

Third Series Vol. XI Part 1

No. 229

Spring 2015

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 XI

2015

Part 1

Number 229 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 Hitchin Street, Baldock, Hertfordshire SG7 6AQ. The Society was registered in England in 1956 as registered charity no. 241456.

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PLATE 6



Venice, Biblioteca del Museo
Correr, coll. privilegi 208.



Venice, Biblioteca del Museo
Correr, coll. privilegi 207.

Two Royal patents granting augmentations to the arms of the Venetian ambassador Antonio Foscarini. Top (a), patent of Louis XIII of France, 1611. Bottom (b), patent of James I and VI of England and Scotland, 1615. See page 53.

Images by courtesy of the Biblioteca del Museo Correr.

Pleas records down to 1501 does not, sadly, establish that he remained in the office at those dates. The plaintiff in an action of debt on a bond had to set out his name in exactly the same form as in the bond or there would be a fatal variance; likewise he had to retain the same form at each subsequent stage of the process. As shown by the way Videt's colleague Yonge was himself described ('John Yonge of London, gentleman, alias John Somerset Herald of Arms'), heraldic offices were treated as part of a person's name. Arguably the fact that Videt did not use the name of Portcullis in the action commenced in 1498 throws doubt on whether he was still in office then.

What is certain is that Videt was in London from August 1497 at the latest, and resided there, possibly in the parish of St Sepulchre in the ward of Farringdon Without. His surname and the sobriquet *Jacques* suggest he was French. Henry Tudor had lived for about 14 years in Brittany and France, and had been accompanied by a contingent of French troops when he landed at Milford Haven in 1485. It is possible that Videt entered his service in France and accompanied him to England.

Original patents of augmentations in Venetian archives (part 1). *Sebastian A. Nelson writes:* Two original seventeenth-century patents of augmentations granted to the Venetian diplomat Antonio Foscarini (1570-1622) survive in the library of the Museo Correr in Venice. Foscarini served as ambassador in Paris and later in London, and the first augmentation was granted by Louis XIII in March of 1611 (see **Plate 6a**). The second augmentation, granted by James I, is discussed in Michael Siddons' *Heraldry of Foreigners in England* (Harl. Soc. pubns. new series 19; London 2010), pp. 130-2. A brief examination of the original patents, however, allows a few details to be added to Siddons' account.

Foscarini's French augmentation, *Azure three fleurs-de-lys in fess or*, is visible in both patents borne in the first and fourth quarters (his ancestral arms, *Or a bend of fusils azure*, are borne in the second and third quarters). These quarters are described in *Heraldry of Foreigners*, along with Foscarini's crest (*Out of a coronet a demi-lion or*) and his English augmentation (*Over all a chief gules thereon a lion passant guardant or*). The English patent now reveals Foscarini's supporters, which appear to be *two lions regardant or langued gules* (see **Plate 6b**). Their presence in the earlier French patent, however, rules out the possibility that these supporters were an additional English augmentation.

Siddons writes that 'the date of the grant is not recorded in the available sources, but it was probably later than 1614' (op. cit. p. 130). The text of the patent confirms his supposition:

...datae e regio Palatio Nostro apud Westmonasterium, primo die decembrie, anno regni Nostri Angliae, Franciae et Hiberniae tercio decimo, Scotiae vero quadragesimo nono...

The date of the English augmentation was thus 1 December 1615.

A transcription of the English patent can be found in Niccolò Barozzi, *Relazioni degli stati europei lette al Senato dagli ambasciatori Veneti nel secolo decimosettimo*, series 2, vol. 1 (Venice 1857), pp. 400-1. Foscarini was executed in 1622 by the Venetian authorities under the false charge of spying for Spain.