

THE ARMORIAL OF HERALDISTS

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Editor's Abstract

The fifteen arms chosen from the first three volumes of the Armorial (ADH) range in date from the fifteenth to the nineteenth centuries, and are fairly representative of the work as a whole with respect to its composition by nationality. There are eight English heralds, two of them Garter, three members of the Lyon Court, one Ireland King of Arms, one French King of Arms, a female heraldic author, and the College of Arms itself, which has been placed first.

The College of Arms¹

It has been said that before the creation of the world, Michael, the Archangel, was a king of arms in the heavenly hierarchy, and that Gabriel, Raphael and Uriel were heralds under him. The English officers who attended a chapter at Rouen in 1419–20 were Garter, Clarenceux and Ireland kings, Leopard, Exeter and Mowbray heralds. But those were not all the English officers existing at that time. The constitutions then signed refer to Norroy and Aquitaine (as well as Clarenceux and Ireland) as provincial kings; no pursuivants are mentioned, and there were certainly other heralds on duty elsewhere.

In 1483 the charter of incorporation only names the four kings, Garter, Clarenceux, Norroy and Gloucester. It refers to the heralds and pursuivants but does not name them. On June 4th of his third year Edward VI granted the heralds exemption from certain taxes. The officers named in that patent are: Garter, Clarenceux and Norroy kings; Carlisle, Windsor, York, Somerset, Chester and Richmond heralds and Portcullis, Rouge Dragon, Bluemantle, Rouge Croix, Risebank, Calais, Guisnes and Berwick pursuivants.

Finally in 1554 the officers named in the charter given by Philip and Mary were three kings (Garter, Clarenceux and Norroy) and six heralds (Windsor, Chester, Richmond, Somerset, York and Lancaster). These nine officers together with four pursuivants have ever since constituted the membership of the College. The charter does not name the four pursuivants but they are no doubt the same four pursuivants in ordinary which have ever since been maintained.

In addition to the above three grades there is yet another term which we meet from time to time: marshal, marshal of arms, herald marshal. This term, however, does not indicate any rank, but is the special title given to the deputy of a king of arms, appointed to act for him in his absence or incapacity, and to act as his assistant at other times.

¹ ADH, vol 2, p.1.

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One of the clauses in the petition of William Bruges, Garter, to Henry V was a prayer for permission to appoint his own marshal. William Boys, Exeter herald, who was one of the officers at the chapter of Rouen was 'marescal d'armes des Noreys'. Under Edward IV Thomas Holme, Windsor, was marshal of arms, but it is not said of which province. In 15 Henry VIII all the kings of arms were absent from the kingdom on the public service and they appointed Richmond as marshal for them all. At a later date, in the sixteenth

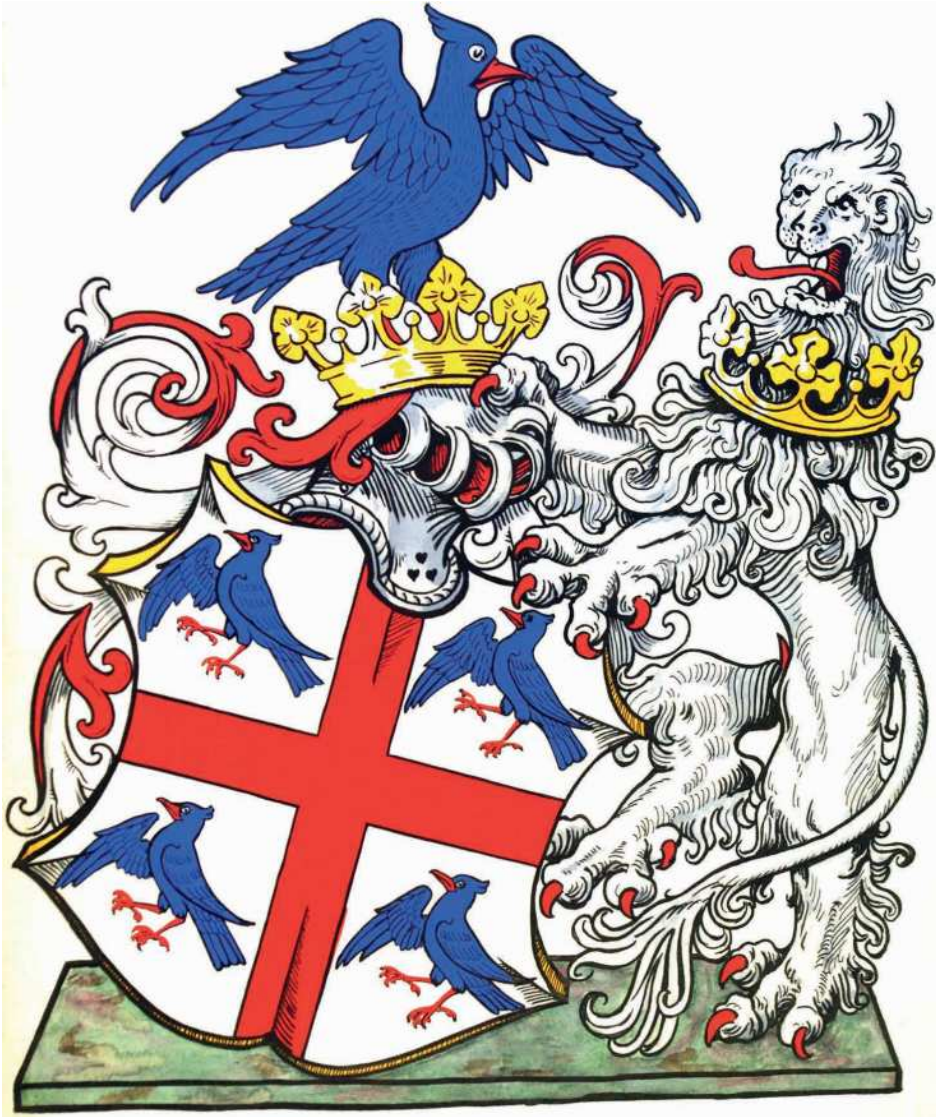


Figure 1: Shield, crest and one of the supporters from the arms of the College of Arms.

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and seventeenth centuries, the heralds, and even pursuivants, appointed by the kings of arms to conduct visitations on their behalf, are frequently spoken of as their marshals.

The heralds seem to have had a common seal even before they met in chapter in Rouen in 1419–20, and one of the decisions taken at that chapter was that a new seal should be made. We have seen nothing as to the devices borne on either of those seals. According to a manuscript, L6, in the College of Arms the heralds used on their public seal (argent) a cross (gules), a chief quarterly 1 and 4 *Azure a fleur de lis or*, 2 and 3,



Figure 2: Garter Anstis

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Or Garter a leopard gules. The earliest representation that I have found of the arms now used by the College, *Argent a cross gules between four doves azure, each with the sinister wing closed and the dexter upraised*, is in Ballard's Book, a manuscript which belonged to William Ballard, March king under Edward IV and Henry VII, and which was bought by the College from Ballard's widow in 1491–2.² In the manuscript there is written against the uplifted wing of one bird 'diligent' and against the closed wing of another 'secret'. Anstis stated that 'diligent and secret' was the motto of the College. The birds are always blazoned doves, and it is very probable that the members of the College in adopting these birds had in mind the idea, which is mentioned both by John of Guildford and by Upton, that a dove is particularly appropriate as a charge for a herald, who likely used carrier pigeons to send messages.

Sir George Buck in his Treatise *The third universitie of England* (1615) says that the College borrowed its coat from a gentleman of the most signal name and family that had ever been of it. Anstis took this to refer to John Wrythe who was Garter at the time of the original incorporation of the College under Richard III. It was no doubt this which led Dallaway to write 'The College of Arms considering him (Wrythe) as their founder, have adopted his armorial bearings upon their official seal'. One of several arms which Wrythe appears to have used was *Azure a cross or between four doves* (or falcons) *argent*. The resemblance between this coat and that of the College is so striking that it seems as though one must have served as the model for the other, but which was the original? Failing further evidence, this must remain an open question.

Before leaving the achievement of the College attention may be drawn to the arms of the Anstis family of St Neots, Cornwall as borne by the two Garters of that name, *argent a ragged cross gules between four choughs azure*, which appears to be a variant of the same coat.

