

THE COAT OF ARMS

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The Heraldry Society is an educational charity. Its purpose is to promote greater understanding and appreciation of heraldry and its related subjects. The society organises lectures, study days, congresses, dinners and other social activities. It offers a course in heraldry leading to examination for a diploma. It publishes a range of source material at modest cost. Members receive the *Coat of Arms* and the quarterly *Heraldry Gazette*.

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of material is one of stylistic conservatism – conveying through the monuments of the Order ‘purposefulness, stability and austerity’.

A number of the photographs in the catalogue would have benefited from being shown at a larger size and some appear a little bleached-out. One such example is that of a basin derived from a fountain, which bears possible canting arms and is dated to c. 1500. The inscription names MIKAEL – CARBONVS and the arms are given as *On a bend between six [pieces of coal] in orle a lion rampant*. In this case, the object is so large and the catalogue illustration (7 (F112)) so small and lacking in contrast that little can be discerned of the surviving detail.

Kasdagli’s summing up, entitled ‘Problems and conclusions’, looks forward to a comprehensive review of all carved stones on the island of Rhodes. However, at least one of the problems with such a project noted by the author, that of access to pieces *in situ* high up on walls and fortifications for the purposes of measurement and photography, has, I would suggest, been solved in part by advances in technology. The ready availability of camera-carrying drones must be the answer to many an armorist’s prayer when considering the prospect of recording a loftily mounted escutcheon. Regarding the wish for a complete survey of the medieval sculpted stone of Rhodes, this volume is certainly a step in the right direction and Kasdagli’s efforts towards this end must be applauded.

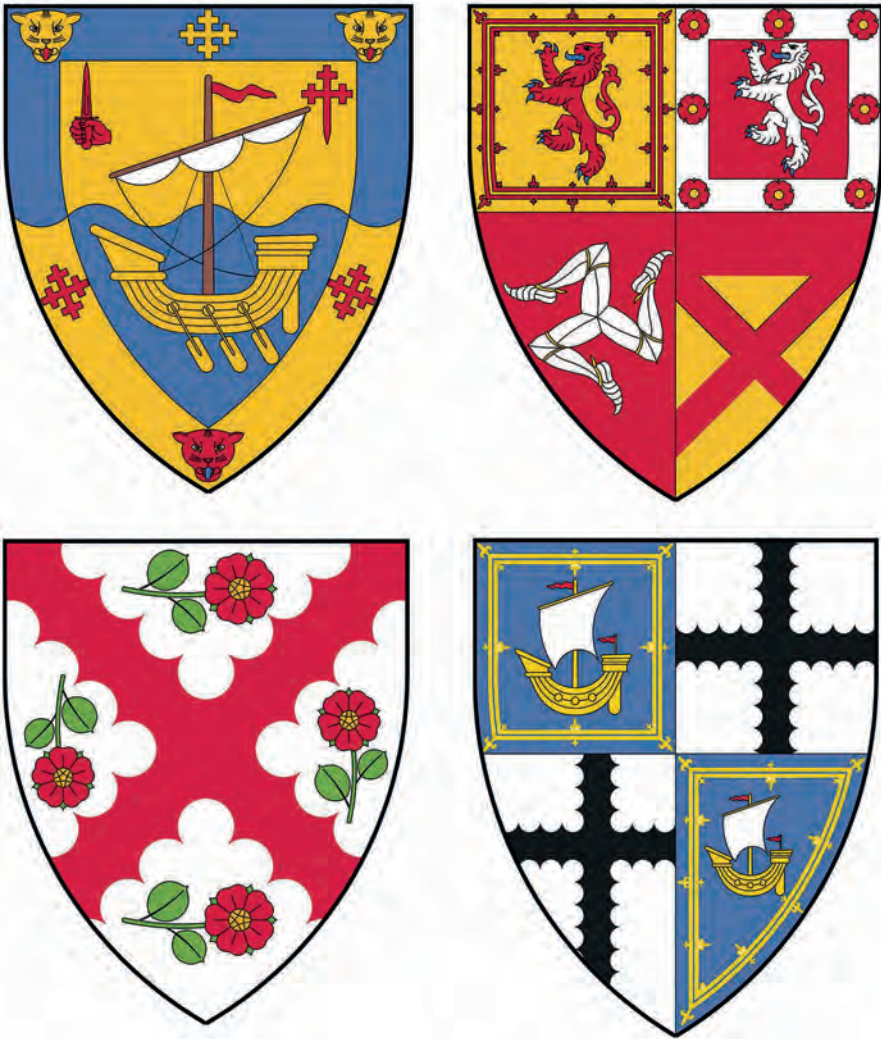
Steven Ashley

David M Bertie, *The Heraldry of the Bishops of Scotland*. Edinburgh: The Heraldry Society of Scotland, 2018. With Armorial Illustrations by John Hamilton Gaylor. Hard Cover. ISBN 978-1-9999794-0-9. £25

