

Third Series Vol. IV part 1.

No. 215

Spring 2008

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 IV

2008

Part 1

Number 215 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.

Founding Editor

†John Brooke-Little, C.V.O., M.A., F.H.S.

Honorary Editors

C. E. A. Cheesman, M.A., PH.D., Rouge Dragon Pursuivant

M. P. D. O'Donoghue, M.A., Bluemantle Pursuivant

Editorial Committee

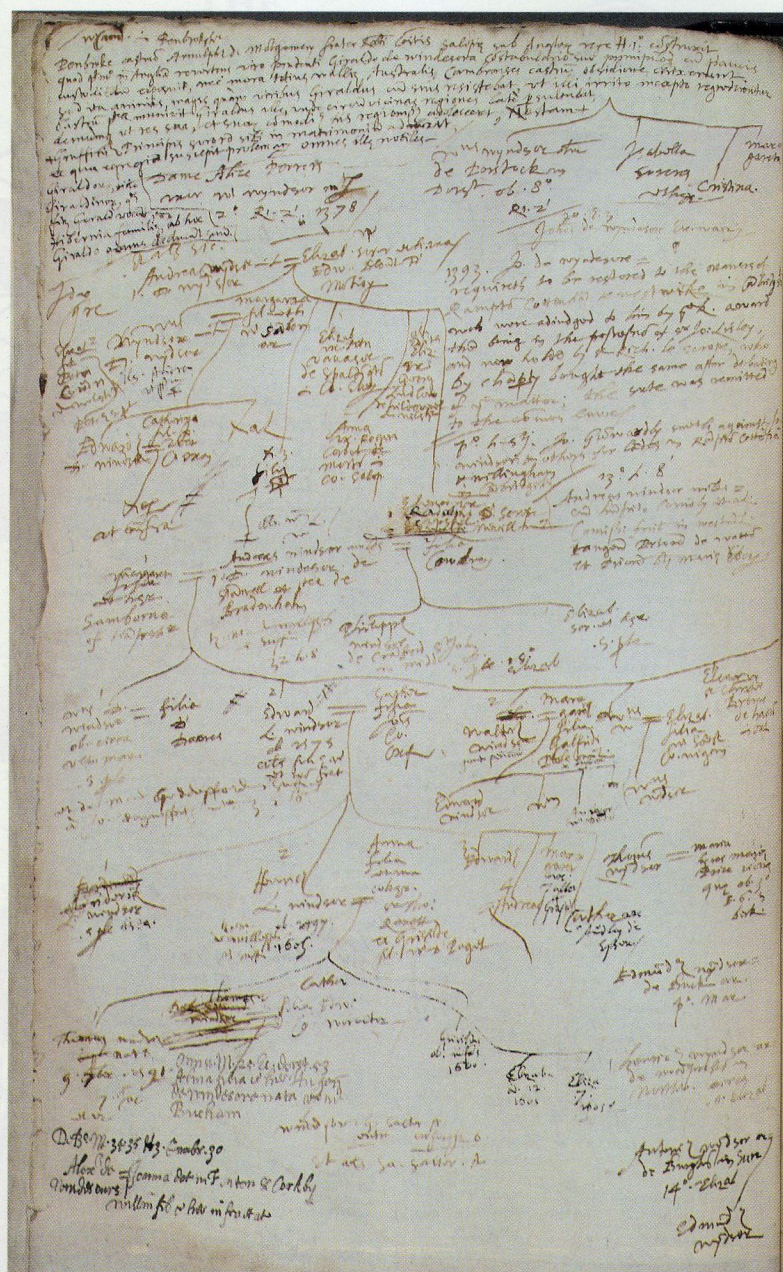
Adrian Ailes, B.A., F.S.A., F.H.S.

Jackson W. Armstrong, B.A.

Andrew Hanham, B.A., PH.D.

Advertizing Manager

John Tunesi of Liongam



CA Ms Conyngnam-Heard-Phillipps Pedigrees, vol. T-Z p. 400: pedigree of the family of Windsor. The use of record sources is illustrated in the lower left corner by a reference to a plea roll of the Court of Common Pleas, 1250: 'De B[anc]o [roll of] M[ichaemas term] 34 [and] 35 H[enry] 3, [m]embr. 30'. *See page 63.*

SHORTER NOTES

The Conyngham-Heard-Phillipps Pedigrees. *Nigel Ramsay writes:* By means of a generous gift from The White Lion Society, the College of Arms has acquired a set of three substantial books of English pedigrees (see **Plate 6**).

The volumes cover surnames beginning with the letters A to C, L to R, and T to Z, and must comprise about half of a truly massive undertaking. Letters D to K and S were already missing when the compilation is first documented, in 1781, when it was presented by the Irish politician William Burton Conyngham (1733-96) to Isaac Heard, Clarenceux (and later Garter) King of Arms. From Heard's collection it passed to that of the omnivorous Sir Thomas Phillipps (as his Ms 96), and then to the booksellers Lionel and Philip Robinson; they sold it at Sotheby's in 1974, and its last private owner was the Kentish antiquary, the late Philip Blake.

