur on the seal of Saher de Quincy and Robert reciprocated, so indicating an exchange of arms. Both the style of the seal and this exchange of arms indicate that the matrix was engraved in the years 1210 to 1220.

The same dating was also adopted by M Jean-Bernard de Vaivre in his important article 'Échanges et adoptions d'armoiries au XIIIe siècle', published in the *Comptes rendus de l'Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-lettres* (1982), pp. 371-83, four years after George Henderson, but without referring to it. Walter de Gray Birch did make many mistakes in his six-volume *Catalogue of Seals*, but the misidentification of the seal of Robert Fitzwalter was not one of them.

The Evelyn Arms on a Cistern? *Anton C. Zeven and †Robert A. Laing of Colington write:* On folio 58 of John Evelyn's manuscript study of horticulture 'Elysium Britannicum' (Evelyn Papers vol. clxxv, now BL Add Ms 78342, recently published as *Elysium Britannicum, or The Royal Gardens*, ed. John E. Ingram, Penn Studies in Landscape Architecture: Pittsburgh 2000) there is an interesting drawing covering two full pages, showing some 70 garden utensils, each marked by a number. Among them is a cistern on which appears a heraldic shield and the year 1660 (**Fig. 1**, over,

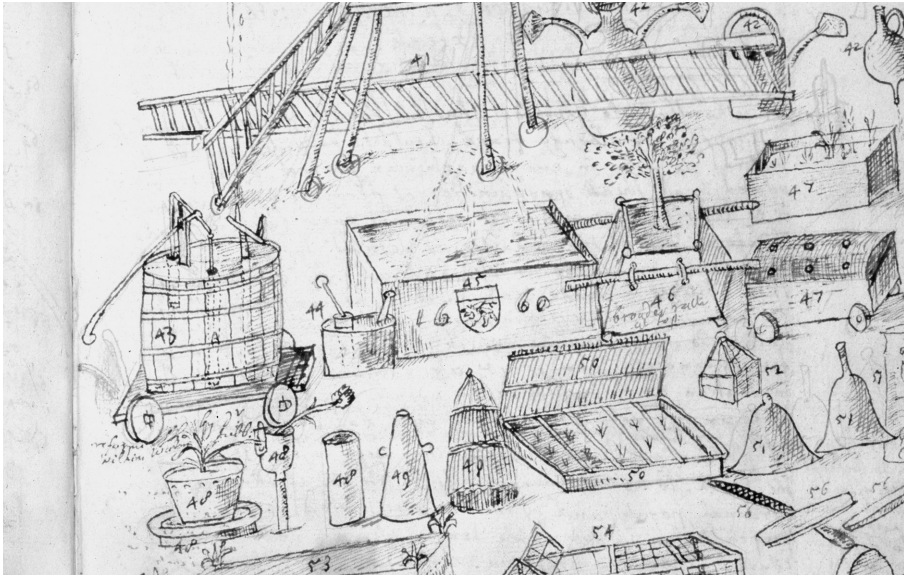


Figure 1: BL Add Ms 78342, fo. 58 (detail), showing the armorially decorated cistern in the centre, dated 1660 and numbered 45.

and **Plate 6**). The arms shown on the shield seem to be *A griffin passant and a chief*. The first reaction is that they are almost certainly Evelyn's own arms.

John Evelyn (1620-1706) was the second son of Richard Evelyn of Wotton, a wealthy landowner in Surrey, and the family is recorded in the 1623 and 1662-8 Heralds' Visitations of that county. Their arms are first on official record with a grant of a crest and confirmation of arms to Richard's father George Evelyn of Long Ditton by Robert Cooke, Clarenceux, in 1572, on record at the College of arms with the reference Misc. Grants 1/67 (see a facsimile of the patent in *Misc. Her. & Gen.* 2nd ser. 1 (1886), at front). The confirmed arms are *Azure a griffin passant on a chief or three mullets sable*, quartering Aylard (*Argent two bars between nine martlets vert*); the granted crest is *On a wreath or and azure a demi hind ermine*.

However by the time of the 1623 Visitation the family seems to have dropped the mullets on the chief, reverting to what was presumably seen as an earlier and simpler version of the patrilineal arms, and adopted a completely different crest from the one granted in 1572: *A griffin passant or armed and gorged with a crest coronet or*. Two branches of the family appear in the Visitation, the first Evelyn 'de Westdeane' (CA record Ms C2/244-5) and the second Evelyn 'de Wotton' (ibid. 281-2), headed by John Evelyn's father Richard; cf. *The Visitations of the County of Surrey ... 1530 ... 1572 ... and 1623*, ed. W. Bruce Bannerman (Harl. Soc. pubns. 43: London 1899), pp. 43f., 79, taken from BL Ms Harl. 1561 (a conflated copy of all three visitations by Richard Mundy), fos. 39v and 66. Both branches quarter Aylard, and neither branch shows the mullets, though Evelyn of Wotton has a martlet on the shield and crest as a mark of cadency to indicate the fact that Richard Evelyn was fourth son of George Evelyn of Long Ditton.

