

The Seaxe



Ryan

Newsletter of the Middlesex Heraldry Society

Joint Editors - Don & Marjorie Kirby, 2 Jamnagar Close, Staines, Middlesex TW18 2JT (01784 456049)

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Caspar - Ruler of Tarsus

The triumvirate is now complete as **Sedge Smith** has sent us the story of **Caspar**, the third of the **Three Kings of Cologne**, the Magi, - the first **Gentiles** to worship **Jesus**.



The story was told on yet another delightful self produced Christmas card as follows:- *Caspar is usually portrayed as a tall, beardless youth of about twenty and represents the people of Europe and the young followers of Jesus. His gift was Frankincense, a fragrant gum from the trees of Somalia and Southern Arabia used in ceremonies by the*

Egyptians, Babylonians, Persians, Hebrews and is still a part of modern church incense.

The arms attributed to Caspar show a red shield bearing a black eagle beneath three golden fleur-de-lys.

Red signifies even temper, nobility, courage and youth.

The eagle - King of the Heavens - symbolises magnanimity and fortitude.

Fleur-de-lys - flower of the lily and emblematic of the Virgin Mary.

Yet again, with thanks to Sedge and to **Margaret Young**, our illustrator-in-chief, we are delighted to share our pleasure with the readers of **Seaxe**.



In the Time of Queen Bick

by Cynthia Lydiard Cannings

No.9 - Austria and Milan

Many are the stories that have come down to us from the **Crusades**, feats of ancestors evoked by the arms of their descendants; many is the cross bequeathed by those did no more, perhaps, than fight and die; Many the Moor's head recalling a prisoner taken ; many the star signifying the star of **Bethlehem** or the crescent boasting the overthrow of the



infidel. Even the simplest fess can recall a feat of arms - for when, in the aftermath of battle, the **Duke of Austria** unbuckled his sword belt, the fading light revealed a silver band on armour elsewhere stained with the blood of Islam. And so the arms of **Austria** are : *Gules a fess Argent to this very day.*

Most of these tales, like the famous story of de Vere, recounted elsewhere in this series,* naturally refer to deeds

of our own countrymen. But **Leopold of Austria** is not the only foreigner commemorated for his courage in those dark days; the **Duke of Milan** is such another.....

It was well known to all who fought in that glorious cause that the giant, **Volpux**, who marched into battle with Satan upon his crest in the likeness of a serpent devouring a child, boasted that he himself was partial to a Christian child when he could get one. Such was his ferocity that where he came the infidels needed no other champion, for his presence alone was enough to ensure them victory. But his power was at last broken and his sinful life was brought to an end by **Otho of Milan** who sailed for the **Holy Land** in the train of the Count of Verdun, **Godfrey of Bouillon**.

This **Otho**, a man of faith and courage rather than of unusual strength, went up against the giant trusting in the righteousness of his cause and the power of the Cross; and in his faith he was upheld. The fight over he stripped the body of his foe, carrying away the breastplate and helm - which was of such a size that no other could ever wear it - for a souvenir. But the giant's crest he tore from the helm



and thrust it into his belt. *This, at least, shall I wear* he cried in honour of this blessed victory.

The armour, alas, is lost long since but the arms of **Otho's Duchy of Milan** are:- *Argent a serpent undy erect ducally crowned and vorant** an infant proper* to this very day.

* Not yet published

** vorant = devouring - Eds

(First published in the Norfolk Standard of September 1999 and reprinted with permission)



Addendum - Arms of the Duchy of Milan

from **Cynthia Lydiard Cannings**

The reason for the serpent in the arms of the **Duchy of Milan**., for which an absurd and fanciful 'explanation' appears above is very simple. The **Vicecomes** or **Visconti** family, of which **Otho** is posited the founder member, being the first **Viscount**. **not Duke of Milan**, held, in addition to that city, the lordship of the district known, from an important resource as **Angleria**. The resource, from the Latin *anguillæ* and the Italian *anguille*, is *eels*.



