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Editorial



There is such a proliferation of militaria at this precise moment that we decided not to publish the potted history of **The King's Shropshire Light Infantry** until **Seaxe No. 33** in July. We understand that few tears will be shed by several readers!

Bishop Alcock and the Hull Grammar School from Cynthia Lydiard Cannings

[Some readers will remember that way back in 1989, in old style **Seaxe No.10**, one of your editors wrote an article on the **Hull Grammar School** in which he said that he had always believed that the school was founded in 1485 but that researchers had proved that the date was actually 1479. We understand that further research has shown that the school was in existence c.1320 - making it one of the oldest schools in the country! A Christmas card was made from a representation of a woodcut depicting **Bishop Alcock**, the founder of the School, preaching and its effect on member and regular contributor **Cynthia Lydiard Cannings** is printed below - we hope you enjoy this marvellously imaginative fantasy as much as we did - Eds]



Thanks for the Christmas card, I loved it! Poor Bishop Alcock doing his bit up in the pulpit, and all his confratres with their backs to him chatting away to each other and



taking not a blind bit of notice. He's well aware of the fact, too, and reflecting dismally that he never wanted to give this sermon in the first place, and anyway, whose idea was it to choose Psalm 58 for a text!*

Whoever cut that woodcut was a real artist, wasn't he? All those monks are people in their own right. You can tell from the expressions just what they're talking about. The chap in the front row on the left is obviously

saying, "Why, hallo! I don't think we've met, have we? My name's....". The two next to him are very disapproving. "Young novices nowadays get away with anything. When I was their age-!"

And the two on the right are whispering about the eelman's daughter, the one who brings the catch to the Abbot's kitchen of a Thursday afternoon. "Only fifteen, they say, but ... pssst ... pssst ... pssst ... and Brother Salvatore says he ... pssst ... pssst ... and she didn't so much as ... pssst ... pssst!" The one behind them, looking so smug, must be Brother Salvatore himself. He knows well enough what they are discussing, and he's delighted at the success of his little tale. But he's a dreadful liar. The truth is that he'd run if the eelman's daughter so much as looked at him, let alone if she possessed the sort of disposition he's credited her with.

The two either side of him have got his measure, though. Look at their faces. The oblate can see nothing but sin in his colourful fictions; the other, with more knowledge of the world, regards him more in sorrow. As for the two with their heads together on the Bishop's right, no baseless fictions for them, they're planning the real thing. there's a depth of secret, shared, scabrous knowledge there that - well, if the Devil has penetrated the cloister, that's where he's to be found.

As for the last monk there, the one on the extreme left of the picture, have you noticed that he's the only one who actually is trying to listen to the Bishop? At present he's being a little distracted by the friendly chap in front of him and his neighbour, but on the whole he wishes, poor, patient man, that everyone would be a bit quiet and give the sermon a chance.....

**Psalm 58 - David reproveth wicked judges; describeth the nature of the wicked: devoteth them to God's judgments: whereat the righteous shall rejoice.*

Did You Know?

The term *Lion Bicorporate* denotes a lion's head affronté with two bodies in the combatant position. With only



cursory research your Editors were unable to find a family bearing these arms - **Papworth** did suggest **Lobb** and **Lucas** but **Burke** disagreed and put forward *Argent two lions combatant Gules* and *Ermine two lions rampant combatant Gules* respectively for these families.

The Douglas Arms - A Local Error

From **The Romance of Heraldry** by **Wilfrid Scott-Giles** we learn that the arms of the **Douglas** family are a perpetual reminder of a romantic and beautiful story. **King Robert Bruce** called **Sir James Douglas** to him saying that upon his death **Douglas** was to remove his heart from his body, embalm it and take it to the **Holy Sepulchre** whereas our Lord lay, seeing my body cannot come there....And wheresoever ye come, let it be known ye carry with you the heart of **King Robert of Scotland**. **King Robert** died on 7th June 1329 and **Douglas** set out for the Holy Land. On the way he heard that **King Alphonso** was leading a campaign against the **Saracens** and decided to break his journey to assist the Christians. The story goes that **Douglas** and his party were



surrounded by the enemy whereat **Douglas** threw the **King's** heart into the meleé and, following it, fulfilled **Bruce's** earnest desire to lead an army against the infidel. It is said that one knight escaped and brought the heart back to Scotland where it was interred in Melrose Abbey.