Anstis³

John Anstis senior, Garter 1718–1744 was extremely fond of and skilled in armory, and obtained an appointment as Norfolk Herald Extraordinary in 1707, while in 1714 Queen Anne gave him the reversionary patent for the place of Garter. The queen died a few months later and in August 1715 the Gartership fell vacant by the death of Sir Henry St George. Meanwhile Anstis had been imprisoned on suspicion of conspiring to restore the Stuarts. His patent was disregarded, and on October 26th 1715 Sir John Vanburgh, Clarenceux, was given the appointment. Anstis did not give in, the matter came to a hearing in 1717, and in April 1718 he was formally acknowledged as Garter. In 1727 he was granted the office with his son John in survivorship. He left many manuscript collections, including 'Aspilogia', a discourse on seals, and five large folio volumes relating to the office of Garter.

His son and successor John Anstis junior, F.S.A (Garter 1744–1754) commissioned the arms *Argent a ragged cross gules between four choughs azure* in his father's name in 1741. The younger John was appointed as genealogist of the Order of the Bath on its

² CA MS M 3.

³ *ADH*, vol. 2, p.4.

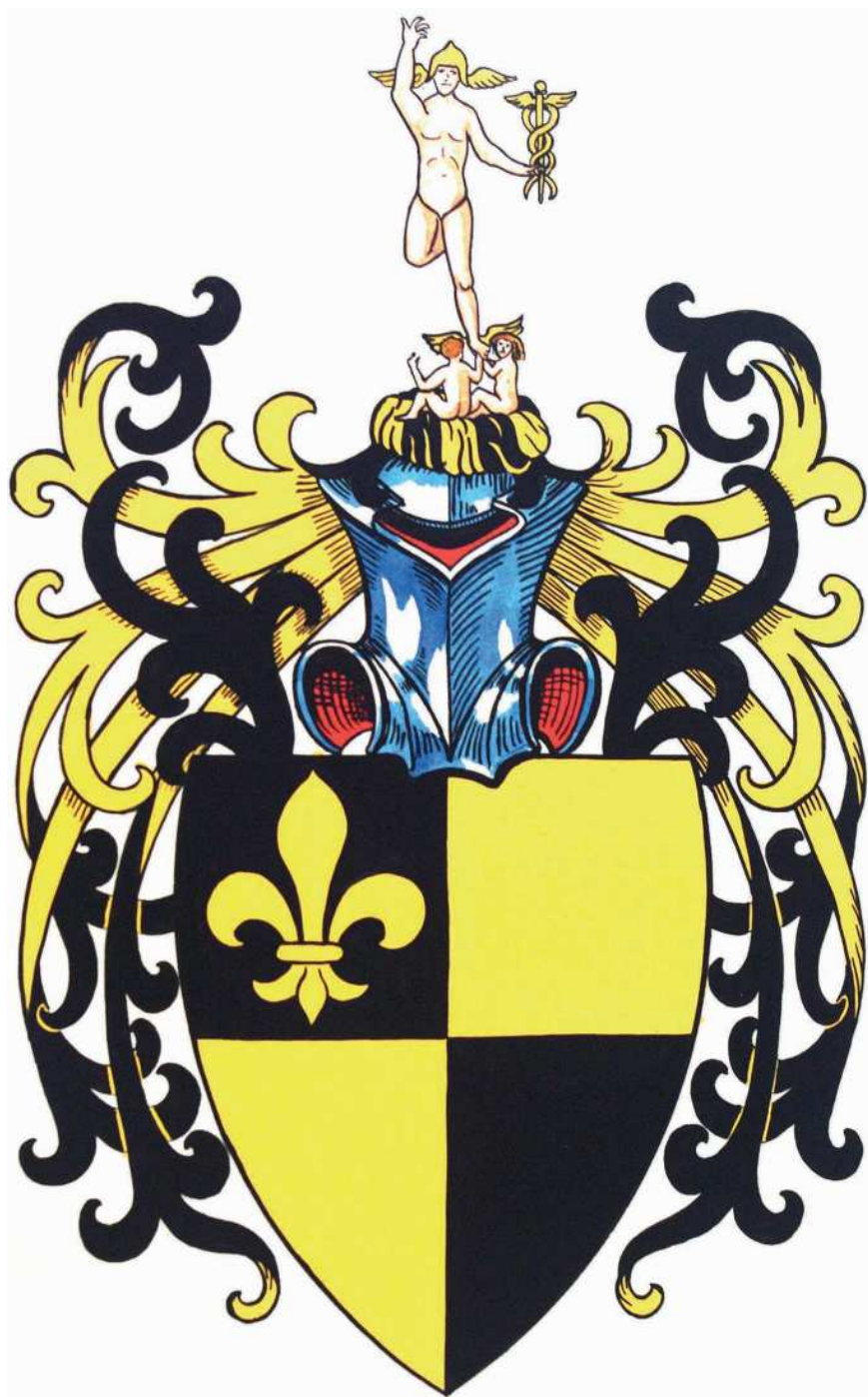


Figure 3: Ashmole

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revival in 1725. He was a very heavy drinker and spent most of his time at Mortlake where he died in 1754 at the age of 46, having never married.

Ashmole

Elias Ashmole, (d.1692) Windsor Herald 1660–75.⁴ Son of a Lichfield saddler, he studied law and in 1638 became a solicitor. He was rewarded with the office of Windsor for serving the king during the Civil War. Following his resignation from the office he was offered the Gartership, but refused it in favour of Sir William Dugdale, whose daughter Elizabeth he had married in 1668. He published a number of books, of which the best known is his *‘Institutions, laws and ceremonies of the Order of the Garter’* (1672). An abridged edition of this was published in 1715 as *‘The history of the Most Noble Order of the Garter’*. In 1677 he presented the Ashmolean Museum to Oxford University, having inherited the larger part of the collection from his friend John Tradescant.

Noble stated that his arms were granted on 16th May 1661 from Bysshe, Clarenceux: *Quarterly sable and or a fleur de lis or in the first quarter*.⁵ There is, however, an even earlier record. On 13th August 1660 Dugdale, Norroy, confirmed the above coat to him and granted him the following crest: *On a wreath sable and or the planet Mercury collocated in the middle of the celestial sign Gemini proper, his right hand extended to heaven and left holding a caducean rod Or*. The grant is in the Bodleian, the docquet in the College of Arms.⁶ This crest was granted in place of the old family crest of a running greyhound, and was evidently inspired by his interest in astrology. On his monument in Lambeth church is Ashmole impaling Dugdale: *Argent a millrind cross gules with a torteaux in the canton*.

Balfour

Sir James Balfour of Denmiln and Kinnaird (d.1657), Lyon King of Arms 1630, deprived by Cromwell in 1654.⁷ He was created a baronet in Nova Scotia in 1633. In 1650 on Cromwell’s approach he carried away many of the Lyon Office’s records first to Perth and afterwards to Denmiln. Prior to his appointment as Lyon he obtained from the College of Arms a certificate “testifying him to be an expert and graduate herald in blazing of cotts and armours, in inventing of crests and supporters, in searching of genealogies and descents, in mareschalling of funerals, triumphs and inaugurations etc and in all ceremonies whatsoever pertaining to honour or arms”. The certificate is dated 4th December 1628 and is signed by Sir William Segar, Garter, and the other officers of the College. It is now in the library of the Faculty of Advocates. He left a register, or catalogue, of arms which is frequently quoted by Nisbet, as well as a number of heraldic and antiquarian tracts which were published by Maidment in 1837.⁸

⁴ *ADH*, vol. 2, p.140.

⁵ Mark Noble, *A history of the College of Arms* (London, 1804) p.285.

⁶ Illustrated in the *Genealogist* N.S. vol. 33 (1917) frontis.

⁷ *ADH*, vol. 1, p.138.

⁸ Alexander Nisbet, *A system of heraldry*. 2nd ed. 2 vols (Edinburgh, 1804); Sir James Balfour, *Ancient heraldic and antiquarian tracts* (Edinburgh, 1837).



Figure 4: Balfour

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Arms: *Or on a chevron sable between three slipped trefoils vert an otter's head erased Or; a label gules for difference.* The coat matriculated to the family in 1773 differs from this in having an otter's head argent, and of course, it omits the label. It is given by Burke with the following crest and motto: a golden crescent, '*God gives increase*' It seems at least possible that Sir James used that crest, although I have found no evidence of such use. He used an official seal with the arms *A saltire and a chief with a fleur de lis* supported by two lions, and the legend, *Sigillum officii Leonis regis armorum*. His younger brother David Balfour of Forret was Lyon deputy from 1650 to 1663.

