

# SOMERSET HERALDRY SOCIETY

Journal No 13 August 2008

## INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS AT QUEBEC



On a street where we lived

Fraser Highlanders and others. The only two absentees were the two opposing generals, Wolfe and Montcalm. The Governor-General of Canada, Mme Michaëlle Jean, formally opened the Congress and I managed to pick up from her speech that she was having open house on the next Saturday at her residence in the Citadelle of Québec (she also has an official residence in Ottawa).

We arrived in Québec by train on the Sunday night to meet on the platform Bruce Patterson, Darryl Kennedy, Charles and Aileen Burnett and a few other friends whom we would see often during the week. With her customary forethought, Hattie had booked for us, about 10 months in advance, a four-bedroomed house in rue Garneau, and we were soon unpacking and settling in, with Jim Floyd, Robb Watt and Mark Dennis, who were sharing it with us. The house was in the old quarter of Upper Québec City, probably dating from the 18th century and refronted in the early to mid 19th century. It immediately took on a defining role for many of those attending the Congress.

The opening session included much French, very little English, and before the speeches a panoply of the history of Québec played out by musicians, early settlers, native Americans,



A ritual native American dance for the formal opening



The representative native American Chief, present to ensure that the Congress got off to a good start

The Congress had organised for Monday evening a major event, “le cocktail”, which lasted until not much later than 7 o’clock, or earlier if you chose not to buy a drink – indeed I asked one of the waitresses for a glass of water and it was to be \$4 (£2), so the girl kindly suggested that I go round the corner behind her and use the drinking fountain. Knowing the early finish of “le cocktail”, we had invited many friends to join us for an informal party at rue Garneau. We actually had about 50 people and every drinking vessel was pressed into use – it was for us a splendid way to start the Congress, and we all, guests and hosts, had a great time meeting old and new friends.

Wednesday was a day-off for visits and tours, many of which had been arranged for us. Some went, some didn’t. The Scots contingent spent a lot of time putting together a stand in the Salon des Exposants. Unfortunately we and the Royal Canadian Heraldry Society were the only heraldry stands – all else devoted to French genealogy.

So that allowed three days for lectures, which were held in two adjacent lecture rooms. (Oh for the



Claire Boudreau, Chief Herald of Canada and Charles Burnett, Ross Herald, carrying the staff of Congress from St Andrews to Quebec



Parading an 18th century regimental flag on the Quebec ramparts

fun of running across the St Andrews Quads from one lecture to another! ) One lecture room was devoted to genealogy and one to heraldry, so there were an equal number of talks. Each talk lasted 45 minutes, but there was no break between them which meant that a guillotine had to be firmly

operated, on the speech not the speaker, and that there was little time for comfort breaks.

I was unable to attend all the lectures, inevitably, but some which stood out are noted. John Crowley spoke on “To lie like a genealogist”, beautifully delivered in a broad rolling Southern accent by an experienced speaker, for he is a Methodist minister. Claire Boudreau and Cathy Bursey-Sabourin made a joint presentation on branding and the use of logos, comparing success in this, with particular reference to Nike and Michelin, with a critique of the design of armorial bearings



A fine architectural gem in Quebec





One of our dinner parties at rue Garneau: note Adrian Ailes between Claire Boudreau and Rob Watt, present and previous Canadian Chief Herald

and badges. This was a thought-provoking talk and also interesting as Claire spoke in French and Cathy in English. Adrian Ailes spoke on the records of the British Colonial Office and their correspondence with Garter over arms and flags used by various

colonies; Charles Drake on the arms of Sir Francis Drake; Jim Floyd about the Darien expedition and Glasgow merchants; Charles Burnett on the development of the Lyon Office and Mark Dennis gave a fascinating talk on the arms of adventurers from Scotland and how their adventures affected their arms. His conclusion was “not much”, but it was arrived at by a fine display of archive material from the Lyon Office and original paintings by the speaker. Two other



Mark Dennis, the new President du Bureau Permanent, with his dressers, preparing for the dinner. The chain is that of the Chairman of the Heraldry Society of Scotland



Professor Jim Floyd and Richard d'Apice very serious at the dinner

speakers of more general interest were Jim Terzian, discussing a future for the College of Arms in granting to foreigners and Richard d'Apice who dealt with the legal ramifications of the development of Australia as a Commonwealth and how, in this context, an Australian heraldic authority might be established.