The arms at this time were:- *Argent on a chief Azure three molets of the first.*



In recognition of their service to the **King** the **Douglas** family were awarded what is tantamount to an augmentation of honour and the arms became:- *Argent a man's heart Gules on a chief Azure three molets of the first.* [Later the heart became royally crowned.]



[Later the heart became royally crowned.]

In St Nicholas Church, Shepperton, there is a coloured brass tablet to **Susan**, wife of **Robert Wheatley Lumley**, daughter of **Colin Douglas of Murns** [Mains?], d. 21st March 1888 in her 81st year. Arms:- *On a lozenge Argent a fess Gules between three parakeets Vert (Lumley)** impaling Azure a fess chequy Argent and Gules between in chief three molets Argent and in base a human heart proper (Gules?) surmounted by a Royal crown Or (Douglas).*



In **Burke** the arms are shown as :- *Argent a fess chequy Gules and of the first between three stars in chief Azure and a man's heart in base proper. (Douglas of Mains, Dumbarton)*

Ignoring the heart there are three different basic versions of the **Douglas** arms:-

- Silver with three blue stars in chief
- Silver with three silver stars on a blue chief
- Silver a fess chequy red and silver (sometimes gold) with three blue stars in chief.....usually the field is silver although one branch of the **Douglas** family favours gold - even ermine - but never blue!*

*An exception is **Douglas** of **Castle Douglas** - but a quite different coat of arms.

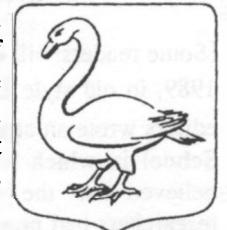
Arms of **Lumley - family name of the **Earls of Scarborough**.

It's That Swan Again.

John Uncles of the Bath Heraldic Society has written to us enclosing a leaflet on the Bishop's Palace at Wells Cathedral - in his letter he says:- *At long last I have got a copy of the Bishop's Palace leaflet for you - I rather like the swan logo. I have been wondering if there is a word to describe the swan interest. If not how*

about "cynology" or, better still, "cynographology"!! [According to the Oxford English Dictionary the only two words pertaining to swans are *cycnean* and *cygnean*. **John's** suggestions are not included - but why not - they are eminently logical? - Eds]

St Hugh of Lincoln - the 13th century saintly, statesmanlike **Hugh of Avalon**, born of a noble French family, was called to England by **Henry II** to found a Carthusian monastery at Witham in Somerset. He later became Bishop of Lincoln where he fought against the savage forestry laws in the royal forests and defended the Jews against rioting mobs. His pet, a wild swan, is said to have followed him constantly about his house and grounds. His badge is described by **W. Ellwood Post** as *a silver swan on a blue field*.



.....and, of course, there's always Sir Conrad!

Did You Know?

March 17th is the Feast Day of **Joseph of Arimathea** who lived in the 1st century AD - he served as a patron for undertakers and pallbearers but is best remembered for having brought drops of **Jesus's** blood from the crucifixion to Glastonbury in what came to be known as the **Holy Grail**. This most famous of cups formed a physical focus for many Arthurian legends. The cup and the thorn cross are direct references whilst the drops represent the sorrow of burial - in fact, the thorn itself was supposed to weep. The badge is blazoned *a gold cross, silver chalice and silver drops on a blue field* [W. Ellwood Post]



Wall to Wall Heraldry from Bill Burgess

Whilst enjoying a break in the East Riding of Yorkshire Rita and I were told by a friend that as we were interested in heraldry we should visit St. Mary's, Lockington only a few miles from where we were staying. *There's a bit of heraldry there* he said!



