

The Seaxe



Newsletter of the Middlesex Heraldry Society

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EDITORIAL

One of the problems of modern living, private or business, is "cash flow". The term would have been dismissed, years ago, as the pretentious jargon of so called "organisation and methods" experts - themselves scorned as cranks out to make their fortunes from those willing to employ them. Their efforts were treated with derision by the staff subjected to minute by minute scrutiny and their recommendations largely ignored by their employers. Today they are known as "management consultants" and their services are widely used by even the largest of large companies whilst cash flow itself is a fact of everyday life. One man who has helped enormously to solve the problem of cash flow for our Society is Roger (Matthews) who beavers away month in month out to raise funds by translating our unwanted items into cash on his sales table, known as the "Emporium", and becoming, in the process, the only member on whom the Hon.Treasurer beams fondly whenever he sees him! Not content with this literally sterling work Roger has made a further suggestion that we should devote a small amount of space in the Newsletter to a "Wants" section in which members could advertise their requirements and, if met, the vendor would either donate the item to the Society or, in the case of larger and more expensive items make a contribution to its funds. **PLEASE HELP ROGER TO HELP THE SOCIETY - and , of course, to keep subscriptions down!**

THE TREASURES OF LINCOLN - from Ami du Roy Richard II



About three weeks before the planned visit to Lincoln [September 1992] I discovered that a sword belonging to Richard II was to be seen there in the Guildhall Museum. Fortunately it was not too late to join the party and I set about trying to make arrangements for seeing the sword - the Museum is open only one Saturday morning each month and not the day we were there! Luckily the Mayor's secretary told me that a group of German students would be welcomed by the Mayor on the Friday afternoon and that they would be delighted if any of us cared to join them. So seven of our members braved the slippery walk down Steep Hill (aptly named) in pouring rain to the Strongbow which is rather like a bridge over the road and was once one of the city gates. It is now in the centre of a "shopping precinct". We were made welcome by the

Mayor's Officer, Mr J. J. (Joe) Cooke, a cheery soul and the co-author of a very attractive and informative guide book, and shown into the very impressive panelled Council Chamber. It had a marvellous old beamed ceiling with carved bosses - the oak for it came from Sherwood Forest which, at that time, reached to within eight miles of Lincoln. Soon the German party of about thirty people was ushered in by Mr Cooke who gave us an amusing little talk on the history of Lincoln in general and the Guildhall in particular.

Apparently Lincoln had a Mayor some eight years before the appointment of a similar dignitary in London! After the introduction he conducted the Mayor to his place in the Council Chamber with due civic dignity. The Germans were invited to ask questions about the office of Mayor and his responsibilities but this was a laboured affair as translations were frequently needed. However the session finally ended, the Mayor departed and the moment for which I had waited impatiently was almost here. We were taken down to the Treasury and there - what an Aladdin's cave! The walls were covered by glass fronted showcases, lit from within, and our eyes feasted on the glitter of gold, silver and precious stones and upon crimson velvet and glass. And, yes, there was my hero's sword - one of only two to survive from the 14th century - a two handed fighting weapon used from the saddle and weighing six and a half pounds. The blade is forty one inches long and double edged - the hilt has a grip bound by silver wire and the pommel is a flattened gilt disc two inches thick. On each side are the arms of Edward III: *Gules three lions passant guardant Or*. The scabbard is modern (c.1902) but the metal attachments (viz. white harts and *planta genista*) are original as are the gold bands with sunrays bursting from the clouds similar to those on Richard's garments on his tomb in Westminster Abbey. A quite fascinating and awe inspiring sword which is still, today, carried in front of the Mayor on the most formal occasions. The other walls of the Treasury were adorned by many charters, manuscripts, seals and many other items of historic interest. Altogether a happy and worthwhile visit made all the more pleasant by the welcoming attitude of the people of Lincoln.



Lincoln Cathedral

Thursday, 24th September - Our first stop on this weekend excursion was at **Edenham**. **Peter Bentley** joined us here and it was good to have him with us again. The church at **Edenham** is very fine and had plenty to interest us. In one window



there was a small version of the Royal Arms for Elizabeth I with the gold dragon supporter. Above the arms angels held the straps of the shield. There were Royal Arms above the rood screen, in this instance Hanoverian with the crown on the inescutcheon. In the chancel were a number of large romanesque monuments for the family of **Bertie** and there was a large **Bertie** tomb in the family Box bearing some well known arms such as **Molineaux** and **De Vere** as well as **Bertie**. There were shields in the roof beams and green dragons coiled round the bosses.

St. Botolph's Church in Boston is very large and has a very tall, beautifully carved tower called the **Boston Stump**. It is 272½ feet high and can be seen for miles around. The choir stalls have lovely carved canopies and the people who helped to pay for them are commemorated in brass plates most of them bearing arms. Among many others there are monuments to the family of **Garfit** whose quarteted arms are rather quaint having *six rampant goats in 1 and 4 and six rampant lions in 2 and 3*.