Ballard

William Ballard (d.1490–1), March King of Arms temp Edward IV.⁹ Although it is clear that he held the above office it is not clear what offices he held prior to that.¹⁰ Noble thinks he was probably Edward's herald prior to the king's accession, but in 1460, under date March 28th, there is entered on the Patent Roll a commission to William Ballard, herald of arms to Henry duke of Exeter, to purvey three shots of cables for the duke's money for the ship called '*La Grace Dieu*'.¹¹ That was under Henry VI. The duke died in 1475, having been attainted in 1461 on Edward's accession, but as the duchess was Edward's sister it would not be surprising if he took Ballard into his own service. We have however found nothing to indicate whether he was at once made March King, or if not, when he was given that title.¹²

Noble says that Ballard remained faithful to Edward's family and that he was consequently deposed by Richard III (though restored by Henry VII), but in the Patent Rolls of Richard III on 18th January 1485 is an entry of a grant for life to Thomas Gibbes that he shall be one of the knights of the king's alms within the castle of Windsor at the second vacancy, the first being granted to William Ballard, alias Marche.¹³ This does not look as though he was deposed by Richard. In any case Ballard certainly held the office of March King under Henry VII. Anstis tells us that in 1487/8 as March he had the west of England, Wales and Cornwall for his province¹⁴, and in the College of Arms MS M 3 is the entry "this booke was bought of the widow of March king of arms 6 Henry VII". The most important portion of this manuscript is a roll of arms of gentry of his province compiled by Ballard but with some later additions. The original was bought by Wrythe, Garter.¹⁵ Noble states that he also left a book of genealogies of the gentry within his provinces. This cannot properly be called a visitation because it was done prior to any order or commission of that kind.¹⁶ This would appear to be a different manuscript to M 3.

⁹ *ADH*, vol. 3, p.24.

¹⁰ The editor finds that he was Chester Herald in 1462, see *CoA* no 236 (2019), p.142.

¹¹ CPR 1452–61, p.566.

¹² He appears to have been March by 1470.

¹³ Noble, op. cit., pp.64,87; CPR 1476–85, p.529.

¹⁴ *The Register of the most noble Order of the Garter*, 2 vols (London,1724) vol 2, pp.380g, 474–50 (hereinafter Anstis).

¹⁵ BL Harl. MS 2076 is a copy made by Robert Glover. It has been published by Ralph Griffin in *Misc. Her. & Gen.* 5th series, vol.8.

¹⁶ Noble op. cit., appdx xxiii.

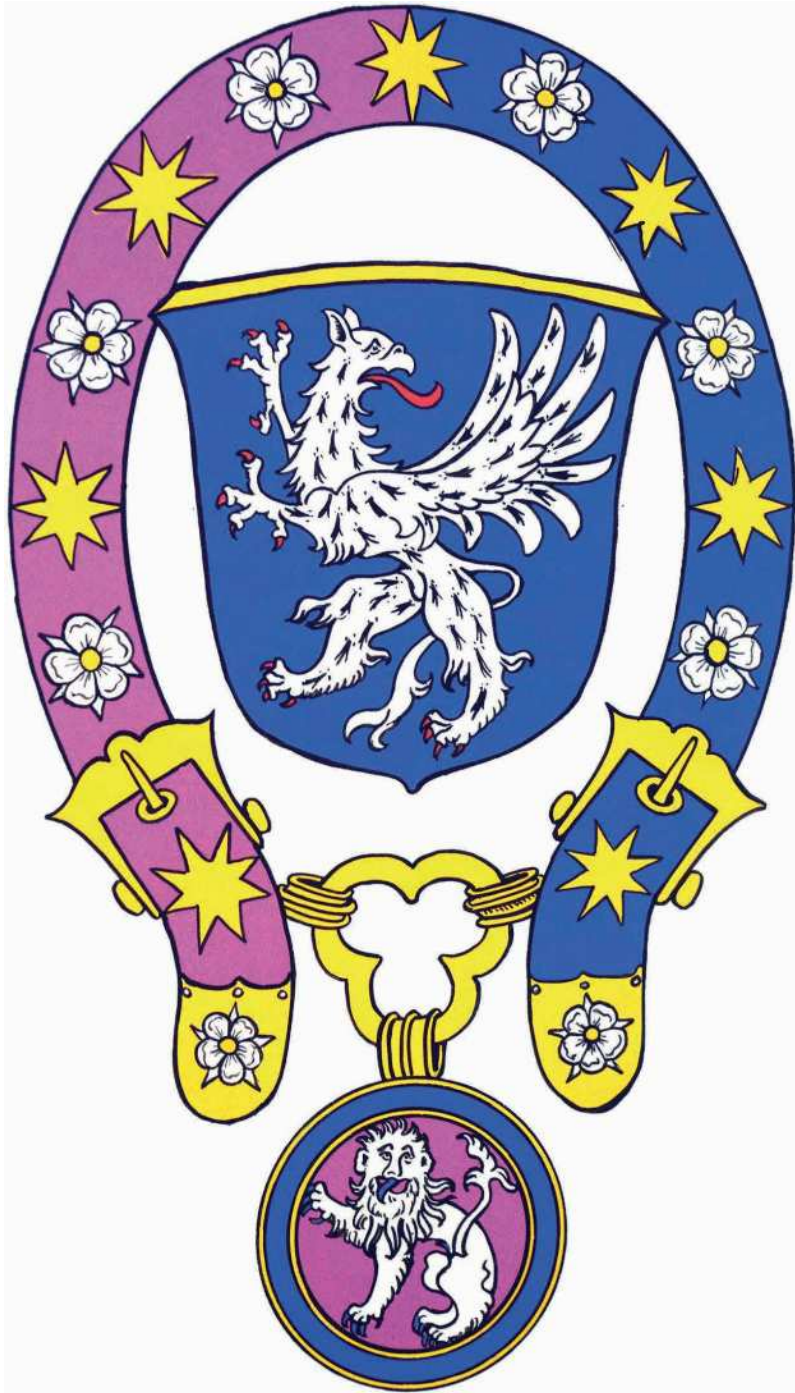


Figure 5: Ballard

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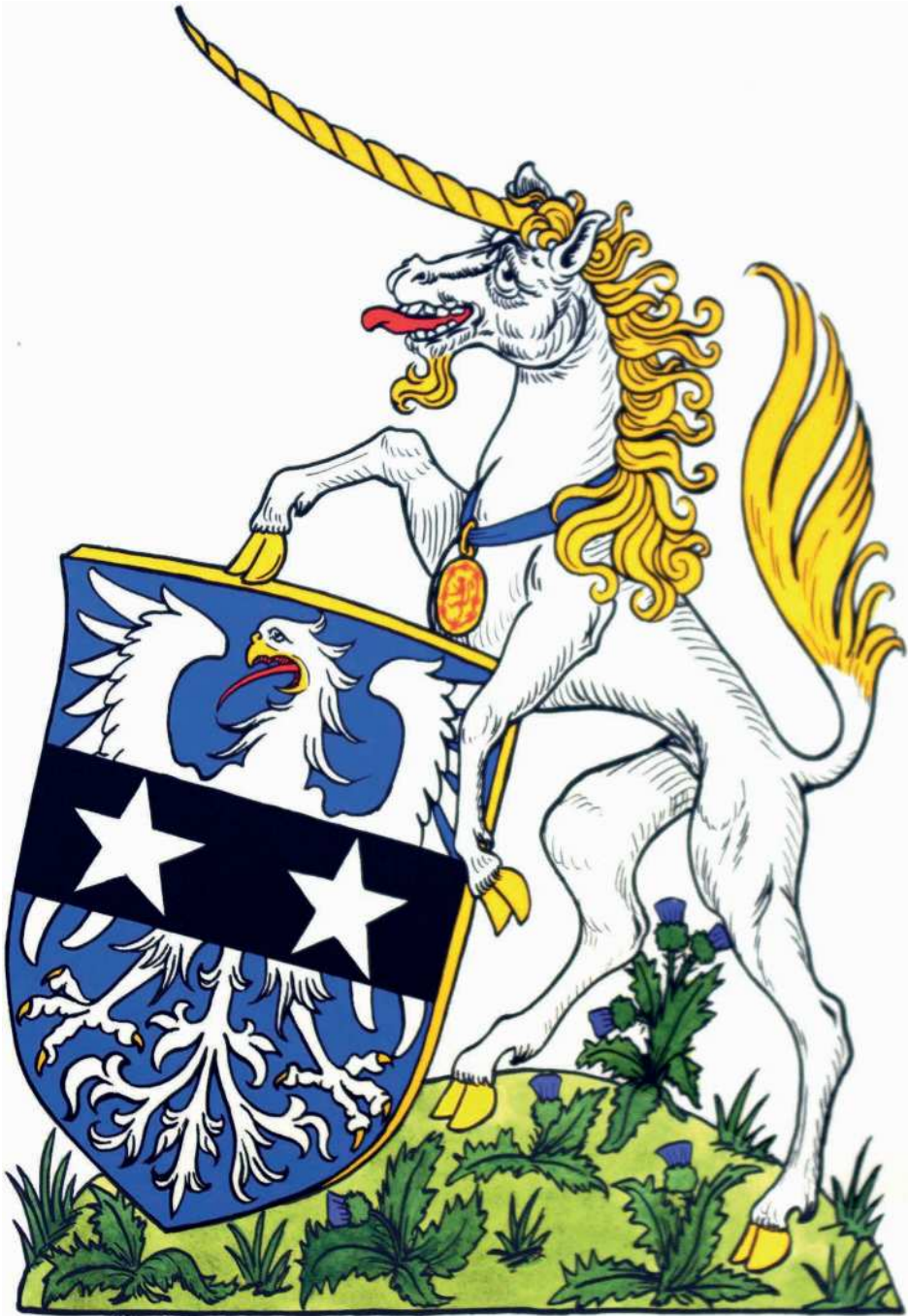


