

SOMERSET HERALDRY SOCIETY

Newsletter Spring 2004



NEW ARMS FOR SOMERSET

We offer you an exclusive scoop. Such things are rare in the world of heraldry, where most of what we study happened in mediaeval times.

However we must first congratulate Society member John Uncles who has recently received a grant of arms (see page 16) and we hope to be able to report in a later newsletter on the grant to Roland Symons, also a member and the Vice Chairman of the Bath Society.

The tremendous scoop concerns the arms of Somerset County Council. The Council was granted arms, as shown above (see note on page 3), in 1911, but these arms have only been enhanced by a motto, *Sumorsaete Ealle*, which means *All the Men of Somerset* in Anglo-Saxon.

Now the arms are to be enhanced with a four-part crest, three crowns, two supporters and a compartment. Your intrepid reporter stormed the bastions of County Hall to obtain information on this matter so near to the hearts of all loyal subjects of the Council.

Council Chairman Robin Bush, who is himself a keen heraldist when he is

off duty and not entertaining visiting royalty, was keen to petition for a fuller achievement, which he has been able to do with the help of Angela Yeoman, a former High Sheriff and also a keen heraldist.

The agent who is carrying through the business at the College of Arms is William Hunt, Windsor Herald. The terms of the grant have now been agreed and the College has arranged for a preliminary achievement to be painted, while Robin Bush waits for the completed grant. When the painting is received, the Council will be able to use it, even if the grant has not been finalised.

The crest is to be a demi-ram issuing from a Saxon crown holding in its mouth a Cheddar pink. The supporters are to be dexter a red deer and sinister a red bull, both gorged with Saxon crowns and standing on a compartment strewn with golden cider apples. The three crowns refer to the three Kings of Wessex buried at Glastonbury, and the crest, compartment and supporters to Somerset agriculture. Watch this space.

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES



We started the Autumn with a wonderful visit to the home of Anthony and Margaret Wood. They laid out armorial and other delights throughout the whole house, and welcomed us right royally. We were also delighted that some members came on this occasion to their first Society meeting. May you continue to come! Apart from the visual delights, Tony and Margaret were wonderfully attentive and kind hosts and the day ended with a truly splendid tea with many and various cakes.



At the end of September, we arranged a visit to Sherborne Abbey, which is full of huge and extraordinary tombs and memorials. We enjoyed a wonderfully informative and memorable tour of the Abbey with the chief guide, Mrs Buckney. We all enjoyed the visit and so thank you very much, Mrs Buckney.

In October we held what by common consent ought to become an annual event. This was a talk by John Brooke-Little about the Queen's coronation, followed by Vespers in Downside Abbey Church, then a quick look at some of the glories of the Church and finally an excellent dinner, provided by the catering staff at the Abbey. A big thank



you to the Abbey members and staff and a recommendation of the dinner you get there.

John gave us an amusing and interesting talk, touching on the eccentricities and peculiarities of both the ceremony and also those taking part. A wonderful look into the mirror of history.

At our November meeting, Tony Ryan

introduced us to the characters who fought it out on Bosworth Field in 1485. His talk was illustrated with lots of colourful slides, amusing sidelines and historical mises-en-scène.

We missed a trick in December, on purpose of course, because there was too much competition from other things, but in January we reconvened in Langport for a talk by your Hon Secretary on the Visitations of Somerset, of which there were five. We



considered the historical background to the institution of Visitations in 1530, their purpose, how they were undertaken and what they achieved, as well as what they left behind for us in terms of heraldic and genealogic records. We were also lucky enough that the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society were kind enough to allow us to look at the work book of Ralph Brooke for the 1591 visitation.



OUR USE OF THE ARMS OF SOMERSET

You may query why I have put the arms of Somerset County Council on the front of our newsletter. Surely we should not be displaying the arms of the Council as if they were ours?

The justification for doing this is in the leading case on the subject, *City of Manchester v the Manchester Theatre* (1954). Those who are familiar with the case will know that the theatre displayed the arms on its safety curtain and also on its Company Seal.

The Court of Chivalry held that to use another's arms on a seal was illegal and so the theatre had infringed the rights of the City, whose arms they were. However, the court also held that it was quite proper for persons to display the arms of another person to whom they owed loyalty, as a mark of respect.

