

THE COAT OF ARMS

work in print in his own lifetime. By realising this dream in his centenary year, Palacký University has paid a fitting tribute to one of the giants of heraldic art and scholarship.

Andrew Gray FHS

Dr Andrew Gray (ed.), *Armorial of the Order of the Garter*, The Heraldry Archive/The Heraldry Society, 2020. CD-ROM. ISBN 978-0-904858-99-0, £20.

The Garter Armorial disc is part of the *Heraldry Archive* series under the editorship of Dr Andrew Gray, which aims to make previously published works of heraldic scholarship more accessible. This is the second edition of the disc (it was first released in 2015) and has been updated with a list of medieval Ladies of the Garter, by Dr Gray, and original research by Baz Manning, shield painter to the Order of the Garter, on the arms of Knights of the Garter as displayed around Windsor Castle.

As an armorial one would expect to find a list of knights with their arms either blazoned or emblazoned. What we are presented with, and what the plural title of the disc alludes to, is seven separate armorials. The earliest is the so-called “Garter Book” of William Bruges, the first Garter King of Arms (British Library MS Stowe 594) containing paintings of the founder knights in armorial surcoats, and painted armorial shields of their successors, organised by stall, until circa 1450. The images provided on the disc are also available on the British Library website (**Figure 1**).

The second armorial is E. Alpertton Harrison’s *Armorial Registry of the Sovereigns & Knights of the Most Noble Order of the Garter* published in 1871, which in many respects attempts to do what the present disc does, only in print, and 150 years earlier. It contains a list of Knights of the Order, and monochrome renderings of their arms. This is a rare volume – the editor notes the existence of only six, or possibly seven, copies in online catalogues. However, he appears to have missed a duplicate entry in WorldCat (“Armorial Registry” vs “Armorial Register”) showing a further three copies at Cambridge, Yale, and Newcastle Universities.

The third armorial is William St John Hope’s “Stall Plates of the Knights of the Garter, 1348–1485”, published in 1901. What this loses in terms of temporal coverage it gains by having life-size full-colour images of the stall plates, plus brief biographical notes about each knight.

The fourth armorial consists of photographs taken by Baz Manning of the “Dean’s Tables”. These are a set of panels kept in the Deanery in Windsor Castle on which the arms of each new knight are painted (by Manning since 2000). The current tables were started in 1635, replacing an earlier set which had decayed. This is arguably one of the more useful sections of the disc, as these tables are not publicly accessible. Manning also provides some notes on the history of the tables and the artists who painted them.

The fifth armorial consists of more than 1000 original colour paintings of knights’ arms up to 2011 by Dr Jiří Louda. These were copied with permission by the editor for the first edition of this disc, but have recently been published in *Coats of Arms of the Knights of the Order of the Garter* (Palacký University, 2020) as reviewed elsewhere in this issue. To bring the series of colour emblazonments up to date for the second edition, images of the arms of the knights since 2011 have been added, mostly from artwork

