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Steven Ashley (ed), *At the Roots of Heraldry: Collected Papers of John Archibald Goodall*. London: Publications of the Harleian Society, New Series, vol. 21, 2018. xxx + 216 pp. Hard cover. ISBN 978-0-9540443-5-0. ISSN 1351-5438. £45.

John Goodall (1930–2003) was a considerable scholar, orientalist and polymath, whose principal interest was in heraldry in its broadest sense. The esteem in which he was held by fellow scholars is reflected in the Introduction to this volume, and the two appreciations by Sally Badham and Thomas Woodcock, which previously appeared in the *Coat of Arms*.¹ The range and depth of his knowledge and expertise is shown in the bibliography of his published works. On his death, John left a mass of papers, which were recovered from his home, and which are now curated by the Society of Antiquaries of London. These papers included many notes, partially completed and completed works on a variety of subjects, and a great deal of work towards the publication of *Aspilogia IV: Rolls of Arms of Edward II*.² The idea for an edition of collected papers was mooted, the collection of works reviewed by the editor, Adrian Ailes and Thomas Woodcock, and a final selection made. This volume is the result of this selection.

Five important and diverse works are contained in the volume. The first of these ‘At the Pre and Proto-historic Roots of Heraldry: A Study of the Possible Influence of some Ancient and Medieval Asiatic Devices on European Heraldry’, covers a major area of JG’s interests, the influence of the ancient and eastern worlds on the early development of European heraldry. The paper is introduced by discussion of the use of military standards, particularly those displaying animal motifs, by armies on the move, after which there are two parts, on the ‘Ancient World’, in which Asiatic, Greek and Roman devices are discussed, and the second, on the ‘Medieval and Renaissance World’ on how devices, particularly Classical devices, were adopted into heraldry. In the first part, discussion of Chinese origins and of the Mongol and Turkic identification symbols known as *Tamgas* was new to this reviewer, and is in itself a fascinating area of study.³ JG’s interests are contagious. Although unfinished, this article is full of original ideas making unexpected connections which would repay further research.

The second chapter ‘An Amory for Cyprus and the Latin East’, continues the exotic themes in the first paper by creating effectively a roll of arms for Cyprus and the Levantine crusader states from the twelfth to the sixteenth century. It is prefaced by an introduction which explains some of the complexity of the Cypriot system of nobility, and the survival of crusader titles on the island. The 245 entries in this list are derived from available sources such as seals, monuments, coins, references in other armorials, and an extraordinarily wide range of documentary sources.

From the point of view of the study of English heraldry the most useful chapter is the third – ‘Arms of Religious Corporations’ (**Figure 1**), in which the arms of no fewer than 345 establishments, ranging from bishoprics to smaller religious houses, hospitals and colleges of canons are listed in a single place for the first time. Like the previous

¹ *CoA*, 3rd ser, II part 1 no 211 (Spring 2006), pp 1–10.

² John’s work on this volume is being continued by this reviewer.

³ See eg N. Manassero, *Tamgas, a code of the Steppes: identity marks and writing among the ancient Iranians*, *The Silk Road vol 11* (2013), pp. 60–74.

BOOK REVIEWS

chapter this is based upon many sources and intensive and detailed research. The editor of the volume notes the extensive sources for the work, and lists those that he was able to check. The introductory essay discusses sources and the classification of arms – whether originating with those of the founder, patron saints, relics or canting coats, and evidence for differences made for monastic officials.

The fourth chapter is the first publication of ‘Two Continental Rolls of Arms in the British Library’, which have ‘been in England since the sixteenth century’, and which originate from a single manuscript collection, *BL. Harleian Roll A.5*. This comprises 77 entries in a painted roll, including four attributed arms, 48 kings and oriental rulers and 18 dukes (five shields are blank). Though JG does not attempt to attribute a date for the document, he sees a link between this and Fenwick’s Roll (temp Henry V). JG names *BL. Harleian Roll A.6* the ‘Council of Basel Roll’, making the connection with this ecclesiastical council of 1431–49 from a detailed analysis of the internal evidence.⁴ The dating is further narrowed to 1434 by the presence of two successive archbishops of Mainz, and the presence of Henry VI’s ambassador to the council. The painted roll includes the arms of 16 monarchs, 53 nobles, including 13 churchmen, one city and one English knight. In JG’s original version work on a third roll was unfinished, and this is therefore omitted.

The final chapter draws together sources to recreate the fourteenth-century carved and painted heraldic decoration of St Stephen’s Chapel, Westminster, destroyed in the fire of 1834. The Goodall archive contains much more material, however this selection includes the most complete and the most important of John’s works. The thoroughness of the editing must be commended, and is shown by many footnotes added and initialled by the editor, which give clarification and in some cases additional recent references. The volume ends with extensive indexes to the narrative parts of the book.

Taken as a whole this volume must be regarded as an important work of reference. The papers published here will be useful to researchers in a range of heraldic fields, and the extensive bibliographies provided at the end of each chapter are considerable sources in their own right.

Tony Wilmott

⁴ M. Decaluwe, T.M. Izbicki, and G. Christianson, *Companion to the Council of Basel*, Brill’s Companions to the Christian Tradition, vol 74 (Leiden, 2016)

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Ashley Figure 1: CA MS L10 f.66, by gracious permission of the Kings, Herald and Pursuivants of Arms.