

The Coat of Arms

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THE COAT OF ARMS

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OXFORD COLLEGE ARMS

LEE LUMBLEY

Abstract

*Since John Brooke-Little's articles *Oxford University and its Colleges* appeared in the *Coat of Arms* in 1951¹ the number of Oxford's colleges has expanded and additional information has been discovered. This author's intent is to expand the original set of the former Clarenceux's work and to pay tribute to the efforts of our founder. While the primary source for this article ² has much to do with the history of the colleges, this article confines its attention to the heraldry. Colleges typically used the arms of their founders or arms attributed to their founders. Colleges with arms that were granted or assumed are so noted.*

THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD—*Azure on an open book proper leathered gules garnished and having on the dexter side seven seals or between three open crowns of the last the words DOMINUS ILLUMINATIO MEA sable (Figure 1).*

- Predates the College of Arms, founded 1489. Used since circa 1400. Listed in the Visitations of Oxfordshire.
- Edward III granted a royal charter to the University in 1248.

ALL SOULS COLLEGE—*Or a chevron between three cinquefoils pierced gules (Figure 2a).*

- Arms of the Founder. Predates the College of Arms. Listed in the Visitations of Oxfordshire.
- Founded 1438 by Henry Chichele, Archbishop of Canterbury (1414–1441).

¹ J.P.Brooke-Little, 'The arms of Oxford University and Colleges', *CoA* no.5 pp.157–61, no.6 pp.198–200, no.7 pp.235–8, Jan-Jul 1951.

² This article is adapted by permission of the publisher from: John Tepper Marlin and Lee Lumbley. *Oxford College Arms*, © 2018–2021 Boissevain Books LLC.

THE COAT OF ARMS



Figure 1: The University of Oxford

OXFORD COLLEGE OF ARMS

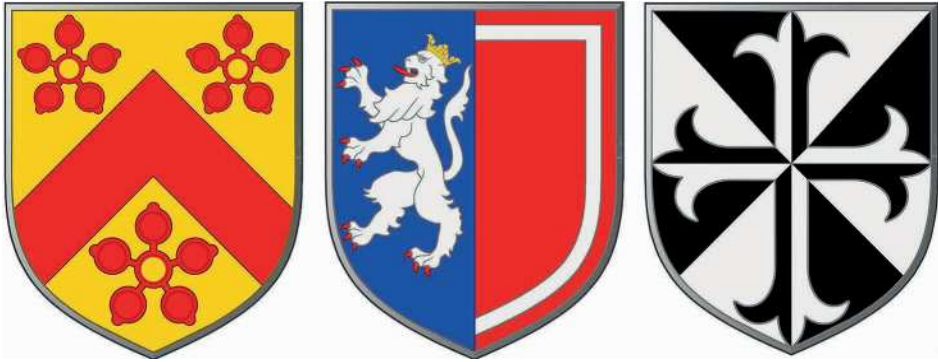


Figure 2: All Souls College, Balliol College, Blackfriars

BALLIOL COLLEGE—*Azure a lion rampant argent crowned or marshalling gules an orle argent (Figure 2b).*

- Arms of the Founders. Predates the College of Arms. Listed in the Visitations of Oxfordshire.
- Founded 1263 by an initial endowment by John, Lord Balliol, as penance for his claim to the throne of Scotland. After his death statutes were added 1269 by his widow Devorguilla. As she was of royal birth, her father's Arms appear in dexter. Historically, variations of these arms were used and may be found in and around the College.

BLACKFRIARS—*Gyronny sable and argent a cross fleury counterchanged (Figure 2c)*

- The College uses the Arms of the Dominican Order. Predates the College of Arms.
- Founded 1221 five years after the Dominican Order was established in France. The College was absent from the University from 1536–1921.

THE COAT OF ARMS

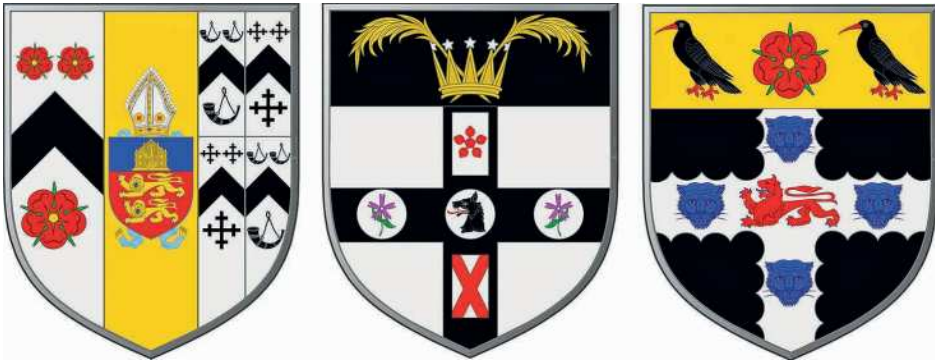


Figure 3: Brasenose College, Campion Hall, Christ Church.

BRASENOSE COLLEGE—*Tierced in pale first Argent a chevron sable between three roses gules (for Smyth) second Gules two lions passant guardant on a chief azure Our Lady sitting with her Babe crown and sceptre of the second on (for the See of Lincoln) ensigned with a mitre proper (for Smyth) third Argent a chevron between three bugle horns stringed sable quartering argent a chevron sable between three crosses crosslet sable (for Sutton quartering Southworth) (Figure 3a).*

- Arms of the Founders. Listed in the Visitations of Oxfordshire.
- Founded 1509 by William Smyth, of Lancashire (dexter tierce), Bishop of the See of Lincoln (1495–1514) (centre tierce), and Sir Richard Sutton of Macclesfield, Cheshire (sinister tierce), who was the first layman founder of an Oxford College. Granted a Royal Charter in 1512.