So our display of the Somerset arms is just the same as the way in which the Times newspaper uses the royal arms at the top of its leader page. In fact I seem to recollect that the Times used to have the full achievement also on its old front page.

Perhaps we too should use the full achievement when it appears, but then we would need to redesign the whole page and it might not be big enough to contain a bull and a deer, as well as a demi-ram.

HERALDRY AND HISTORY

Of course these disciplines are interlinked and one often serves to help the other. The following may suggest as much.

In July 1300 a large English army under the direction of the English king, Edward I, was engaged in yet another attempt to subjugate the Scots over whom the English king, then in the final years of his life, claimed overlordship. With him on this occasion was his young son Edward of Caernarfon, the later Edward II. He had been born in 1284 and as Prince of Wales was being encouraged by his militarily formidable father to experience the rigours of warfare under the tutelage of the veteran John de St John. Caerlaverock Castle, near Dumfries, was no formidable obstacle. It was easily taken, surrendering on the second day of the siege. Nonetheless the heralds had a field day. They were responsible for a Roll of Arms “of the Princes, Barons and Knights who attended King Edward to the siege”, which is now in the British Library. Accompanying the depiction of the participants’ banners is a commentary in verse giving the appropriate blazons.

Edward himself bore the arms used by English kings between 1198 and 1340—*gules three leopards in pale or*. When, in 1340, Edward III claimed the throne of France, he quartered the royal arms with those of France “ancient”, *azure semé de fleurs de lis or*. What is more, to the indignation of the French monarch he placed the French arms in the preferential first and fourth quarters.



Arms of Edward I (1272-1307)

The royal arms are blazoned: *En son banier trois lupart,/ De or et fin estoient mis en rouge,/ Courant feloun, fier et harouge: on his banner three leopards, of fine gold set on red, courant, fierce, haughty and cruel.*

The young prince bore the royal arms with a five-point label for difference. He was the nominal leader of the fourth squadron though John de St John went everywhere with him.

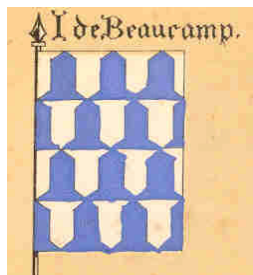
Arms of Edward of Caernarfon (1284-1327)

*Juvenceaus de dis et set ans,
E de nouvel arms portant,
De cors fu beaux et aligniez*

A youth of seventeen years,
And newly bearing arms,
With a fine body, well proportioned



So much for royalty. There were knightly representatives from Somerset. John de Beauchamp of Hache (Hatch Beauchamp)



John de Beauchamp

who *portait la baniere de vair au douz tens et au souef air* : in blithe weather and soft air! He was a young man at the time. There was another Beauchamp, the earl of Warwick, whose family came originally from Elmley Castle in Worcestershire. He is described as a good neighbour (*ne avoit vesyn de luy mellour*) and his arms as *de rouge colour, O fesse de or et croissillie*. That is, *gules crusilly a fess or*, or as it would be blazoned now: *gules a fess between six cross crosslets or*. He was to prove a persistent opponent of Edward II and was responsible for capturing and putting to death the king's favourite, Piers Gaveston, who had lampooned him as the "Black Dog of Arden".



**Guy de Beauchamp
earl of Warwick**

The last of the knights we need mention is Simon de Montague (or Montacute, from the Latin *de Monte* of the third squadron. He was which under the three wealth and influence. His Montague whom a grateful Salisbury in 1337, he being daring *coup d'état* which in Mortimer from his position of of the young Edward III — not Isabella. The earl's brother, successively bishop of elder Simon's arms are



Simon de Montague

au griffoun rampant de or fin. That is, as blazoned later, *Azure a griffin segreant or*. The arms usually associated with the family are *argent three fusils conjoined in fess gules*, allegedly a pun on the name *mont aigu*.

