

THE SOMERSET DRAGON

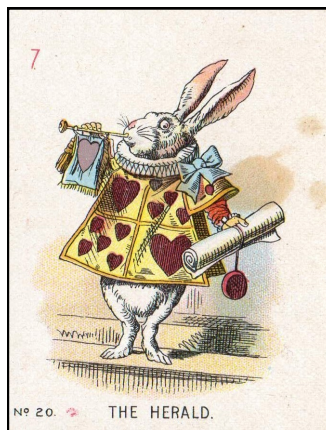
THE JOURNAL OF THE SOMERSET HERALDRY SOCIETY

No. 44
December 2019



We could not resist using the cigarette card above on our front cover. It features, of course, the White Rabbit from Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland* and the artist was John Tenniel.

HERALDRY WITH A SMILE



The card is No. 20 in the 48 card set and was produced by Carreras Ltd., in 1930.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2. The Case of the Kemys Quarterings by Stephen Tudsbery-Turner
7. The Hanbury Family and its Heraldry by Stephen Slater
11. Heraldic Quiz No. 10 & No. 11
12. A treat for 2020?
14. Annual Lunch and Cathedral Tour
16. Dear Editor . . . from Gale Glynn
18. Portrait of an Unknown Gentleman
20. Dates for your Diary

THE CASE OF THE KEMYS QUARTERINGS BY STEPHEN TUDSBERY-TURNER



In issue No. 43 of The Somerset Dragon we looked at the Hopton achievement that hangs in St Mary Magdalene's Church in Ditchet and in particular the ten quarterings on the dexter half of the shield. Attention was drawn to the existence of arms to which Robert Hopton was not entitled, namely Barrington and Hall. This time we will consider the six quarterings on the sinister side, those commemorating his wife, Jane Kemys, and the problems they present.

Jane Kemys was the granddaughter of John Kemys, whose family came from The Vaendre, St Mellons, Monmouthshire, and who was an esquire of the body to King Henry VII. Her father Rowland was Sheriff of that county in 1576. She married twice; her first husband was Sir Henry Jones of Albermarle and her second was Robert Hopton.

The first of the six quarterings impaled by Robert Hopton were those of Kemys. Next comes the arms of the Devonshire family of Raynward followed by those of the Cornish families of Trenowth, Tregarthian, Nanfan and Cheynduit. These quarterings are all recorded as appearing on the arms of a Somerset branch of the Kemys family in 1623. (Raynward is spelt in a variety of ways but in this article we will stick to the one version.)

The four Cornish quarterings can be considered en bloc and the key figure here is John Trenouth (1426-1496/7) of St Michael Penkevil, Cornwall. His wife was a Tregarthian, his mother a Nadfan and the Cheynduits were ancestors whose family died out in the fifteenth century. Clearly the quarterings must have been born by his descendants, in this case four daughters who were his co-heirs, the male line of the family being continued by his younger brother, William.

Vivian's Visitation of Cornwall lists the daughters as Margaret, Phillipa, Matilda and Katherine, and the husbands as Godolphin, Carminow, St Aubyn and Stradling. Katherine married Edmund Stradling and her daughter Isabelle, is noted as marrying a John Raynward.

The scene now shifts to Gloucestershire and the village of Syston, where matters are clarified. The 1623 Visitation of that county informs us that a branch of the Kemys family residing there was entitled to bear an achievement of nine quarters including the five Cornish shields as well as Raynward. These quarters were 1 and 9 Kemys, 2 Arthur, 3 Raynward, 4 Trenoth, 5 Tregothian, 6 Nanfran, 7 Tregayne, 8 Chesundert. Number 2, Arthur, which is new to us, came in when Roger Kemys, who died in 1484, married Alice Arthur, daughter and co-heiress of William Arthur of Bedminster, who bore *gules a chevron argent between three clarions or*.

Roger and Alice had two sons. Arthur, the younger, who inherited Bedminster, married Jane, the daughter and co-heir of a John Raynward. It is more than likely therefore that Arthur's grandson Roger, who liaised with the heralds in 1623, was entitled to his nine quarterings.

All this explains why the Somerset branch of the Kemys family could well be entitled to the Cornish quarterings and the Raynward shield but it is far from clear why Robert Hopton included them on his achievement. The Monmouth branch of the Kemys family was quite distinct from their Gloucestershire namesakes and Jane Kemys of St Mellons was certainly no descendant of Roger Kemys of Bedminster. One is left with the distinct impression that Robert Hopton, like his great-uncle Owen (see our August issue), was not above acquiring arms to which he was not entitled.

