

THE SOMERSET DRAGON

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This stained glass panel from Chawton House, Hampshire, shows the arms of Knight in 1 & 4, Martin in 2 and Lewkener in 3. For further details on some fascinating heraldry, see pages 12 and 13.

Editorial An unfortunate clash of dates has meant that we have had to postpone our Annual Lunch, scheduled for the 18th October.

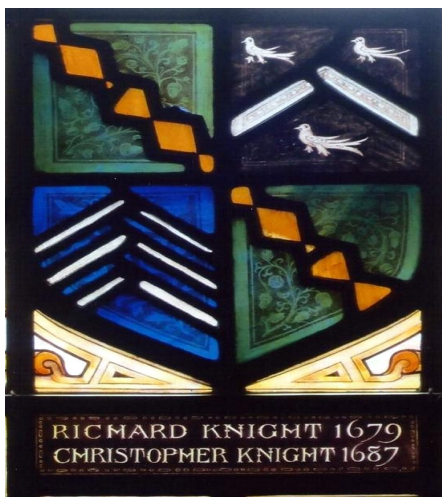


TABLE OF CONTENTS

- | | | |
|-----|---|----------------------------------|
| 2. | The Heraldry at Crewe Hall by Stephen Tudsbery-Turner | |
| 6. | Heraldic Quiz No. 8 — A Gascoigne Conundrum | |
| 7. | A Tragic Affair by Stephen Slater | |
| 10. | The Mystery of the Fourth Quarter | |
| 11. | Ex Libris - Finch Earl of Winchelsea | |
| 12. | Two Visits | |
| 14. | Sydenham—Herbert | Some Eighteenth Century Armorial |
| 15. | Finch Earl of Winchelsea | |
| 16. | Officers of the Society | Dates for Your Diary |

THE HERALDRY AT CREWE HALL BY STEPHEN TUDSBERY-TURNER



Crewe Hall from the south-east. This picture postcard was posted on 14th February 1911.

The keen heraldist travelling north to Manchester on the M6 could do worse than make a slight detour and spend a night at Crewe Hall, a Jacobean mansion located near Crewe Green, east of Crewe, in Cheshire. Formerly the seat of the Crewe family, the house has been a hotel since 1999 and more than that—it is also a veritable heraldic treasure trove.

Crewe Hall was built in 1615-36 for Sir Randolph Crewe, who had risen through the legal profession to become a judge, a member of parliament and finally Speaker of the House of Commons. His descendant, John Crewe (1742–1829), a prominent Whig politician, was created the first Baron Crewe in 1806. It was he who had the park landscaped and the hall extended. He also had the interior remodelled in the neo-Classical style then fashionable. The building was further altered in the period 1837-42 by Edward Blore for John Crewe's grandson, Hungerford Crewe (1812-94), who became the third baron in 1835. Then, following a fire that gutted the building in January 1866, Lord Crewe, went to considerable expense to have the interiors redecorated in a more sympathetic Jacobethan style. His chosen architect was E. M. Barry, son of the more famous Charles, and the elaborately decorated Crewe Hall is considered one the younger Barry's finest works.



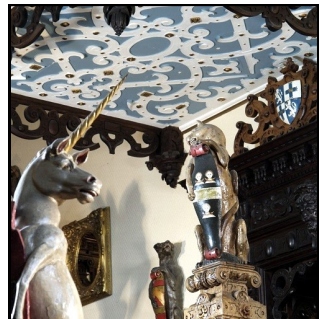
The Marble Hall and galleries. The fireplace is decorated with the Crewe arms

Thanks to the popular novels of Sir Walter Scott and the influence of leading architects such as A. W. N. Pugin, and writers such as John Ruskin, the craze for heraldic decoration was rife in the mid-nineteenth century. The third Baron Crewe, who was elected a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 1840 and of the Royal Society in 1841, was just the sort of learned, aristocratic patron to take advantage of the prevailing trend. What is more he had a head start, for one of the glories of Crewe Hall, which had survived the fire, was a magnificent armorial achievement that records the marriages of the Crewes up to 1663. It was based on the researches of Sir William Dugdale, Norroy King of Arms, who recorded the Crewe pedigree on his Visitation of Cheshire that year.