Acuto), who was in the rear from a Somerset family Edwards grew rapidly in grandson was the William de Edward III created earl of largely responsible for the 1330 dislodged Roger power as the virtual director to mention of the queen, another Simon, became Worcester and Ely. The blazoned as follows: *de Inde*

Now we come to a certain number of coincidences, or so they seem. In the east window of Curry Rivel church are some coats that have been reset. Working from the left, four heraldic shields are discernible, all but one of which (Beauchamp) are only partial. Two concern us here because they are also to be found on the Roll of Caerlaverock. In 1915 Prebendary Bates Harbin (SANHS Proc. 61, pp. 48-51) correctly identified these as the arms of Beauchamp of Warwick (centre light) and of Montacute, in quarters 2 and 3 (I find them in 1 and 4, perhaps the glass had been turned round when reset)—in the fifth and last light. However, when NADFAS viewed them in 1979-80 the investigator responsible for the glass (who was in many respects clearly knowledgeable) did not identify the arms as those of Montacute. They are described as: 1 and 4 made up of Somerset quarries (*argent*?) and **three fusils gules**.

The little church of Swell in the valley below has a single heraldic shield supported above by an angel with somewhat coarse features. The shield bears the arms

of Beauchamp of Hatch Beauchamp, apparently within a narrow bordure gules. Bearing Caerlaverock in mind, the survival of these arms is interesting. One presumes the glass to be of the fourteenth or at latest fifteenth century. That the Montacute and Beauchamp of Hatch arms are present is, of course, no surprise. At Curry Rivel the Lorty family (whose armorial bearings, *azure a lion per pale or and gules*, are not in evidence) sold out to William Montague, Edward III's rescuer, in the 1330s and the advowson of the church passed to the family's foundation, Bisham Priory in Berkshire.

Roy Martin Haines

THE WORK BOOK OF THE SOMERSET VISITATION OF 1591



At our meeting to hear about visitations, we were extremely lucky that SANHS allowed us to look at a document dating from 1591. This was the work book of Ralph Brooke, Rouge Croix Pursuivant, later York Herald, which he used when he did the 1591 census of people entitled to bear arms in the County of Somerset; for this is what the term Visitation means. The talk dealt with what was a visitation; the historic role of visitations and the reason why Henry VIII introduced them; the way in which the visitations were undertaken; the visitations of Somerset, of which there were, exceptionally, five, in 1531, the year after they were instituted, and in 1573, 1591, 1623 and 1672; finally the book itself, its contents and the way in which it was used.

Before leaving London, Ralph Brooke had his clerk copy out for him the 1573 visitation, so that he could use this for reference, while doing his census. Then as he saw the various members of the gentry class, he noted down their arms and their pedigrees, in the then modern style. Previously pedigrees had been constructed as trees, literal trees, like the Tree of Jesse, which we all know from religious illustrations, especially in church windows, or else as narratives, which are exceedingly difficult to follow and often lead to misinterpretations. The photographs show how he used a recognisably modern form of tree, even if he did enter each person in a circle, which now looks pretty old-fashioned to us.

The arms themselves were entered as pen and ink drawings, of considerable

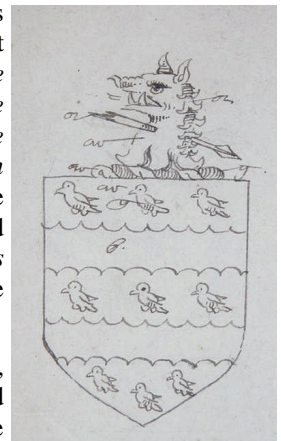
artistic merit, but without colour, showing the tinctures, as heralds call their colours, by tricking, that is noting them in abbreviated form, *or* for gold, not abbreviated (how could you), *ar* for argent, silver, *gu* for gules, red, *bl* for azure, blue, not using *az*, which could be mistaken for argent, *sa* for sable, black, from the coat of the beastie of that name, *vt* for vert, green and finally *ppr* for proper, that is in its natural colours, if you believe that such an unnatural science as heraldry could use these.



The entry in the 1573 section for Walrond has been updated and signed by Henry Walrond of Sea, who was the representative in 1591. The only other signature is of Hugh Peyssun, in the second section, where his name also seems to have been added later to the Peyssun pedigree, in a different hand.