Figure 6: Barry

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Noble demurs from Anstis in stating Ballard's province to have been Wales, Cheshire, Devon and Cornwall. On his death the office of March expired and the office was divided between the other provincial kings. It has been possible to derive a Pedigree of Ballard from his manuscript. His father Thomas Ballard was of Lenton in Herefordshire and bore the arms *Azure a griffin sergeant regardant ermine*. William's grandfather and namesake was killed (fighting Owain Glydŵr) at the battle of 'Pilsley' (Pilleth, 1402).¹⁷

Barry

Thomas Bariye, Unicorn Pursuivant c.1570.¹⁸ Barry got into trouble in about 1570 for forging the Regent's signature and was ordered to have his right hand cut off and to be banished from the kingdom of Scotland.¹⁹ His arms are mentioned in a mid-sixteenth-century manuscript belonging to C.M. Kerr, esq of Edinburgh as *Azure an eagle displayed argent and over all a fess sable charged with two mullets argent*.²⁰ Unicorn Pursuivant, unlike a number of other officers of arms, was probably from the beginning a crown servant. The title was in existence at least as early as 1426, as on April 1st of that year Robert Keith, Marischal of Scotland, granted a charter to his kinsman John Fraser 'now called Unicorn'.²¹ In 1445–6 King James II paid £5 to the widow of Marchmont Herald for a seal which she had delivered to Unicorn.²²

This is a century before the supporters of the royal arms of Scotland were changed to unicorns, but not perhaps before the unicorn had been taken as an occasional supporter on coins, minor seals etc.

Bassano²³

Francis Bassano of Chester was deputy to Norroy for Chester and North Wales, having been so appointed by Stephen Martin-Leake in 1733. Shortly before that Grey Longueville, Bath King of Arms, had been constituted Gloucester King of Arms with power to grant arms in Wales. Leake strongly asserted that the right to grant arms in Wales belonged to him as Norroy and that Longueville's appointment was an infringement of the College's chartered privileges.²⁴ He eventually prevailed and the appointment of Gloucester King was dropped.²⁵

Bassano is doubtless identical with the Francis Bassano who compiled c.1710 a folio volume of Derbyshire church notes, and about the same period a number of Derbyshire

¹⁷ He is stated to have been killed with Kennard Delabere, a Herefs knight who was certainly killed at Pilleth in 1402.

¹⁸ ADH, vol. 3, p.98.

¹⁹ Sir James Balfour Paul, *Heraldry in relation to Scottish history and art* (Edinburgh, 1900), p.95.

²⁰ Robert Stodart, *Scottish arms, being a collection of armorial bearings 1370–1678*, 2 vols (Edinburgh, 1881), vol. 1, p.405, vol. 2, p.111.

²¹ James Balfour Paul, *Register of the Great Seal of Scotland*, vol 2 (Edinburgh, 1882), no.57 p.10.

²² George Burnett, *Exchequer Rolls of Scotland*, vol 4. (Edinburgh, 1882), p. 217.

²³ ADH, vol.3,p.15.

²⁴ Bath King of Arms as the herald of the Order of the Bath was not linked to the College of Arms.

²⁵ Noble, p.409.

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Figure 7: Bassano

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pedigrees. Both these collections are now in the library of the College of Arms.²⁶ A collection of church notes said to have been collected by the herald painter 'Christopher' Bassano of Derby in this same period was in 1790 in the possession of one Thomas Blore of Derby.²⁷ These are presumably the same notes to which reference has already been made, given to the College by Lyons in 1817.

Arms: several Bassanos were members of the Merchant Taylors' Company of London at the end of the sixteenth and beginning of the seventeenth centuries and in 1633 the following arms were confirmed to the family at the Visitation of London²⁸: *Party per chevron vert and argent in chief three silkworm moths volant and in base a laurel tree, all countercoloured. Crest: A silkworm moth volant proper. Motto: 'Gratis non dirige'.* Doubtless the same arms were borne by our herald.

Bellinger

Walter Bellinger was Ireland King of arms of the kingdom of Ireland before 1475.²⁹ He granted a differenced version of his own arms to John Barrett, esquire of Herts by a patent in French dated at Facomberg in Picardy on 13th July 1475. Bellinger's arms were *Argent a saltire engrailed between four roses gules*³⁰, and Barrett was granted the same with *five bezants on the saltire*. On 6th January 1477 he granted arms to Thomas Barow³¹, and the following December he had a copy made of certain orders made by the Duke of Clarence in 1417 about heralds' fees, and it is said in that copy that he had then been an officer of arms for over fifty-five years.³² He is described as Walter Bellengier, native of Dieppe, Ireland King of Arms to the most victorious and most mighty prince King Edward IV. Bellinger also had a copy made of the constitutions of Rouen which were passed, on the above showing, only two years before he became an officer of arms. Noble had some confusion that he held some province in England, which was not the case.³³ Certainly he did grant arms to domiciled Englishmen, and is known to have encroached on Clarenceux's province, thereby raising the ire of Thomas Holme, who in 1482–3 protested:

*"To all Christian people these present letters reading, hearing or seeing, Thomas Clarenceux knight and king of arms of the south parts of the realm of England, send the due and humble recommendations...whereas Walter Bellinger otherwise called Ireland King of Arms of the land of Ireland hath given and granted by his letters patent under his sign and seal of his office unto Simon Mayhew and Henry Empson, masters of the confraternity of the chapel of the Guildhall within the city of London the arms hereafter following, having no authority by virtue of the said office within the precinct of my jurisdiction, I nevertheless seeing the unlawful and insufficient grant have utterly annulled and damned the same".*³⁴

²⁶ See Coll. Top. & Gen., vol. 3, pp. 243,248.

²⁷ BL Add. MS 6701; Coll. Top. and Gen., vol. 1, p.34ff and p.44 footnote.

²⁸ Misc. Her. & Gen. 2nd ser., vol 5, p.318; Harl. Soc. vol. 15 (1880), p.54.

²⁹ ADH, vol. 3, p.25.

³⁰ BL Harl. MS 1171, f.16.

³¹ Proc. Soc. Antiq., vol. 16 (1897), pp.344–5.

³² Anstis, vol. 2, pp.323–4.

³³ Noble, p.64.

³⁴ CA Vincent MS M 176 p.165; Edmondson, vol. 1, pp.101–2.

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Figure 8: Bellinger

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Is the above mentioned fraternity what is now known as the Parish Clerks' Company? On 16th July 1483 Holme granted arms and crest to that company in which he cited the grant previously made to them by Walter Bellingham, Ireland King of Arms of the land of Ireland.³⁵ Is the grant to Thomas Barow another instance of Bellingham's encroaching on other kings' provinces? In 1495 Garter Wrythe also granted arms to (the same) Thomas Barowe.³⁶ Weever only mentions this officer as Ireland during the reign of Richard III.³⁷ Bellingham was buried in the priory of St John, Clerkenwell.³⁸ His seal on the grant to Thomas Barow bears the arms as described together with a mantled helm with the crest of a demi-swan rising.³⁹

Beltz

George Frederck Beltz, F.S.A., Lancaster Herald (d.1841).⁴⁰ He was born in 1774 and was employed for many years in Garter's office. In 1814, on the resignation of Garter Heard, he was appointed Gentleman Usher of the Scarlet Rod and Brunswick Herald, and in 1817 he became Portcullis Pursuivant in ordinary. The previous Portcullis, John Forth, resigned in return for an annuity from Beltz of £100. Although Beltz was promoted to Lancaster Herald in 1822, Forth outlived him and his annuity continued to be made by Beltz's executor. Beltz was the author of *Memorials of the Order of the Garter* (1841). He was made a companion of the Guelphic Order in 1826 and a knight of that order in 1836. He died in Basel in October 1841 and was buried in the cemetery of St Peter there.

