



The Seaxe

Newsletter of the Middlesex Heraldry Society

Joint Editors - Don & Marjorie Kirby, 2 Jannagar Close, Staines, Middlesex TW18 2JT

(☎ 01784 456049 - e-mail seaxe@tinyworld.co.uk)

No.36

(Founded 1976)

May 2001

Frances (Fay) Robson - RIP

It is with great sadness that we have to record the death of Fay Robson, after a short illness faced with typical courage, and down to earth wit and humour.

Fay had been a member of the Middlesex Heraldry Society for many years, coping with the journey from St. Albans either on her own or with Jim, and later with Stuart and Muriel. She made a major contribution to our meetings, having given twelve lectures on topics ranging over heraldry in the National Trust, heraldic glass and the pedigrees of the associated families. Her talks were always meticulously researched, delivered clearly and with authority; they were illustrated by superb slides, many taken by Jim.

Fay always took a full part in discussions at our meetings, asking pertinent and searching questions, and adding greatly to our mutual knowledge. It was a considerable loss to us when she and Jim moved away to be nearer Andrew. Although unable to visit us frequently, she nevertheless continued to give us her talks, setting standards which we could all wish to emulate. She had begun to think of her next talk - on the Wyndhams - but was reluctant to embark on what would have been her thirteenth, about which she was very superstitious. Our sympathy goes out to Jim, to Michael and to Andrew and his family. Several of us were able to attend the funeral service at Wotton, where her grave looks out over a little valley, a most appropriate resting place for one who began her journey in Devon and explored and enjoyed so so much of our English heritage. KH

Happy Memories

Your editors treasure two very happy memories of Fay Robson - one was a visit she insisted upon to Petworth House in August last year so that we could learn more about the Sussex branch of the Percy family. She took us out to lunch and actually kept *cave* as we took illicit photographs of the Percy arms in the chapel! The last time we saw her was in the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice at Farnham, only about ten days before she died, when we had a very happy and animated conversation for over two hours. It was then that we learned what a major part heraldry had played in her life - and we are proud to be able to say that she was one of the staunchest supporters of *Seaxe*. Thank you Fay for your friendship - we shall all miss you in so many ways.

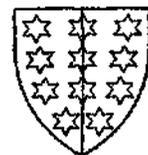
☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

The air is full of farewells to the dying and mournings for the dead - Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



It was with sadness that we learned of the recent death of Sir Colin Cole, Garter King of Arms from 1978 to 1992. Sometime Fitzalan Pursuivant, Portcullis Pursuivant

and Windsor Herald also of Sir Walter Verco, Porroy and Ulster King of Arms from 1971 to 1980. Sometime Rouge Croix Pursuivant and Chester Herald.



History is neither more nor less than biography on a large scale - Aiphonse Lamartine

Health and Industry (Part II) by John Uncles

By this time [1974] the run-down of the railway workshops had started and the allusion in the new arms to the town's history is played down and subtle, being confined to symbolism in the supporters; we now have 'iron horses' breathing fire and with collars reminiscent of railway lines. Their tinctures recall the handsome **Brunswick Green** livery and the profusion of gleaming brasswork borne by **GWR** express locomotives.

The green field of the arms was chosen to symbolise the downs and countryside surrounding **Swindon** and **Highworth** whilst the *barry chief* represents the **River Thames** to the north. The castle again alludes to the **Vilett** arms but a third tower has been added – to recall that which featured in the base of the **Highworth RDC** arms. The crest is also based on the arms and crest of **Highworth**; the *stockaded crown on a hill* indicating the *high worth* and the swan – the **River Thames**. The swan's interesting collar is derived from the arms of the **Warneford** family. The motto remained as *Salubritas et Industria*.