CAMPION HALL—*Argent on a cross sable a plate charged with a wolf's head erased of the second between two billets of the field, that in chief charged with a cinquefoil and that in the base charged with a saltire gules, in fess as many plates each charged with a Campion flower leaved and slipped proper, on a chief also of the second two branches of palm in saltire enfiled with a celestial coronet or (Figure 3b).*

- Granted 4 Nov 1935
- Founded 1896 by the Society of Jesus and named for martyred Irish Jesuit priest Fr Edmund Campion.

CHRIST CHURCH—*Sable on a cross engrailed argent a lion passant gules between four leopard's heads caboshed azure on a chief or a rose gules seeded or barbed vert between two cornish choughs proper (Figure 3c).*

- Arms of Cardinal Thomas Wolsey. Listed in the Visitations of Oxfordshire.
- Founded 1525 by Cardinal Thomas Wolsey as Cardinal College and, after his political fall, re-founded in 1546 by Henry VIII when it was renamed.

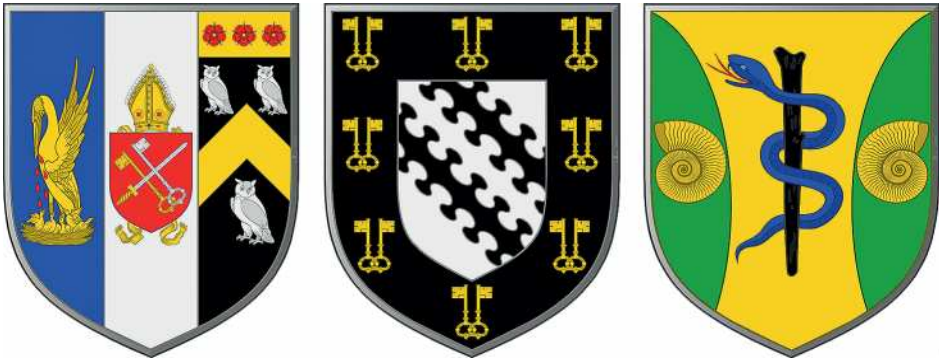


Figure 4: Corpus Christi College, Exeter College, Green Templeton College.

CORPUS CHRISTI—*Tierced in pale first Azure a pelican in her piety or vulned proper (for Foxe) second Argent on an escutcheon gules two keys indorsed in bend the uppermost argent the other or a sword interposed between them in bend sinister of the second pommel and hilt gold (for the See of Winchester) ensigned with a mitre proper third Sable a chevron or between three owls argent on a chief of the second as many roses gules (for Oldham) (Figure 4a).*

- Listed in the Visitations of Oxfordshire.
- Founded 1517 by Richard Foxe (dexter Tierce), Bishop of Winchester (1501–1508) (centre Tierce) and Bishop Hugh Oldham of Exeter (1505–1519) (sinister Tierce). Granted a Royal Charter in 1517.

EXETER COLLEGE—*Argent two bendlets nebuly (for de Stapledon) with a bordure sable charged with eight pairs of gold keys (for the See of Exeter) (Figure 4b).*

- Predates the College of Arms. Listed in the Visitations of Oxfordshire.
- Founded in 1314 by Bishop Walter de Stapledon Bishop of Exeter (1261–1326). His monument at Exeter has *Bars wavy*. Historically, the numbers of pairs of Keys vary. Granted a Royal Charter in 1565.

GREEN TEMPLETON COLLEGE—*Or between two flaunches vert on each a nautilus shell the aperture outwards a Rod of Aesculapius sable the serpent azure (Figure 4c).*

- Granted 4 Nov 2009
- Founded 2008 by combining Green College and Templeton College. The vert tincture and the Rod of Aesculapius come from Green College. The Nautilus shell comes from Templeton College. Granted a Royal Charter in 1995.

THE COAT OF ARMS

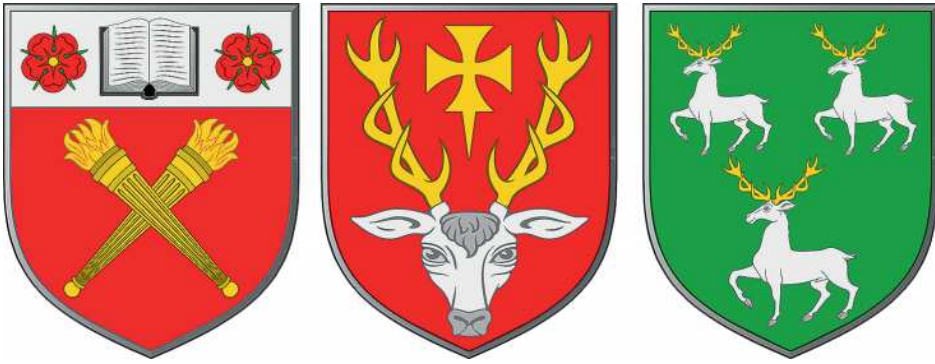


Figure 5: Harris Manchester College, Hertford College, Jesus College.