Each evening at rue Garneau we were able to entertain up to 10 people – we had nine chairs and there was one small table of the right height; on the Thursday we had 11 people, so a small set of steps also had to be used! So we had a varied group of friends each evening and this was great fun.



Hattie with the President du ICGHS-2008 Congress, M Denis Racine, and his partner



Their Excellencies the Governor General and her husband M Jean-Daniel Lafond

The final evening was devoted to “Le Banquet” and this is the ‘mot juste’. The food was excellent, the organisation splendid, once we had been registered for the dinner and had given up our regulation voucher for our glass of pre-prandial wine. The number attending was vast, some 350 people, introduced by a Master of Ceremonies whom we had met at the Monday opening ceremony as a 17th century colonist.

He was helped by a small itinerant band of

three musicians, a troupe of dancers, “Les Filles du Roy” and many speeches – in French of course. During the dinner, the wine flowed just slower than required by an Australian friend near whom I was sitting, so we devised a special method of supplementing his ration.

Finally, on the Saturday after the end of the Congress, Hattie, Mark and I visited the Governor-General’s residence, where we saw a wonderful heraldic exhibition arranged and manned by Claire Boudreau, Chief Herald of Canada and Robb Watt former Chief Herald. We were lucky enough to meet the Governor General and her husband, but unlucky enough to leave in a torrential downpour, the first serious weather of the week. All in all a most enjoyable week, in a beautiful city, the only remaining walled city in North America, and the occasion for some very interesting talks which will, naturally, be published in due course as the Congress Proceedings. AJMF



Hattie and Mark with the Governor General Mme Michaëlle Jean at her Residence on la Citadelle de Québec. Her Excellency has just turned to ask a child what was his opinion of the Congress.



## NEW LORD LYON KING OF ARMS

On Friday 7th April 2008 the Scottish Executive announced that the new Lord Lyon is David Sellar, presently Bute Pursuivant. David Sellar is a Solicitor and an Honorary Lecturer in Law at Edinburgh University. He was appointed Bute Pursuivant in 2001.



David Sellar is a particular authority on west highland families and their heraldry. He has written numerous articles on this, dealing with the Lordship of the Isles and also such families as Campbell, Spens of Lathallan, MacDonald, MacDougall, Lamont, Nicholson, and indeed many others. He also is joint editor of the *Scottish Legal Tradition*, published in 1991.

He is aged 67, married, with three children, Duncan, Niall and Gavin, also a step-son Andrew. His interest in heraldry was first awakened by reading Moncrieffe and Pottinger's *Simple Heraldry Cheerfully Illustrated*. After school at Fettes, university in Oxford and Edinburgh and then qualifying as a Solicitor, he worked for the Scottish Land Court for two years and then joined the Faculty of Law at the University of Edinburgh. His main interests lie in Scots law and Scottish history, including legal history and family history. He was O'Donnell Lecturer in Celtic Studies, at Edinburgh in 1985, and the Rhind Lecturer for the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland in 2000.

He has been a Member of the Ancient Monuments Board for Scotland, Vice-President of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, Literary Director of the Stair Society and Chairman of the Conference of Scottish Medievalists. He has served on the Council of the Scottish Genealogy Society and the Committee of the Heraldry Society of Scotland.

AJMF

## ARMS OF LORD LYON DAVID SELLAR

In the autumn of 2007 there was great interest in who might be appointed Lord Lyon. At this time some of us knew of at least a few of those who were to be interviewed for the post. As an unrepentant paint-aholic of arms, Mark Dennis was fascinated by the possibility and decided to paint an achievement of the new Lord Lyon, much as he had painted one for Lyon Blair when he was appointed in 2001. The difference this time was the he started before the identity of the new Lyon was known.

It is difficult to design an impaled achievement successfully for the charges on the dexter side – in this case known – have to balance and compliment those of the sinister – in this case unknown. I know this from personal experience having tried to

compose an impaled achievement for my parents, in which my father's chevron, narrow to allow room for the major charges, but itself uncharged, has to balance the bend of my mother's arms which is charged with three daws, but not surrounded by other primary charges. Taken separately each coat is not too difficult to manage; taken together they are a quite awesome challenge.