At the end of the book, there is a list of all those who were disclaimed; this is in the hand of Ralph Brooke himself. These were people who had pretended to the status of armiger, or gentleman, but were not entitled to it. Those who pretended to arms had to be disclaimed, or could petition for arms, if worthy. Disclaiming was to name and shame men who had taken on themselves the title of gentleman. They had pretended to be better than they were. The word “disclaim” is used technically, in the passive sense, meaning that they were disallowed.

A proclamation and notice was prepared; the names were written on a sheet of paper “*with fayer great letters*”; at the head of the list of the disclaimed are these words: “*The Names of those that in the time of this Visitation of the County have made no proof of their gentry, bearing noe armes, and yet before tyme, had called and written themselves gentlemen, and were therefore disclaimed.*” The proclamation was carried by the Bailiff of the Hundred and one of the Herald’s men to “*the chiefe places of the Hundreds wherein they dwell*”; here they were publicly read in the principal place of the town.

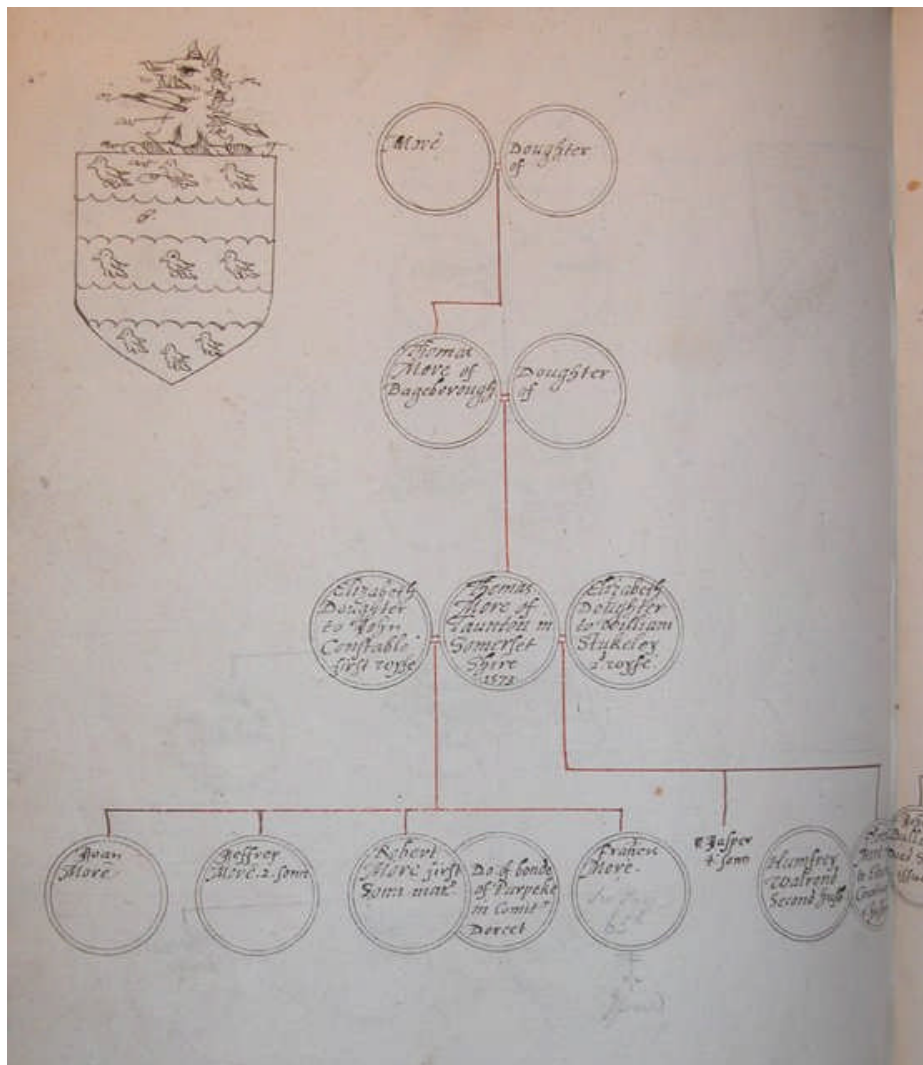


In the list they are shown as disclaimed at Chard, Taunton, Wells, Bristowe, each place with its list of men, and then beneath 14 more names, possibly not determined at the earlier time, as of various Hundreds. We can thus see that the disclaiming was done in the Assize towns, rather than the town of the Hundred.