This attractively illustrated and produced book, covers the heraldry of three different groups of bishops the bishops of the church in Scotland from the late 13th century to 1689, the bishops of the Episcopal Church from 1690 to 2000 and the bishops of the post-reformation Roman Catholic Church. Hitherto Dowden’s *Bishops of Scotland* (1912) has been the established work on the subject: it provides detailed career information while the heraldic data is limited to the relevant vesica, or pointed oval seals. Furthermore the monographs are arranged chronologically within sees. In contrast the present volume provides minimal career information and is organised alphabetically, which provides a clear indication of which Scottish families have contributed most to the Scottish church. The quality and quantity of the armorial information has increased enormously in the century since Dowden wrote, with the availability of material in Stevenson and Wood’s *Scottish Heraldic Seals* (1940), and items from armorials such as the Balliol Roll, the Scots Roll and the Toison d’Or Armorial prominent among them. The end result is more than 300 coats-of-arms are illustrated to accompany the text.

With Bertie’s organisation of the material, the importance of the Kinninmund family, a knightly family based in Fife, bearing *Azure, a chevron argent between three fleur-de-lys or*, becomes clear. It provided four bishops mainly in the 14th century. Likewise in the following century, three generations of the Beaton family furnished two Archbishops of St Andrews and an Archbishop of Glasgow whose numerous seals include a pointed oval over 10cm high.

BOOK REVIEWS



Some of the fine illustrations from the book. Top left: Colin Aloysius Macpherson (d.1990);
 top right: Alexander Stewart (d.1537); bottom left: Alexander Smith (d.1861);
 bottom right: John Sinclair (d.1501)

In general, in the earlier period, armorial differencing was ignored and the stem coat of the family is displayed. A rare exception is found in one of the vesica of Henry Wardlaw, Bishop of St Andrews (d 1440) where the stem arms of Wardlaw have the addition of a fess charged with three crosses-crosslet. Painted arms of *Azure, between three mascles or, on a fess argent, three crosses-crosslet gules* are displayed in the Scottish folios of the Toison d'Or Armorial. The earliest cleric to incorporate his arms on his seal was Bishop William Fraser of St Andrews (d 1297) where a small shield in base displays *Six cinquefoils (or fraises)*. They are shown in the accompanying illustration as

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Azure, six cinquefoils argent. However, Bishop William is identified as a younger son of Sir Simon Fraser of Oliver Castle whose arms are found in contemporary rolls such as the Caerlaverock Poem as *Sable, six cinquefoils argent.* The azure field for Fraser arms dates from two or three generations later.

On occasion it would have been useful if the heraldic notices had been expanded: for instance Bishop John Lindsay of Glasgow (d 1335) has two seals delineated which display *inter alia* the arms of Lindsay of Lamberton, Abernethy and Coucy, which have merited considerable discussion over the years in earlier Scottish heraldic treatises. Similarly the attractive seal of Bishop James Kennedy of St Andrews (d 1465) has two versions of the Kennedy arms which merit further comment.

After 1540, with Calvinism spreading throughout the country, bishops were appointed at the instance of the Crown under an arrangement whereby a large part of the revenues was diverted into lay hands. These 'tulchan' bishops provide a much wider range of names than hitherto; for instance three members of the Chisholm family were consecutively bishops of Dunblane. Also apparent now is a modest amount of differencing, for example the various Forbes bishops of the families of Corse, Craigievar, and Corsindae, add an appropriate charge to their three bears' heads. Some unusual charges are found – the eye of Scougal, the camel's head of Forman, and the wild cats of Scheves. The third and most recent group have a much less Scottish feel: however an interesting charge of *Three salmon interlaced* originated in the diocese of Aberdeen and has been utilised by some of its bishops. Three useful appendices provide lists of bishops in their sees.

Bruce McAndrew

Richard J. Moll (ed.), *A Heraldic Miscellany: Fifteenth-Century Treatises on Blazon and the Office of Arms in English and Scots*. Liverpool: Exeter Medieval Texts and Studies, 2018. xii + 298 pp. Hardcover. ISBN: 978-1-78138-248-6. £100.

In this volume, Moll usefully discusses and edits some fifteenth-century treatises on blazon and the office of arms that were composed in or translated into English and Scots. Moll is attentive to the relationships between these treatises as well as to their composition, their circulation and ownership histories, and, crucially, to the content of their narratives. In doing so, Moll collates knowledge about these texts within their manuscript contexts and he also makes the narratives themselves, which were previously unedited, accessible.

French is traditionally the language of heraldry, and most medieval heraldic texts were initially composed in French or Latin, but an increasing number of heraldic texts were written in or translated into English and Scots in the fifteenth century. Furthermore, while the practice of heraldry and the professional office of arms are distinct and should not be conflated, some fifteenth-century heraldic texts developed a close association between heraldry and heralds, and, as Moll points out in his introduction, the texts that he edits in this volume are among those that attest to this phenomenon.

The first text that Moll edits is *Tractatus de armis*, which is the earliest known heraldic treatise that was produced in England. The text is generally attributed to Johannes de Bado Aureo, about whom almost nothing is known. It was written in Latin towards the