For the sake of completeness, the arms granted to **Highworth RDC** on 12th March 1968 were:- *Per saltire Vert and Gules, a saltire Argent between, in chief, a mute swan rousant Proper, in base a tower Argent and in fess two hammers erect Or. Crest:- On a wreath of the colours, on a mount Vert issuant from a crown vallary Or, a garb of wheat Proper, girt with a circlet per fess embattled Sable and Argent. Motto: Magni Consilium Pretii. [Counsel of Great Price]*

For a while the attractive new arms of **Thamesdown** were to be seen on the town's municipal buses and other vehicles but all too soon it was replaced by the inevitable logo – based surprisingly on the letter 'T'! Some twenty years later Parliament had another go at reforming local government and the politicians' tinkering this time saw, in our area, the abolition of the **County of Avon** and the establishment of various 'unitary authorities', resulting in the nominal restoration of **Bristol's** county status and the creation of a **Bath & North East Somerset Authority** (known by local residents as '*Banes*' since nobody has been able to think up a better name) – an unholy marriage of town and country if there ever was one. But I digress and my prejudices are showing! **Thamesdown** found that as from 1st April 1997 it had become a **Unitary Authority** and was henceforth to be known as the **Borough of Swindon** (again!) For some time it had been felt that the preponderance of green and blue in the arms of **Thamesdown** had resulted in a coat that was not particularly distinct, especially when viewed from a distance, and so the new authority, like its predecessor, immediately sought a new grant of arms. This time, however, there was a problem in that the new council did not feel able to justify the expenditure involved in view of the financial problems it faced. The solution was found in sponsorship and the new grant of arms was paid for by **Honda (UK) Manufacturing Limited** who by this time were

amongst the major employers in **Swindon**, the railway works having been completely closed down by **British Rail Engineering Limited** in 1986 – a masterpiece of timing as the celebrations of the **GWR's 150th Anniversary** were in full swing when the announcement was made. Thanks to **Honda (UK)** however a new grant of arms was obtained in early 1997, the design being undertaken by **Mr Robert Noel**, then **Bluemantle Pursuivant** but now **Lancaster Herald**. Surprisingly the arms do not contain the Japanese *mon* of the sponsors(!)

The arms are blazoned as follows:- *Quarterly, per fess Azure and Gules; in the first and fourth quarters, a mural crown Argent enfiled by two hammers in saltire Or and in the second and third quarters, a garb Or; on a chief Argent a representation of the 'King George V' locomotive Proper. Crest:- Upon a helm with a wreath Argent and Azure, upon a mount Vert within a crown vallary Or, a swan rising Argent, legged and beaked Proper, collared per fess embattled Sable and Or, supporting with the dexter claw an automobile wheel Proper; mantled Azure doubled Argent. Supporters:- On either side a pegasus Argent maned and unguled Or, breathing flames Proper, about their necks a collar Gules, pendant therefrom by a chain Gules, a crescent Azure.*



As will be seen this third coat of arms for **Swindon** contains elements from the previous two and in its tincturing the shield has reverted very much to that of the original of 1901. The castles have however been simplified to a mural crown whilst the garb, taken from the **Highworth** arms, signifies the fertility of the area. The crest is very similar to that of **Thamesdown** but the inclusion of a motor-car wheel is interesting, the motor industry having developed in **Swindon** as the railway industry declined. The supporters have, however, metamorphosed from iron horses into *pegasi*, still breathing fire (now officially '*flames of knowledge*'); the winged horse, we are told, signifying wisdom, ingenuity and industry. The crescents of the

Goddard family have interestingly changed colour once again. Like the 1901 arms, the chief depicts a railway engine, this time **No.6000 King George V**, built in 1926 and regarded as the most famous locomotive to have been constructed at **Swindon**. **Mr Noel** was obviously not going to run the risk of criticism such as that which surrounded the *White Horse* for so many years; not only does the blazon specify the precise locomotive but its depiction on the Grant of Arms shows it in great detail. This is, to my mind, going over the top a bit as heraldry is supposed to embody a degree of simplicity. Also the omission of the tender makes *King George V* appear somewhat incomplete. The blazon *Proper*, in this case, means green, black, gold and brass and, if one wanted to be really pedantic one could argue that the blazon should read *a representation of the 'King George V' locomotive as it was, following its participation in the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Centenary Exhibition of 1927* for the famous bell which it acquired on that Trans-Atlantic visit is clearly visible on the Grant – and for a brief period after Nationalisation the engine was actually painted blue! Despite these changes over the years, one thing has remained constant – the motto *Salubritas et Industria*. (Health and Industry – the title of this article).