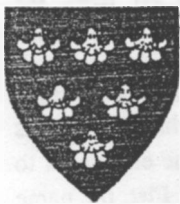
We duly set off expecting to find perhaps some stained glass or, if lucky, the odd hatchment or two. Little did we expect to find not only stained glass and a Royal Coat of Arms (Geo.II - 1746) but also a chapel panelled from floor to ceiling with a coat of arms in each one of the 173 panels. The

chapel was built by the De Mauleys in the 14th century and a descendant, who had inherited the Lordship of the Manor through the Bigods had, in 1634, panelled the walls tracing the pedigree of the Estoft family back to the De Mauleys. All the collateral branches and Lords of the Manor from earliest times were displayed. In 1851 Revd. Charles Constable



de Mauley

commissioned the repainting of all the arms.



Estoft

There is on the wall a drop line pedigree complete with coats of arms - all the names are numbered and there is a chart which gives the panel number for that particular name. Also in the chapel is a monument to the daughter of George

Meriton, Dean of York - she died in 1633 and was married to Thomas Moyser who was a claimant to the Lordship of Lockington and related to the Estofts. On the stained glass are the arms of Fossard, Mauley, Hotham, Stockdale and Estoft.

We are hoping that all our photographs will come out as we just did not have enough film to do them all! If ever you are in that part of Yorkshire St. Mary's, Lockington is well worth a visit. The village is about a mile off the A164 some six miles North of the lovely old town of Beverley with its Minster and another St. Mary's Church.



Fossard

[We visited this "Aladdin's cave" many years ago and, although our interest in heraldry was only just beginning, we were horrified to find a bicycle and two step ladders leaning against this wonderful panelling! We can wholeheartedly endorse Bill's recommendation and, as we shall be in Hull over Easter, we shall pay the two St. Mary's and the Minster a long overdue return visit.



Stockdale

It is interesting to note that in the King's England series (Yorkshire East Riding with York) by Arthur Mee he

refers to the Constable Chapel with *its astonishing display of heraldry on the panelling; there are over 170 panels, every one with a painted shield of the Constables and their marriages* whilst Pevsner and Neave in their **Buildings of England** (Yorkshire: York and the East Riding) refer to the Estoft Chapel and say that *it was panelled in 1634 and painted all over with rows and rows of heraldic achievements connected with the family* and add that *there are 173 shields in all*. They confirm that *the repainting of all the shields was commissioned by the Rev. Charles Constable in 1851.* - Eds.]

Arms illustrated are:-

Royal Arms (1714-1801) - Quarterly 1st. England impaling Scotland. 2nd. France Modern. 3rd. Ireland. 4th. Gules two lions passant guardant in pale Or for Brunswick impaling Or semeé of hearts Gules a lion rampant Azure for Lunenburgh on a point in point Gules a horse courant Argent for Saxony on the centre of the 4th quarter an escutcheon Gules charged with the crown of Charlemagne Or as the Arch-Treasurer of the Holy Roman Empire.

de Mauley - Or a bend Sable.

Estoft - Sable six escallops Or, three, two and one.

Fossard - Gules six bends Or.

Stockdale - Ermine on a bend Sable three pheons Argent.

Strawberry Fare

from Robert Hardman's Notebook published in The Daily Telegraph, Thursday, 16th March 1999

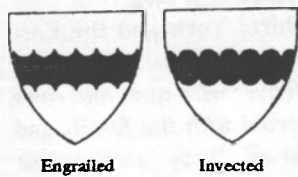
Tin hats and flak jackets will be in order the next time the Duke of Edinburgh turns up at the Savoy Chapel in London. Better known as the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy, it has been a royal chapel since the 13th century and is the spiritual home of the Duchy of Lancaster. The ceiling has just been given a facelift, during which it was decided to include the coats of arms of the Queen and the Duke, the first additions since those of Victoria and Albert. However, someone has boobed: the coronet in the Duke's arms features strawberry leaves. This might not bother most of us, but the parchment is flying in heraldic quarters.