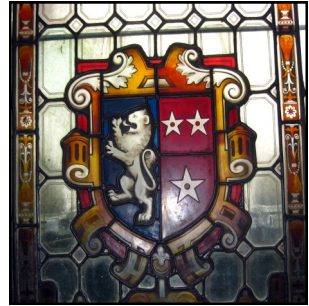


The heraldry of the Crewes is displayed in stained glass, in the panelling in areas of the house leading off the spectacular Marble Hall, a creation of Barry, and on the glorious carved heraldic beasts, getting on for twenty in number, which are mounted on the newel posts on the staircase. There is a fine display in the tiny East Hall, where the restored Dugdale pedigree board has pride of place over the fireplace. Attractive heraldic roundels are to be found in the gallery that surrounds the hall and more embellishes the ornate fireplaces that are features of the state rooms.

Hungerford third Baron Crewe by Spy



Heraldic beasts on staircase



The heraldic roundels above centre from the gallery pictured opposite are flanked by four stained glass panels, which display the arms of Crewe, *Azure a lion rampant argent impaling clockwise Ashton, Per chevron sable and argent, Patrice, Gules three mullets of five points argent, Gorges, Argent a gorges azure and Wilbrahim, Argent three bends wavy azure.*



The Reception Hall. Fire-place of veined marble.

The third Baron Crewe died in 1894. He had never married and his heir was his sister's son, the second Lord Houghton, a successful Liberal politician and a friend of King George V, whom he entertained at Crewe Hall in 1913. The Crewe title was revived for him in 1895 when he became the first Earl of Crewe and he later became the first Marquess. In 1922 he gave up Crewe Hall and decided to settle in Surrey in a house of more modest proportions. Crewe Hall stood empty until the Second World War – it was offered to Cheshire County Council as a gift in 1931 but the council was not interested. It was finally disposed of in 1936, was occupied by the military during the war and now enjoys a fresh existence as an hotel, restaurant and health club. Fortunately the magnificent heraldry the house contains has survived the various changes of occupancy and is on display for all to see.



The Pedigree Board in the East Hall recording the Crewe marriages up to 1663. Below left, another view of the gallery.



HERALDIC QUIZ NO. 8 A GASCOIGNE CONUNDRUM



Here is a query to get you thinking! This interesting item was collected by a reader and seemed worthy of sharing. Apparently it is the image of a brass in Cardington Church, Bedfordshire, and the legend beneath it reads 'Brass of Sir William Gascoigne, Comptroller of the Household to Cardinal Wolsey, and his two wives, Jane, daughter of William Pickering, and Elizabeth, daughter of Alexander Mowbray. (Engraving last.) 1500-1519'. A former owner has crossed out the Comptroller passage and written in pencil 'Lord Chief Justice temp. Henry IV' and at the very bottom has noted 'obit 1419'. So! Which is the correct version? There is certainly plenty of heraldic evidence not to mention the very distinctive costumes.



**A TRAGIC AFFAIR
BY
STEPHEN SLATER**

Recently when looking through my bookplates I chanced on one obtained a couple of years ago, to which I had not paid much attention. The story of the gentleman for whom the bookplate was created was fascinating but tragic. Its main points are as follows.

The bookplate belonged to Lieutenant Edward Pellew, a young man of promising character, officer in one of the most prestigious regiments in the British army of his time, the 1st Life Guards. Lieutenant Pellew had chosen the army for his career, but it was in the Royal Navy that both his father and uncle had excelled. Indeed, Lt Pellew's uncle was none other than the Edward, 1st Viscount Exmouth, whose exploits were so renowned that it is said he is the model for Hornblower in CS Forester's novels about naval life of the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

One of Lord Exmouth's exploits was made subject of an honourable augmentation which appears on his nephew's own bookplate. On the 27th of August in 1816 Admiral Pellew (later Viscount Exmouth) was instrumental in leading a squadron of ships to Algiers, in the engagement which followed, not only did Pellew's ships destroy much of the Dey of Algiers fleet, but also helped free 3000 Christian slaves (much of the city was also laid waste). Admiral Pellew's arms were soon after augmented with a chief upon which a range of shore batteries and a circular fort (Algiers) which bore the Dey's flag, on waves of the sea appeared a ship of the line which flew the flag of the Admiral of the Blue Squadron. The chief of augmentation surmounts the admiral's original arms of *gules a lion passant guardant, in chief two civic wreaths or*.



Edward Pellew, 1st Viscount Exmouth

Although not augmentations Lord Exmouth was granted supporters and a crest, which appears on his nephew's bookplate. This latter item shows the Dutton, an East Indiaman, which in 1796 was wrecked off Plymouth, Lord Exmouth actually swam out to the ship through the foaming waves to save many of those on board. His supporters also include a male in broken chains, suggesting one of the grateful slaves freed in Algiers. Lieutenant Edward Pellew's own father, brother to Lord Exmouth, commanded one of the ships at Trafalgar and was instrumental in the capture of the French warship, *Beaucentare*.