My thanks are due to **Mr Brian Fisher**, formerly **Mayor's Officer of Swindon**, for providing me with much interesting material relating to the content of this article.

[And our thanks are due to **John Uncles** the writer of the article and also the **Editor of Tabard 2000**, the occasional journal of the **City of Bath Heraldic Society**, for his kind permission to copy the article published in April 2000 - Eds).

☆☆☆☆☆☆

Saint Anne

Saint Anne lived in the 1st century and was the mother of **Saint Mary the Virgin** and, of course, the grandmother of **Jesus**. Her loving care of her daughter is represented by the *silver border masoned in black*. The *silver lily on a blue field* refers to the girlhood of the *the Virgin Mary*. **Saint Anne** is the patron saint of carpenters, broom-makers and housewives.



☆☆☆☆☆☆

Horse Sense

The **1st Duke of Wellington** (The Iron Duke) is said to have been approached by a man who accused him of being Irish. "No" said the Duke. At which the man replied "But you were born there". The Duke's answer was "Sir, a man may be born in a stable but that doesn't make him a horse".

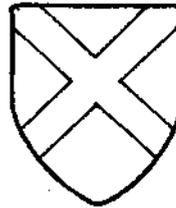
☆☆☆☆☆☆

In the Time of Queen Dick

by **Cynthia Lydiard Cannings**

No.9 - Fitzgerald of Kildare

Crom a boo shouted **John**, fourth **Earl of Kildare**, brandishing his sword and rushing upon the foe on that fateful day in 1261; and *Crom a boo* yelled his son **Maurice**, at his side. But dreadful though these cries were in the ears of **Clan McCarthy**, the hereditary enemy, the battle went against the **FitzGerald**s, and both **John** and **Maurice** were slain.



When the news reached **Kildare Thomas, Maurice's** son and now

the fifth Earl, was no more than a babe in arms; and the arms were not human. The manner of it was thus: when the household glimpsed afar the weary company of survivors returning from the battle, mothers, fathers, sisters and wives ran out to meet them. Among the anxious women searching for loved faces and begging news of the missing were the nurses charged with the care of the infant Earl, who lay deserted in his cradle. But he was not long alone. Prompted by curiosity a great monkey, much valued by the late Earl for its cheerful antics and affectionate ways, but regarded by the Earl's simple retainers with deep suspicion, pushed open the nursery door, always till now firmly shut against it. In their hurry and distress this precaution had been quite neglected by the new Earl's attendants; and the monkey, drawn by the small noises and gentle movements, crossed the floor and peered into the cradle.

Meanwhile, in the ante-room, another drama was toward. A candle, lit to help the nursery maid set tiny stitches in an embroidered shawl, had in the flurry been knocked, all unregarded, into a kist* of baby linen; and soon the flames began to spread.

The first the household knew of any of this was when they turned at last for home, only to see tendrils of smoke wreathing the windows of the nursery floor. Great was the lamentation when it was found that the fire forbade all access to the baby's room. Some ran for water, though it was obvious they could never douse the flames before the nursery was gutted; some for ladders, though they knew no ladder on the estate was long enough to reach the window.

Crom a boo. *Crom a boo* wailed the women; for the equivocal cry of the **FitzGerald**s, though intended as a warning to their enemies that they would lay them waste, means *I will burn!* Having betrayed father and grandfather by proving false, it seemed like now to betray the son by proving only too true.

Then movement at the nursery window drew the attention of all. A hand, but no human hand, was pushing at the panes; a wrinkled, grey visage was peering down; and the swaddled form of the fifth Earl appeared, held helpless above the terrible drop.

The crowd watched the next act in the drama of **Kildare** in terrified silence, broken only by frightened gasps. The monkey, clutching its tiny master tight in the crook of one arm, paused on the sill, while the fire

roared at its back and the heat rose across the face of the grey stones, till the very battlements shimmered. Once more it looked down; then turned and began to climb.