BERTIE

Argent 3 battering-rams barways in pale, pp. headed and garnished azure.

At the **Somersby** church at we were interested to find an exhibition commemorating the 100th anniversary of the death of **Lord Tennyson** whose birthplace it was. The Royal Arms were Hanoverian and there was an unusual owl crest on a wall tablet for **Kathleen Buxton**.

to put it mildly, was the a crest depicting a man with the wings of a dragon and another of a wyvern and an eagle with tails entwined.

Friday, 25th September - Our first call this morning was to the **Lincoln Records Office** where we browsed through books containing pedigrees of Lincolnshire families. There was also a book of *The Visitations of Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire* of 1562 in which many familiar names, like **Ayscough** and **Disney** appeared. Of particular note were the jolly little drawings of animals, such as conies and lions, whilst in the unusual class,

Lincoln Cathedral, itself, was our next stop where we had a guided tour. We were shown into a chapel dedicated to the Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy, with a host of military badges and some beautiful carved screens. There were many splendid monuments in the Cathedral displaying much heraldry and, of course, the chapel to



AYSCOUGH

Sable, a fesse between 3 asses passant argent.

Katherine Swinford. In one part of the Cathedral were several tombs to members of the **Burgersh** family including **Bishop Burgersh** whose arms were the same as those of **Burgersh of Ewelme**. On his tomb were a number of Royal arms as well as the arms of **Clare**, **Bohun**, **De Vere**, **Mortimer** and many others. The Chapter House had Royal arms in all the windows and of particular interest were the arms of **Richard I** impaling those of **Berengaria of Navarre** which are not usually shown. Among other unusual features were the arms of **Edward IV** with the **Confessor's** arms quartered with his own and having the lion and bull for supporters.



BURGERSH

Argent, a chief gules overall a lion rampant queue forche, or. (Lord Burgersh - Gules, a lion - etc.)

After lunch some members visited the Castle, the Museum and other places of historical interest. Some of us went to the Guildhall where we met the Mayor and listened to a talk on the history of Lincoln. [This is fully reported by the organiser elsewhere in this Newsletter - Eds]

Saturday, 26th September - The first stop made by our mini-bus was at the village of **South Carlton**. In the Church of **St. John the Baptist** was a hatchment and a large monument to the **Monson** family whose canting arms incorporated a

moon and a sun.

From there we travelled to **St. Lawrence's Church, Snarford** in which a fine carved arch from the Norman period remains in this mainly 14th and 15th century building. There were memorials to the **St. Paul** family whose arms were *Argent a lion rampant double queued Gules*. A monument for **Sir Thomas**, who died in 1582, depicted him with his feet on a flowered cushion and his head resting on his crest of an *elephant and castle*. A large wall monument for **Sir George** was decorated by red and white roses with figures and arms on the pediment above the tomb.

VISIT TO LINCOLN (Contd)

The church at **Hainton** was originally Saxon and Norman. There were many monuments and brasses for the **Heneage** family and a very magnificent family chapel contained several alabaster tombs. In the chancel was a fine brass with coloured costumes and shields for **Sir Thomas** and his wife and daughter. The **Heneage** greyhound supporters appeared on some of the pew ends. At **Benniworth** we found another Norman doorway - this time with zigzag carving and horse-shoe shapes. Ecclesiastical heraldry appeared on the rood screen together with the **Heneage** arms.



HENEAGE
Or, a greyhound courant, brw 3 leopard's faces, azure, a bordure engrailed gules.

Our last port of call on Saturday was **Baumber** where the old stonework had been faced with brick in the 18th century but, happily, the tower still has a massive Norman base with a carved west door. The chancel screen was painted with coats of arms and the church had several hatchments but most were in poor condition. The Royal arms here were for **William and Mary**.

Sunday, 27th September - On the homeward journey we stopped firstly at **St. Mary's Church, Marston** which had three hatchments and several monuments for the **Thorold** family. An item of interest was the lovely carved leafy screen behind the altar.



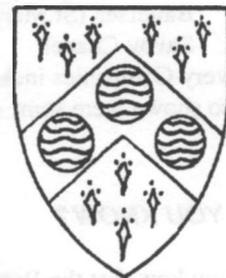
THOROLD
Sable 3 goats salient argent

Then on to the estate of **Belton**, near **Grantham**, where we first visited the Church which had Norman, Mediaeval, Georgian and Victorian features. There were many splendid monuments to both the **Brownlow** and **Cust** families and a fine armorial window showing that the **Brownlows** eventually married into the **Cust** family. After lunch we went into **Belton House** which was built c.1685/



BROWNLOW
Or, an escutcheon between 8 martlets Sable.

87 and enjoyed seeing some very beautiful modelled plaster ceilings. In the Tapestry Room is a set of early 18th century English tapestries which incorporate the arms of **Lord Tyrconnell (Sir John Brownlow 1703-81)** and show scenes from the life of **Diogenes**, the Greek philosopher. The **Brownlow** crest of a greyhound appears here and in many places round the House. The **Tyrconnell** Room has a painted floor showing the **Brownlow** arms in the centre and surrounded by four greyhound crests. The chapel is delightful and has a superb plasterwork ceiling by **Edward Goudge** who was also responsible for the equally excellent ceiling in the hall. Here again the greyhounds appear in the corners. Having completed the tour of **Belton House** we came to the end of our programme - the weekend had been most successful with the days occupied visiting many interesting places and the evenings with slides brought by members of the party.