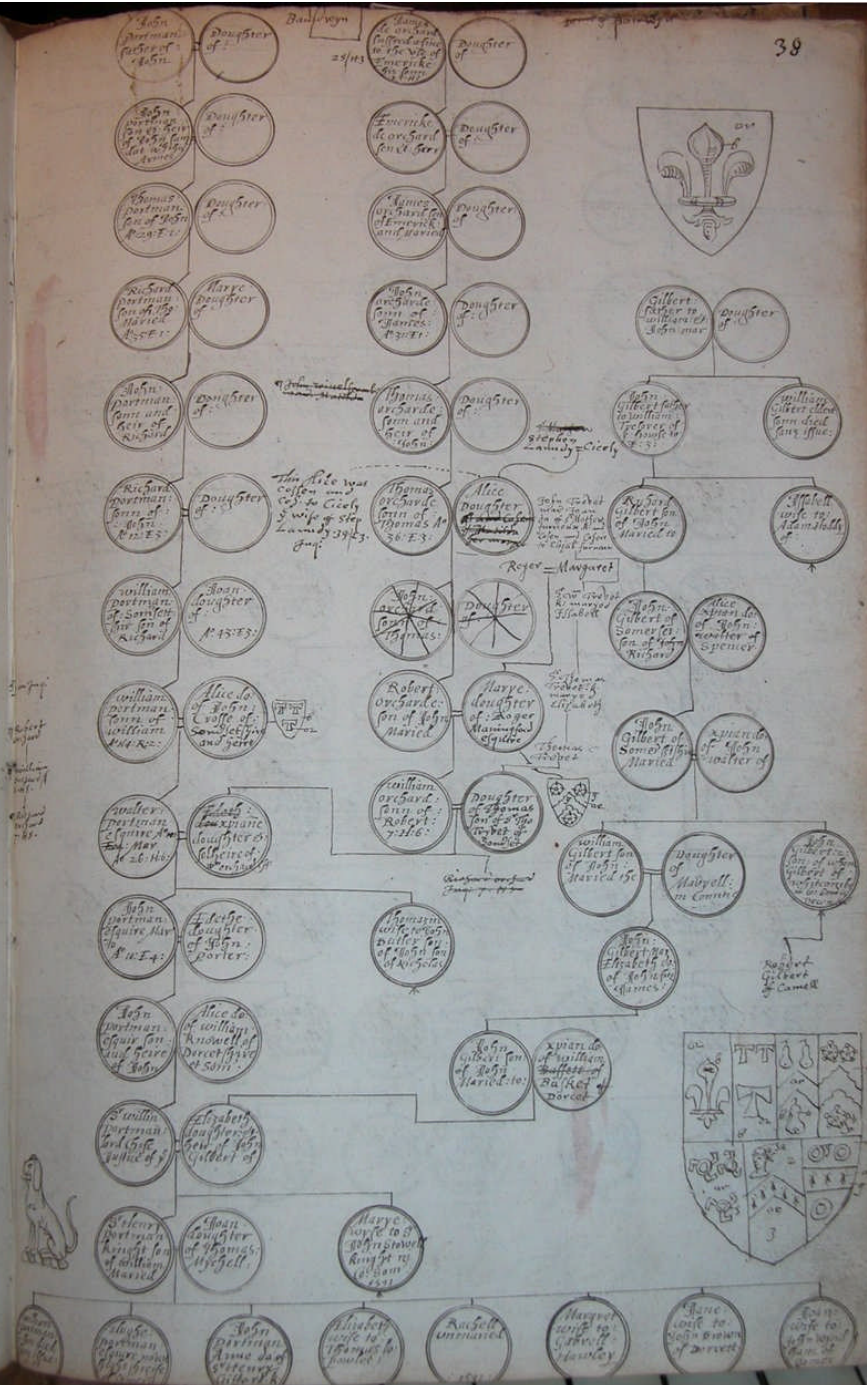
The book shows all the entries for the Somerset visitation and these were then transferred into a fair copy, in Ralph Brooke’s own hand, which is in the College of Arms in London. There are only these two manuscripts of the 1591 visitation, for no copies appear to have been taken, although Richard Munday used our MS for his

annotations and extensions to the 1623 visitation in the Harleian Collection (BL Harl MS 1559). There has never been a published edition of this visitation, so perhaps this is something which we need to remedy.