New Coat of Arms for St Mary's

One of our friends and a keen non-heraldic 'scout' for Seaxe retired some years ago as a tutor at St Mary's, Strawberry Hill and we were shown a copy of *Simmarian*, the Alumni Magazine of this college of higher education. In it **David Smith** writes - *to celebrate our 150th Anniversary St Mary's has commissioned from the College of Arms a coat of arms. Previously, we have used the coat of arms of Edward the Confessor, a cross and five martlets. We have been granted our own coat of arms based upon that previously used. The college's coat of arms has four martlets facing both left and right. Above the cross and martlets are three septafoils symbolising the process of flowering through education.*



Each septafoil, a highly stylised, seven petalled water-lily also symbolises the Virgin Mary, traditionally depicted in art at each of her scenes of seven joys and seven sorrows. For the crest, a unicorn supporting a torch of learning has been chosen. The unicorn represents Christ. The college motto - Monstra Te Esse Matrem - be a mother to us - remains unchanged and becomes part of the Coat of Arms.*

***Margaret Young** in *A New Dictionary of Heraldry*, edited by **Stephen Friar** writes - *The mystery and magic of the unicorn has been known to all civilizations; the stories and fables concerning it are without number. In the world of heraldry it became known as an elegant and beautiful animal, like a horse but with cloven feet, a lion's tail and a goat's beard, and a delicate spiralling horn on its forehead. In mediæval times the unicorn became the symbol of Christ because of its purity and virtue. Besides these qualities it was believed to possess medicinal powers. The horn was an antidote to poison and no animal would drink from a pool until the unicorn had stirred the water with its horn, thus rendering innocuous any poison that a dragon or serpent had deposited therein. Powdered unicorn horn was used as a cure for many ills, and cups made from it were invaluable against poisoning. The unicorn does not appear to have been used in early heraldry, because it was considered too sacred, but from the fifteenth century, it has become increasingly popular.*

[Your editors have made a stab at a "heraldic" blazon and have come up with the following:- *Azure a cross patonce between four martlets respectant Or on a chief invected Vert three septafoils Argent. Crest:- A unicorn sejant supporting a torch of learning - any better suggestions?*] *Septafoil* - whilst the description is logical the only three references to it we can find are in *A Companion to the*

English Parish Church edited by **Stephen Friar** where it is called a *septfoil* and described as *a figure with seven radiating stylised 'petals' found both as an architectural motif and an heraldic device* - it also suggests that there is a *sixfoil* and an *octofoil*.

Chambers Dictionary states that *septfoil* is *the tormentil plant and is also an architectural term for a figure divided by seven cusps* [a cusp being a toothlike ornament common in Gothic tracery] - from the French *sept* = seven and the Old French *foil* which in turn derives from the Latin *folium* = leaf

In the **Complete Oxford English Dictionary** *Septa* is described as an erroneous form of *Septua*. Has the name been invented by the College of Arms or is there a precedent?

[We are grateful to **Karen Smith**, Editor of *Simmarian*, for permission to reproduce the splendid new arms, a copy of which she was kind enough to send us, and also to quote from the article by **David Smith**. Eds.]