Slantwise it climbed, away from the great heat pulsing from the window, clinging to cracks and crevices invisible from the ground. The distance was not great; but it seemed to the watchers that an age passed before, hampered by its burden, it gained the safety of the roof. It swung itself up, still cradling the infant, crossed the leads in an awkward, three-legged run to the shelter of the great chimneys, and crouched there, chattering and chiding; but still holding fast to the orphaned Earl.

Sure, an' 'tis a Christian beast, after all, cried the women.

The fire, bereft of nourishment once the nursery suite had been consumed, was soon quenched. The great trapdoor to the roof was opened and the monkey coaxed down; though it would not surrender its trust till it was allowed to lay the child, smiling at its adventure, in the great bed of the **Earls of Kildare**. And when **Thomas** was old enough to understand, he rewarded his playmate and constant companion by adopting the motto *Non Immemor Beneficii*, (Not unmindful of kindness); and by placing a likeness of his friend upon his helm. And in recognition of the selfless act that saved their line from extinction, that motto and crest are borne by the **FitzGerald**s of **Kildare** and their descendants, the **Dukes of Leinster**, to this very day.

(First published in The Norfolk Standard of October 2000 and reprinted with the permission of the editor and the author).

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

[The arms are blazoned *Argent a saltire Gules*. *According to the OED, a *kist* is a Scottish word owing its form to Norse influence and can be used to describe anything from a servant's trunk to any chest, box, basket or coffer and even a coffin! – Eds]

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Groat was Saved

In a letter to the **Daily Telegraph** a **Mr Sanders** writes that one of the best kept secrets of English history is the continued existence of the groat, the silver fourpenny (4d) piece. Although its issue ceased in 1662, opposition to its withdrawal rumbled on unreported for the best part of two centuries, until the efforts of the unrecorded heroes of the "*Keep the Groat*" – by then the "*Restore the Groat*" – campaign surfaced with its reappearance in 1836.

Although it was withdrawn from general circulation again in the 1850s, the groat still exists today. It is that same silver 4d piece, totally unaffected by decimalisation, struck as part of the **Sovereign's** annual **Maudy Money!**

(Item in **Seaxe** No.35 of February 2001 refers – Eds)

Good King Wenceslas revisited - by Henry the Lion

from **Arnold Rabbow**

In No.35 of **The Seaxe** **Sedge Smith** paid homage to **Good King Wenceslas** with a pretty Christmas card showing the lion arms of **Bohemia** and the alleged eagle shield of **St..Wenceslas**. Although the story of **Good King Wenceslas** which is so popular in **England** turned out to be fiction, the **Good King** himself was real enough. He ruled **Bohemia** (not as king, but as duke) from 928 to 935 when he was murdered.

Having lived well before the dawn of heraldry he of course did not bear arms himself. Still, the black eagle, with red flames emanating from his body on a silver field, is not just an invention but served as the first

coat of arms of **Bohemia** from the 12th to the 13th century. The black eagle of course mirrors the black **German** eagle because **Bohemia** in those days was a fief of the **German Empire**.



In the course of the 13th century it was gradually replaced by a different coat, *the white double-tailed lion on a red field*. *The flaming eagle* was not

forgotten, however. It lived on as the attributed coat of arms of the **Bohemian** national saint, **Wenceslas** (and as the arms of the bishopric and town of **Trient (Trento)** in Italy thanks to a royal grant of **King John of Bohemia** in the 14th century)

But what were the reasons for the change of the **Bohemian** arms? This question has always interested me because it has a connection to **Brunswick (Braunschweig)**, my home town. As readers of **The Seaxe** know, the municipal arms of **Brunswick*** show *a red lion on a white field*, and I have always suspected that they reflect, perhaps through an inversion of the tinctures, the arms of the famous **Duke Henry the Lion** (d. 1195) son-in-law of **King Henry II of England**, who built a cathedral and his castle here and ruled the duchies of **Saxony** (i.e. today's **Lower Saxony**) and **Bavaria** from here.

