



# THE SEAXE



*The Journal of the Middlesex Heraldry Society (Founded 1976)*

No. 59

website: [www.middlesex-heraldry.org.uk](http://www.middlesex-heraldry.org.uk)

September 2011

## The Honourable Artillery Company – From the Restoration - Part 2



Arms of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts.

The settlers of New England arrived in the New World without any organized militia to protect them from the indigenous Indian tribes. Voluntary military organisations were formed and were based on the model of the English Trained Bands and by 1636 seven such bodies were known to be in existence – the “trained bands” of Dorchester, Charlestown, Watertown, Newton, Saugus, Ipswich, and Boston. Due to the isolation of these communities or townships the lack of opportunity for teaching discipline and tactics rendered it necessary to form a central school of training. As some of the settlers had been officers in the Trained Bands in the old country and indeed a number had been members of the Honourable Artillery Company, they formed a military association on the same lines of their old company. This was in 1637. They applied to Governor Winthrop asking for a charter of incorporation which he refused. He wrote later explaining his decision; “Divers gentlemen and others

being joined in a military company, desired to be made a corporation, but the council considering from the example of the Prætorian band among the Romans, and Templars in Europe, how dangerous it might be to erect a standing authority of military men, which might easily in time overthrow the civil power, thought fit to stop it betimes; yet they were allowed to be a company, but subordinate to all authority.” The Company finally achieved a Charter addressed to Robert Keayne, Nathaniel Duncan, Robert Sedgwick, William Spencer and others, dated 17th March, 1638, which incorporated “The Military Company of the Massachusetts,” and endowed them with a thousand acres of land, and ordered that no other military training should take place on the days of their exercise.

The Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts still exists today and plays an active role in the American military. It is considered the 3<sup>rd</sup> oldest extant military organisation after the Swiss Guard and the Honourable Artillery Company in London. In its long existence it has provided no fewer than four Presidents of the United States of America, James Monroe (1817-25), Chester Alan Arthur (1881-85), Calvin Coolidge (1923-29) and John F. Kennedy (1961-63).

On the restoration of the monarchy, King Charles II entered London at Southwark on 29th May 1660. It was the intention of the Artillery Company to march that day and to entertain General Monk afterwards. However, the City Trained Bands were also going to turn out in force

to welcome the King and consequently required their officers who were also members of the Artillery Company to be present with them. The Green Regiment of the trained bands formed a guard of honour at Southwark Bridge, where, on order from their officers presented the butt end of their musquets as the king passed before firing off a volley of shot. This is an early instance of the "Present Arms." The five remaining Regiments lined the streets as far as the Temple Bar. Two months later, on 26th July 1660 at a General Court, His Royal Highness the Duke of York, later King James II was elected "Commander-in-Chief" of the Company. As it turned out he was to be the first and last holder of the title. His successor, William III styled himself Captain-General, a style which continues to this day with Her Majesty the Queen being the current holder.

Recruitment to the Company had generally been a problem resulting in poor turnouts for musters and "General Days". In 1662 the Lieutenancy of London issued an order that all Sergeants of the London Trained Bands should enrol as members of the Artillery Company for training in their duties. However, a few years later it was laid down that no person could be admitted to the Company without the approval of two members of the Court. It is clear that previously "unsuitable persons" had been admitted to the Company. It is on record that one Robert Angell had his entrance money returned, "being a man thought fitt not to beare arms w<sup>th</sup> the rest of the Society". In 1670 Lieutenant Francis Colman had his name "razed out of the Companyes great booke" for his "unmanly carriage" towards Captain Randall, and in the same year John Currey was similarly punished "for his unmanly action in biting his wives (*sic*) nose."

When Charles II returned from exile to re-establish the monarchy a visible change in the make-up of the members could be seen. Under Cromwell only those citizens who were pro-Cromwell were admitted as members. However, at the Restoration feelings towards the Protectorate had changed completely. Fanatical Puritans resigned and Royalists joined in large numbers. In 1660 no less than 220 new members were admitted whereas the year before 70 had joined. Things were looking up. The Company found itself in great favour at Court. Many of the nobility and gentry of the royal household enrolled as members. Prince Rupert joined in 1664 bringing with him



The Old Vellum Book.