CUST
Ermine, on a chevron sable 3 fountains ppr.

We are all grateful to **Kay [Holmes]** for the work involved in organising yet another very happy occasion - good food, good company and a lot of very interesting heraldry. What more could we ask?

[We are indebted to **Margaret** for providing the arms and the blazons - Eds]

THE PAGEANT OF THE GOLDEN TREE - from a talk by **Les Pierson** on 18th November 1993



This pageant which takes place in the delightful town of **Bruges (Brugge)** every five years on two successive Sundays in August commemorates the marriage of **Margaret of York** to **Charles the Bold, Duke of Burgundy**, on 2nd July 1468. **Margaret** set sail from Margate at the end of June and landed at **Damme** in Belgium before travelling on to **Bruges** where the great celebrations ended with a tournament - the winner receiving as a trophy a badge depicting **The Golden Tree**. The modern pageant is in three parts:-

(a) the legend and historical events connected with the **Counts of Flanders and Dukes of Burgundy**

(b) **The Princely Union** - the origins of the Houses of York and Burgundy

(c) the entry of the Sovereigns into **Bruges** and welcomed, with great pomp, by magistrates and guilds.

The rearguard of the procession is a group representing the **Knights of the Golden Tree**.

With the aid of some excellent slides we were able to experience this spectacular pageant which took three hours to pass. The tableaux, floats and costumes, all of which were made by local people, were not only correct for the period (even to the shoes) but also most professionally produced from some beautiful materials.



Peggy began her tour in **Harrow**, where she now lives, showing the arms of the Borough which were granted in 1938 (and the supporters in 1954) but which are now little used having been supplanted on letterheads, etc. by a "more modern" logo. She went on to show us a varied collection of slides taken on her journeys all over the country which she blazoned and gave short interesting accounts of the families houses and churches involved. In some cases she asked for help and/or opinions on identification thereby provoking much erudite discussion! We have appended an alphabetical list of the places visited so that if you wish to research any of the arms in more detail we are sure that **Peggy** will be delighted to assist. She ended by showing us some slides provided by **Robin Clayton** and also by telling us about a mid-19th century book written and illustrated by **Spurling** and entitled *Church Walks in Middlesex*. This book was never published but **Peggy** was lucky enough to borrow the text and illustrations including many of the churches now, alas, no longer with us but splendidly recorded for posterity.

List of slides shown:-

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Athelhampton | Badminton | Broadlands |
| Boxgrove | Brasted | Brecon Cathedral |
| Bristol (St. Mary's, Redcliffe) | Bristol Cathedral | Bromsgrove |
| Bury St. Edmunds | Charlecote | Deptford (<i>The Duke</i>) |
| Dinmore House | Duxford | Elmore Church (Glos) |
| Exeter | Great Fosters (Egham) | Hatch End |
| Harrow | Henllan (Wales) | Hawstead (Suffolk?) |
| Kingston | Layer Marney | Lincoln |
| Much Marcle | Oxborough Hall | Puddletown (St. Mary's) |
| Rockingham Castle (Northants) | Romsey Abbey | Rye |
| Salisbury | Swakeleys (Ickenham) | and Tredington (Warwicks) |

London included:-

- | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Battersea (St. Mary's) | Kensington (Warwick Road) | Middle Temple |
| Savoy Chapel | Temple Church | and Westminster Abbey |

Livery Companies included;- Cordwainers, Dyers, Girdlers, Glaziers, Ironmongers, Plasterers and Skinners
Also shown were some slides of the Loire chateaux in France.



DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that the British two finger insult is older than you think? According to *The Lancet*, journal of the British Medical Association, when the French captured English archers in the Middle Ages they cut off the fingers used to draw back the bowstring. To taunt the enemy before battle the English developed the habit of raising the two fingers in defiance. Thus was born the earliest expression of Euro-scepticism!



NEXT MEETINGS

On Thursday, 16th February, **Peggy Foster** will give her talk on *Athelhampton* instead of **John Allen** who gave his talk on 19th January. On Thursday, 16th March, **Pete Taylor** will give a talk on a subject on which he must have a vast amount of knowledge and experience - namely, *Building Heraldry*.



THINGS TO COME - With Apologies to H. G. Wells

We have been working on the identification of arms on the **Atholl** memorial in **Dunkeld Cathedral** from a photograph brought back by our daughter on a recent visit. We are unlikely to complete the task ourselves so we give advanced warning that in the next issue of *Seaxe* we shall be eliciting aid from more knowledgeable members of the Society. It would not surprise us in the least to learn that "**Bill Bloggs**" blazoned this in its entirety in 1967 - but where are the records now!?