So how did Mark Dennis approach this task? The arms and supporters of Lyon are well-known and their treatment well established. The achievement of Lyon's public arms has no crest but is surmounted by a crown, which is not the Royal but the Lyon crown, which has a finial of the Royal crest. The two batons behind the shield are a



standard element and are themselves slightly heavier than usually shown which allows for a better depiction of the thistles and saltires with which they are decorated.

Mark decided to create the shield with the supporters as a frame consistent within itself. The supporters are holding the Lyon's crown just above the shield, so in the act of crowning the shield, reflecting the reality that there is a new Lyon, who is about to



be crowned. So the two crowned lions and the central larger crown form a composition of themselves.

Here Mark has given the lions traditional crowns of two arches, shown 'face-on', which the central crown is at a 45 degree turn to them, so that the two arches can be seen fully at front and partially at rear. This gives an interesting + X + pattern through the crowns and allows the central crown to match the two batons in saltire behind the shield, giving two saltires one above the other.

The second innovation is to make the diapering of the lions also match the saltire of the batons of office, so that the thistles instead of being shown vertical, as is traditional, are set at opposing angles to match the lines of the respective batons. This gives the whole achievement much greater life and fluidity. Meanwhile the shield is surrounded by the collar of thistles and rue which is traditional for Lyon's collar, but which has only recently become again possible in reality following the commissioning of a new chain by St Andrews Societies world-wide and created by Don McKee in 1998.

Finally, the shield itself, which becomes less important in the overall composition than it would be in a simple marital impalement, has to be considered. Here Mark has painted the coat of the Office in a fairly conventional way, the lion obviously is affronté but the treatment is sympathetic to that of the supporters, while the chief introduces another tincture, Azure, on which the saltire Argent is shaded. All this was finished in November 2007, leaving blank the sinister half of the shield.

Its completion had to wait for the announcement from the Scottish Executive of who had been appointed. This announcement was made on 7th March 2008; as we now know the new Lyon was David Sellar. Before applying for this post, David Sellar had been in the process of being granted arms and so his blazon was known, but there was no painting yet as a model, so Mark had to work from first principles. Fortunately the field is Azure, so matching the chief of the Lord Lyon coat, and the chevron Argent also allows some matching to the batons in saltire. To distribute the charges having painted the framework was simple, although the two open cups in chief, derived from earlier Sellar arms granted in 1860 and clearly canting as representing salts or sellars, might have fitted the space better if shown without stems and bases. The blacksmith's hammer in base signifies the trade of a family of Sellars in Botriphnie, Aberdeenshire, from whom David's own family very probably derive and, along with the book on the saltire, provide personalisation of his arms.

The result is an achievement of power and weight to reflect the historic importance of the Office and the significance which it has today as a guardian of the heritage of Scotland, a heritage which defines the nation in the face of a changing and troubled world, but which helps to retain an original identity, while adapting to become a twenty-first century member of the assembly of nations. AJMF

## REVIEW OF EVENTS

Since the last Journal, we have enjoyed five meetings. Three were talks; in June and July we had visits. After the AGM on 12th March, Alex talked about his new book, which was still in process. The book is a facsimile of Lord Crawford's Armorial, which dates from 1601, and is named after its owner. A note based on this talk is opposite.