George Monk, first Duke of Albemarle, the Earl of Sandwich and Lord Craven. Shortly afterwards James, Duke of Monmouth, the Duke of Ormonde, the Earl of Manchester, the Earl of Angelsey and the second Duke of Buckingham. Stewards of the Company included the Marquis of Worcester, (later the first Duke of Beaufort), the Earls of Ossery, Feversham, Oxford and Arundel together with the Lords Newport, Hawley, Berkeley, Lumley, Allington, Paston and Falkland.

Since the early Seventeenth century the Company kept an "Old Vellum Book". In this book members signed their names and as can be seen from the sample list of members given above the book contains the signatures of many of the leading and distinguished figures of the times including figures who were probably guests of honour at the Company's dinners. The book is truly a list of Who's Who. Signatures in the book include John Churchill the Duke of Marlborough, Christopher Wren, Mathematician, Astronomer and the architect of St Paul's Cathedral in Lon-

don, and Samuel Pepys the diarist. In 1890 a new Vellum book was created to continue the roll of Captains-General and other distinguished members. Recruitment at the beginning of the eighteenth century was again slackening off. As a consequence officers of the City Trained Bands were required to enrol themselves as members of the Artillery Company. However, there was great reluctance on many officers to do so. In July 1719, the Court of Lieutenancy, who had responsibility for the Trained Bands, issued orders that all officers and sergeants of the Trained Bands not already a member of the Company should "...enter themselves as such and perform their exercises." As an inducement an annual sum of £78 was authorized to be divided by those officers who had paid their subscriptions to the company and appear either in person or by a "fit and proper person or persons in his or their room or stead."

It is quite extraordinary that drilling by proxy was permitted. In 1709 Isaac Bickerstaff wrote in 'The Tatler', "The Chief Citizens, like the noble Italians, hire Mercenaries to carry Arms in their stead; and you shall have a Fellow of a desperate Fortune, for the Gain of one Half Crown, go through all the dangers of Tuttle-Field or the Artillery-Ground, clap his Right Jaw within two Inches of the Touch-Hole of a Musquet, fire it off, and Huzza, with as little Concern as he tears a Pullet." In 1731 there was a story in 'The Daily Journal': "Mr Longworth, who was stabbed in the Artillery Ground on Tuesday last, by a Centinel, was alive Yesterday, but in a dangerous Condition, his Wound bleeding inwardly. The Person who stabbed him, is an Apprentice in Red-Cross Street, of a good Character, *who march'd for his Master*. When the Arms were grounded in the Artillery Ground, he was placed Centinel over them, and then Mr Longworth insulted and treated him in a very rough manner, and unhappily provoked the young Man so far as to stab him with his bayonet".



The Lord's Mayor's Day on the Thames, c.1747 by Canaletto. The Lord Mayor's barge is immediately behind the sloop firing a salute.

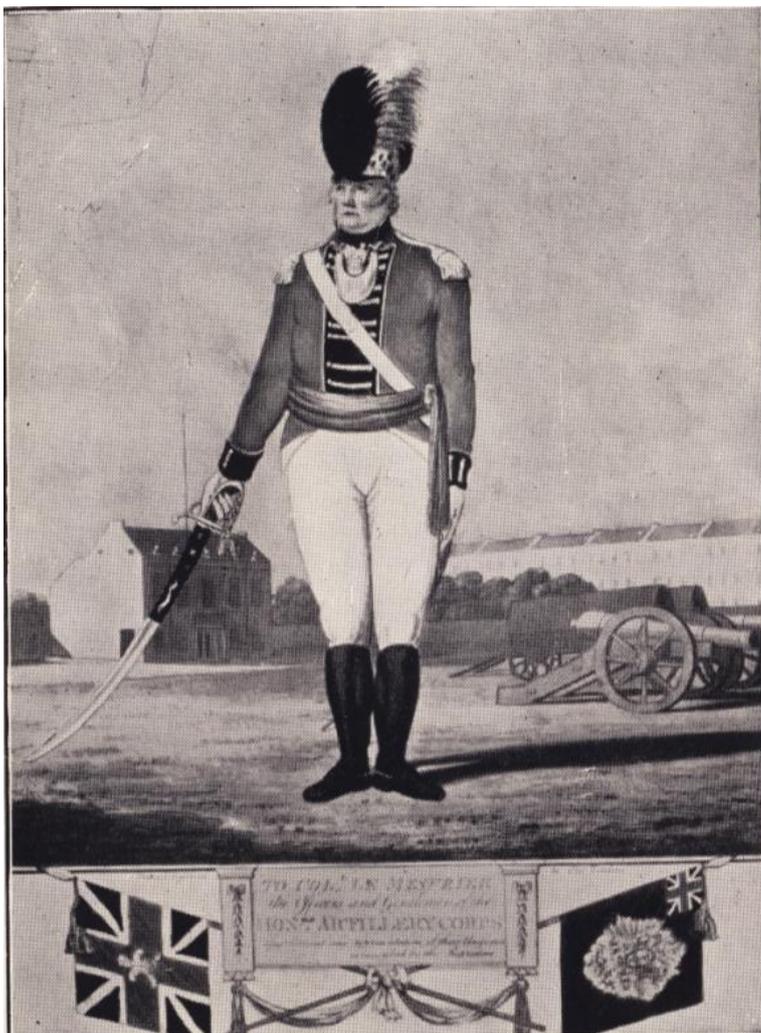
It has long been the tradition for the Company to provide the bodyguard to the Lord Mayor of London on the day he was sworn in at Westminster. They met his Lordship as he landed from his barge at one of the city wharves and saluted him with three volleys. The last Lord Mayor to arrive by barge was Thomas Finnis in 1856. Today his Lordship is carried through London in a splendidly decorated horse drawn carriage escorted by Pikemen and Musketeers from the