Militaria No. 26 -

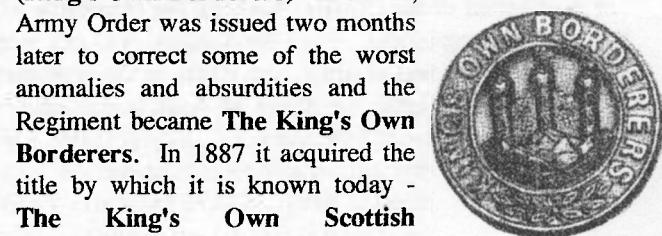
The King's Own Scottish Borderers

The King's Own Scottish Borderers is one of only five Regiments of the Line to have remained unchanged and unamalgamated since its foundation in 1689 as **The Earl of Leven's Regiment of Foot**. Its task of defending Edinburgh against the forces of ex King James II is shown in its alternative title - **The Edinburgh Regiment**. The regiment, according to custom, changed its name with its colonels until 1751 when it became the **25th (Edinburgh) Regiment of Foot** and in 1782 the **25th (or the Sussex) Regiment of Foot**. The Scottish connection was restored in 1802 when its title was changed to **25th (or King's Own Borderers) Regiment of Foot**. But, as a result of Army General Order No.41 of 1st May 1881 it



was partially lost again when it was decreed that *The Infantry of the Line and Militia will in future be organised Territorial Regiments, each of four battalions for England, Scotland, and Wales, and of five battalions for Ireland: the 1st and 2nd of these being Line battalions and the remainder Militia.* This

resulted in a change in title to **The York Regiment (King's Own Borderers)** - however, an amendment to the Army Order was issued two months later to correct some of the worst anomalies and absurdities and the Regiment became **The King's Own Borderers**. In 1887 it acquired the title by which it is known today - **The King's Own Scottish Borderers**.



It is one of the six 'Minden Regiments' described in *Seaxe* No.15 of December 1996.

Its nicknames are **Kosbies** - for obvious reasons but **Kokky-Olly Birds** - for reasons unknown and **The Botherers** - again the reason is not known but it is thought that it might be a corruption of Borderers.

The King's Own Scottish Borderers fought at Culloden in 1746 at Minden, Martinique, and in Afghanistan. The Regiment was involved in the Boer War and was awarded the battle honour - Paardeburg. Among its many other battle honours are Mons, Marne, Aisne, Loos, Ypres, Hill 60, Somme, Delville Wood, Arras, Vimy, Menin Road, Passchendaele, Cambrai, Bapaume and Gallipoli and Suvla in the Great War when the Regiment provided 14 Battalions of Infantry. Its losses were appalling - from a total population of around a quarter of a million nearly seven thousand men were killed and over twenty thousand wounded - one in five of the adult population!

In WWII the regiment provided seven battalions and earned the battle honours Dunkirk, Caen, North Arakan, Imphal and Irawaddy (Burma). Perhaps their greatest glory was the dropping at Arnhem of the 7th Battalion as

part of the Airborne Division. The battle honour was dearly bought - as only 76 men from a total strength of 740 answered the roll-call when they returned from the battle.

The Regiment fought in the Korean War and has undergone ten tours of duty in Northern Ireland. At present the Regiment is serving in Cyprus.

The Victoria Cross has been won by six members of the regiment - one in the South African War, four in the Great War and one in the Korean War. The first award was made posthumously to **Lieutenant G. H. B. Coulson DSO** at Lambrechtfontein in the Orange Free State on 18th May 1901.

Near Loos on 25th September 1915 **Piper D. Laidlaw** of the 7th Battalion, during the worst of the bombardment and just before his Company went "over the top", saw that his comrades were shaken by the effects of gas - with absolute coolness and complete disregard for his own safety **Piper Laidlaw** mounted the parapet, marched up and down, played his Company out of the trench with the Regimental March - *All the Blue Bonnets are over the Border*. The effect of his example was immediate and the Company dashed out to the assault. He continued to play until badly wounded.

The Korean War VC was **Private (later Sergeant) William Speakman** who won his award at the Battle of the Imjin River and who threw bricks, bottles, stones and anything else that came to hand, at the Chinese, after the ammunition ran out. Happily he is still alive to tell the tale.

The oldest occupied barracks in Britain houses the Regimental Headquarters and the Regimental Museum - The Barracks, Berwick-on-Tweed, Northumberland.

The recruitment area covers the six counties of the Scottish Border - Berwick, Roxburgh, Selkirk, Dumfries, Wigtown and the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright.