Strawberry leaves, as every Bluemantle Pursuivant knows, denote a non-royal duke. The correct form for a royal duke is, of course, crosses patté and fleurs-de-lys. This is rather like muddling a bar dexter with a bar sinister. Indeed, the logical conclusion of the strawberries - that the Duke is not part of the Royal Family - verges on the treasonable. But the ceiling is finished, the scaffolding has come down and the arms are staying put. A sermon on forgiveness might be advisable for the Duke's next visit.



A Chief Engrailed



It sounds awful but that is how your editors felt when it was pointed out to them by Roger Matthews and Pete Taylor that they had committed the heinous heraldic crime of confusing *invected* with *engrailed* when attempting to blazon the new arms granted to St Mary's College, Strawberry Hill.

Pete writes - *I can't see the reason for describing the three flowers as septafoils (Incidentally Elvin in his Dictionary of Heraldry calls them sept-foils).*

They are clearly drawn as flowers with petals and a seed pod. A foil of whatever number is drawn distinctively as a stylised flower (see my sketch). As the rationale says they are water-lilies why not just blazon them as such. For clarification with seven petals could be added if desired. My gardening knowledge does not run to knowing



if all water-lilies have seven petals! Given the blazon a torch of learning I think most heraldic artists would draw something like my second sketch. By a strange coincidence a recent grant of arms I have seen

shows a beaver with a similar device which is blazoned.....supporting with the dexter paw a cresset Sable enflamed proper. Pete then pointed out that we had neglected to say that the crest unicorn is winged.



His suggestion for St Mary's would be:- *Azure a cross patonce between four martlets respectant Or on a chief engrailed three water lilies each of seven petals seeded [proper] and for a crest:- On a wreath a unicorn winged sejant supporting with the dexter hoof a cresset Sable enflamed proper.*

He ended by suggesting that it would be interesting to see the official blazon. We agree but have been told by Karen Smith, the editor of *Simmarian*, that St Mary's is an extremely large organisation and that she has no idea where the Grant of Arms is kept. She works a three day week only, is heavily involved in preparing for the 150th Anniversary celebrations and deeply regrets that our request for an official blazon does not rank very high on her list of priorities. All this was said in a very charming way so we shall just have to be patient and I am sure she will eventually come up with the answer. Karen is herself very interested and we have promised to let her know if we obtain the information from any other source.

Who's Who in What or is it Which?

With reference to Militaria No.27 (The King's Own Scottish Borderers) Ray Smith of the East Midlands Heraldry Society has queried the inclusion of Private Bill Speakman, the winner of a Korea MC , as a member of The King's Own Scottish Borderers. It was his belief that Private Speakman was, along with Lieut Colonel Carne, another winner of a Korea MC and CO of the Glosters, a member of that regiment.



The British Army 2000 mentioned in *Seaxe* No.31 specifically states that Private Speakman (of The King's Own Scottish Borderers) is "happily alive to tell the tale" and Ian S. Hallows in his *Regiments and Corps of the British Army* writes that six members of the regiment have been awarded the Victoria Cross one of which was



in Korea - but here the plot thickens - *Whittaker's Almanack* (1991 and 1998) states that one of the surviving recipients of the MC is Sergeant W. Speakman-Pitt of The Black Watch but that the medal was won in Korea in 1951. We learned from the Regimental Headquarters of The King's Own Scottish Borderers that Bill Speakman did serve with the Black Watch but was drafted to the 1st Bn. KOSB when they were sent to Korea and it was with them that he won his MC . On being discharged from the army he emigrated to South Africa and after he was married took Pitt, the name of his wife's family, in addition to his own. I then contacted the offices of *Whittaker's Almanack* only to discover that it was now owned by HMSO - they were very helpful and agreed to contact the Victoria Cross and George Cross Association from whom they receive the information they publish. HMSO were unable to extract an explanation for the "crossing" of regiments but, nevertheless have promised that in the next issue of *Whittaker's Almanack* (2001?) Sergeant W. Speakman-Pitt will be shown as Black Watch (attached King's Own Scottish Borderers)!