Company. In 1778, the Lord Mayor elect, Sir James Esdaile rejected the offer of an escort saying there were many bad customs belonging to the office of Mayor "which ought to be broke." Worse still was in the following year when Alderman Brackley Kennett, Treasurer of the Company, was chosen as Lord Mayor. He not only refused the offer of an escort but he also refused to pay, as was customary, for entertaining the Company.

Alderman Kennett had requested another military body, the Cripplegate Grenadiers, which included members of the Honourable Artillery Company, to be the escort for the day. The Artillery Company took great offence at this rejection. Even the payment of £50.00 by Alderman Kennett to the Company's funds in lieu of entertainment did not appease The Court of Assistants. Members of the Company were prohibited from taking part in the march. They even took out an advertisement in the newspapers to the effect that the Lord Mayor had hired a number of persons to attend him as a military body on Lord Mayor's Day. Any misconduct should not be imputed to the Artillery Company, "...they having no concern in the Management of the Business on that day". The prohibition order seems to have had little effect. The Lord Mayor had his escort, by others, and at the next meeting of the Court of Assistants twelve members, including the Lord Mayor and several officers of the Orange Regiment of the London Trained Bands, of which he was Colonel, were expelled. Retaliation took place resulting in all grants being withdrawn and an order that no Officer or Sergeant of the Trained Bands should in future do duty with the Artillery Company without leave of the Lieutenancy or the Lord Mayor. The Company countered with a request for payment of unpaid fines of £10 on election to Lieutenant-General of the Company in 1766 and £10 on attaining the rank of General in 1769. It was customary to pay when in office. Whether Kennett paid up is unclear. His response was that he didn't care for custom and that he would think about it. The tiff with Lord Mayor Kennett doesn't appear to have lasted long because in 1780 during the Gordon Riots we read of the Artillery Company providing a number of Guards for his personal protection.

The Company was regularly called out to assist in putting down rioting and disturbances in the City. This period saw the greatest activity of the Company policing the streets. There are many newspaper reports detailing their activities. For example, we read of members of the Company patrolling in the neighbourhood of "Old Street Road" apprehended "seven very suspicious fellows, all well known in that part of the town, whom they secured in Clerkenwell prison." It also seems that these patrols acted on occasions as a press-gang for the Navy. It is recorded that in 1782 a detachment of the Company in the form of the Light Infantry Company met privately, and patrolled the roads round the metropolis till eleven o'clock, when they proceeded to the neighbourhood of Saffron-Hill; and being joined by some peace officers, made a general search through that neighbourhood, where they apprehended several idle young fellows, whom they sent to serve his majesty."

The year 1779 also saw a change in uniform, An order was issued



Colonel Paul Le Mesurier, 1799

requiring members, not Officers or Sergeants of the Trained Bands, to appear on Grand Marches in "A scarlet coat lined with white and faced with blue, the Lining to be set over the edges, The Breadth of the Lappels to be two Inches and a Half, to reach down to the Waist and not to be wider at Top than at Bottom. The Sleeves of the Coat to have a small round Cuff turned up, to be three Inches deep. The Cape of the Coat to be two Inches deep, and the Buttons to be set on in Twos; Viz. Ten on each lappel one to button through the Corner of the Cape; four on the Cuff; four on the Pocket-flaps; and two worked Holes behind; with white waist coat and breeches; white Stockings, black Knee-garters; and black Half-gaters".