HARRIS MANCHESTER COLLEGE—*Gules two torches inflamed in saltire proper on chief argent between two roses of the field barbed and seeded (proper) an open book also proper (Figure 5a).*

- Granted 14 May 1934
- Founded 1786 as Manchester Academy. Moved to Oxford in 1889. Became a full College in 1996.

HERTFORD COLLEGE—*Gules a hart's head caboshed argent between the attires a cross patty fitch in the foot or.*

- Arms assumed. The College deliberately chose not to obtain a Grant of Arms because Henry VIII exempted Oxford and Cambridge from the requirement that institutions obtain a grant from, and submit to visits by, heralds from the College of Arms. Sidney Graves Hamilton suggested this design in 1903.
- Founded 1283 as Hart Hall by Elias de Hertford.

JESUS COLLEGE—*Vert three stags trippant argent attired or.*

- Assumed the arms of Thomas Rotherham, Bishop of Lincoln 1472–1480, Archbishop of York, 1480–1500 (See also Lincoln College).
- Founded in 1571 by the Royal Charter of Elizabeth I upon the petition of Hugh Price, Doctor of Laws, *Azure three stags trippant argent* (Burke's General Armory, 1884, p 824.) Both versions of the Arms were used historically and sometimes interchangeably. Price's version of the Arms appears in John Speed's 1605 map of the Oxfordshire. However, there is no evidence to suggest that Price actually obtained a grant and Jesus College never petitioned the College of Arms.

OXFORD COLLEGE OF ARMS

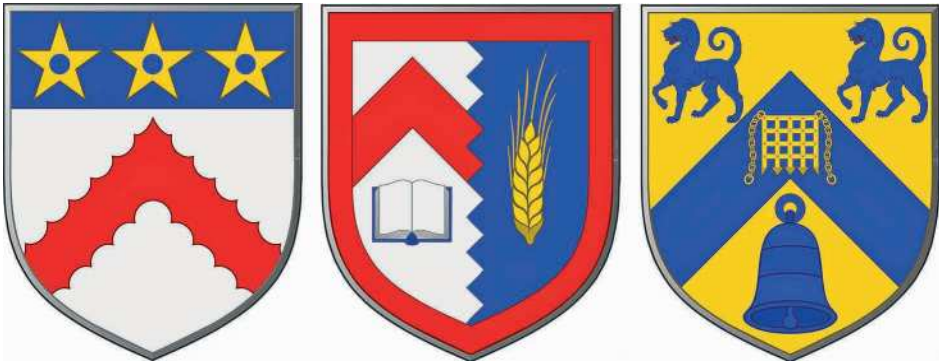


Figure 6: Keble College, Kellogg College, Lady Margaret Hall.

KEBLE COLLEGE—*Argent a chevron engrailed gules on a chief azure three mullets pierced or.*

- Arms of the Tractarian movement founder Rev John Keble.
- Founded 1870 *in memoriam* and granted a Royal Charter that year.

KELLOGG COLLEGE—*Per pale indented argent and azure on the argent a chevron enhanced gules in base a book azure leaved argent on the azure an ear of wheat palewise or the whole within a bordure gules.*

- Granted 8 Mar 1999.
- Founded 1990 with an endowment from the Kellogg Foundation, of the U.S. cereal manufacturer William Keith Kellogg.

LADY MARGARET HALL—*Or on a chevron between in chief two talbots passant and in base a bell azure a portcullis of the field.*

- Arms Assumed.
- Founded in 1878 by Dr Edward Talbot, constituted in 1892 with a Deed of Trust, in 1913 became a not-for-profit Limited Liability Company, and granted a Royal Charter in 1926.

THE COAT OF ARMS

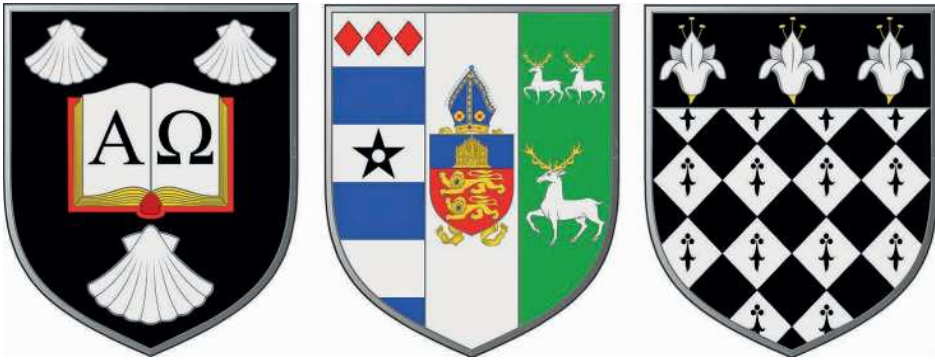


Figure 7: Linacre College, Lincoln College, Magdalen College.

LINACRE COLLEGE—*Sable on an open book proper edged or bound gules the dexter page charged with the Greek letter alpha and the sinister page charged with the Greek letter omega both sable the whole between three escallops argent (Figure 7a).*

- Granted 8 Dec 1988.
- Founded 1962 and granted a Royal Charter in 1986. Named for Thomas Linacre, physician to Henry VIII and founder of the Royal College of Physicians, who left his fortune to endow professorships in Greek medicine at Oxford and Cambridge. It is the first co-educational College at Oxford.