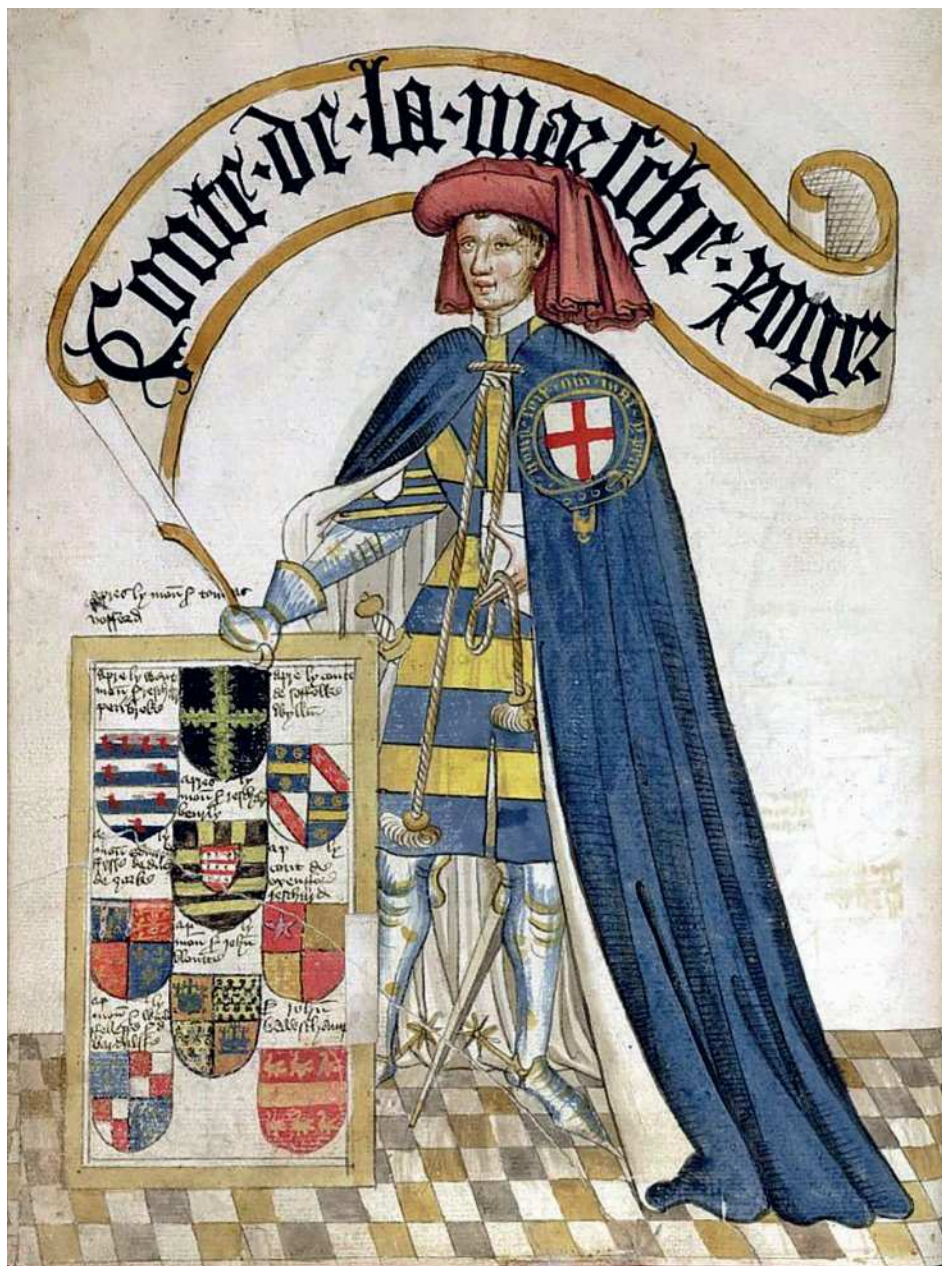


Figure 1: William Bruges Garter Book showing the arms of Roger Mortimer, earl of March and the later owners of his Garter stall. BL MS Stowe 594 f.15v.

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available on Wikimedia Commons. Louda occasionally chose to paint the arms as borne by an individual later in life, whereas the stall plates and Dean's Tables record the arms as of the date of installation as a Knight of the Garter.

The sixth armorial is Manning's analytical armory. This comprises (written) blazons of the arms of Garter Knights as found throughout Windsor Castle: on the Dean's Tables, the stall plates in St George's Chapel, the coats in St George's Hall (both survivors of the 1992 fire, and the restorations after that date). This armory was compiled from photographs, not from study in situ, and is an extension from the first edition of the disc where it was restricted to the Dean's Tables. Each entry consists of a blazon of the shield, crest, supporters, wreath, mantling, type of helm, motto, and style/title, if any, from the stall plate, as well as blazons of the shields which appear in the other locations. Elements not present (e.g. crest, supporters) are frequently supplied, quarterings are identified, and discrepancies between renderings of the arms, or cases where tinctures are unclear, are noted.

The seventh armorial is a list of the medieval Ladies of the Order, with their names, dates of enrobenment, and connections to male relatives who were Knights of the Garter. Each is accompanied by a colour rendition of their arms, usually based on Louda's rendering of the arms of their male relatives. The list of Ladies is based on that in E.H. Fellowes, *Knights of the Garter* (1944), which was in turn compiled from the accounts of the royal Wardrobe. Modern Royal Ladies and Ladies Companion are not included in this listing, but can be found in the other armorials which cover the 20th and 21st centuries.

In terms of implementation the armorials on the disc (which is also available as a flash drive) are provided as a combination of PDF documents or HTML files, which means that they can be read by anyone with Adobe Reader and a web browser; internet access is not required. This is a deliberate choice by the editors to provide maximum compatibility, however the way the HTML files have been written means that in practice they can only be viewed on a desktop or laptop computer; smaller screens do not accommodate the width of the content. The visual design is rather basic and perhaps a little dated, though this does not affect the functionality. It would be useful however to have an indicator of which section one is in.

In a work such as this which provides a 'union catalogue' of armorials there is a tension between providing access to information about the same knight across different publications, and allowing the reader to work sequentially through a single armorial.

The editor has resolved this by providing a master table which lists all knights and ladies, with hyperlinks to the relevant section of each of the armorials. Clicking on the link opens the associated PDF document or webpage at the correct section. This is the primary means of navigating the content of the disc, and it is easy to get from here to information about a given knight in any source. However, the editor has missed an opportunity to make it seamless to navigate between the different armorials. For example, in Manning's Armory for each knight there is a blazon of the arms as painted on the stall plate or Dean's Tables, but no links back to the images which exist in other parts of the disc. The digital format does however mean that full-text search is available for each of the armorials. Overall this disc conveniently packages multiple complementary sources for the arms of the Knights and Ladies of the Garter.

Philip Alfrey