During the Napoleonic Wars the Company was put on alert for possible invasion by the French forces. Early in 1805 Napoleon built up a concentration of troops at Boulogne ready for the invasion of England. This caused a special summons to be issued. Dated Armoury-House, August 12, 1805 and signed by Paul Le Mesurier, Col. Hon. Artillery-Company, it required all members to "...appear in the Artillery-Ground, next Wednesday, and every succeeding Wednesday afternoon, in marching order; viz. With Knapsacks, Haversacs, and Canteens or with such of those Articles as you are provided with. You will also bring in your knapsack your Trowsers and Foraging-Cap, in order to ascertain how far you are complete for Military Duty, and you will be acquainted by your Officers with what farther Articles you ought to be furnished with, in Order to be reported for Service."

Three days later another order followed:

Head-Quarters, Armoury-House

15<sup>th</sup> August, 1805.

G.O.

YOU are desired to appear here in SERVICE ORDER on Wednesday the 21<sup>st</sup> Instant, at Half past Five o'Clock in the Afternoon, M.T. and to hold yourself in readiness to muster, at any future period, at the shortest Notice, in the same Order, viz.

\*Haversac, \*Canteen, and \*Knapsack, - the latter to contain,

- |  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1 Shirt,                                     | 1 Flannel Nightcap,            |
| 1 pair of Stockings,                         | 1 Black Silk Handkerchief,     |
| 1 pair of Shoes,                             | 1 Pair of Trowsers,            |
| 2 Flannel Waistcoats, to<br>cover the Loins. | 1 Great Coat and Foraging Cap. |
|  | 1 Pair of Gaiters.             |

Pipe, Clay, Blacking Ball, Pouch ball, Oil (in a Tin Case) Tow, Flannel, Rags, and Sponge, Emery and Buff Leather Sticks, Brushes for Coathes, Shoes and Buttons, Razor, Combs, Soap, Towel, and Sponge; Knife, Fork, and Spoon, to be packed in as small a Compass as possible, and also a Turnscrew, Brush and Pricker, and some spare Flints (in the Pouch) – *Marching Order* will be regulated by Circumstances.

At the present Crisis it will be impossible to dispense with your regular Attendance unless satisfactory Reasons are assigned to me.

Paul Le Mesurier

Colonel, Honourable Artillery Company.

N.B. The Articles marked thus(\*) may be had by applying at the Armoury-House.

The invasion, of course never took place. This was due to Nelson's triumph at Trafalgar. On 5<sup>th</sup> December 1805 a General Thanksgiving Service was held for "the late Signal and important Victory obtained by His Majesty's Ships of War, under the Command of the late Vice-Admiral Lord Viscount Nelson, over the Combined Fleets of France and Spain." In attendance were the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Corporation of the City of London, His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge and Staff, and the Hon. Artillery Company. The music was provided by a certain George Frederick Handel Esq.

In January 1806 the Company was in attendance at Lord Nelson's funeral. They took the right of the line of all troops on parade and lined Ludgate Hill, with their flank on St Paul's Cathedral. The Morning Post, a few days prior to the funeral reported that the Prince of Wales, "if prevented by etiquette from attending the funeral of Lord Nelson as chief mourner, intends taking the command of the Honourable Artillery Company, of which he is Colonel, on the day the remains of his Lordship are to be interred."



Grant of Arms to The Honourable Artillery Company, 1821

As was previously mentioned the earliest example of the Company's coat of arms is that on the seal to the original lease to the Old Artillery Ground in Bishopsgate. Prior to acquisition of the original lease which is dated 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1538, the earliest known example of the arms is 1629 when they were displayed as a frontispiece in a book on a military work. But these arms had never been confirmed by the College of Arms and so in the first quarter of the nineteenth century the Company decided to put their house in order. A petition was presented to the king praying that he would issue a warrant authorizing the use of the coat of arms of the Company, of which no record existed in the Herald's College. The king, George IV, granted the Company's wish and issued a Royal Warrant to the College of Arms directing the Heralds to confirm the armorial bearings "for centuries borne" by the Company. The official grant of Arms is dated 30th April, 1821:

"Argent a Cross gules (being that of St. George) charged with a Lion passant Or (being part of the Royal Arms of England) on a Chief Azure a Portcullis of the Third between two Ostrich feathers erect of the Field. And the Crest following vitz. On a Wreath of the Colours A dexter Arm embowed in the gauntlet grasping a

Pike in bend Sinister Or between two Dragons Wings Argent each charged with a Cross Gules as the same in the margin hereof more plainly depicted and I the said Garter, do by these Presents exemplify to the said Artillery Company the Supporters following that is to say On the dexter side A Pikeman armed and accoutred supporting with the exterior hand a Pike erect proper And On the sinister side a Musketeer with his Matchlock Bandileers and Rest all proper as also depicted in the margin hereof the said Arms, Crest and Supporters together with the Motto "*Arma Pacis Fulcra*" (*Arms are the supporters of peace*), to be borne and used for ever hereafter by the said Artillery Company of London upon Shields, Banners, Seals, Regimental Colours or otherwise according to the Tenour of His Majesty's said Sign Manual and the Laws of Arms." Garter King of Arms was none other than Sir Isaac Heard, champion of those diabolical pictorial coats of arms so prominent at the time.

The first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century saw two World Wars. In both wars the Company distinguished itself with honour. In the first War three Victoria Crosses were awarded to members of the Company, whilst in the second one was awarded. The first two V.C.'s were awarded to Lieutenant A.O. Pollard, and Lieutenant R.I.Haine, (both of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion and both announced in the London Gazette, 8<sup>th</sup> June, 1917). Lieutenant Pollard was also awarded the Military Cross and Bar, and the Distinguished Conduct Medal. The third V.C. was awarded to Captain T.T.

Pryce. Pryce was a member of the Honourable Artillery Company but was serving with the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Grenadier Guards at the time he was awarded the V.C. He was also awarded the Military Cross and Bar, (London Gazette, 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1918). The fourth V.C. was awarded to Major Robert Henry Cain of the South Staffordshire Regiment (Airborne) late Honourable Artillery Company, (London Gazette, 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1944) Major Cain earned his V.C. on 19<sup>th</sup> September 1944 at the battle of Arnhem, in Holland. The long citation detailing the actions of Major Cain concludes with this final paragraph: "Throughout the whole course of the Battle of Arnhem, Major Cain showed superb gallantry. His powers of endurance and leadership were the admiration of all his fellow officers and stories of his valour were being constantly exchanged amongst troops. His coolness and courage under incessant fire could not be surpassed."



Items in the Company's museum in Armoury House. In the centre left is the lease of the Artillery Garden, Bishopsgate, 1538. To the right is the Royal Letter Book showing the 2<sup>nd</sup> Warrant granted to the Artillery Company by William III in 1690.

Today the regiment is the senior regiment of the Territorial Army. They provide surveillance and target acquisition patrols for the NATO Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC). They are a registered charity "whose purpose is to attend to the better defence of the realm". The regimental church is St Botolph Without Bishopgate where in the chapel the Book of Remembrance is kept. The chapel commemorates the fallen in the South African War, and the Two World Wars.

*I would like to thank Mr. Tom Leslie for his considerable assistance and encouragement in the preparation of this article. Tom, now retired from The Company of Pikemen and Musketeers, loaned me his books and papers on the Honourable Artillery Company and provided me with a number of photographs specially taken at the Company's museum in Armoury House for this edition of The Seaxe.*