LINCOLN COLLEGE—*Tierced in pale first Barry of six argent and azure in chief three lozenges gules the third bar charged with a mullet pierced sable (for Fleming, Bishop of Lincoln, 1420–1431) second Argent thereon an escutcheon of arms of the See of Lincoln ensigned of a mitre azure stringed or (for the See of Lincoln) third Vert three stags trippant argent attired or (for Thomas Rotherham, Bishop of Lincoln 1472–1480, Archbishop of York, 1480–1500 (See also Jesus College) (Figure 7b).*

- Arms of the Founders. Arms date to the Visitations of Oxfordshire, 1574
- Founded 1427 by Bishop Richard Fleming, Bishop of Lincoln, 1472–1480, and further endowed by Thomas Rotherham, Bishop of Lincoln, Archbishop of York 1480–1500. Rotherham’s association with Lincoln is much stronger than his bonds with Jesus College.

MAGDALEN COLLEGE—*Lozengy ermine and sable on a chief sable three lilies argent slipped and seeded or (Figure 7c).*

- Arms of the Founder differenced with a chief of the three lilies of Eton College. Predates the College of Arms. Listed in the Visitations of Oxfordshire.
- Founded 1458 by William Patten, of Waynflete, Provost of Eton (1442–1447) and Bishop of Winchester (1447–1486). Granted a Royal Charter in 1457.

OXFORD COLLEGE OF ARMS

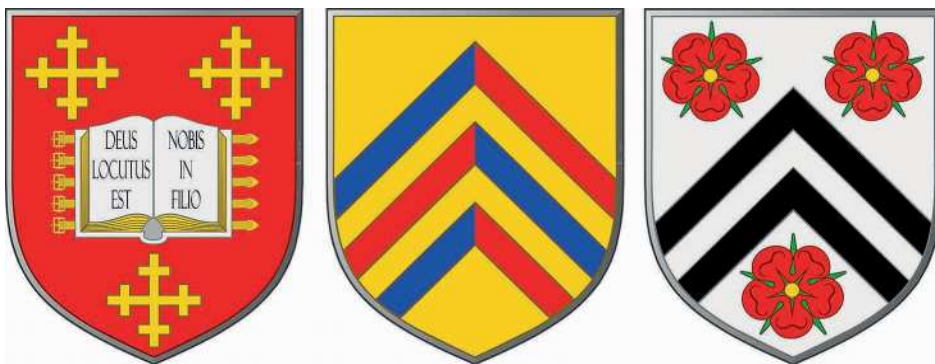


Figure 8: Mansfield College, Merton College, New College.

MANSFIELD COLLEGE—*Gules an open book proper inscribed DEUS LOCUTUS EST NOBIS IN FILIO in letters sable bound argent edged and clasped or between three cross crosslets gold (Figure 8a).*

- Granted 10 Feb 1956.
- Founded in 1838 as Spring Hill College in Birmingham by Nonconformists George and Elizabeth Mansfield and her sister Sarah Glover. The College moved to Oxford in 1886 and was granted a Royal Charter in 1995.

MERTON COLLEGE—*Or three chevronels per pale azure and gules the centre one counter-changed (Figure 8b).*

- Arms of the Founder. Predates the College of Arms. Listed in the Visitations of Oxfordshire.
- Founded 1264 by Walter de Merton, Bishop of Rochester.

NEW COLLEGE—*Argent two chevronels sable between three roses gules seeded and barbed proper (Figure 8c).*

- Arms of the Founder. Predates the College of Arms. Listed in the Visitations of Oxfordshire.
- Founded 1379 by William of Wykeham, Bishop of Winchester (1366–1404). Granted a Royal Charter in 1379.

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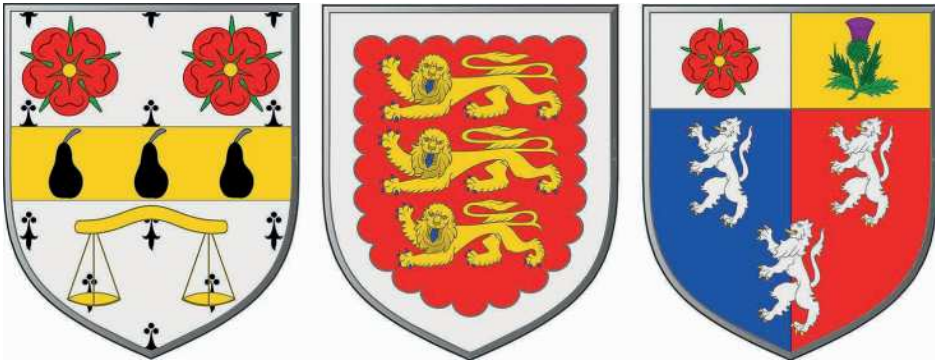


Figure 9: Nuffield College, Oriel College, Pembroke College.

NUFFIELD COLLEGE—*Ermine on a fess or between in chief two roses gules seeded and barbed proper and in base a balance or, three pears sable (Figure 9a).*

- Arms of the Founder. Granted 5 May 1958.
- Founded 1937 by William Morris, Lord Nuffield and was granted a Royal Charter in 1958.

ORIEL COLLEGE—*Gules three lions passant guardant in pale or in bordure engrailed argent (Figure 9b).*

- Arms of the Founder differenced by a bordure. Predates the College of Arms. Listed in the Visitations of Oxfordshire.
- Founded 1326 by Edward II. Granted a Royal Charter in 1603.