It is interesting to note that while the 1672 visitation by Sir Edward Bysshe manages to omit much of the interest, Ralph Brooke goes out of his way to include lots of genealogical matter, especially including the descents of heiresses, whose arms are marshalled with the pronomial arms, as is shown in the page, illustrated here, for Portman.



above pedigree of More of Taunton, opposite pedigree of Portman of Orchard



PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

Spring 2004

Please would you let Alex know whether you will be able to attend meetings. We have found it difficult to judge the number of people coming and this would greatly help us.

February, Thursday 19th: 7.30 pm Ron Gadd will give a talk on Heraldry in Peerage cases. The Court of Chivalry no longer determines disputes about arms, but nevertheless armorial bearings form a useful form of evidence in disputes about who is the true Lord X. Ron will give us a flavour of the relevance of heraldry in this context. 7.15 pm for 7.30 pm: The Grammar House, Langport.

March, Thursday 25th: 7.30 pm AGM to be held before the film. A viewing of "The Knight's Tale", a film, at Ron and Gill's new home. If you don't know the film, firstly it's great fun and secondly it has lots of quite authentic heraldic content. 7.15 for 7.30 pm: 20 Priestley Way, Burnham-on-Sea, see enclosed map.

April, Saturday 24th: 2.30 pm Visit to Hinton St George church to see the astonishing array of Paulet memorials, dating back to the early 1600s, but many in the height of eighteenth century rococo design. If the owners at Hinton House are there, we may also be able to see those armorials as well. 2.30 pm at the Church, Hinton St George, nr Crewkerne.

May, Friday 21st: 5.30 pm Peter Roe's Somerset Churches. Dr Roe has completed a full survey of all the churches in the historic county of Somerset. He has deposited this in the Record Office. Peter will show us the goodies and discuss them with us. This tour will start at St Mary's Taunton and will include a couple of churches to the north of Taunton and we shall finish near a pub, so have an egg with your tea and a later supper.

June, Saturday 19th: 11.30 am Visit to Montacute, church in the morning, pub for lunch, house in the afternoon. It is the day of the Montacute Carnival, so we should be able to watch the Parade, which leaves Montacute House at 6.15 pm should we wish to stay so long. Sir Edward Phelips was a great lover of heraldry; it is all over the house and there is quite a lot in the church, especially for so small a church, but it does have a Norman chancel arch as well.

July, Saturday 3rd: 11.30 am A Treasure Hunt in the morning: Heraldic clues and finds; then a visit. Meet at Halse Church, nr Bishop's Lydeard at 11.00 am.

September, Saturday 11th: 2.00 pm a visit: put the date in your diaries.

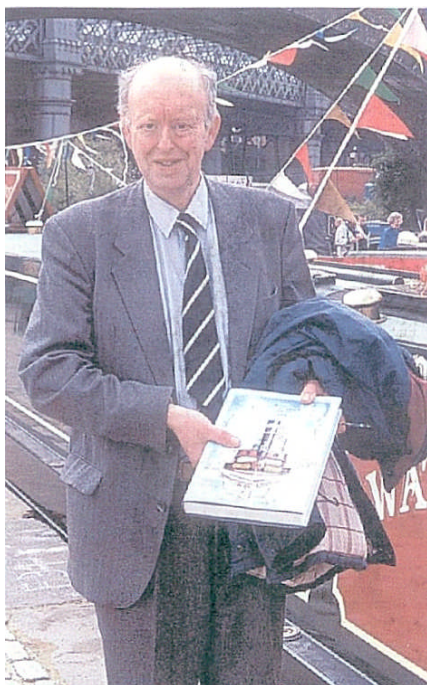
October, Wednesday 20th: 7.30 pm provisional date for the Dinner

THE SOMERSET HERALDRY SOCIETY

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EDWARD PAGET-TOMLINSON

I remember my first meeting with Edward. He was carrying a scale model that he made of a River Parrett barge. He was a fine craftsman and model-maker and also painted a series of shields to commemorate all the holidays which he enjoyed with his family. He died in hospital on 12th November from complications after surgery aged 72. He leaves a widow, son and daughter. Outwardly a man conservative, of even diffident courtesy, a happy relic of an earlier and more polite age, Edward had an active rapport with many people and things. As soon as engaged, he brimmed over with interest and enthusiasm. This was reflected in his speeding cursive script, which ran fast enough to be sometimes rather difficult to read.