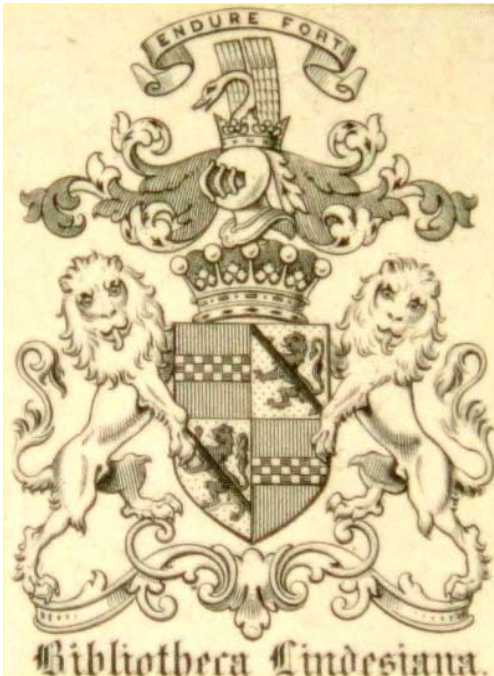
In April Michael Messer gave us a wonderfully funny and informative talk about the College of Arms, the building which houses the English heraldic executive. He explained that a full quarter of it disappeared when Queen Victoria Street was created and discussed the many deaths which occurred in the College. This was not so surprising, as until early in the 20th century, the College was still used as a home for some of the Officers of Arms and even today it may be that you will find recumbent figures there, if the last train has been cancelled. Tony Ryan talked in May about the various Royal consorts and their armigerous and other attributes, again to general acclaim and it was good of both Michael and Tony to come from the furthest reaches of North Somerset, Bath even, to talk to us.

June was the occasion for a visit to Exeter Cathedral, where we were very expertly taken around by David Snell. John Uncles attended morning and afternoon and wrote this account specially: A small party of members and friends made a visit to Exeter on Saturday, 21st June, when most of the day was taken up with a study of the Cathedral. In the morning we had a most informative tour of the heraldry in the stained glass, various furnishings and monuments and we are particularly indebted to our guides. We were provided with copies of an excellent coloured 'crib sheet' of the arms of the Bishops of Exeter - this was produced privately by our guide David Snell who modestly (and erroneously) stated that his heraldic knowledge was extremely limited. Lunch was taken at the nearby Ship Inn in St Martin's Lane, one of Exeter's oldest surviving buildings, after which we re-assembled in the Cathedral for a tour of the roof. This was fascinating and in addition to inspecting the massive ancient roof timbers, we were able to see some of the original Norman work in the two towers above the later Gothic vaulting work. The fine ringing belfry was visited and we concluded our tour in the intriguingly named Dogwhipper's Flat above the north aisle. The weather was reasonably kind for the longest day of the year and it was unanimously agreed that the visit had been a most informative and enjoyable one, in which we learned much about this splendid Cathedral's history, architecture and heraldry.

In July we went to Knightshayes Court, built for the Heathcoat-Amory family by William Burges. This was a fascinating visit to a house in the high Gothic style of the mid-nineteenth century. Burges was already working on Cardiff Castle for the Marquis of Bute at the time and we hope to arrange a visit to Cardiff some time next year.

## WRITING A BOOK – THE CRAWFORD ARMORIAL

In the middle of July last year Peter Drummond-Murray telephoned me to ask would I edit the Crawford Armorial; the answer was Yes; would I charge? – No; would I do it by Christmas? – No, by next Christmas. So started my adventure. I collected together the papers I needed, the printout of images of the folios of the armorial, the discs which contained the original scans done in 2002, my existing database of other earlier armorials.



Bibliotheca Lindesiana bookplate in the Armorial

For the notes on the arms I had to compare these with arms recorded earlier in other rolls of arms. This led to an enormous spreadsheet, based on my earlier database, as I added on a number of columns at the left of the database and inserted the detail of the Crawford Armorial there on the line (row) which already held the relevant family arms. I also allowed columns for a description of the arms and for the biographical details for the index, also for sources and for special relationships. To have assembled this vast amount of data in word documents seemed to me a recipe for losing most of it. In general it seems to have been a successful way of managing all the information.

The pure researching of the families was time-consuming but both fascinating and, I think, valuable, for many of them had not been previously researched, or at least not properly. I discovered many of the inter-relationships which I hope I have brought out

I quickly realised that I needed to separate the commentary on the arms from that on the families, as otherwise there would not be room for both on the page facing the facsimile of each folio. So was born what became the genealogical index. This is essentially an alphabetical index of all names of arms in the armorial, for the names in the armorial are not in alphabetical order. However as it became apparent that the armorial was a very special selection of names and arms, it equally became important to flesh out exactly who these people were, so each entry tries to identify the laird, to note his parents, his wife and his children, as a minimum, but also to include any other information which might seem relevant and interesting. This index is now over 100 pages, rather than a simple list of 284 names.



in the text. I also discovered that there were many families at this time which were on the brink of bankruptcy – by 1650 perhaps almost one quarter had lost their lands, and of course there were new families coming up, indeed one of the most interesting families in the armorial, the Bellendens of Broughton, earlier of Auchnoull, seem to have risen to a high point from almost nowhere in little more than 100 years and to have been ennobled in the next generation.