The badges illustrated are described as follows:-

Glengarry - the Pre-Territorial Era - 1874-81

(a) A strap inscribed *Kings Own Borderers* surmounted by the Royal Crest (in this version the lion is crowned) - in the centre the numerals 25. All in brass.

(b) A circlet inscribed *The Kings Own Borderers* surmounted by the Royal Crest (in this version the lion is uncrowned) - on this a St Andrew's Cross. Within the circlet the Castle of Edinburgh with three turrets and above this a scroll inscribed *In veritate religionis confido* and below a further scroll inscribed *Nisi dominus frustra*. A wreath of thistles surrounds the circlet and at its base the Roman numerals XXV. All in brass but sometimes found in white metal.

Other-Ranks' Helmet-Plate Centre - 1881-84

On circlet *Kings Own Borderers* - in centre the Castle of Edinburgh and below a scroll inscribed *Nisi dominus frustra*. All in gilding metal.

Current Badge

Upon a saltire, the Castle of Edinburgh with mottoes *In veritate religionis confido* (I trust in the truth of my belief) and *Nisi dominus frustra* (Unless the Lord be with us all is in vain) all ensigned with the Royal Crest..



Much interesting information has been gleaned from **British Army 2000** a beautifully presented, recently published history of the 58 Regiments and Corps which now make up the British Army. Thanks to the generosity of corporate and individual sponsors much needed income for **The Army Benevolent Fund** is being generated by sales of this excellent hard-backed book. It is available by writing to  **The Army Benevolent Fund, Customer Services, Dept.ABF001, PO Box 1940, Fairford, Glos. GL7 4NA.** The book can be ordered by telephone on 01285 713456 or by Fax on 01285 713999 and the cost is £24.95 including p&p.



Did You Know?

At Christmas we were given a very strange "block" calendar with a weird and wonderful dissertation on one of many varied subjects each day. Today, 22nd January, we are told is the **Feast Day of St. Vincent of Saragossa**, the patron saint of winemakers -- and of drunkards, too! An old proverb about him states -

*If on St. Vincent's Day the sky is clear,
More wine than water will crown the year.*

Looking out of our window the odds are on water!

Saints, Signs and Symbols by W. Ellwood Post tells



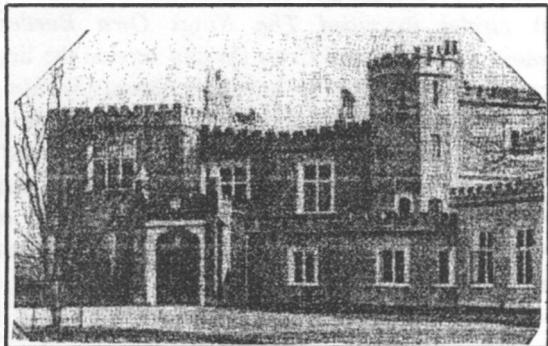
us that his symbol is a silver dalmatic with red bands on a red field and on a silver chief a black gridiron.

[According to the **Chambers Dictionary** a **dalmatic** is a loose-fitting, wide-sleeved ecclesiastical vestment, worn especially by deacons in the Roman Catholic Church, also sometimes by bishops. From the Latin **dalmatica** - a robe worn by persons of rank, on the pattern of a dress worn in Dalmatia.]



The Arms at Wentworth

Over the main doorway to the clubhouse at **Wentworth** is a shield bearing the arms of a comparative nonentity impaling the family arms of one of the most illustrious



men this country has ever produced. So what is the story of one of the most famous golf courses in the world?

The Wentworth golf courses were shaped from land which was once known as **Podenhale**. It was part of the small nunnery of Broomhall, endowed by Chertsey Abbey soon after the Norman Conquest but, as a result of much sharp practice, the area gradually fell into lay hands. At first a series of local yeoman farmers moved in but later, especially in the 18th century, the buyers were mainly professional people who treated land as an investment but usually turned out to be absentee landlords. The name **Podenhale** too has undergone many changes and is scarcely recognisable as the **Portnall** of today.