After an apprenticeship at the National Maritime Museum, he moved to Liverpool Museum, where he became Keeper of Shipping, developing what was to become the Liverpool Maritime Museum. Edward's interest then veered towards the inland waterways. After moving to the Hull Maritime Museum, he set up a second-hand bookshop dealing in maritime literature in the Lake District. He finally moved to Wells in 1983. He wrote a number of books and articles, mainly on canal and river transport. In 1993 his magnum opus, *The Illustrated History of Canal and River Navigations*, was splendidly republished and with many more illustrations, many by him.



His best memorial is perhaps the Ellesmere Port Boat Museum, which he almost single-handedly founded. He preserved the *Mossdale* an ancient wooden Mersey Flat, bailing it weekly, and himself bought and restored a wooden Thomas Clayton horse-drawn narrowboat. Both still look splendid, even if the Flat is presently under water. We offer our sympathy to Pam, John and Lucy.

Alex Maxwell Findlater



HINTON ST GEORGE

Sir Amyas Poulet was a courtier and minister of Elizabeth I and is famous as the gaoler of Mary Queen of Scots at Tutbury and Chartley. He was the ancestor of the Poulets, Earls Poulet of Hinton St George, who lived a quiet Somerset life on the whole, and of the junior branch, who became Marquesses of Winchester and ultimately Dukes of Bolton, the latter for backing William of Orange in 1689.



The house at Hinton has been built over many years; although it displays many classical features, it is not an homogenous whole, but rather a rambling and fascinating series of wings. In the 1970s, after the demise of the family, the house was split up into many different units, which were sold off independently. In fact, the subdivision has been quite successful, even though the quality of the workmanship was not very high at the time.



On Saturday 10th January Anthony Bruce and I went over to Hinton St George, to photograph some of the armorials built into the house. We had been invited by Society member Charles Bird, who lives in another





ARMORIAL FRIEZE

part of the house. We spent three hours there, firstly erecting a scaffolding tower and then balancing precariously on top of it, Anthony holding the camera and I holding the flood-light. We had to move the tower around the room, to get near enough to each armorial, so there was a lot of climbing up and climbing down.

The tablets are set as a frieze just below the ceiling. They are in their original order. It is clear that there are three which are the arms of bishops, a number which relate to the Poulet family, who lived at Hinton and a number which cannot easily be placed at all.

Charles Bird and the owner of this part of the house intend to write up the frieze for the proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society, of which our Society is an associate member. SANHS publishes an annual volume of Proceedings, with articles on the history of the county in all its many guises. However, before Charles and his friend start, I thought that you would like to see miniature photos of the tablets and that even more would you enjoy trying to sort out what the arms are. Alex Maxwell Findlater



THE ARMS OF WILLIAM JOHN UNCLES (continued from page 16)

Robert Noel, Lancaster Herald, agreed to be my agent and I was delighted when the design which I had suggested was accepted subject to only minor changes. I was also very pleased when Andrew Jamieson, whom I have known for many years, agreed to undertake the painting of the arms and preparation of the Letters Patent, which are dated 9th June 2003.

The blazon is as follows:

Arms: Ermine the Spots bendwise three Bendlets Azure over all a Unicorn rampant Or armed maned bearded unguled and tufted Sable supporting the City of Bristol Lent Sword scabbarded hilt in base proper a Bordure embattled Or

Crest: Upon a Helm with a Wreath Argent and Azure A Demi-Wolf Argent gorged with a plain Collar Or suspended therefrom by a Chain also Or a Wheel Sable holding in the dexter claws a Quill Pen feathered and supporting in the sinister claws a Key wards downwards and inwards Or

The field of ermine and blue is taken from the Arms of the former Borough of Torquay, my birthplace. I spent all my working life, however, as a local government officer in Bristol and the last period of my service with the City Council was as Lord Mayor's Secretary and City Sword bearer, the latter office having been in existence continuously since 1373. The City's arms have had golden unicorns, with black horns, beards and hooves, as supporters since 1569 whilst the Lent Sword, dating from the 15th century, is one of Bristol's four ceremonial swords and is the one most frequently carried on civic occasions.