I have visited the British Library and the National Library of Scotland to examine samples of the work of the calligrapher Esther Inglis, the most famous calligrapher of her time, and almost undoubtedly responsible

for this element of the manuscript. Much comparison of the painting styles in other armorials has also been followed up, although I had made a pretty good start on that for my earlier book *Aspilogia Scoticana*. This comparison has resulted in the identification of the probable painter and I have even been able to suggest the herald who might have been involved.

I was also able to look at the archives of the Bibliotheca Lindesiana, founded by a 19th century Earl of Crawford, for which this armorial was bought in 1863. I am therefore able to quote from the correspondence between Bernard Quaritch and Lord



The first Lord of Parliament, Lord Home

Lindsay, as he then was, who was his best customer and probably effectively offered him the opportunity to develop his business from its inception.

One of the pleasures of working on this has been the people whom I have met. I must mention specially Lord and Lady Crawford, who have been most hospitable, allowing me to visit them to look at the armorial as often as I have asked, which was quite often when I was first trying to get to grips with it. It really is one of the most beautiful armorials and it has been a real treat to work on it. Also I have been sharing with my friends, in the Society and beyond, the odyssey of this discovery. Heraldic colleagues from all over the world have been wonderfully helpful and I really must pay tribute to the efforts, often unsolicited, of many to help me clarify various tricky points.  
AJMF

The Heraldry Society of Scotland is publishing Lord Crawford's *Armorial* this autumn. The publication is by subscription and those who subscribe will be listed in the book. It will also be available for purchase later. The subscription period closes on 8th September 2008. Please use the form sent out, or the Society's website, at <http://www.heraldry-scotland.co.uk/crawford.html>



The arms of the four Stewart cadet lairds in the *Armorial*. Stewart of Ardmaleish, Sheriff of Bute never had a difference!

# THE HISTORY OF DUNSTER CHURCH AND PRIORY

by Joan Jordan

288 pages, Halsgrove, £34.99

Joan's long-awaited book was published just before Christmas 2007, but unfortunately the publisher was unable to have it ready for the launch party which had been arranged at the Luttrell Arms, and so some of us missed the actual publication date. This is the first volume and takes us up to the Commonwealth period. The church is very fully covered, together with the Mohun family, who endowed the Priory. The Luttrell family arrived in the early 1400s and are still here today, but at East Quantoxhead, as the Castle was gifted to the National Trust in the last century. Inevitably this family dominates the book, and they are a most fascinating collection of people, with a full chapter devoted to their activities in the 14th and 15th centuries. However they permeate all the later chapters and we learn that one of the last Papal dispensations for an English marriage was granted on 28 November 1558 so that Thomas Luttrell might marry his third cousin Margery Hadley. The marriage was very important to the Luttrells, as Margery was an heiress of the Hadleys but also through them of the FitzUrses of Williton, who provided one of the murderers of Archbishop Thomas a' Becket. Thus she brought with her a number of manors.

What a wealth of information Joan has crammed into this book of only 288 pages, although one must acknowledge that the type is relatively small. We understand that there should be another volume, at least, to bring us up to the 21st century. AJMF

## DIRECTIONS: THE GRAMMAR HOUSE, THE HILL, LANGPORT

Coming from Taunton: after the town square, when the road does a sharp left turn, go straight ahead up the Hill.

Coming from the East or the North: come into Langport and after Tesco, LOOK OUT. At a sharp right-hand corner, turn left round the Post Office, up the Hill;

Both: Park; walk back down until you come to the first house on the left (coming down) on the incline of the hill. Go down the alley next to the house and knock!

## SOMERSET HERALDRY SOCIETY

### Officers

Chairman	Ronald Gadd, MBE, RD
Hon Secy	Alex Maxwell Findlater
Hon Treasurer	Anthony Bruce
Committee Member	David Hawkings

### Objects

The aims shall be to promote and encourage the study of heraldry especially in the historic county of Somerset.