To end on a lighter note; Roger Kemys junior, he who dealt with the heralds in 1623, was the son of Thomas, Arthur's elder son. The younger son, William had a grandson Lawrence, whose arms appear on an impaled shield in a stained glass window in Sherborne Abbey, Dorset. Lawrence Kemys was a friend and companion of Sir Walter Raleigh, and the window bears the date 1606, although Kemys himself did not die until 1618. (He committed suicide in a particularly gruesome fashion, using first a pistol then a dagger, when Raleigh blamed him for the death of his, Raleigh's, son.)



The impaled arms show Kemys, Arthur and Rowsley quartered on the dexter side of the shield and Raynward, Trenouth, Tregarthian and Cheynduit on the sinister. The Raynward quartering is now missing but its details were recorded in Hutchins's *The History and Antiquities of the County of Dorset* published between 1861-1774.

Assuming that either Lawrence's mother or grandmother was a Rowsley, then in all probability he was entitled to the various quarterings on show in the abbey, but he never married and so an impaled coat was clearly out of order. Indeed, one is left with the impression that, as Eric Morecambe might have put it, he displayed all the right quarterings although not necessarily in the right order!

THE HANBURY FAMILY AND ITS HERALDRY

BY STEPHEN SLATER



FIG. 1

Recently, in my attempts to find new bookplates for my little collection I happened on Mr Jack Hanbury, of Clytha Park, South Wales. How happy I did as I've now got some fascinating plates, not only for the Hanbury family, but also others that Jack Hanbury has been so kind to pass on.

It seems that in many places I've travelled on my heraldic adventures I've met with Hanbury heraldry, they have many branches, Hanbury-Tenison, Hanbury-Tracy, Hanbury-Leigh and Hanbury-Williams, all stem from a family long seated at Hanbury in Worcestershiire. It is believed that the first to bear the simple and ancient arms of: *Or a bend engrailed vert plain cotised sable*; was Henry de Hanbury (born by 1285), MP for Worcs, son of Geoffrey de Hanbury, (died by 1319) bailiff to the Bishops of Worcester.

From the Midlands the Hanburys spread out into Gloucestershire, Northants and South Wales and although it is of the latter line my bookplates are mainly from, my earliest plate (Fig 2) showing the Hanbury arms is for William Hanbury of Kelmars Hall, Northants (died 1768), who married Sarah, heiress to William Western of Rivenhall, Essex. The plate has Hanbury quartering Waller and Clarke, with Western on an escutcheon of pretence.

By the end of the 16th Century Philip Hanbury, of Elmley Lovett in Worcestershire, had left his family's estates and set up as an iron founder in Pontypool, South Wales. From then on the Hanburys have maintained close connections with the Pontypool and Abergavenny districts, and it is with them that my bookplates are concerned.



FIG. 2

Through a series of excellent connections, mainly through marrying rich heiresses the Hanburys of Pontypool prospered. But one fortune came not through a rich wife so much as a rich godfather.

One of the wealthiest of the iron founding line, John Hanbury of Pontypool had several sons, one of whom, Charles Hanbury, landed on his feet through the kindness of his godfather, Mr Williams of Caerleon. The latter gent supposedly killed a relation in a duel, fled abroad but returned and was shown great kindness by the Hanburys. Mr Williams died childless and left his estates to Charles Hanbury with the proviso he adopt the name and arms of Williams. Certainly Charles was known after as Charles Hanbury-Williams, but I can find no suggestion he ever took up the Williams arms. CH-W even had a fine memorial set up to his godfather in Westminster Abbey, on which Williams is termed 'armiger', there is also an cartouche for arms- but it has been left tantalisingly blank!

Charles Hanbury-Williams is certainly one of the most colourful of the family, he was made Knight of the Bath, and as Sir Charles Hanbury-Williams became British envoy to the courts of Prussia and Russia, even becoming a confidant of Empress Catherine.

He was a wit, a poet and great satyrist, he also had an eye for the ladies, so much so he became 'poxed' - his Bath doctor said, it was the worse case he'd ever seen, Sir Charles conveyed the disease to Lady Hanbury-Williams, who, none too pleased, vowed never to meet with her husband again, he died from the effects of syphilis in an insane asylum in 1759. With no sons to inherit his estates the children of another brother inherited them and the name of Hanbury-Williams.

Capel Hanbury, elder brother of Sir Charles Hanbury-Williams also took on the additional surname (by Royal Licence) and arms of Leigh, by way of a close connection with the 5th Baron Leigh of Stoneleigh, Warwickshire, from this time on this branch of the family quartered the arms of Hanbury with Leigh: *Gules a cross engrailed in dexter chief a lozenge argent* (See Fig 3).