Editor's note: He was on friendly terms with William Beckford and a frequent visitor of Fonthill Abbey, where no doubt their mutual interest in genealogy was much discussed.⁴¹

His arms were granted to G.F. Beltz of London and his younger brothers John Philip and Samuel Beltz, both of the island of Jamaica: *Qtly 1 and 4 Gules on a chief per pale erminois and ermine a double-headed eagle displayed sable* (Beltz), 2 and 3 *Or on a bend wavy azure plain cotised gules three doves argent* (Gutteridge). The mother of the brothers was Elizabeth, only child of Samuel Guttridge of Purley, Berks. Crest: *On a mount vert in front of a fern plant an ermine proper*. Depicted here with the badges of Portcullis and Lancaster, the badge of the Society of Antiquaries is lower right, while that at the lower left is taken from the badge of Brunswick Herald, an officer of the Order of the Bath, as represented on the bookplate of A.W. Woods, afterwards Garter King of Arms.

³⁵ CAGG 33.

³⁶ *Proc. Soc. Antiq.* vol. 16 (1897) pp. 347–8. The arms quartered at 2 and 3 were the same arms as those granted by Bellingham. For some reason HSL was not convinced that the grantee was the same person, but this was not the conclusion of the author of the paper that he cites.

³⁷ Weaver, op. cit., p.672.

³⁸ John Stow, *A survey of London* (Routledge, 1912), p.394.

³⁹ *Proc. Soc. Antiq.*, vol. 16, p.345.

⁴⁰ *ADH*, vol. 3, p.118.

⁴¹ Thomas Woodcock, 'George Frederick Beltz (1774–1841)', new DNB.

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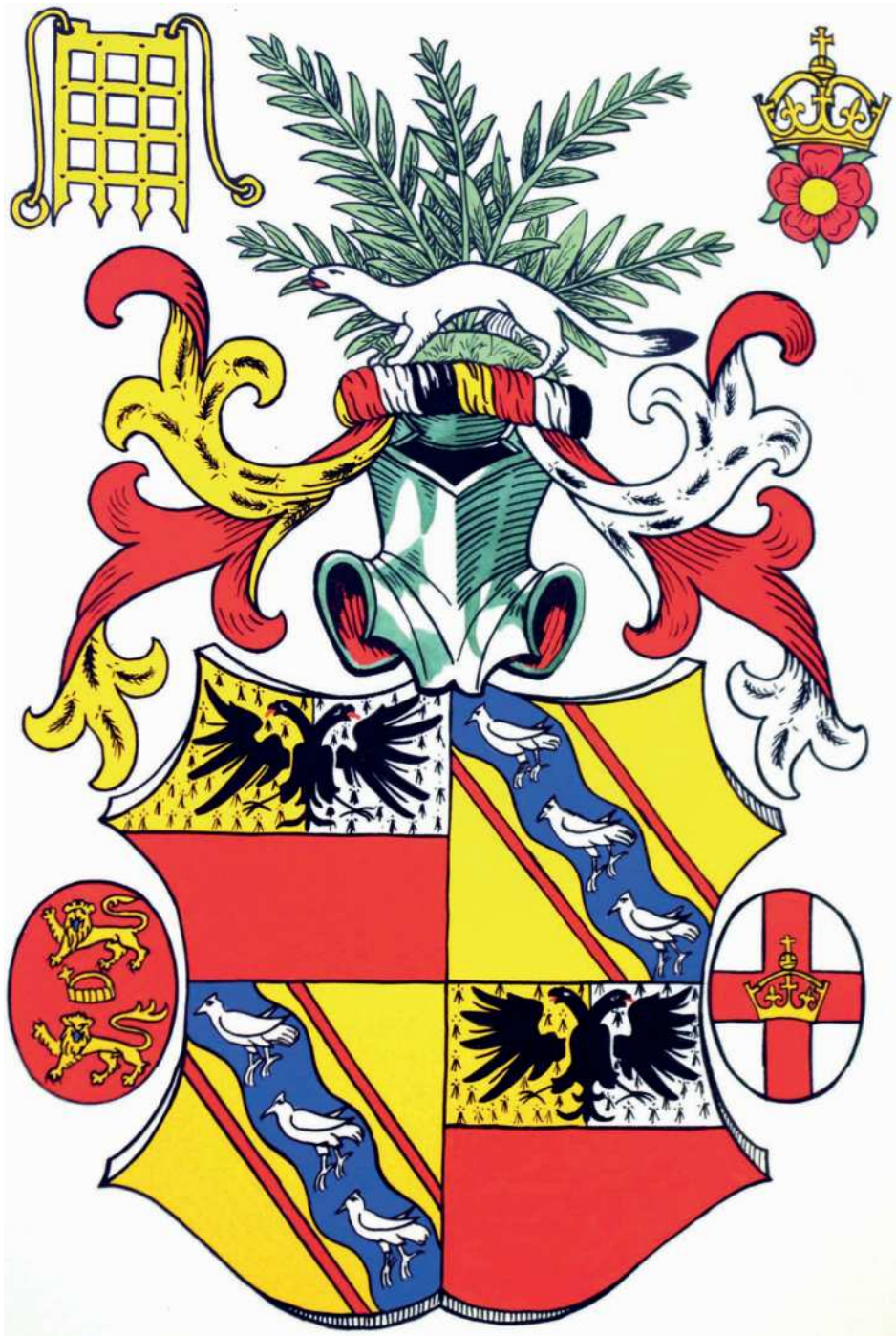


Figure 9: Beltz

Berners

Dame Juliana Berners, or Barnes, is the supposed author of the work generally known as the '*Boke of St Albans*'.⁴² She is said to have been prioress of Sopwell nunnery, near St Albans, and to have been the sister of Richard, lord Berners, and daughter of Sir James Berners of Berners Roding in Essex, who was beheaded in 1388. Her biographers add that she was probably brought up at court, and that when she adopted the religious life she retained her love of field sports. There is, however, no such person in the Berners pedigrees, and there is a gap in the records of Sopwell Priory between 1430 and 1480. In fact, the only documentary evidence about her is that she is cited as a source for the treatise on hunting in the *Boke of St Albans*. This is the earliest English printed work on armory. The first and rarest edition, of which only three imperfect copies are known to exist, was printed in 1486 by an unknown schoolmaster at St Albans, and has no title. Wynkyn de Worde's edition of 1496 begins 'this present book showing the manner of hawking and hunting and also the devising of coat armour'.

Haslewood in his introduction to the 1810 facsimile edition examined with the greatest care the author's claim to figure as the earliest woman author in the English language.⁴³ He assigned to her only part of the treatise on hawking and the section on hunting. It is expressly stated at the end of 'Blasyng of Armys' that the section was translated and compiled, and it is likely that the other treatises are also translations, probably from the French. During the sixteenth century the work was very popular and was many times reprinted.⁴⁴

Arms: *Quarterly or and vert*. My drawing is inspired by an engraving in Dallaway's *Inquiries* also used in the preface to his *Heraldic Miscellanies*.⁴⁵ This shows a quartered shield with a pastoral staff behind it, and an open book inscribed 'The Boke of St Albans'.

Bigland

Ralph Bigland (d.1784), Garter King of Arms, was the only son of Richard Bigland, a cadet of the Biglands of Bigland Hall in Lancs, and of Mary, third daughter and coheir of George Errington of Benwell in Northumberland.⁴⁶ He was born in 1711, and in 1737 he married a Gloucestershire heiress, Ann Wilkins of Frocester. She died the following year and Bigland later married Ann Weir, of Scottish origin. Bigland entered the College of Arms as Bluemantle Pursuivant in 1757, becoming Somerset Herald in 1759 and subsequently occupying all three kingships in succession, as Garter from 1780.⁴⁷

⁴² *ADH*, vol. 2, p.105.

⁴³ W. Haslewood (ed.), *The Book containing the Treatises of Hawking; Hunting; Coat-Armour; Fishing; and Blasing of Arms, as printed in Westminster by Wynkyn de Worde* (London, 1810).