In 1623 John Evelyn was only three. At the time of the visitations of the 1660s he was a married man, living at Sayes Court at Deptford in Kent. He had acquired the lease of this estate from his father-in-law Sir Richard Browne (formerly Charles I's diplomatic representative at the court of France) and had gone to live there with his wife Mary after returning from his travels abroad in 1652. It was presumably here that he wrote the bulk of the 'Elysium Britannicum'. Unfortunately he does not appear in the 1663 Visitation of Kent, and no arms are recorded for the Evelyn family in the Surrey Visitation of the previous year (CA record Ms D15/25 and 66: cf *A Visitation of the County of Surrey begun ... MDCLXII finished ... MDCLXVIII*, ed. Sir G. J. Armytage, Harl. Soc. pubns. 60: London 1910, pp. 42-3, with arms illustrated from elsewhere).

Evidence from other sources suggests that Evelyn's family tended to drop the cadency mark just as readily as they had dropped the mullets on their chief and altered the crest granted in 1572. For instance the memorial brass of John Evelyn's father Richard Evelyn in Wotton Church, Surrey shows no mullets, the griffin crest, and no cadency marks at all; for an illustration, see *Misc. Gen. & Her.* loc. cit., p. 352. It is unknown what arms the diarist used – his tomb in Wotton Church is covered with a coffin-shaped stone that has no arms on it (see *Misc. Gen. & Her.* loc. cit., p. 355). It is however extremely unlikely that he reinstated the mullets deriving from Cooke's confirmation which all others in his family had quietly dropped, and which the heralds seem to have accepted they had a right to do in the Visitation of 1623. Certainly later generations of the family – both the baronets descended from the diarist himself and the untitled branch of Wotton recorded in nineteenth- and twentieth-century editions of Burke's *Landed Gentry* – used a mullet-free chief.

So it would seem that if Evelyn were to have decorated a cistern with his arms in 1660, the arms chosen would be those shown in the 'Elysium Britannicum' drawing. However there is another possibility. Evelyn's father-in-law Sir Richard Browne, of Sayes Court, bore for arms until 1663 *Gules a griffin passant and a chief or*. These arms had been granted in 1626 by William Segar, Garter, to John Brown of Brenchley in Kent (CA record Ms Misc. Grants 4/76), and later armorials (e.g. Burke's *GA* p 134) give these arms for 'Browne (Brenchley, co. Kent)'. A scheme of quarterings for Sir Richard's father, with the griffin and chief in first place, is shown at *Misc. Her. & Gen.* loc. cit., p. 125 ('From Philipot's Collections, Heralds' College').

In 1663, Sir Richard was – as a signal mark of honour – granted a new coat of arms, to take precedence over his old one and stand before it in any scheme of quarterings: *Or a chief sable and a canton ermine* (recorded in various places in the College of Arms, e.g. record Ms Misc. Grants 6/185v-6). In some places the canton is left out, giving rise to a misleading entry of *Or a chief sable* in Burke's *GA* for 'Browne (Deptford, co Kent)'.

In 1660, however, the arms of Sir Richard Browne and his family were still *Gules a griffin and a chief or*, and if any coat of arms were set up at Sayes Court to honour the family, that would be the design used. It was at Sayes Court that Evelyn wrote much of his *Elysium Britannicum*, which was intimately connected with the garden that he was creating there. It would be entirely natural for the illustrative cistern shown in his sketch of gardening tools and artefacts to be one bearing the arms of his

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father-in-law, from whom he had acquired the estate. The sketch is monochrome, so we cannot tell. The ambiguity may even be deliberate.

Wider questions remain. Was Evelyn depicting a real cistern, one dated 1660 because that was when it was made, either at Wotton or at Sayes Court? If so, was it usual to depict arms on such objects? Does this one survive anywhere? Or, alternatively, was it a notional or hypothetical cistern, drawn by Evelyn merely to represent the type of artefact described? If so, the year 1660 might be the year of the drawing. And was it merely a *jeu d'esprit* to put a coat of arms (referring both to himself and to his wife's family) on this idealized water tank, or does it really imply that such mundane and functional artefacts were, in his world, suitable vehicles for heraldic display?

Note: On his own behalf and on that of Robert Laing of Colinton, who sadly died after a long illness earlier this year, Anton Zeven would like to thank the editors of the journal for their assistance with this note.