Mr Capel Hanbury-Leigh of Pontypool sounds a good all round man, beloved by many of his locality, holder of many local offices. In 1861 the poor man suffered a fall which caused a painful injury to his leg, he also had other ailments which caused him to be dosed up with various medicines. So it was that he called to his valet for an indigestion cure prescribed by his doctor- the valet dosed up his master who immediately cried out "Good God, you've given me the wrong

FIG. 3



Sure enough, when he had his glasses on, the valet saw he'd dosed my CH-L not with throat medicine but 'Hawkins Embrocation' which contained camphor and solution of ammonia! Mr H-L lasted the night before he succumbed to the fatal medicine, but before he passed away he told the valet, who'd served him faithfully for many years "don't worry it was a simple mistake", he also called to his bedside his other servants and had them promise they wouldn't 'duff over' the unfortunate valet.

I asked Jack Hanbury (who's given me the bookplates) what happened to the valet, his email said "they ate him, it was the kindest thing to do"!!

In 1923 Ruth Hanbury, the heiress of the Pontypool line married Major Gerald Tenison, of a family long settled in Ireland, their children tended to use the name of Hanbury-Tenison, and so it happens today.

Jack Hanbury has given me the bookplate of his grandparents, Gerald and Ruth Hanbury-Tenison (Fig 3) which has on the main shield the arms of Tenison; *Gules a bend engrailed between 2 leopards faces or jessant de lis azure*, in the centre of the plate(as befits an heraldic heiress), is the quartered escutcheon of pretence of Hanbury-Leigh

Ruth and Gerald Hanbury-Tenison had several sons of whom Robin, OBE is a famous explorer, he sent me some years ago his own bookplate (Fig 4) which shows a fine example of the Hanbury crest. Another son, Sir Richard Hanbury-Tenison, KCVO, was a much beloved figure in South Wales, he died in 2017. Their son, Jack Hanbury is the provider of the family bookplates.

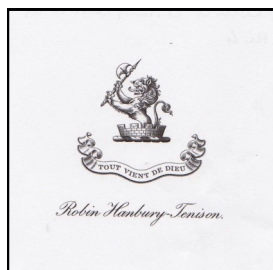
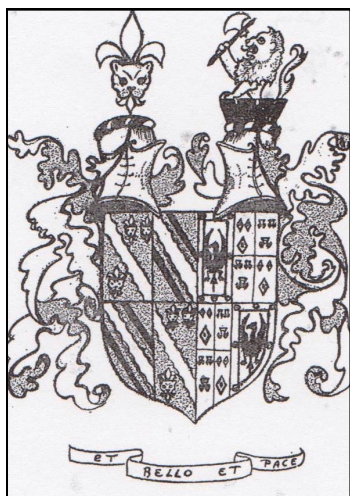


FIG. 4



RICHARD HANBURY TENISON

FIG. 5

Sir Richard Hanbury-Tenison's own bookplate (Fig 5) , uses the arms of Tenison quartering Hanbury and impales the grand quarters of Lady H-T, who was born Euphan Wardlaw-Ramsay. These are: *Quarterly 1 and 4. Ramsay: Argent an eagle displayed Sable beaked and membered Gules, within a bordure of the last charged with 8 roses Argent; 2nd and 3rd grand quarters, quarterly 1 and 4: Wardlaw = Azure 3 mascles Or; 2 and 4 Valoines (Valoiiiinis) = Azure 3 bougets Or.*

Today, Jack Hanbury lives at Clytha Prak, not far from Pontypool, it was for years home of the Jones/Herbert family - I say 'family' as a Jones of Clytha took the ancient family name of Herbert, another story lies here, for in 1862 a near neighbour, Lord Llanover took objection of the way Mr Jones had adopted the Herbert name and a feud between the two erupted much to the delight of the locals, who pursued the heavy matter through gossip columns in the newspapers. So acrimonious did the business become, that questions were asked in Parliament over it- but that's for another day!

With thanks to Jack Hanbury of Clytha for his munificence.

THE STORY BEHIND HERALDIC QUIZ No. 10

The armorial that was illustrated as Quiz No.10 in our last issue was used as the frontispiece of the spoof *Diary of Lady Willoughby*, published anonymously in 1844, with second and third editions in 1845. Initially many readers were taken in by the work but in the third edition the author was admitted to be the writer Hannah Rathbone. The publisher Thomas Longman took great pains in bringing out the diary as an exact reproduction of a book of the seventeenth century.