⁴⁴ Despite such uncertainties the prioress still has a place in the DNB, see Julia Boffey 'Juliana Berners fl.1460' new DNB.

⁴⁵ James Dallaway, *Heraldic miscellanies* (London, no date) from p.54 has lists of heralds mainly based on Thomas Lant (BL Lansdowne MS 80) and John Weever, *Ancient funeral monuments* (London, 1631) who provides a list of heralds on pp.659–83; James Dallaway, *Inquiries into the origin and progress of the science of heraldry in England* (London, 1793).

⁴⁶ *ADH*, vol. 2, p.111.

⁴⁷ He is probably the only Garter to have worked as a cheesemonger, an occupation that he followed for 20 years before becoming a herald, see P.L. Dickinson 'Ralph Bigland (1712–1784)', new DNB.

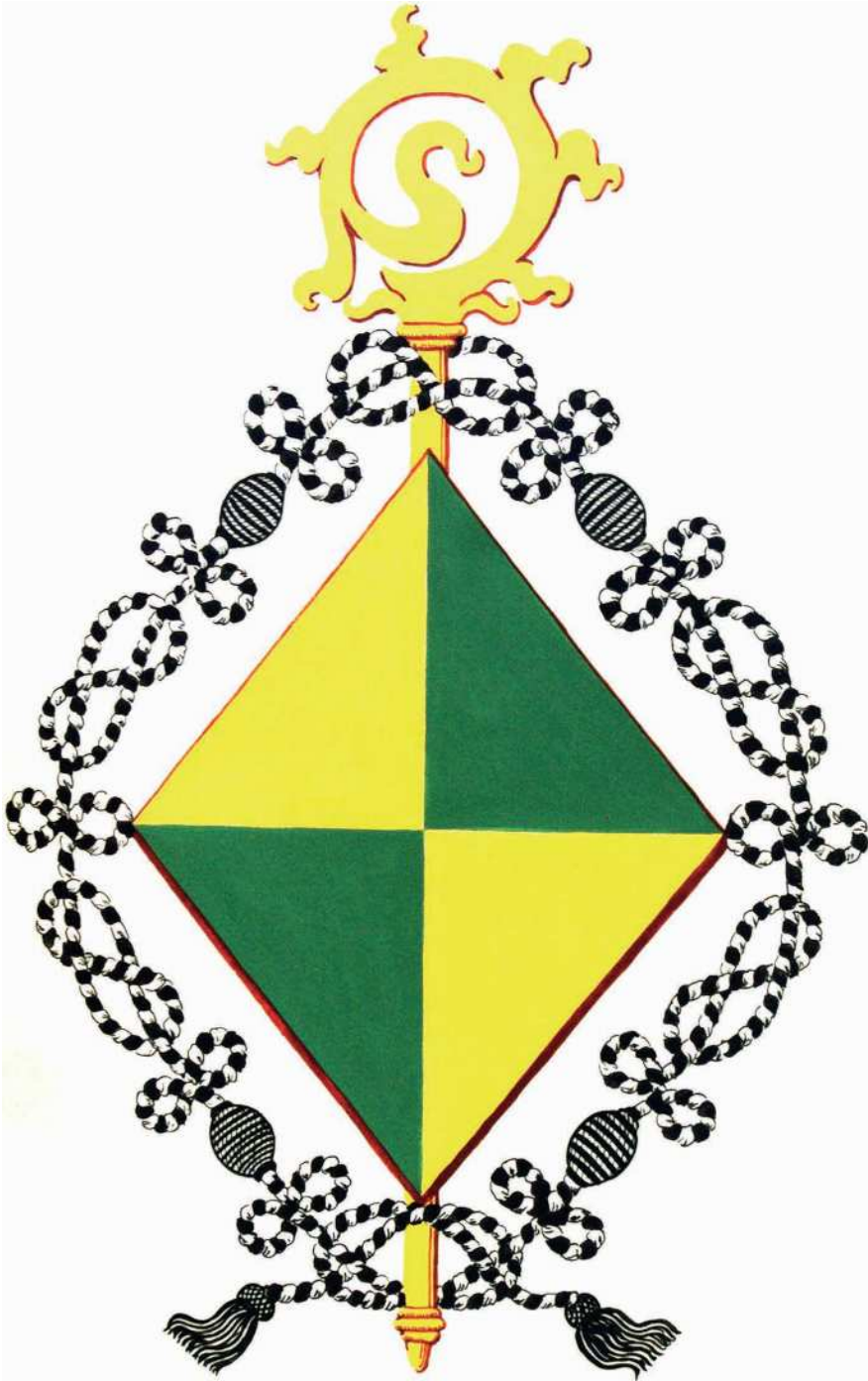


Figure 10: Berners

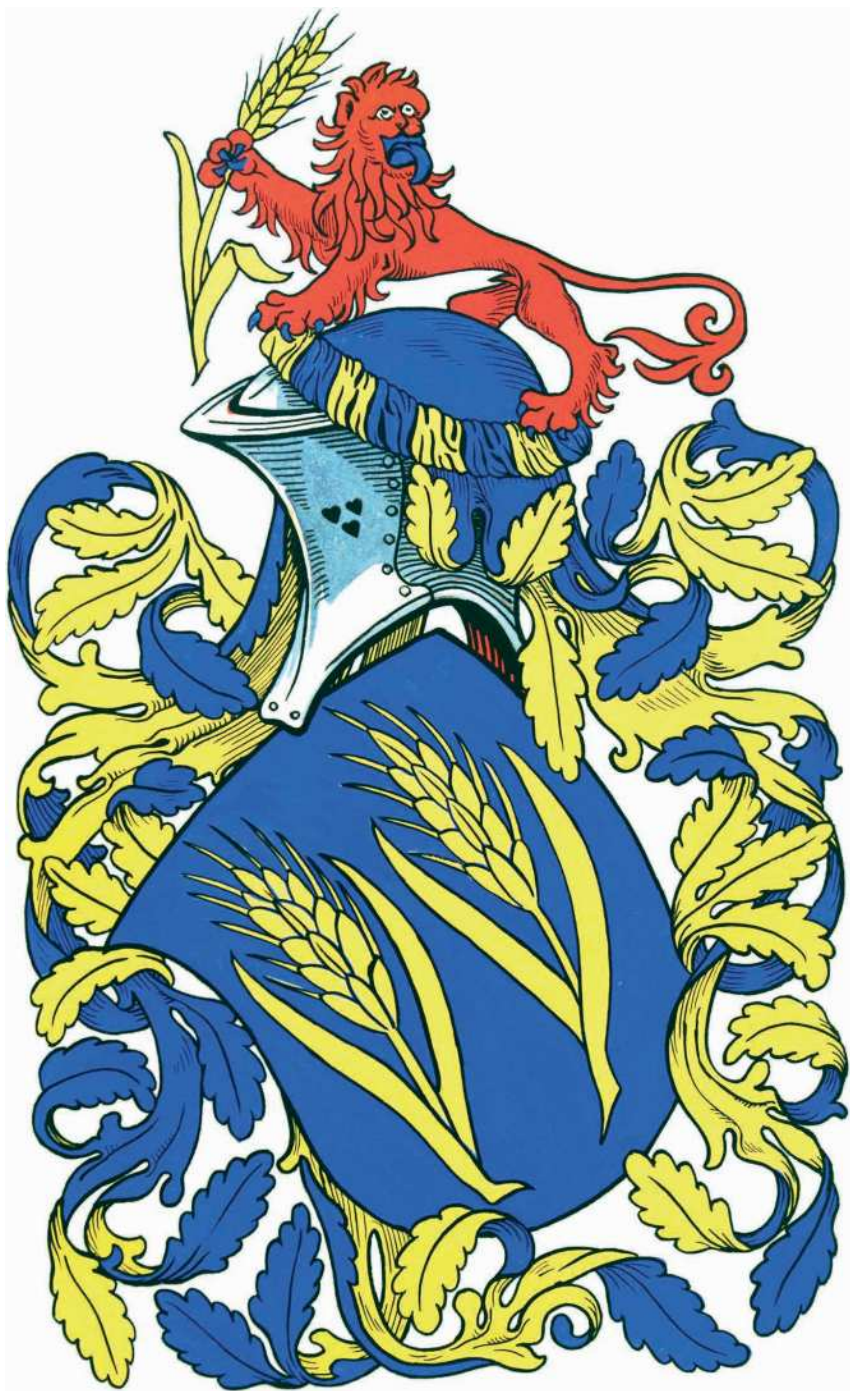


Figure 11: Bigland

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He gave great assistance to Guthrie in his *Complete history of the English Peerage* (1763) and in 1764 he published *Observations on marriages, baptisms and burials preserved in parochial registers*. He made large collections for a history of Gloucestershire, the first volume of which was published by his son in 1792.⁴⁸

The arms exemplified to him in 1760 were *Azure two ears of big with stalks and leaves palewise or*.⁴⁹ The crest: *A lion passant regardant gules holding in his dexter forepaw a golden ear of Big*. Gwillim mentions that this coat was displayed in the north window of Gray's Inn Hall for Bigland, serjeant-at-law.⁵⁰ Garter's father was born in 1658 and is known to have been a student at Gray's Inn. The charges on the arms are variously described as wheat, big-wheat or Big, but Edmondson points out that Big, which is evidently the grain intended here, has a much closer affinity to barley than to wheat, and it is in fact a variety of barley.⁵¹

Noble states that Bigland was buried with his parents in Stepney, but there is a marble slab to his memory on the north wall of the nave of Gloucester cathedral. On this monument the coat of Bigland is quartered with, at 2, *Argent two bars and in chief three escallops azure* (Errington); 3, *Argent ten torteaux* (Babbington); 4, *Or a fret sable* (Ward).