PEMBROKE COLLEGE—*Per pale azure and gules three lions rampant argent (for Hubert) on a chief party per pale argent and or in the first a rose gules (for England) in the second a thistle of Scotland proper (Figure 9c).*

- Granted 14 Feb 1625.
- Founded 1624 by William Herbert, 3rd Earl of Pembroke (1580–1630) with royal patronage of James I, who granted a Royal Charter the same year, and further endowed by Thomas Tesdale, of Glympton, Oxfordshire and Rev Richard Wightwick, of Berkshire. The Arms are Pembroke differenced by the Chief (England and Scotland) for James I.

OXFORD COLLEGE OF ARMS

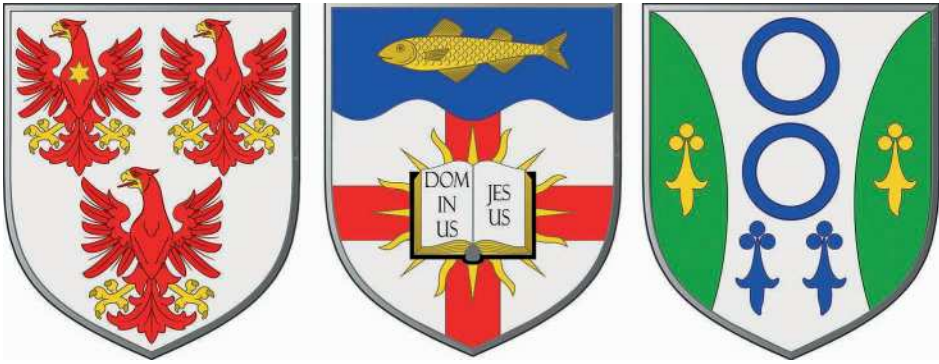


Figure 10: The Queen's College, Regent's Park College, Reuben College.

THE QUEEN'S COLLEGE—*Argent three eagles displayed gules beaked and legged or on the breast of the first a mullet of six points of the last (Figure 10a).*

- Arms of the Founder differenced by a mullet upon the first eagle. Predates the College of Arms. Listed in the Visitations of Oxfordshire.
- Founded 1341 by Robert de Eglesfield, of Eglesfield, Cumberland and named in honour of Queen Philippa of Hainault, consort to Edward III. Granted a Royal Charter in 1585.

REGENT'S PARK COLLEGE—*Argent on a cross gules an open Bible proper irradiated or the pages inscribed with the words DOMINUS JESUS in letters sable on a chief wavy azure a fish or (Figure 10b).*

- Granted 3 Mar 1958
- Founded 1752 as the Baptist Education Society, renamed the Stepney Academy in 1850, moved to Regent's Park, London where it was renamed in 1856, and moved to Oxford in 1927.

REUBEN COLLEGE—*Argent in pale two annulets and in base two ermine spots in fess azure all between two flanches vert each charged with an ermine spot or (Figure 10c).*

- Yet to be granted by Letters Patent from the College of Arms, probably 2021 or 2022.
- Founded 2019 by Oxford University as Parks College, it was renamed Reuben College after an endowment was established by the Reuben Foundation in 2020. The College petitioned for arms in 2020 and Letters Patent are to be forthcoming. This design for the main shield was finalized by the College of Arms and released to the public by Reuben College in March 2021.

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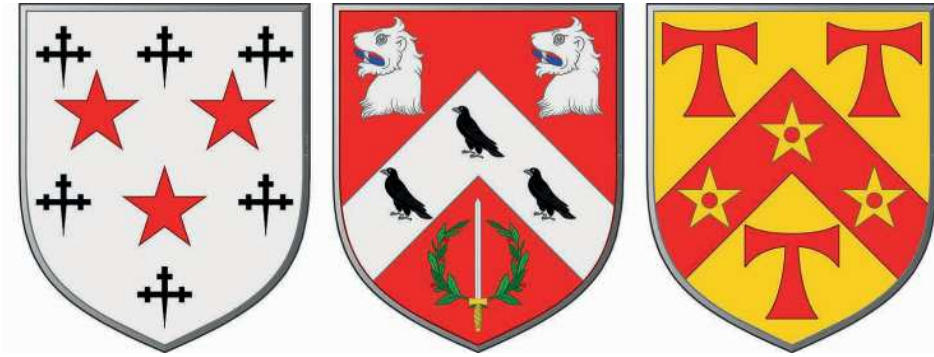


Figure 11: Somerville College, St Anne's College, St Anthony's College.

SOMERVILLE COLLEGE—*Argent three mullets gules in chevron reversed between six cross crosslets fitchy sable (Figure 11a).*

- Arms of the Somerville family of Scotland, the College was named after mathematician and science writer Mary Somerville.
- Founded in 1878 as the Association for the Higher Education of Women. In 1879, a second committee was founded to include dissenters, leading to the founding of Somerville Hall. Granted a Royal Charter in 1926.

ST ANNE'S COLLEGE—*Gules on a chevron argent between in chief two lion's heads erased argent and in base a sword of the second pommel and hilt or and enfiled with a wreath of laurel proper three ravens sable (Figure 11b).*

- Assumed 1952 as a gift of heraldic heiress Eleanor Plumer, fourth Principal of the Society.
- Founded in 1879 as the Society of Home-Students. In 1940 Eleanor Plumer was elected Principal of the Home Students at Oxford. In 1942 the College was renamed St Anne's College. In 1945 Amy Hartland endowed the Society. In 1952 the College was granted a Royal Charter and became a full College. Plumer allowed the use of the arms of her father, Field Marshal Herbert Viscount Plumer, granted in 2 Aug 1919.