### Address for correspondence

The Grammar House, The Hill, Langport,  
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Telephone & facsimile 01458 250868  
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### Annual Subscription

for ordinary members £10 pa  
for family members £15 pa



## PROGRAMME OF EVENTS    **Autumn 2008**

- Sat 30<sup>th</sup> August**                      10.30 am    **Bath Heraldry Day**  
    for 11.00 am    to celebrate the Bath Society's Diamond Jubilee Year. Meet at the Manvers Street Baptist Church Hall, next to the Police Station. See back page. £10 each, including entry and tea. Booking essential with Roland Symons of the Bath Society on 01225 837308
- Wed 10<sup>th</sup> September**                7.30 pm    **The Motto Flourishes**  
    **Alex Maxwell Findlater**  
    The change of motto by Robert Maxwell to celebrate regaining his earldom in 1620  
    The Grammar House, meet for supper 6.30 pm.
- Wed 8<sup>th</sup> October**                      6.00 pm    **Visit to the College of Arms**  
    **hosted by Garter, Peter Gwynne-Jones**  
    Meet at the College, a chance to see the College and enjoy a glass of wine with Garter.  
    £18 each. Booking essential.
- Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> October**                      **Annual Dinner** at the Old Wharf, Langport  
    **Guest of Honour Joan Jordan**  
    5.45 pm    Drinks before the talk  
    6.30 pm    Talk by Joan Jordan on the  
                   The grand, the astute, the obscure, the brave and  
                   the good ladies of Dunster Castle  
    7.30 pm    Dinner.    Cost £25
- Wed 12<sup>th</sup> November**                7.30 pm    **Heraldry of Arlington Court**  
    **Ron Gadd**  
    A beautiful house with a fascinating history, as told through the heraldry of the Chichesters.  
    The Grammar House, meet for supper 6.30 pm.
- Wed 10<sup>th</sup> December**                7.00 pm    **The Chairman's Christmas Reception**  
    to 8.30 pm    Bring heraldic hats  
                         20 Priestley Way, Burnham on Sea, TA8 1QX  
                         please confirm 01728 773954

## THE CITY OF BATH HERALDIC SOCIETY 1948 - 2008

### A BATH HERALDRY DAY

2008 sees the Diamond Jubilee of the City of Bath Heraldic Society. To begin the year of celebrations, the Society is holding A Bath Heraldry Day on Saturday August 30th 2008, and it is hoped that members from heraldic societies all over the country will come and share the day with us. The programme for the day will be as follows:

10.30 - 11.00 am : Assemble for tea/coffee and biscuits at **Manvers Street Baptist Church**. This is where the Society holds its regular meetings. We will be using a downstairs room with wheelchair access.

11.00 - 1.00 pm : Choice of activities:

a. Heraldic Tour of the City, including a visit to the Mayor's Parlour in the Guildhall to view the City's Grant of Arms and some of its Charters.

b. Heraldic Tour of Bath Abbey and Vaults Museum, which will include a viewing of the Revd. Everhard Rowe's book illustrating the heraldry on some of the monuments and memorials in the Abbey.

1.00 pm Lunch. Those attending should make their own arrangements. Manvers Street Baptist Church does offer hot meals in its Open House Restaurant, or members may eat their own lunch in the Hall (coffee, tea or squash will be available), or enjoy Bath's plethora of restaurants.

2.30 pm Talks by **Michael Messer** on *The Arms of the City of Bath* and by **Stephen Slater** on *The Heraldry of the High Vault of Bath Abbey*.

4.00 pm Tea and Depart.

There will be an exhibition of the work of the City of Bath Heraldic Society on display in the Hall and a Diamond Jubilee edition of the Society's magazine *Tabard* will be on sale.

The cost of the day for those attending will be @ £10. If you would like to attend, please could you book, with your cheque (made payable to THE CITY OF BATH HERALDIC SOCIETY) with: Roland Symons, 5 Weatherly Avenue, BATH, BAZ 2PF Tel. 01225 837308 [rolandsymons@hotmail.com](mailto:rolandsymons@hotmail.com) as soon as possible.