Ralph Bigland had a nephew Ralph, son of Joseph Owen of Lancashire, and Elizabeth Maria Bigland. He took the name of Bigland at his uncle's desire, and entered the College as Rouge Dragon Pursuivant in 1774, becoming Richmond in 1780. Like his uncle before him he held the three kingships in succession, and was the last to do so. He became both a knight, and Garter in 1831, and died in 1838. He adopted his uncle's arms on becoming a pursuivant.

Boswell

Robert Boswell, Lyon clerk 1770–1804 was the son of John Boswell, a cadet of Auchinleck, by his wife Anne Cramond.⁵² In 1773 the father matriculated arms quartering Cramond as co-heir of the Auldbar family: *Qtly 1 and 4, Argent on a fess sable three cinquefoils argent* (Boswell), *on a canton azure a ship at anchor with furled sails in double tressure flory counter flory or* (Caithness); 2, *Qtly i and iv Argent a lion rampant azure, ii and iii, Or a saltire and a chief gules* (Bruce, earl of Kincardine); 3, *Azure a bend between three pelicans in their piety argent* (Cramond). Crest: *A falcon proper, with bells or on a hood gules*. The coat of Cramond was here modified from *Azure on a bend in a battled border or three pelicans*.

Robert Boswell was interim Lyon for just under eight months from December 1795 and had the rare addition of a compartment below the shield which consisted of a lion's

⁴⁸ The whole work was published posthumously in three volumes as *Historical, Monumental and Genealogical Collections, Relative to the County of Gloucester*. It took over a century for the series to be completed, volumes 2 and 3 appearing in 1836 and 1899. They have been reprinted by the Gloucestershire Record Society.

⁴⁹ His arms were charged with a crescent for difference, omitted by HSL. Bigland was an only son, but his father was in trade as a cadet of the Lancashire house.

⁵⁰ John Gwillim, *A display of heraldry*, 6th edn. (London, 1724), p.122.

⁵¹ Joseph Edmondson, *A complete body of heraldry*, 2 vols, (London, 1780), vol. 2, glossary: wheat.

⁵² ADH vol. 2 p.73.



Figure 12: Boswell

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face gules suppressing a saltire argent, a clear allusion to his connection with the Lyon office.⁵³

Bouvier

Gilles le Bouvier, Berry King of Arms from c.1420, was born at Bourges in 1386 according to tradition, and entered the service of the Dauphin, later Charles VII, who created him King of Arms of the province of Berry at his castle of Mehun on Christmas Day 1420.⁵⁴ This fact has been disputed, and there are reasons to suppose that he might not have become a king of arms until slightly later. Bouvier's date of death is equally uncertain. He is last attested in 1454/5. In this era some have considered Mountjoy to have been the doyen of the kings of arms in France, yet Charles favoured Bouvier above all the other heralds, and he probably was the chief herald. In a document of c.1451 he was named as the king of arms of the French, a man of great wisdom and experience. He is particularly known as the creator of the *Armorial de Berry*, now in the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris.⁵⁵ It comprises a registry of the nobility from diverse counties of France, England, Scotland and other European countries. He also wrote a chronicle of the reign of Charles VII, and a geography of the countries that he had visited. His arms were *Or three ox's heads gules armed azure*.⁵⁶

Editor's note: In 1422 following the death of Charles VI of France, Berry King of Arms proclaimed Henry VI of England as the new king of France at St Denis. This was not Gilles le Bouvier, who was appointed by the dauphin as his own Berry King of Arms as a rival to the herald of the English king. By 1428 the dauphin also had his own Montjoie King of Arms, who took his name from the battle cry of the French kings 'Montjoie-Saint Denis', and it was in this year that Montjoie was named in documents from the

dauphin's court as the premier herald, but it is supposed that this was while Berry was absent on an embassy, because in 1429 Bouvier, who was then still Berry, was once again referred to as the premier herald.⁵⁷

Brooke

Ralph Brooke (d.1625), began his heraldic career as a freeman of the Painter-Stainers' Company in 1576, becoming Rouge Croix Pursuivant in 1580, and York Herald in 1593.⁵⁸ The latter year he petitioned for the office of Norroy, but the post was given to Segar and when, four years later, Camden was made Clarenceux over the heads of all the members of the College, he deemed himself unjustly treated. He set himself to expose Camden as unlearned and unfitted for his post, hence the publication c.1599 of

⁵³ George Seton, *The law and practice of heraldry in Scotland* (Edinburgh, 1863) p.489; John Horne Stevenson, *Heraldry in Scotland*, 2 vols (Glasgow, 1914) vol. 2 pp.446–7.

⁵⁴ *ADH*, vol.3, p.9.

⁵⁵ BNF MS Franc. 4985. This was published by Emmanuel de Boos as *Armorial de Gilles Le Bouvier* (Editions Léopard d'or, 1995).

⁵⁶ Vallet de Viriville, *Armorial de France* (Paris, 1866) pp.75,185.

⁵⁷ Vallet de Viriville, op.cit., pp.6–8.

⁵⁸ *ADH*, vol. 1, p.4.



Figure 13: Bouvier

his *Discovery of certain errors published in print in the much commended Britannia, 1594*, and the violent controversy between the two men. Lower says that he pretended to be descended from the ancient Cheshire family of Brooke, but that, unfortunately for his pretensions, his father's name was not Brooke, but Brokesmouth.⁵⁹ He died in October

⁵⁹ Mark Antony Lower, *The curiosities of heraldry* (London, 1845), pp.258–60.

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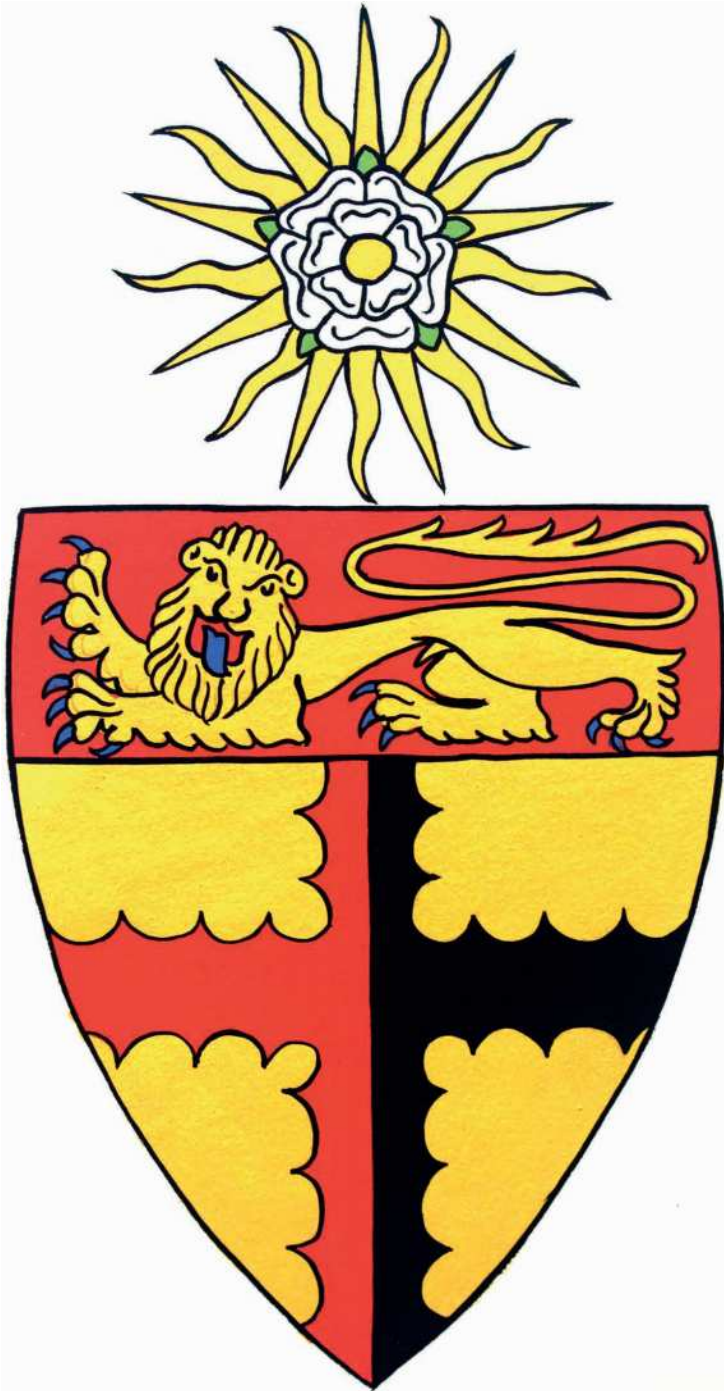