However, unfortunately no pictorial representation of **Henry the Lion's** shield has come to light yet and an equestrian seal of 1154 which, according to a drawing of an 13th century archivist, showed a lion shield, is so worn down that the contents of the shield are no longer recognizable. But, strange as it may sound, it could well be that the **Bohemian** lion tells us what **Henry's** lion looked like.

In **Bohemia** a legend of a hero named **Bruncvik (Brunswick)** has for centuries been very popular. He was modelled after several literary versions of the legendary adventures of the famous duke who had been a pilgrim to the **Holy Land**. A prominent part in the story is played by **Henry's** faithful companion, a lion, who on several occasions saved his master's life. The real kick of the story for heraldists is that **Bruncvik** when he had returned home and became the ruler of **Bohemia** he replaced the aforementioned eagle coat by the lion arms.

How Henry the Lion, although a German, came to be revered as a Czech national hero, can be explained by politics. Czech nationalism resented the eagle coat because it always reminded them of their overlord, the emperor. Now Henry the Lion in his day had been the most prominent adversary of the emperor (Frederick the Redbeard), thus becoming an avatar of princely independence from the imperial sovereign - exactly what the Bohemian dukes and kings strove for.

And again, it is no coincidence that a lion represented the princely opposition. In fact many of the early territorial arms in the Empire reflected this antagonism: Those who sided with the emperor or were his loyal vassals often chose an eagle (like early Bohemia, Moravia, Poland, Brandenburg, Lorraine, Austria, Tyrol, and many of the free imperial cities), whereas the more down-to-earth, but all the same rampant lion was popular with those who, although of course also feudatories of the emperor, struggled to get rid of his overlordship.

So, it could well have been that Bohemians not only adopted Henry the Lion into their national pantheon, but also his coat of arms. And the colours white and red are another clue (and in fact complementary to the inversed colours of the Brunswick town arms) for the original colours of Henry's lion.

And even the double tail which right from the start was considered in Bohemia as a special distinction of their national lion (and its royal crown) can easily be explained. Although they revered their hero Brunswick the Czechs had to alter his arms at least a bit in order to make his arms their own.

*See **Seaxe** No.28 of July 1999

(We are deeply indebted to Dr Arnold Rabbow, our German friend and a great supporter of **Seaxe** for this erudite article written in faultless English – Eds)

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Thought for the Day

"and what is the use of a book," thought Alice, "without pictures.....?" (From **Alice in Wonderland** by **Lewis Carroll**). This was our belief when feeling like throwing the new computer out of the window!

Raised in 1689 as **Colonel Zachariah Tiffin's Enniskillen Regiment** it became **27th (Inniskilling) Regiment of Foot** in 1751. In 1854 the **3rd Madras**



(European Infantry) Regiment of the Honourable East India Company was raised but was transferred to the British army establishment in 1861 and renamed the **108th (Madras Infantry) Regiment of Foot**. These two regiments merged in 1881 to become the **1st and 2nd Battalions** of the **Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers**.

A former member of the regiment was **Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck** who fought against **Rommel** in the Western Desert during **WWII**.

The nicknames of the regiment were *The Skins*, *The Skillingers* and *The Lumps*.

The regimental badge of the **27th** is described as *a grenade with, on the base, the Castle of Enniskillen*.

The motto of the regiment is *Nec aspera terrent* (Nor do difficulties deter).

In 1968 the regiment amalgamated with the Royal Ulster Rifles and the Royal Irish Fusiliers to form the Royal Irish Rangers. In 1992 there was a further amalgamation - this time with the Ulster Defence Regiment and the Royal Irish Regiment, disbanded in 1922, was reborn and arguably became the largest infantry regiment in the Army. It would appear that this is the first time, in the history of the British Army, that the name of a disbanded regiment has been awarded to a formation that has no connection whatsoever with the original regiment.



The badge of the Royal Irish Rangers which is now worn, without the scroll, by the Royal Irish Regiment is described as - *The Angel Harp ensigned with the Crown*.

