

Editorial

In an article headed *Now We Are Ten* in *Seaxe* No.8 published in May 1986, **Kay Holmes** writes *It is hard to believe that this society has been meeting in Ruislip Manor Library for as long as ten years.* Soon we will be twenty and *the new member*, to whom he refers in his *Editorial* is amazed when he realises that he has, alone or *per pale*, been producing *Seaxes* in one form or another for the whole of the second ten years.

More importantly - in our twentieth year we shall look forward to receiving **your** contributions - reminiscences, in particular, from founder members or "near founder members". But you must all have amusing, informative or just interesting tales to tell - no matter whether you have been a member for twenty years, twenty months, twenty weeks or only twenty minutes we want to hear from you. We are sure that the guardian of our wealth will allow us just one bumper issue in celebration!

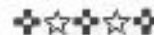


Congratulations

Long time member of the Middlesex Heraldry Society and Hon. Editor of the *Heraldry Gazette*, **E. N. (Pete) Taylor**, Hon.F.H.S., has been elected by the Council of the Heraldry Society to an Executive Vice Presidency - a rare honour.



He joins three other Executive Vice Presidents - **Sir Colin Cole**, (former Garter King of Arms), **Cecil Humphery Smith**, (Director of the Institute of Genealogical and Heraldic Studies) and **John Bedells**, (Howard Pursuivant of Arms Extra-ordinary). A rare honour indeed both for **Pete** and the Middlesex Heraldry Society.



The Crest of the Royal Society of Medicine

From Issue No.5 (95-96 Session) of the *RSM NEWS* published by the Royal Society of Medicine we learn that "on 15th January 1926, **St. Clair Thomson**, the President of the Royal Society of Medicine



chaired a committee of seven Fellows whose purpose was to consider a Coat of Arms for the Society. They sought the advice of well-known scholar, **Oswald Barron**, rather than a Herald, and met three times. In their final recommendation to the College of Heralds, they suggested that the crest should be 'a hand holding a bunch of the herb All-Heal', which they identified as *Stachys palustris*. Although the proposed hand was not incorporated in the final draft by the heraldic artist, **Martin Travers**, three sprigs of the herb All-Heal are included in the approved blazon. As with many heraldic designs, botanical accuracy took second place to artistic balance and the true nature of this herb has remained a matter of debate".

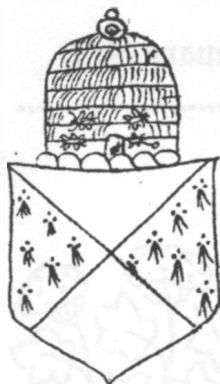


The arms are:- *Per pale Vert and Gules the rod of Aesculapius Argent with a serpent entwined Or.*
The motto is:- *non est vivere sed valere vita* (life is not living, but health is life).

The Mystery of a Welsh Heraldic Pedigree

- from a talk given by **Marion Miles** on
Thursday, 20th July, 1995.

This was a fascinating talk on the pedigree of the **Kerry** (or **Ceri**) family which **Marion** has been unravelling for several years. It almost seemed as if she had been fated to do it. It all started in a school playground when two children asked if she would like to see their family tree which they produced as a parchment roll about 10" wide and 13ft. long from a cylindrical box. Not the kind of family tree she had expected!



Kerry (or Ceri)

So began the research - the identification of the coats of arms was particularly difficult because the tinctures had faded and the parchment, which had become tattered had been repaired with

cellotape. She did, however, succeed in identifying the **Kerry** family (from Wales) and the families into which they had married until the 16th century when the family left Wales. To further her knowledge **Marion** determined to visit the **Welsh National Library**. This visit was postponed several times but when she eventually made it the Library had just come into possession of an almost identical parchment roll of the **Kerry** family after their move to England.

Marion in concluding her talk, said that she will continue her research into this family but believes that it will take a long time and a lot of work to turn her surmises into an accurate account of what actually happened to the **Kerry** family - and to prove her theories. We can hardly wait for the next gripping instalment!

The arms are:- *per Saltire Ermine and Azure* and the very unusual crest is:- *a beehive Sable with bees volant Or*.



Congratulations

Warren Stokes, one of the newer members of our Society, who sat and passed the Elementary Examination of the Heraldry Society, was presented with his Certificate by **John Brooke-Little**, Clarenceux King of Arms, at the AGM of that Society on 6th December, 1995.

Warren came into heraldry as a result of his interest in calligraphy and decided that the best way to learn about heraldry was to sit the examinations as this made him really study the subject - having given some of the Middlesex members twenty years start!

Dies faustus

Talks at Monthly Meetings

Your editors have come to the conclusion that some of the excellent talks we have had in the past two years and some of those we look forward to hearing in the future do not lend themselves to a written resumé. The main reason is that they are "slide intensive" - for want of a better term - and we therefore intend to include a brief note to remind members of the content of such talks. Naturally, wherever possible we will continue to write a longer report.

June 1994 **Keith Lovell** spoke on *The Heraldry of Art* in his inimitable way - but then he could talk about gasometers and make it interesting - if not spellbinding.