*Quarterly 1 & 4 Or fretty
azure 2 & 3 sable a cross
engrailed or*

The edition from which this picture was taken dates from 1873. A final thought; which particular Willoughby provided Hannah Rathbone with the achievement ?

HERALDIC QUIZ No. 11



Can you come up with a location and a name to go alongside this rather splendid and colourful achievement.?
Clue - You will need transport to see it in situ!

A TREAT FOR 2020

The two Stephens (Slater and T-T) hope to be able to organise an outing to Hanford House and the church of St Mary, Iwerne Courtney (Shroton), both located between Shaftesbury and Blandford in Dorset, sometime next year. The church contains a magnificent monument to Sir Thomas Freke, which will be the subject of a short piece in issue number 45 of The Somerset Dragon, next March, but to wet your appetites, here is a little information about a truly intriguing Jacobean mansion, now a school for girls.

Hanford House was built for Sir Robert Seymer, a teller of the Exchequer who was knighted in 1619, and was completed in 1623 judging from dates on the rainwater heads on the north front. It comprises four ranges built round a central courtyard and what makes it especially interesting is the fact that in c.1873 the courtyard was glazed and Renaissance style woodwork panelling was introduced to create a central saloon along the lines of those popularised by Charles Barry, notably at the Reform Club and Highclere Castle.

This central saloon boasts two magnificent armorial achievements. The first in stone above the projecting three storeyed porch, complete with ionic pilasters and decorative strapwork - originally of course within the open courtyard - that leads one into the south range. The second is carved in oak and is located above the fireplace on the east side of the saloon. The stone achievement contains the quartered arms of Sir Robert himself, that in wood the arms of Harry Clay, the husband of Gertrude Ker-Seymer who, in 1864 on the death of her father Henry Ker-Seymer, inherited the Hanford estate. In 1865 Harry Clay assumed by royal licence the additional names and arms of Ker-Seymer and it was Harry Clay-Ker-Seymer who was responsible for the creation of the saloon.



Sir Robert's stone arms are Quarterly 1 and 4 *Or two wings conjoined gules on a chief of the second three martlets argent* (Seymer), 2 *Barry wavy of six argent and azure on a chief or three mullets ?* (Atwater) and 3 *Argent six cinquefoils gules* (Lymburgh).

The arms in wood are Quarterly 1 and 4 *Seymer*, 2 Quarterly i and iv *Vert on a chevron argent three mullets gules in base a unicorn's head erased of the second* (Ker of Moristoun) ii and iii *Azure three crosses moline argent* (Ainslie of Dolphinton) *all within a bordure argent*, and 3 *Argent a chevron engrailed paly sable and or between three trefoils slipped of the second* (Clay).

In pretence are the arms of Gertrude Clay-Ker-Seymer, Grand-quarterly 1 and 4 Quarterly i *Seymer* ii and iii quarterly (i) and (iv) *Ker* and (ii) and (iii) *Ainslie*, all within a *bordure argent* 2 *Atwater* 3 *Lymburgh* The Ker connection dates from the marriage of Henry Seymer and Griselda Ker in 1781.

All in all we have the arms of no less than six families. Well worth a visit!

ANNUAL LUNCH AND CATHEDRAL TOUR



This year's annual lunch at The Fountain Inn, Wells, was preceded by an inspirational heraldic tour of the cathedral led by Philip Hickman. Even those who were familiar with the building and its contents enthusiastically admitted that they learnt so much in such a short space of time. Thank you Philip for giving us such a splendid morning before we all sat down to the usual excellent meal at The Fountain.



Left: The arms of Bishop George Hooper, a high church clergyman. He was disliked by the Calvinist King William III, who declared that Hooper should never be a bishop. Queen Anne disagreed and offered him the see in 1704. A popular, caring and successful bishop, Hooper died in 1727 and is buried in the cathedral. His memorial is located in the west cloister.



To the left we have the quartered arms of Dean Gunthorpe, who died in 1498. These appear on one of the four shields on the front of his altar tomb against the south wall of the chapel of St John the Baptist in the north choir aisle.

The arms feature guns or petards, an allusion to the learned (so we are told) dean's name. The blazon, according to Arthur Jewers, writing in 1892, is *Quarterly: 1 and 4, Gu. a chev. betw. three petards or hand-grenades arg., within a bord. eng. or, Gunthorpe; 2 and 3, (Arg.) a chev. betw. three lions' heads erased (sa.), Allerton*, which is not quite what we have in front of us!