The 27th fought at Martinique and in the War of American Independence and the Napoleonic Wars. The Peninsular War added Badajoz, Nivelle, Orthes, Pyrenees, Salamanca, Toulouse & Vittoria to the regiment's battle honours. Central India was awarded for the part it played during the Indian Mutiny whilst it was involved in the Boer War and took part in the Relief of Ladysmith. Among its many other battle honours Mons, Marne, Aisne, Messines, Le Cateau, Arras, Polygon Wood, Cambrai, Ypres, Somme and Suvla (Gallipoli) were awarded in the Great War. In WWII the regiment earned the battle honours North West Europe, North Africa, Anzio, Sicily, Cassino and Burma..

The **Victoria Cross** has been won by eight members of the regiment - all in the Great War - of these

Captain Gerald O'Sullivan and Corporal James Somers (promoted Sergeant in the field) were together involved in a number of heroic deeds in Calipoli resulting in the award of a **Victoria Cross** to each of them. Captain O'Sullivan was badly wounded but returned to duty and was later posted missing believed killed. His body was never found. There are no references to Sergeant Somers in any accounts regarding the Inniskillings after 1915 but on 1st April 1917 he was transferred to the Royal Army Service Corps and given a new number. It is surmised that this was a consequence of his injuries but it is known that he subsequently served in France and was invalided home to Ireland having survived a gas attack; he died in his parent's home in Tipperary on 7th May 1918.

The regimental headquarters are at 5, Waring Street, Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Ian Hallows states merely that the recruitment area is Ireland!

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Next Meetings

+++++

There will be no Meeting in July or August but here is an early reminder of the **Annual General Meeting and Members' Evening** on Thursday, 21st September

+++++

We are all looking forward to seeing the slides of photographs you have taken since the AGM last year

+++++

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

The Chiltern Heraldry Group

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Claydon, Cotehele and the Chicheley Chapel;
HERALDRY
AT THREE HOUSES

by Dr. Malcolm Golin

on **Saturday, 15th September, 2001**
in the Parish Hall, White Waltham

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

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

The Arms of John Dent

We must apologise to **John Dent**, Editor of **The Norfolk Standard**, country member of our Society and good friend, for failing to appreciate that on 13th October 2000 he received a **Grant of Arms** for which he has waited over five years. The College should also grant him a discount for holding his money for so long!

The **Arms** are blazoned;- *Gules on a fess cotised Argent six fusils conjoined throughout Gules.*

Crest:- *Upon a helm on a wreath Argent and Gules a wyvern Or gorged of a*

Saxon crown and holding in the dexter claw a seaxe Argent. Mantling:- Gules doubled Argent. Motto:- Ex dentibus draconis emanaverunt homines (From dragons' teeth came forth men). **Badge:-** *Within an annulet Argent thereon lozenges conjoined throughout Gules a thunderbolt Or enflamed proper.*

John writes **the coat is obviously canting. The crest shows my Middlesex origin and is only slightly canting as in the Middle Ages a sword blow could be known as a dint or dent. The badge, too, is canting; The annulet is based on the fess of the arms and again the thunderbolt could be known in the Middle Ages as a dint or dent. The motto, which derived from the story of Jason, links the canting element and the wyvern of the crest with the classical thunderbolt, sometimes known as Jove's thunderbolt.**

He goes on to say that **the coat is, he thinks, simple and with a mediæval feel. It was originally even simpler as it was not cotised and had only five fusils. This passed Garter's ordinary but unfortunately it was then found to be too close to a mediæval coat in Devon. So there had to be two changes hence the extra fusil and the cotise. But I am quite pleased with it. The only snag is that it took five and a half years to be granted. I signed the Memorial and paid my money on 16th April 1995, the Letters Patent were signed on 6th July 2000 and I finally received them on Friday, 13th October 2000; any significance in that date?**

[Congratulations, John, it was worth waiting for and although we would have liked to hold the announcement back until September when we hope to publish our Middlesex based 25th Anniversary edition of **Seaxe**, we felt you had already spent enough time waiting for things to happen - Eds]