November 1994 and **Pete Taylor** showed us *Some Aspects of Medical Heraldry* with coats of arms that certainly furthered our medical education.

January 1995 and *Heraldry in the Antique Shop* by **John Allen** made us realise what treasures could be found given time, diligence - and, of course, money!

March 1995 and we were fortunate enough to have **Pete Taylor** again - this time to give us a historical and architectural account of *Building Heraldry*.

Fuller accounts still to come include:-

Stuart Whitefoot's *Cliffords of the North*.

Peggy Foster's *Athelhampton*.

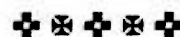
Fay Robson's *Coughton Court*

and the Throckmortons.

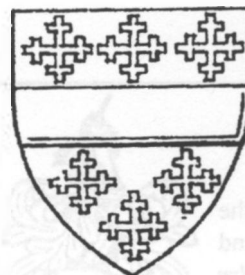
Steve Slater's *The Hungerfords*.

Adrian Ailes's *Medieval Heraldry*

and the old chestnut from your editors *The Percys - a Dynamic Dynasty*.



A Memorable Visit



Beauchamp

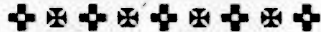
Early in December your editors were privileged to attend a concert of Christmas music at **St. Mary's Church, Warwick**. In addition to the lovely singing of the 120 strong **Kenilworth and Warwick Choir** there were eight excellent young semi-professional soloists and a small orchestra. It brought back memories of the visit by our Society in May 1986 to see the beautiful **Beauchamp Chapel** soon after the talk given by **Keith Lovell**. Unfortunately, on this occasion, the chapel was closed and we had to content ourselves with our memories and another look at some of the other heraldry. The church was crowded so we daren't leave our seats for too long! One of your editors was rather upset to find that the Regimental Chapel of the **Royal Warwickshire Regiment** was being used as a cloakroom for the choir - and so soon after appearing in *Seaxt Newsletter No.8!*



Whatever Has Happened to - ?

Former member, **Tim Noad**, who has sent greetings to the Society together with some details of his activities and those of his wife, **Alice**, under the humorous title - *We said we would never do this.....!* It is small wonder he has no time for attending heraldry meetings when one considers the further education he is undergoing and, of course, the necessity to earn a living! The letter says that he is *in his third year of a four year part-time History of Art degree course at Birkbeck College and in March went with a group of fellow students to Florence. At this time he was studying Renaissance Art and has now chosen to specialise in English Romanesque and French Gothic Art.* The letter goes on to say that *Tim's second book Mastering Calligraphy was published in September. He is currently working on a large family tree commission dating back to 1100 and has given a "workshop" to a group of calligraphers on this subject. In July Tim was invited to attend Art in Action, near Oxford, where he demonstrated calligraphy and illumination for four busy days. He continues to work at the College of Arms three days a week. Tim has painted the coat of arms of Lady Thatcher which he and his wife actually saw - used on a banner decorating Union Station, Washington for her 70th birthday party. As they say - it's a small world!*

Thank you both for your news and best wishes which are heartily reciprocated by the members - and when you have a little more time to spare, Tim, we look forward to welcoming you back into the fold.



Militaria No.7 - The Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment)

The third in seniority of the regiments which disappeared to form **The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers** was **The Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment)** raised originally in 1685 and based at the Tower of London as escort for the very important Train of Artillery - also based at the Tower. This association was confirmed by the appointment of the Earl of Dartmouth, the Master General of the Ordnance, as Colonel of the new **Royal Regiment of Fusiliers** but sometimes known as **The Ordnance Regiment**. In 1688 it became the **7th Regiment of Foot** (or the **Royal Fusiliers**) and during the 18th century the spelling *Fusiliers* was adopted. In 1881 the title of the regiment was changed to **The Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment)**. This name survived until



7th Regiment of Foot



Royal Fusiliers
(City of London Regi.)



the great amalgamation of 1968 but in 1963, when the **Royal Warwickshire Regiment** joined the **Fusilier Brigade** the whole brigade adopted the **Royal Warwickshire** button - an *antelope within a crowned Garter* so that all regiments were represented on the Brigade

insignia. The Brigade badge which eventually became the badge of **The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers** consists of the component parts of the badges of the original three regiments of the Brigade - *the crown from The Royal Fusiliers, St. George and the dragon from the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers and the laurel wreath from the Lancashire Fusiliers.*

The Royal Fusiliers took part in the Peninsular War, the Crimean War, the Boer War and among its numerous battle honours are Mons, Marne, Armentieres, Ypres, Somme, Vimy, Passchendaele, Arras, Menin Road, Cambrai and Gallipoli from the Great War and Dunkirk, Caen, Sidi Barrani, Anzio and Cassino from the second World War. The regiment took part in the Korean War. A staggering total of nineteen members of the regiment have won the **Victoria Cross**.

The regiment has acquired a number of nicknames - "The Elegant Extracts" because up to 1854 the **Royal Fusiliers** had no ensigns (subalterns) who had had to be posted in from other regiments. The regiment was also known as the "The Royals" and "The Hanoverian White Horse".