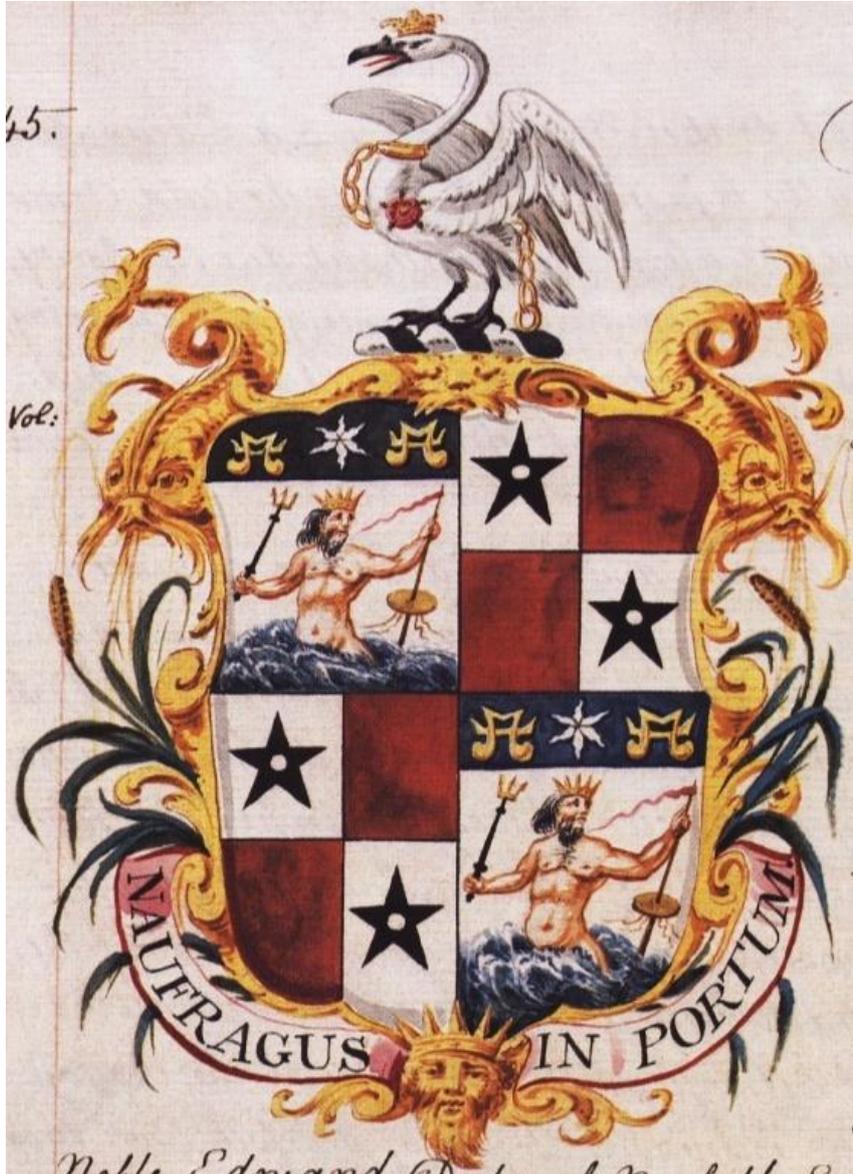
*I would also would like to thank the Honourable Artillery Company for kindly giving permission to take and publish the photographs taken in the museum at Armoury House.*

**Correction:** The caption on page 3 of the February 2010 edition should read, 'Members of the Company of Pikemen & Musketeers escorting the Lord Mayor of London, 1996'.

## Did you know...

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that Sir Isaac Heard, Garter King of Arms, (1784-1822), nearly drowned after being swept over-board in August 1750 whilst serving on the man of war ship Blandford off the Guinea coast?



Arms of Heard quartering Breton of Norfolk

He subsequently had arms granted to himself which commemorated the event. A tornado hit the ship and swept him and the main mast in to the sea. It was lucky for Heard that during the commotion, with the crew struggling to keep control of the vessel and trying to untangle the rigging, that he was noticed by a member of the crew floating alongside and holding on to the stricken mast for dear life. They managed to get a rope to him and pull him back on board to safety.

The alleged ancestral coat was 'Argent a Chevron Gules between three bougets Sable'. However, on 22nd November 1762 the following arms were granted: 'Argent in base a Neptune with an Eastern Crown Or his trident Sable headed Or issuing from a stormy ocean the left hand grasping the head of a ship's mast appearing above the waves as part of a wreck Proper on a chief Azure the Artic polar Star of the first between two water bougets of the second. On 21<sup>st</sup> November 1774 another grant was issued, the arms being as those granted twelve years earlier but omitting the two bougets on the chief.

## The Maunch - Beauty or a Beast?



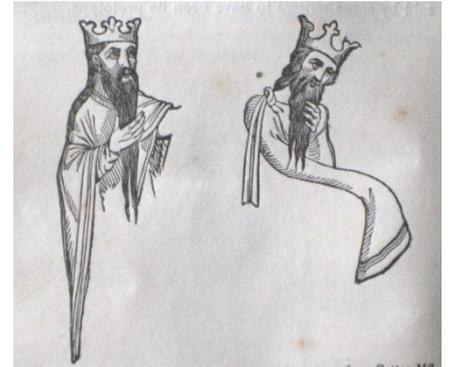
Fig. 59. A Lady of Quality

wrote a short paper entitled, 'The Maunch'. He is quite scathing about this charge. The first two paragraphs indicate exactly where Mr Viner stood: "Who would guess what this monstrosity, however ancient and honourable it may be, is intended to represent? Of numerous persons, non-armorial of course, whose attention has been drawn to it, not one has succeeded in guessing it aright." "How, in the days gone by any lady of taste