In 1761 some 100 acres acquired by **Robert Lord**, a London businessman, had been inherited by his daughter, **Elizabeth**, a long time widow of Lt. General Thomas Wentworth who sold the parcel of land to **Dr. John Jebb**, whose son, **David**, disposed of Virginia Farm, a going concern just south of **The Wheatsheaf** on the A30. The buyer was **Culling Charles Smith**, the fourth son of a family which had returned to England after long service with the East India Company. He had made a socially prestigious marriage with **Lady Ann Fitzroy**, widowed sister of **Arthur Wellesley**, the future **Duke of Wellington** but had yet to settle in a home of his own. His purchase of Virginia Farm enabled him to build a fairly large house about a hundred yards up the hill which we all know as the clubhouse and which **Smith** called **Wentworth's** after the soldier's widow whose holding had become merged in the site. The **Smith's** tenancy lasted some forty years and was exemplary if not spectacular. **Culling Smith** was well off, although most of his money was tied up in a trust designed as a marriage settlement in favour of his wife but he was, nevertheless a chronic debtor and in 1842, after years of being in hock, **Wentworth's** had to be sold - but the colourful coat of arms over the entrance porch is a lasting reminder of the man who chose a name for the modern golfing complex we all now know as **Wentworth**.

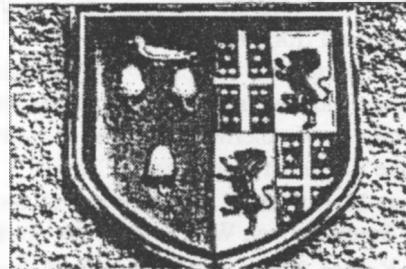
The buyer this time was an Irishman, **Sir George Caulfield**, who stayed for twelve years before selling to the Countess de **Morella**, who, as **Marianne Catherine Richards**, the daughter of a wealthy Welsh barrister, was living in Eaton Square but wished to acquire a country home. Her husband was **Ramon Cabrera**, the Count de **Morella**, a defeated Carlist general known as the **Spanish**

Tiger - but that is another story. The countess died in 1915 at the ripe old age of 95 leaving her younger daughter, **Ada**, the sole owner of the **Wentworth** domain. She was a spinster and, having no use for such a large property, sold the estate to **W. G. Tarrant**, who was responsible for the developing of St. George's Hill at Weybridge where so many entertainers have their palatial homes. **Tarrant's** plan was to develop the golf course, use the house as the clubhouse and to build "superior" houses around the golf course. Unfortunately in the slump of the early 1930s his family company failed and its activities were transferred to Wentworth Estates Ltd., a company formed for that purpose.

For much of World War II the club premises and many private residences were requisitioned by the War Office, initially as the GHQ of Home Defence should the country be invaded. Later they served as the Rear HQ of the Army Group engaged in planning the invasion of Europe which saw frequent visits by high ranking officers, including **Eisenhower** and **Montgomery**. More recently the **Wentworth** estate has been bought by a Japanese consortium who, it must be said, have not interfered with the buildings, have even left **Culling Smith's** arms (regularly repainted!) over the clubhouse door and who run it as a first class golf course catering for "well heeled" members and for competitions attracting top players from

around the world.

Arms:- *Vert three acorns slipped Or a martlet for difference (Smith of Hadley) impaling quarterly 1&4 Gules a cross Argent between five plates in saltire in each quarter (Wellesley) 2&3 Or a lion rampant Gules (Colley)*



Smith/Wellesley coat of arms over main entrance to Wentworth Clubhouse.