Lieutenant Pellew was said to be a promising officer but his career was cut short by an untimely death, the details of which I found from a copy of *The Times* from shortly after his death in 1819.

As with many of his fellow officer's garrison duties in London and Windsor were often ceremonial, mundane and downright boring.

As a 'diversion' Pellew looked to the wife of a fellow officer, Mrs Walsh. Love blossomed and Pellew eloped with his brother officer's wife to Paris. Mrs Walsh's husband, Theophilus Walsh (he had resigned his commission) soon followed.

True to his time and class Mr Walsh sent a challenge to a duel to Captain Pellew, who made it clear he would indeed honour the challenge. The two men met with their seconds in Paris on the 6th of October, 1819. Mr Walsh's pistol was discharged, Captain Pellew's was not (it was later said that he had decided not to fire), Walsh's shot was true, it entered Pellew's right temple, killing the captain outright, the distance between the 2 men were 12 full paces.

So died the last British officer to be killed in a duel.

Captain Pellew was buried in the Pere Lachaise cemetery. Mr Walsh promptly returned to England,. His distraught wife, so the papers said "has been conveyed back to England where she will be in the care of her afflicted family!".

Edward Pellew's bookplate has his uncle's shield of arms (the chief of augmentation differing slightly due to artistic licence) and a label of an eldest son. Captain Pellew was in fact his father's only child and died during the lifetime of the Admiral.

The Viscounty of Exmouth does survive and the present holder of the title lives in Germany.



Painting of the Bombardment of Algiers by George Chambers

NOTES & QUERIES

THE MYSTERY OF THE FOURTH QUARTER

Many thanks to Ralph Brocklebank for noticing that the blazon given for the fourth quarter (Lort) on the Earl Cawdor's arms was not that shown in the illustration. (Somerset Dragon No. 36 page 8) The blazon given was *or on a fess azure three buckles of the field* (Lort 1), whereas that shown on the postcard illustration was *per fess azure and gules a cross or* (Lort 2).

Sir Roger Lort of Stackpoole Court, co. Pembroke, was made a baronet on 31st January 1662, but the baronetcy became extinct on the death of his grandson Gilbert in 1698. Gilbert's sister Elizabeth, an heraldic heiress, married Sir Alexander Campbell, and their great-great grandson became the first Earl Cawdor in 1827 and of course inherited the Lort quartering.

Sir Roger's arms are recorded as being Lort 2, but according to Foster's Peerage of 1881, the second Earl Cawdor was using Lort 1. Burke's General Armoury of 1884 further confuses matters by listing the arms of Lort as *gules a cross or* (Lort 3) rather than the *per fess gules and azure* of Lort 2. Debrett in 1898 goes for Lort 3, while Burke's Peerage in 1970 credited the fifth earl with Lort 2, the arms favoured by the present and seventh earl.



The plot thickens when one consults Burkes General Armoury and looks up Campbell (Cawdor) and discovers that Lort 1 is listed as the fourth quarter, although not credited to any particular family. Where, one wonders, did the second earl find his buckles? Perhaps we will have an answer in our next issue!

EX LIBRIS

This rather spectacular bookplate with supporters very much in the style of Charles Catton is something of an heraldic treat. Its owner, Thomas Philip Robinson, later Earl de Grey was the eldest son of Thomas Robinson, second Baron Grantham, and elder brother of Prime Minister Lord Goderich.



He succeeded his father as third baron in 1786, and became the sixth baronet Robinson of Newby in 1792. On the death of his aunt in 1833 he succeeded as second Earl de Grey according to a special remainder and also inherited the Wrest Park estate in Silsoe, Bedfordshire. He served under Sir Robert Peel as First Lord of the Admiralty in 1834-35 and then as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland from 1841-44. He died in 1859.

TWO VISITS



The society has had two visits this spring and early summer. The first, on the 27th April, was to Chawton House in Hampshire, ancestral home of the Knight family. It was Edward Knight, formerly Austen, who made available a cottage in the village for his sister Jane to live, and in which she wrote some of her novels. For details of the heraldry see *The Somerset Dragon* No. 35, but thanks to David Vaudrey we have three pictures of the heraldic stained glass in two windows, which baffled us. considerably.