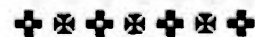
To mark its London links the **Royal Fusiliers** were accorded the privilege of marching through the City with drums beating, colours flying and bayonets fixed. Most of the Colours (29) are in the Regimental Chapel in St. Sepulchre's Church, opposite the Old Bailey. Of the rest, which are quite widespread, perhaps the most interesting is one at the US Military Academy, West Point having been captured by the American rebels in 1775.



Royal Regiment
of Fusiliers

The regimental motto is the same as the Order of the Garter - *honi soit qui mal y pense.*

The Regimental Headquarters is that of the **Royal Regiment of Fusiliers** at the Tower of London. The recruitment area is as shown for the **Royal Northumberland Fusiliers (Seaxe No.7)** who are now also part of the **Royal Regiment of Fusiliers**.



From our Country Members

We have had cards from **Gerry** and **Arthur Aird** and from **Peter Bentley** respectively acknowledging receipt of their **Seaxe** Newsletters. You will be pleased to learn that they are all well and send their best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all members of the Society.

The Procession of the Holy Blood

- from a talk given by **Leslie Pierson** on
Thursday, 20th October, 1994.



Bruges

The procession takes place annually in **Bruges** on Ascension Day. The precious relic of the **Holy Blood** was brought back from the **Holy Land** in 1150 by the **Count of Flanders** to whom it had been given by **Baldwin of Anjou, King of Jerusalem**, with the approval of the

Patriarch of Jerusalem, as a mark of gratitude for his heroism in the Second Crusade.

The **Count** had a chapel built close to his residence to house the relic which is believed to be the blood collected by **Joseph of Aramathea** when washing the body of **Christ** after the **Crucifixion**. It became the practice for the people of **Bruges** to offer veneration to the relic on Ascension Day and in 1923 the Pope granted the title of **Basilica** to the chapel. The ceremony has developed into the present day procession round the city.

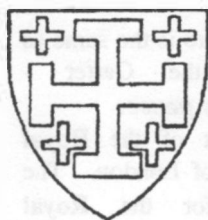
About two thousand people take part and it takes about two hours to pass in a city bedecked with flags and banners most bearing coats of arms. In the procession are represented episodes from the Bible and the *life of Jesus* tableaux are presented by fraternities, city guilds and foreign merchants. Scenes are mimed, spoken or sung and all give some idea of the golden age of the city of **Bruges**. All the costumes are made by the participants using rich fabrics where necessary.



Flanders

The **Count of Flanders** holding the relic of the **Holy Blood** passes with his wife and son and a guard of honour of mourners from the **Holy Sepulchre Church** in **Jerusalem** wearing hoods. They are followed by the **Noble Brotherhood of the Holy Blood** and a choir.

The arms of the **Crusader Kings of Jerusalem** are:-



Argent a cross potent between four plain crosslets Or and *Boutell's Heraldry* says *The arms are a violation of the law that metal may not be laid on metal, perhaps done deliberately to confer distinction on the King of Jerusalem.*



The Chiltern Heraldry Group begins its 1966 session on **Saturday, 17th February** at the Methodist Church Hall, **Maidenhead** with our own Chairman, **Nan Taylor** speaking on *Mary, Queen of Scots* followed on **Saturday, 16th March** at the **Wallingford Community Centre** by **Pete Taylor** speaking on *Buildings and Heraldry*.

Bid You Know?

The current **EIIR** cypher on pillar boxes in England and Wales is not acceptable in Scotland. The Scots, quite rightly, declare that the first **Queen Elizabeth of England** was never their queen and so all pillar boxes in Scotland erected during the reign of the present queen carry the royal cypher only. Perhaps **Nan** or **Stuart** or any recent visitor to Scotland can confirm that this is true.



Early Warning

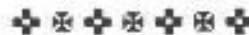
Arrangements have been made for the Society to make a second visit **Croydon Palace** on **Thursday, 25th July**.



The heraldry includes the coats of arms of a number of **Archbishops of Canterbury** including **William Laud**, sometime **Bishop of St. Davids, Bath & Wells and Gloucester** before his elevation to the premier archbishopric. In 1644 he was found "guilty of endeavouring to subvert the laws, to

overthrow the Protestant religion, and to act as an enemy to Parliament". Although his judges declared the offences to be "non-treasonable", under an unconstitutional ordinance of attainder, **Laud** was beheaded on **Tower Hill**.

The cost is £5 but £4 for Senior Citizens which includes a guided tour and tea. Although it is not an easy drive there is plenty of free parking space at the Palace itself and it appears to be more attractive than a cross country journey by public transport. Please make a note in your diaries - obviously there will be more information, including a brochure with street map, later and well before the date of the visit.



Next Meetings

On **Thursday, 15th February 1996 C.E.J. (Sedge) Smith** of the **Chiltern Heraldry Group** will be speaking to us on *The Heraldry of Charles II* and on **Thursday, 21st March** a return visit by our old friend **Michael Messer** to speak to us on *Heraldry by the Sea*.