Below: Left to right Philip and Susan Hickman, Hilary T-T, Stephen Slater, Stephen T-T and Carol Haines. Our thanks to David Vaudrey, who took the photographs (another is to be found on our last page.)



DEAR EDITOR . . . FROM GALE GLYNN

I've come across a conundrum which . . . concerns the Eliot memorial in St. Mary & St. Bartholomew, Cranborne, Dorset and I attach an image. It refers to John Eliot, aged 14, the eldest son of John Eliot and his wife Honoria daughter of Sir Daniel Norton, whom tradition tells us died choking on a fish bone whilst at school there. There is the usual sad effusive text extolling his brilliance. They are the Cornish Eliots, from Port Eliot. The inscription states memorial was paid for by the child's maternal grandmother, Honoria Norton, (daughter of Sir John White of Southwick). The coat is blazoned in *The Visitation of the County of Cornwall in the year 1620*, edited by Lieut-Colonel J L Vivian and Henry H Drake MA PHD, London 1874 p.66. (available on line)

1. *Argent, a fess gules between three bars wavy sable, (Eliot)* 2. *Argent, a chevron between three castles sable, (Cutland).* 3. *Argent, a trefoil slipped in pale proper.* 4. *Argent, a spear in pale between two mullets or.* 5. *Argent, a chevron gules between three Moor's heads couped proper, (Pawlherman).* 6. *Argent, a boar's head couped in fess sable between three mullets gules, (Brewin).* 7. *Sable, a bend cotised or, in chief a label of five points argent, (Kerswell).* 8. *Argent, three boars heads couped two and one sable, Downe.* 9. *Ermine, on a canton sable a horse's head argent collared, (Brixston).* 10. *Lozengy or and sable, a lion rampant vert, (Prawle).* 11. *Sable, a stag springing, surmounted by a fess raguly or, (Gill).* 12. *Argent, on a chief sable three mullets or. Crest: an elephants head couped argent, collared gules.*

Quarter 11 does not appear to be Gill according to Papworth and Burke's General Armory, but quarter 10 should be so identified. Most of those surnames do not appear at all in Burke (BGA). In the more informative 1887 Visitation of Cornwall by Vivian, available on line (see below), where there is a quite

extensive pedigree for the Eliots there is no mention most of the families to whom these quarterings are attributed.

(<https://ukga.org/england/Cornwall/visitations/index.html>)



Honorina Norton was not an heraldic heiress and there is, correctly, no Norton quarter included. Is this, like the Hopton Achievement, the result of some massaging of the facts, or an C18 muddle? Would you or any members be interested in providing a solution and explanation? The object in quarter 4 is referred to as a tilting spear in one of my references, but it seems a strange and rather inefficient construction for such an object. In case the images do not transfer well I should add that its lozenge shaped head is charged with slightly irregularly placed roundels. As you will see, most of the colour, original or not, apart from gules and ermine has been scrubbed down to almost zero and the blazoning in that respect probably belongs in the fiction/imagination department. One wonders if there were colours present in 1874 when it seems to have been recorded by Vivian & Drake.

PORTRAIT OF AN UNKNOWN GENTLEMAN



Manchester Art Gallery / Bridgeman Images.

Our thanks to Hannah Williamson, Curator of Fine Art at the Manchester Art Gallery for allowing us to make use of this image.

The portrait opposite, which currently languishes in the store of the Manchester Art Gallery, is of an unknown gentleman. The canvas contains the legend Aet 27 1633 and in the top left corner is the achievement enlarged below. There is of course the possibility that these arms were added to the portrait at a later date in order to make the picture more saleable.

The arms in the first quarter on the dexter side appear to be blazoned *sable an eagle displayed argent armed and crowned or*, in which case they could belong to a member of the Peche family. (Burke's General Armory). Are the arms genuine? Do they belong to our gentleman? Bright ideas would be very welcome!



THE SOMERSET HERALDRY SOCIETY

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THE SOMERSET DRAGON

Editor Stephen Tudsbery-Turner

Address for correspondence

The Malt House,
The Old Threshing Mill,

Hedge Lane,

Pylle,

Somerset,

BA4 6SP

Tel: 01749 830538

Email: tudsberyturner@tiscali.co.uk



Contributions welcome

Objects

A cartouche from the cloisters!

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

Our next AGM will be held at The Old Threshing Mill on Tuesday 31st March 2020. Doors open at mid-day, lunch will be served at 1.00pm and our meeting will commence at 2.00pm. It is hoped that members will bring along an item of heraldic interest so that we can have a ten minute talk session to round off the entertainment. More details will be provided nearer the time but do make a note of the date.