The windows in question, which are to be found in the Long Gallery, contain the arms the two husbands of Elizabeth Knight, formerly Martin, (ob.1737). The first commemorates William Knight, formerly Woodward, (ob. 1721) and the second Bulstrode Knight, formerly Peachey, (ob.1735). Why, it was asked, do the Lewkener arms, *azure three chevrons argent*, appear in the third quarter of the window for William Woodward and in pretence in that commemorating Bulstrode Peachey. The answer, we later discovered, was that Elizabeth Knight's mother was a Frances Lewkener whilst her first husband's mother was an Elizabeth Lewkener; both ladies being the daughters of Sir Christopher Lewkener (ob. 1597). Messrs Woodward and Peachey had of course adopted the name and arms of Knight in order to inherit Chawton.

In a lighter vein we have a photo of Jeremy Knight, Edward Knight's descendant and brother of the current head of the family, talking to Stephen Slater.



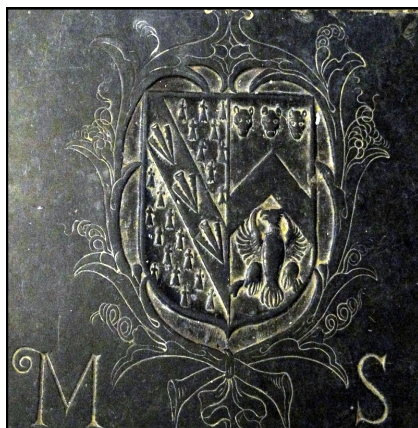
The arms top left are 1 & 4 Knight, 2 Woodward, 3 Lewkener and in pretence Martin. The main picture shows 1 & 4 Knight, 2 & 3 Peachey and in pretence Martin quartering Lewkener.

Our second visit, on the 11th May, was to Ewelme Church near Oxford, where we admired the tombs of Thomas Chaucer, son of the poet, and his daughter Alice, Duchess of Suffolk – see *The Somerset Dragon* No. 33. The arms born by the angelic weepers opposite are De La Pole quartering Burghersh and Roet quartering Burghersh. The photograph is by Michael Furlong.



From Ewelme we moved on to Dorchester on Thames, not in Dorset as one member supposed. We had a splendid lunch at *The White Hart* followed by a tour of Dorchester Abbey. There we admired, amongst other treasures, the lead font, one of only thirty remaining in Britain, and the effigy of a knight wearing chain mail and a flowing surcoat, and twisting to pull out his sword, now lost, which is one of the finest examples of late thirteenth century funerary carving in Britain. The heraldic piece de resistance was the magnificent stained glass window in the chancel. (See below right) It dates from c.1300 and the twenty-one shields, survivors of an original sixty plus, contain the arms of comrades of King Edward I, many of whom took part in the siege of Caerlaverock. Then there were two excellent late seventeenth century ledger stones commemorating members of the Clerke family. Our illustration shows Carleton impaling Clerke and is another courtesy of Michael Furlong. – but one could go on for ever.

All in all, two memorable visits – and more are being planned for 2018.



SYDENHAM—HERBERT (HERALDIC QUIZ NO. 7)



Congratulations to a Surrey reader who informed us that the memorial illustrated above contains the arms of Sir John Sydenham of Brympton in Somerset impaling those of his wife Mary Herbert, daughter of the Earl of Pembroke. Sir John died in 1696 and his wife ten years earlier. The monument containing the Sydenham cartouche is probably to be found in St Andrew's Church, Brympton, but this has yet to be confirmed.

SOME EIGHTEENTH CENTURY ARMORIALS

We are indebted to Alan Fennely who has presented us with a collection of eighteenth century armorial engravings that clearly started life in an assortment of magazines. These include *The Universal Magazine*, which has provided us with illustrations in the past. This issue's offering displays the bearings of Finch Earl of Winchelsea, and is probably one of these. Judging by the style of the engraving, the earl in question was probably George Finch, ninth Earl of Winchelsea, a keen cricketer who served in the 87th Foot at the time of the American Revolutionary War from its formation in 1779 to its disbanding in 1783, with the temporary rank of major and lieutenant-colonel. The earl, who served as lord-lieutenant of Rutland from 1779 until his death in 1826, left no legitimate issue.



Earl of Winchelsea by Sir Nathaniel Dance-Holland



THE SOMERSET HERALDRY SOCIETY

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THE SOMERSET DRAGON

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Contributions welcome

Objects

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wed. 1st Nov. *Armorial of the Order of the Garter* by Dr Andrew Gray.
This meeting will take place at Monteclefe Cottage, Somerton. 12.30 pm for 1.00 pm lunch, followed by 2.00 pm meeting. Finish by 3.30 pm. Those who were lucky enough to hear Andrew's lecture on ladies of the Garter will know that we are in for a treat.