Dulce Est

The Daily Telegraph prints an apt (and we believe) affectionate rejoinder by **Oliver Pritchett** to the "toffee-nosed" gaffe by **Frank Dobson**, the former Labour Health Minister currently running for the office of Mayor of London. He writes *in spite of all the claims that we now have a classless society, many of the great toffee-nosed families still guard their heritage jealously and these families are listed in Debrett's Nasal Caramel which includes the names of all their illustrious toffee-nosed ancestors. Turn the pages and you come across those noses that have been turned up at great events of our history, men who have cold-shouldered our kings in crucial battles, people who have kept their disdain in the most trying and humiliating circumstances. You see their coats of arms - a lion keeping itself to itself; a gryphon ignoring a unicorn; a portcullis with a No Hawkers, No Trespassers sign attached. And you can find the mottoes of some of these great families, such as What Are All These People Doing Here? and I Can't Believe This is Happening to Me and Get Your Coat We're Leaving.*

All the King's Men

In a letter to the *Daily Telegraph* in November, last year, David Telfer, of Westgate-in-Weardale, co. Durham wrote
- Returning from abroad to see your recent correspondence concerning the BBC film All the King's Men, I can confirm that murder did occur during that campaign.

Following an attempt to capture high ground overlooking Allied positions, my great-grandfather, Lt-Col Henry G. A. Moore, surrendered to a German Officer and a superior number of Turkish troops to avoid the certain death of his men.

As he turned away having given up his revolver, he was bayoneted through the spine by a Turkish soldier while the German officer looked on.

This incident is detailed in the regimental records of the 6th East Yorks, where my great-grandfather is listed as "Murdered in Action".

[The potted history of the East Yorkshire Regiment appeared in *Seaxe* No.19 of September 1997 - Eds]



100th Birthday Coin Minted

We understand that, to commemorate the 100th birthday of the Queen Mother, a £5 Centenary Crown has been minted.

The coin's designer, Ian Rank-Broadley, said that he wanted a realistic portrait which showed Her Majesty's dignified bearing but also the elegance and grace for which she is so admired. She is seen smiling, in profile over her signature and flanked by flag waving crowds. The reverse side, like all coins, features her daughter.

The Queen Mother appeared on commemorative coins for both her 80th and 90th birthdays. The latest coin which is silver coloured will be on sale initially in a presentation folder for £9.95.



Obscure and Unfrequented

In 1798 a travel writer described All Saint's at Tudeley, near Tonbridge in Kent as "obscure and unfrequented" but that was until about thirty years ago. It all started tragically, with a sailing accident off Rye in 1963. Sarah Venetia, the young daughter of Sir Henry and Lady d'Avigdor-Goldsmid, who lived in the village, was drowned and her father commissioned Marc Chagall to design a memorial East window. It was made in Rheims and dedicated in 1967. But that was only part of the memorial - her family and friends paid for the restoration of the church. Sir Henry commissioned eleven more windows, the last four being installed in 1985 - the year Chagall died in his nineties! So they became a memorial to him too - and it is well worth the journey to visit this lovely restored Saxon church with its wonderful glass.



Best Wishes from Bourne

On their delightful Christmas card of Peterborough Cathedral in the snow, **Peter & Joan Bentley** have asked us to pass on their best wishes for the Millennium to all members of the *Middlesex* in the hope that they will meet up with all, or at least some of us, during 2000.



Next Meetings

Royal Air Force Badges

by Roland Symonds

Chairman City of Bath Heraldic Society
on Thursday, 16th March, 2000



The Heraldry of St. Machar's Cathedral

by Peter Esslemont, Hon.FHS

on Thursday, 13th April, 2000



All meetings are held in the Library,
Ruislip Manor at 8.00pm

The Chiltern Heraldry Group

The Heraldry of Gray's Inn

by Martin J. Davies Hon.FHS

on Saturday, 25th March, 2000
in the Church Hall, Iffley.



Round About the Chilterns

by E.N. (Pete) Taylor, Hon.FHS

on Saturday, 29th April, 2000
in the St. John Ambulance Brigade Hall,
Amersham.



Meetings begin at 2.30pm and
are followed by a light tea
provided by members.