The maunch is a representation of a medieval sleeve. Many writers say or suggest that the maunch was a lady's sleeve dating from the early 12th century. Why this should be so I'm not sure. Certainly the ladies fashion of the time was indeed to have extremely long sleeves with enormously wide openings at the cuff. But so did the men have similar long sleeves. The illustration below shows royal habits at the beginning of the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Be that as it may, the maunch is a stylized medieval sleeve and when well drawn is a very attractive charge.

There can't be many charges that attract such distaste and, dare I say, hatred as the poor maunch. In the very first volume of *The Coat of Arms* published in 1950 George H. Viner F.S.A



and fashion came to select so ungainly an object to serve as a gage d'armour for her chosen knight remains a mystery. How, too, did he like to have it flapping around his helm while endeavouring to unseat his opponent? It must have been very disconcerting". If that was not enough a Mr. E.A. Scholes wrote a letter, again published in 'The Coat of Arms' referring to the paper by Mr. Viner put the boot in again. He describes the poor charge as: "...an example of this peculiarly ugly and repulsive object,...". James Dallaway in his 'Science of Heraldry in England,'(1793) described the maunch as an "...uncouth shape...". What on earth has the maunch done to deserve such a mauling? But all is not lost. A Knight of knights, (although he wasn't a knight at the time), in the form of Somerset herald, George Bellow, later Sir George, Garter King of Arms, came to the rescue.

"Ugliness is in the eye of the beholder" he says. "Look at the mid-14th century brass of Sir Hugh Hastings in Elsing Church reproduced in *The Colour of Heraldry*" (*left*) says he, "or the shield of Henry of Hastings, painted about 1275 in the roll of arms and reproduced in plate XX in the *Heralds' Exhibition Catalogue*, 1934". "...surely see in these examples a simplicity, gracefulness, and a balance in design to which it is impossible to apply such unkind adjectives as ungainly and repulsive". "...No don't call a maunch, or for that matter anything else in heraldry ugly; but you can blame the artist for not drawing it to your taste!" Three cheers for Sir George, sanity is restored and common-sense prevails. As Sir George said in his letter, "from the heraldic point of view of 700-800 years ago it cannot be denied that the maunch is second to none in the first

requirement of armoury, that is distinctiveness".

The Maunch is certainly one of the earliest charges used and will be found in the earliest roll of arms. For example, in the Mathew Paris shields (1250-1259) we find the arms of Tony, 'Argent a Maunch Gules', In Glover's roll dated c.1255 we find Mohun, 'Gules a Maunche Ermine', Tony, 'Argent a Maunch Gules', and Hastings, 'Or a Maunch Gules'. In the Herald's Roll dated c.1279 we find Mohun, 'Gules a Maunch Ermine with a Hand Argent holding a Fleur-de-lis

Or', Tony, 'Argent a Maunch Gules', and Hastings, 'Or a Maunch Gules', In 'The Military Roll of Arms in Sir Thomas Holme's Book' shown below, we see two knights, Hastings and Haggard with swords drawn. Hastings bears on his surcoat and his horse's caprison, 'Argent a Fess Gules between three Maunches Sable'.



Hastings and Haggard in The Military Roll in Sir Thomas Holme's book, c.1446-90

John Gibbon in his 'Introductio ad Latinam Blasoniam' (1682), says the French called it "Manche mal taillée: that is, a sleeve ill cut," Guillum in his 'Display of Heraldry, (6th edition 1724), repeats Gibbon's comments. His illustration is that of Mohun with the fleur-de-lis missing from the clutching hand. An ermine maunch with a hand issuing from the sleeve and holding another device such as a fleur-de-lis is called by the French 'dextrochère'. If it is a left arm then it is known as 'senestrochère'. Gerard Legh in his 'Accendence of Armory' (1567) illustrates a most peculiarly drawn maunch as shown in the illustration below. The maunch does not appear much on the continent. Woodward in 'A Treatise on Heraldry – British and Foreign' lists two found in France: "de Geules à la manche mal-taillée d'or" for the Poitevin family of De la Coste, and "Or three maunches gules" for Condé de Coerney in Champagne.