ST ANTHONY'S COLLEGE—*Or on a chevron between three Tau crosses gules as many pierced mullets of the field (Figure 11c).*

- Granted 30 Nov 1953.
- Founded 1950 by an endowment from French merchant Sir Antonin Besse, of Aden, the College is named for three Anthonys: the founder, St Anthony of Padua, and St Anthony the Great of Alexandria. Granted a Royal Charter in 1953.

OXFORD COLLEGE OF ARMS

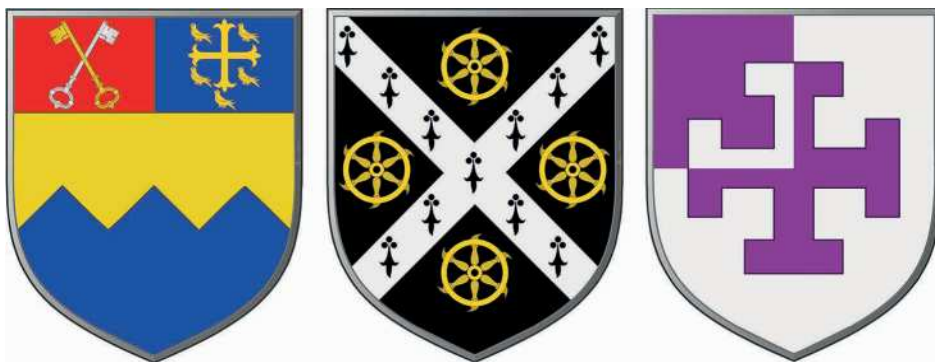


Figure 12: St Benet's Hall, St Catherine's College, St Cross College.

ST BENET'S HALL—*Per fess dancetty or and azure a chief per pale gules and azure charged on the dexter with two keys in saltire or and argent and on the sinister with a cross flory between five martlets or* (**Figure 12a**).

- Adopted the Arms of Ampleforth Abbey, granted 17 May 1921.
- Founded 1897 by Ampleforth Abbey for monks to live while reading for Oxford degrees.

ST CATHERINE'S COLLEGE—*Sable a saltire ermine between four St Catherine's wheels or* (**Figure 12b**).

- Granted 10 Jun 1963.
- Founded 1868 as the Delegacy of Non-Collegiate Students. In 1931 the Society was recognized as St Catherine's Society by the University. In 1960 Sir Alan Bullock, Sir Alan Wilson, and Sir Hugh Beaver endowed the College. By 1962 it was a full College of the University even though construction continued. Located on Catte Street, it was named for St Catherine. Granted a Royal Charter in 1963.

ST CROSS COLLEGE—*Argent a cross potent purpure a quarter counterchanged* (**Figure 12c**).

- Granted 2 Nov 2000.
- Founded 1965 and located on St Cross Rd, the College was founded by the University.

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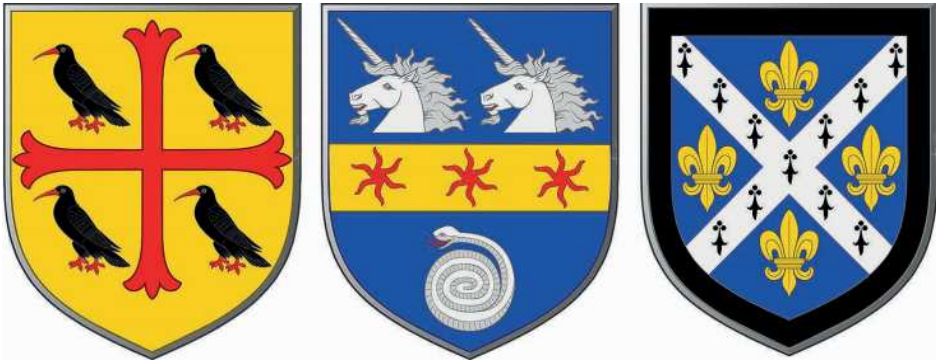


Figure 13: St Edmund's Hall, St Hilda's College, St Hugh's College.

ST EDMUND'S HALL—*Or a cross patonce gules between four Cornish choughs proper* (**Figure 13a**).

- Assumed the attributed Arms of St Edmund of Abingdon.
- Founded in 1236 by St Edward of Abingdon, Archbishop of Canterbury (1234–1240), it is the oldest continuously operating community. In 1957 the institution was granted a Royal Charter and became a full College of the University.

ST HILDA'S COLLEGE—*Azure on a fess or between in chief two unicorn's heads coupé and in base a coiled serpent argent, three estoiles gules* (**Figure 13b**).

- Granted 30 May 1960.
- Founded 1893 by Dorothea Beale as St Hilda's Hall and granted a Royal Charter in 1926. The College is named after St Hilda, Abbess of Whitby (657–680).

ST HUGH'S COLLEGE—*Azure a saltire ermine between four fleurs-de-lis or a bordure sable* (**Figure 13c**).

- Granted 20 May 1981. These are the attributed arms of St Hugh of Avalon, Bishop of Lincoln (1186–1200), differenced by a bordure.
- Founded 1886 by Elizabeth Wordsworth, great-niece of the poet, and later endowed by Clara Evelyn Mordan. Granted a Royal Charter in 1926.