Corrigenda

Now your Editors have discovered an error in the numbering of the Militaria series which should be amended as follows:-

Seaxe No.30 - Oxon & Bucks Light Infantry should be No.26

Seaxe No.31 - The King's Own Scottish Borderers should be No.27.

Obscene Heritage?

In a short article in *The Observer* last month **Anthony Barnett** writes.....*The prehistoric chalk drawing of the Cerne Giant and his erect penis, carved on to a Dorset*



The Cerne monument

hillside, is Britain's most most famous phallus. Some believe the Giant has fertility powers and many couples go there to have sex on its 26ft penis, hoping to have children. Yet, according to confidential 1930s government documents retrieved from the Public Record Office, the Home Office was forced to consider covering up the genitalia after a complaint from the Bishop of Salisbury. One witty suggestion was to plant a grove of fig trees in a strategic position.

Home Office minutes dated November 1932 reveal that the bishop objected to the 'indecent pubus' and wanted it made 'less objectionable'. The civil servant charged with the task describes the complaint as a 'serious charge of indecency against a prehistoric national monument'. In the minute he revealed that he had approached the National Trust which rejected the complaint because it had duty to 'conserve and not to deface'. The exasperated civil servant asks rhetorically: "What does the complainant want us to do? Commit a nameless outrage? We cannot contemplate that. Plant a small grove of fig trees in a strategic position? We have not got the power."

His suggestion is to write to the bishop saying the Home Secretary has found that the figure is 'a prehistoric national monument', scheduled as such and listed by the National Trust. It has been in existence for over 2,000 years and no previous complaint has been registered. The Secretary of State regrets that he cannot see a way to take any action in the matter.' The letter was copied to the Chief Constable of Dorset. A note in the margin from the head of the Home Office's children branch suggests the bishop has 'probably overlooked the legal maxim, de maximus ni curat lex - the law does not apply to giants!'

Many years ago before the Giant was railed off and the public were still allowed to clamber all over him, we spent a few days with friends at Cerne Abbas. We made the obligatory visit to the Giant and actually rested on him -----well three of us did - but when it was pointed out to the other lady member of the party exactly where she was sitting she made a very hurried exit indeed!

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RAF Central Band

On a visit to Northampton recently your Editors were entertained to a splendid musical concert by the RAF Central Band. Each player had a music stand complete with a banner bearing the badge of the Band. We were too far away to see the badge clearly but our good friend **Roland Symons** came up with a drawing of this most unusual charge and the blazon - *Issuant from an Astral crown the tail of a Lyre bird. Motto:- Aere Invicti = invincible with the brass.*

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Things to Come

Derrick Walkden of the Lancashire Heraldry Group has promised us the latest in the *My Home Town* series in **Seaxe** and **Roland Symons** of the Bath Heraldic Society has volunteered a series on RAF Badges - the first of which features the RAF units in Middlesex. Even more importantly our own member, **Steve Kibbey**, is making a wonderful recovery from a very serious illness - he appeared at our last meeting and has offered a number of articles which would include some of the Spanish religious orders and his version of *My Home Town*. We should be delighted to receive literary contributions from any of our readers.

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Next Meetings

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Arms and Architecture in Renaissance Italy

by **Anthony Ryan**

Hon. Sec. City of Bath Heraldic Society
on Thursday, 18th May

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New Trends in Heraldry by **Pete Taylor, Hon.FHS**

on Thursday, 15th June

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