Left: Hastings arms on the Hastings chapel, Stoke Poges Church, Berkshire, 1558.



Right: Gerard Legh, 'The Accedens of Armory' 1576,

### **NAN TAYLOR FHS**

**1920 - 2011**

Nan Taylor joined the Middlesex Heraldry Society with Pete in its first year following a heraldry course in Pinner. They had been looking for a new interest for their approaching retirement: they had found it. Both became deeply involved in the Middlesex and later the Heraldry Society. Nan brought the warmth of her personality and friendliness to fellow members, as well as her enthusiasm, determination and competence to the affairs of both societies, while finding time to become the heraldic expert among the guides at Westminster Abbey.

Nan was an excellent speaker, meticulous in her research and attention to accuracy and detail. She was a most efficient organiser of visits for the Middlesex, in the days when we ventured monthly to as many as six or seven churches. At our highest point Nan typed and retyped the Bedford Chapel Report, compiled and edited by Pete from the records made by members. She was a conscientious Chairman for several years, and with Pete welcomed us to their home for the annual party.

Nan has been much missed during the last three years which she spent in a residential home, where she died in July aged 90. Several members of the Societies attended her funeral. Nan was devoted to her family, of whom she was justly proud. Our sincere sympathies are extended to them. With them we have had the good fortune to share many happy memories of a full life lived by a lady whom it was our privilege to know.

Kay Holmes

I first met Nan many years ago when she gave me a one-to-one guided tour of Westminster Abbey. Her knowledge was phenomenal and her energy and enthusiasm limitless. The tour of the abbey took five hours without a break. It was during that tour that Nan persuaded me to join the Middlesex Heraldry Society. I thank you Nan for the knowledge and enthusiasm you gave me and for introducing me to the many friends I have made in the heraldry world. God bless you

Stephen Kibbey

From the Chairman/Editor.

2010 and 2011 have been difficult years for me and the Society. Two serious illnesses put me out of action for a considerable period of that time. This year's programme was abandoned and The Seaxe was put in abeyance. However, earlier this year Andrew Gray offered to produce The Seaxe whilst I was convalescing. It was an offer I could not refuse. I thank Andrew for his offer, despite his busy work schedule, and the hard work he put in to putting together what I think you will agree was an excellent and very interesting edition.

It is hoped that we can resume our normal programme of talks next year, the first meeting will, hopefully be in March 2012 when we shall have an AGM and members afternoon. I was wondering if we could put together a small heraldic exhibition of members artefacts for that meeting. If you have any items of interest that can go in to the exhibition please let me know as soon as possible. This event can only take place if there is sufficient support.

As ever, I am looking for speakers for next years' programme and for articles for inclusion in The Seaxe. If you can help in either of these areas please let me know.

Remember that all details of meetings, activities and lots of other information including past

editions of The Seaxe can be seen on the Society's website at [www.middlesex-heraldry.org.uk](http://www.middlesex-heraldry.org.uk). Thanks again to Andrew Gray for maintaining our site.



Garther stall plate for Sir William Hastings, Lord Hastings of Hastings, K.G.  
1462-1483.

## *Next Meetings*

A.G.M and members meeting  
Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2012

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The St. Johns of Battersea  
Stephen Kibbey  
Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2012

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To be confirmed  
Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2012

Meetings are held at the Guide Hut in Bury Street, Ruislip – part of the Manor Farm, Library, Great Barn group of buildings and are usually on the first Saturday of each month starting at 2.30pm. Meetings will be followed by tea and biscuits.

*Visitors are most welcome*

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## *Subscriptions*

For 2011/12 are due and are unchanged at:-

£6.00 for full membership

£4.00 for Country membership

Please send your subscription to The Hon. Treasurer

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## *The Society's Website*

For up to date information on the Society's activities visit our website at:

**[www.middlesex-heraldry.org.uk](http://www.middlesex-heraldry.org.uk)**

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## *Officers and Committee*

<i>Chairman</i>	Stephen Kibbey
<i>Hon. Treasurer</i>	Stuart Whitefoot
<i>Committee Member</i>	Dr Andrew Gray

<i>Editor of The Seaxe</i>	<i>Stephen Kibbey</i>
<i>Webmaster</i>	<i>Dr Andrew Gray.</i>

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The Ross Wylde building, Walthamstow, North London. Note the Toni maunch. The Borough of Walthamstow's arms are at the top.