OXFORD COLLEGE OF ARMS

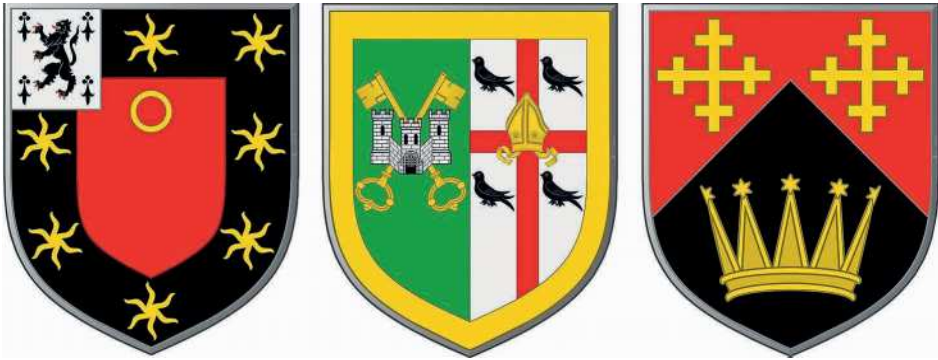


Figure 14: St John's College, St Peter's College, St Stephen's House.

ST JOHN'S COLLEGE—*Gules on a bordure sable eight estoiles or on a canton ermine a lion rampant sable and in chief an annulet or* (**Figure 14a**).

- arms of the founder
- Founded in 1555 by Sir Thomas White and named after St John, the Baptist. The College was granted a Royal Charter that same year.

ST PETER'S COLLEGE—*Per pale vert and argent dexter two keys in saltire or surmounted by a triple tower castle argent masoned sable, sinister a cross gules surmounted by a mitre or between four martlets sable, the whole within a bordure or* (**Figure 14b**).

- Granted 19 Dec 1929. Arms of the Church of St Peter-le-Bailey marshalled with the Arms of the Founders differenced with a bordure.
- Founded 1929 by Francis Chavasse, retired Bishop of Liverpool (1900–1923) and his son Christopher Maude Chavasse, later Bishop of Rochester (1940–1960) as St Peter's Hall. In 1947, St Peter's Hall was given the full privileges of a College. In 1961 it became a full College and was granted a Royal Charter.

ST STEPHEN'S HOUSE—*Per chevron gules and sable in chief two cross crosslets and in base a celestial crown or* (**Figure 14c**).

- Granted 2 Nov 2020. Based upon the Arms of the Founder, *sable a lion rampant between three cross crosslets or*.
- Founded in 1876 as an Anglican study center for Tractarians by Edward King, Regius Professor of Pastoral Theology at Oxford and later Bishop of Lincoln (1885–1910), supported by William Bright, Edwin Palmer, Edward Talbot, Edward Woollcoombe and John Wordsworth.

THE COAT OF ARMS

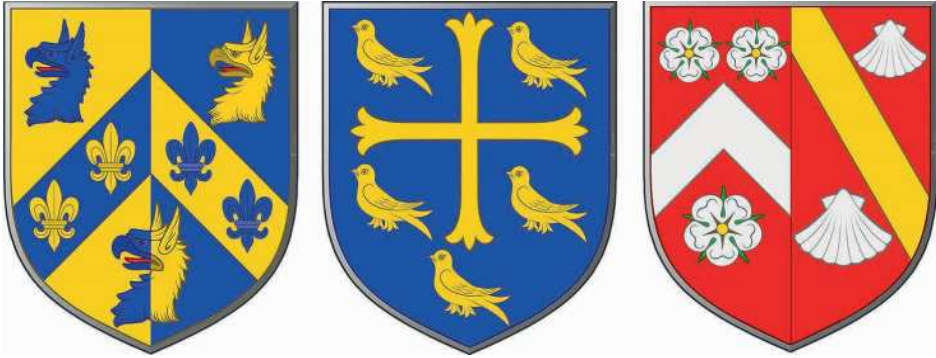


Figure 15: Trinity College, University College, Wadham College.

TRINITY COLLEGE—*Per pale or and azure on a chevron between three griffin's heads erased four fleurs-de-lys all counterchanged (Figure 15a).*

- Assumed the Arms of the Founder.
- Founded 1555 by Sir Thomas Pope, with the provision for daily prayers in perpetuity.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE—*Azure a cross patonce between five martlets or (Figure 15b).*

- Assumed the attributed Arms of Edward the Confessor.
- Founded in 1249 by William, Archdeacon of Durham as University Hall. Granted a Royal Charter in 1573.

WADHAM COLLEGE—*Gules a chevron between three roses argent barbed and seeded proper impaling gules a bend or between two escallops argent (Figure 15c).*

- Assumed the arms of the Founders.
- Founded in 1610 by Nicholas and Dorothy Wadham. She was the daughter of Sir John Baron Petre. Nicholas Wadham died in 1609 after endowing the College and his widow fulfilled his wishes. Granted a Royal Charter in 1611.