Figure 14: Brooke

1625 at the age of 73, and was buried at Reculver in Kent. The *Discovery* was reprinted with Camden's answer and Brooke's reply, in 1724.⁶⁰

Arms: *Or a cross engrailed party gules and sable, on a chief gules a lion passant guardant or.*

The badges of the English heralds and pursuivants.

The English officers have no badges corresponding to those worn by their Scottish and Irish colleagues, but for a very long time they have made use of certain royal badges associated with their titles. Thus Windsor uses the cloudburst, a badge of Edward III, who had been known as Edward of Windsor. It has been suggested that this badge was an attempt to depict 'winds or'. Lancaster uses a crowned red rose, and York a white rose en soleil. These two badges were first adopted by John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaster and Edmund of Langley, duke of York, the fourth and fifth sons of Edward III, respectively. (Editor's note: according to Michael Siddons, in a pedigree roll of 1461 the rose of York was believed to derive from the house of Mortimer, from which they took their claim to the crown. King Henry IV might well have used a red rose as one of his badges.⁶¹ I have speculated that the red rose on the arms believed to belong to John Standish, a yeoman of the chamber of Henry IV, derive from that same royal livery badge⁶²). They afterwards became the devices of the rival factions in the Wars of the Roses. These three offices were all instituted by Edward III, as was also Chester, who uses a golden sheaf from the arms of the earldom of Chester, *Azure three garbs or.*

The four pursuivants use the badges from which they take their titles, namely the rouge croix of the arms of St George, a blue mantle in allusion to the blue field of the arms of France which were assumed by Edward III, the rouge dragon of Cadwallader, one of the supporters borne by the Tudor sovereigns, and now accepted as the badge of Wales, and a golden portcullis, the badge used by Henry VII in token of his Beaufort descent. These badges are painted over the doors of the officers' chambers in the College of Arms, and they will sometimes be found incorporated into the officers' personal bearings. A good example of this is the crest of Sir Edward Walker (d.1677), Garter.⁶³ I am unaware of any precedent for their use as external ornaments in achievements of arms. It is, however, difficult to see any valid reason for rejecting the opportunities which these badges offer and considerable use has been made of them in this armorial.

Browne

The authorities all seem to agree that Robert Browne was Guisnes Pursuivant Extraordinary in the reign of Edward IV, but it is by no means clear in which reign he was appointed Rouge Croix Pursuivant in ordinary.⁶⁴ In view of the fact that Richard III appointed Thomas French as Guisnes and George Berry as Rouge Croix, Noble

⁶⁰ For further details of his life see Noble, pp.242–5 and Thomas Moule, *Bibliotheca heraldica* (London, 1822), pp.91–2.

⁶¹ Siddons Badges, vol 2.1, pp.211–13.

⁶² Paul A Fox, *Great Cloister: A lost Canterbury tale* (Oxford, 2012), p.606.

⁶³ See *ADH*, vol. 1, p.68.

⁶⁴ *ADH*, vol. 2., p.124.

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Figure 15: Browne

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suggested that perhaps Browne was deprived of his pursuivantship by Richard III and restored by Henry VII, under whom he was Richmond Herald.⁶⁵

Arms: *Gules three lion's paws erased argent, the dexter on a canton sable.*

The office of Richmond herald dates, according to Edmondson, to the reign of Henry VI.⁶⁶

The Badge of Richmond

The badge associated with the office is the Lancastrian red rose dimidiated with the Yorkist white rose en-soleil, the whole ensigned with a royal crown. I have not been able to determine when this was introduced. When Henry VII acceded to the throne he used various combinations of the red rose of Lancaster with the white rose of York. Sometimes the rose is divided in two halves, sometimes it is quarterly, sometimes one finds two whole roses, one red and one white, growing from the same stalk, but the commonest means was to place one rose within the other, usually the white within the red. On standards used by both Henry VII and Henry VIII the white half of the field is strewn with red roses and the green half with white.⁶⁷

(Editor's note: the badge of Richmond herald was considered by Wagner to be a modern invention, but something very similar, *A rose per pale gules and argent, on soleil*, was used by Henry VIII, as is here illustrated by HSL).⁶⁸

⁶⁵ Noble, pp. 72,91–2.

⁶⁶ Edmondson, op. cit., vol. 1, p.109. HSL later decided that the earliest record was in 1421, the penultimate year of Henry V, as used by a personal herald of John, duke of Bedford, see Godfrey & Wagner p.143.

⁶⁷ BL Harl. MS 4632; CA MS. I.2.

⁶⁸ Siddons Badges, vol 2.1, p.21.

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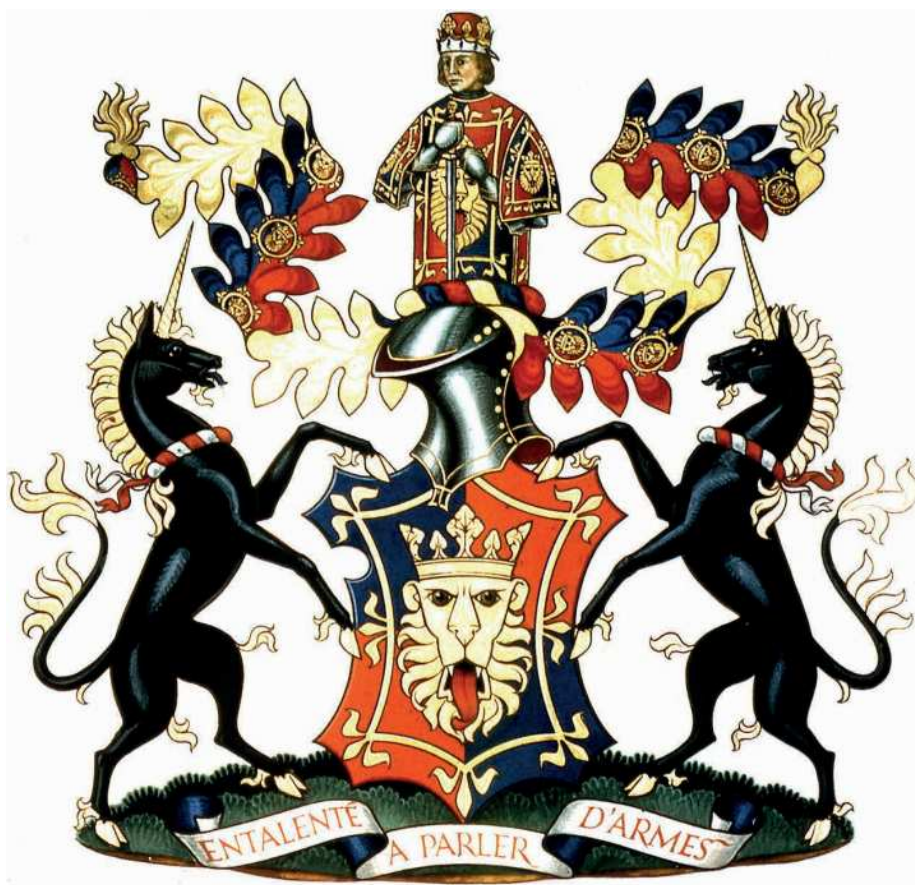
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