Heard noted that the original binding of volume I was lettered 'Genealog: Novum' (a New Genealogy), and these words are the key to the understanding of the whole work. For what seems to me remarkable about the three volumes is not so much their size and scope – a total of some three thousand pedigrees, on about 1300 pages – but rather the ideas that lie behind the whole venture. The compiler's aim seems to have been nothing less than an attempt to put together pedigrees from all periods and for all of the British Isles (though with a strong emphasis on England). His vision was national, and not limited to one or two counties; and it included the arms of the counties (given in summary, blason form). Moreover, the work was avowedly based as much as possible on record sources. He wrote in a prefatory statement that he owed some details 'specially for th' Armory' to others, but that 'in the rest I have for the most part by story, Inquisitions and some recordes travailed in the knowledg therof.'

One or two of the Elizabethan heralds had seen the importance of using the Crown's archival repositories, especially when drawing up pedigrees or histories of noble families that traced their origins back to the Norman conquest: Robert Glover (d. 1588), Somerset Herald, was the first to show what could be done. But even he had not attempted to produce a collection of pedigrees on a national, systematic scale such as this.

Who, it will then be asked, was the compiler? There are a number of clues. For one thing, his work is datable to the 1590s and 1600s, the latest date in the original hand being perhaps of 1610. He acknowledges the help of certain scholars, such as Glover's nephew, Thomas Milles (d. 1626), Henry Ferrers (d. 1633) and Ralph Brooke, York Herald (d. 1625). He also cites a range of specific documentary materials: both the Crown's records, such as the registry of the Duchy of Lancaster, and monastic cartularies and registers, such as those of Abingdon, Glastonbury, Netley and Peterborough abbeys. Some of these registers have themselves since been lost – such as that of Kingswood abbey, which he drew on for his pedigree of the Berkeleys.

Here and there, he also enlivens his genealogical tables with anecdotes. For instance, beside the pedigree for Asteley, of county Offaly, he notes that John

Asteley's daughter is 'uxor Coghlan, who slew his father in lawe John Asteley in the castle of Ballybreton, thinking to have delivered it by treason unto the enemy – had he not bene prevented by Roger Asteley, who by chance gott in at a wyndowe & slew both him and iii other, not without much perill, 1599'. Asteley, Constable of Ballybreton, was Coghlan's brother-in-law.

I do not think that the compiler was himself a herald, but it is fairly certain that he was on terms of close friendship with at least one of the members of the College, for he clearly had access to one or two of the more recent books of visitation pedigrees. Glover's Yorkshire visitation of 1584 is evidently one of his sources. His interest in the Old English and Latin words used to define the liberties of Coxford priory in Norfolk – *soka*, *saka*, *thol*, *infangthef*, *blodwite*, and so forth might – suggest someone with a legal training; but that might equally be said of almost any London-based gentleman in about 1600. For the present, then, the author's identity must remain a tantalising mystery.

Arms on a Seventeenth-century Cistern. *E. J. Redshaw* writes: In the last number of this journal Anton C. Zeven and Robert A. Laing of Colington were authors of an a short note ('The Evelyn arms on a cistern?', *CoA* 3rd ser. 3 (2007), no 214, pp. 159-62) concerning arms shown on a seventeenth-century cistern, as depicted in John Evelyn's MS study of horticulture (Evelyn Papers vol. clxxv, now BL Add Ms 78342). The drawing shows a cistern on which appears an heraldic shield with the year 1660.

The questions raised were as follows. Was Evelyn depicting a real cistern dated 1660? Was it usual to depict arms on such objects or was it a hypothetical cistern? Also, does one survive anywhere and were such mundane and functional artifacts in 1660 suitable vehicles for heraldic display? A lead cistern at Ayscoughfee Hall, Spalding, Lincolnshire, and examined by the herald Everard Green (whose note on the item is preserved among his papers at Spalding Gentlemen's Society: Everard Green Ms J) may provide the answers to these questions.

The cistern has a depth of 89 cm (35") and appears originally to have been semi-circular with a diameter of one metre (39"), but has lost some of its shape over the years (**Plate 7**). The exterior has six vertical panels approximately 30cm wide, the central four being further divided horizontally into threes. The end panels and end groups of three bear lead mouldings of botanical subjects and cherubs' heads. The centre two panels bear in the upper part two heraldic crests: *A pair of wings displayed* for Johnson of Sutterton and Spalding; and *A lion's head erased crowned with a coronet between two ostrich feathers* for Johnson of Pinchbeck.

Below each crest is a shield. One bears the arms *A water-bouget and in chief three annulets* for Johnson of Sutterton and Spalding impaling *Three pallets wavy* for Downes of Debenham; the other shows Johnson of Sutterton and Spalding impaling *A chevron between three lions' heads erased and crowned with crest coronets* for Johnson of Pinchbeck.