As it is almost certain that my ancestors were of Danish origin, settling in Ireland over two hundred years ago, the wolf in the crest alludes to part of the Scandinavian etymology of my surname - Unkles or Uncles being an Anglicisation of Ulfkettel, meaning 'wolf cauldron'. (My Irish relatives in Co Sligo still spell the name with a "k" incidentally). The wheel marks my lifelong interest in railway and transport history - the embattled bordure in the arms started off as an attempt to depict railway sleepers! The quill pen and key allude to my profession as a Chartered Secretary and it was a pleasant realisation that, by coincidence, the tinctures in the arms are also the main ones in those of my professional body, the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators. To some extent the blue, white and black colours in the field also echo the arms of the Province of Connaught in which my family has had its roots at least since the 18th century.

I wanted a motto with a play on words if at all possible. I started with the Latin *avunculus*, meaning "uncle" but I did not at first realise that this strictly meant "the brother of your mother" ; the Latin for "uncle" in the sense of "father's brother" is *patruus* and this led to a nice piece of alliteration - *Patrui Patrantes* which can be translated as "The Achieving Uncles"!

John Uncles

THE HERALD'S OFFICE AND THE FIRE OF LONDON

The following advertisement (which needs little introduction) appears in the *London Gazette* no. 130 11-14 February 1666.

We are ordered to give notice,

That although the Heralds Office, wherein the Descents and Arms of the Nobility and Gentry of England were formerly preserved, hath been burnt by the late dreadful Fire in London; yet the Books and Records therein kept were happily saved, and are now placed by the Kings especial Appointment, in those Rooms neer Westminster-Hall, called the Queens Court, at the lower end of the Court of Requests, where all Persons that are concerned in matters of Honour, Arms, or Descents, may repair, and receive due satisfaction, and free themselves from the Practises and Abuses of such Painter-Stainers, who calling themselves Herald-Painters, do take upon them to direct the Marshalling of Funerals, give out Coats of Arms, and make Pedigrees, that are of no Credit or Authority.

Found by Adrian Webb, whilst going through looking for material relating to Somerset maritime subjects which he hopes to publish at a later date.

ADVERTISEMENT

Is anyone interested in buying a good condition copy of the Catalogue of the Heralds' Commemorative Exhibition 1484-1934 held at the College of Arms. Enlarged & illustrated catalogue privately printed 1936. Super Royal 4to. One of only 300 copies printed. 55 fine full page illustrations, some in colour. Preface by Oswald Barron, Foreword by Sir Gerald Woods Wollaston, Garter King of Arms. A magnificent production bound full blue morocco, embossed arms of the College of Arms in gold, raised bands, gilt letters, lines & edges.

I would like £120.00 for it, which compared to other copies on the internet is pretty cheap. P+P is extra.

I do have a copy of the 1623 visitation for sale with slight loss to the top and bottom but nothing serious. It has two bookplates in the front and is in the original binding. There is no copy for sale on the internet! £115.00

Also The Coat of Arms 56 copies of this magazine #49-104, & 112 (starts in 1961) soft covers, stapled, all VG £45.00

If of interest, Alex will put you in touch with the seller. Please contact Alex on alex@findlater.org.uk

THE ARMS OF WILLIAM JOHN UNCLES



The Society would wish to congratulate John Uncles on his grant of arms. John is a member of both our Society and of the Bath Society and we certainly owe him a debt for the enthusiasm with which he took part in our meetings in our first year. We shall all remember his excellent talk and tutorial on the construction and rules of heraldry. John wrote the following note about his arms.

Having been interested in heraldry for more years than I care to remember and having been an active member of the City of Bath Heraldic Society for some 40 of those years, I found myself able towards the end of 2002 at long last to be in a position to fulfill a long-held desire to apply for a Grant of Arms.

Continued on page 14