OXFORD COLLEGE OF ARMS

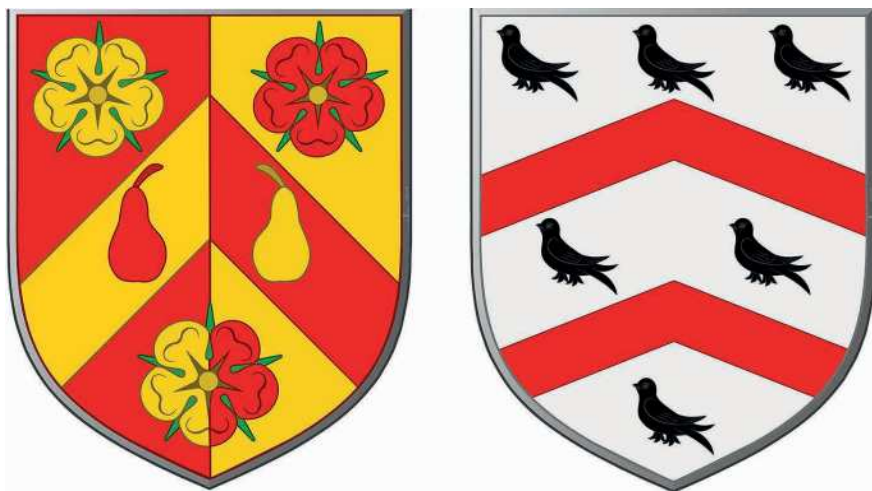


Figure 16: Wolfson College, Worcester College.

WOLFSON COLLEGE—*Per pale gules and or on a chevron between three roses two pears all counterchanged the roses barbed and seeded proper (Figure 16a).*

- Assumed the Arms of the Founder.
- Founded 1965 by an endowment from Sir Isaac Wolfson, Bt., from an appeal by Sir Isaiah Berlin. Granted a Royal Charter in 1981. There seems to be no record of these Arms at either The Court of Lord Lyon or the College of Arms. However, there is a differenced version granted to his son Leonard Gordon Wolfson, Baron Wolfson, of Marylebone in the City of Westminster, 2nd Bt., which are similar, *Per pale dovetailed vert and or on a chevron counterchanged between in chief two roses or and gules respectively and in base an ancient hand bell proper two pears sable and or.*

WORCESTER COLLEGE—*Argent two chevrons gules between six martlets sable (Figure 16b).*

- Assumed the Arms of the Founder of the current College.
- Founded in 1298 as Gloucester College established for Benedictine monks. In 1560, the buildings were repaired and became Gloucester Hall.

The College was refounded on the same site in 1714 as Worcester College by an endowment from Sir Thomas Cookes, Bt., and granted a Royal Charter the same year. The other versions of Cookes Arms are *Argent two chevrons gules between six martlets gules* and some versions add the escutcheon of a Baronet. There are Cookes' father's arms. To further complicate the issue *or two chevrons gules between six martlets sable* was confirmed by Sir Albert Woods, Garter, in 1902. There are examples of all these in the College and its environs.

THE COAT OF ARMS

WYCLIFFE HALL— *Gules an open book proper the pages inscribed VIA VERITAS VITA in letters sable, on a chief azure three crosses crosslet argent in base an estoile or.* (Figure 17).

- Arms assumed.
- Founded in 1877 by John Wycliffe.

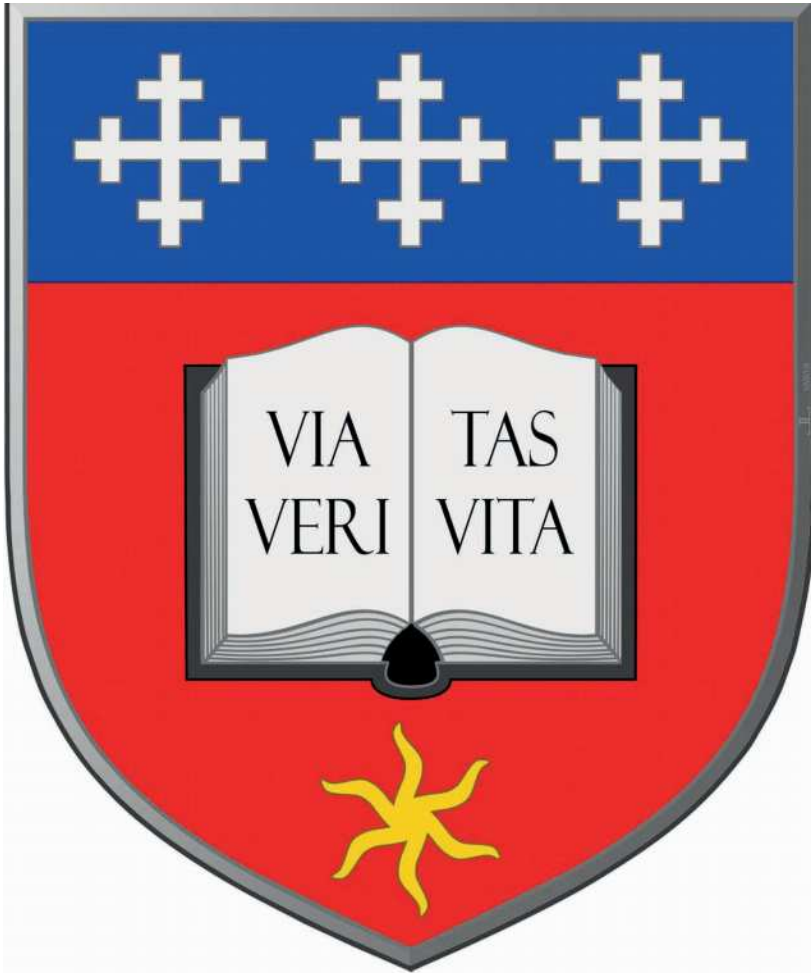


Figure 17: Wycliffe Hall.