



The Seaxe

Newsletter of the Middlesex Heraldry Society



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Henry, 1st Earl of Uxbridge, Lord Paget of Beaudesert

The Right Honourable Henry Bayley-Paget, Earl of Uxbridge, Lord Paget of Beaudesert was born on June 18th 1744. He was a descendant of Sir William Paget, KG who held many high offices. Sir William was one of Henry VIII's executors and a member of the Council for Edward VI. As a member of the Council he supported Somerset. Dugdale describes him as "...a person naturally endowed with excellent parts, as may seem by his ascent from so low a condition to those high Preferments whereunto, by sundry degrees, he attained; being son to Paget, one of the Serjeants at Mace, in the City of London, who was born near Wednsbury, (*sic*) in Staffordshire, of mean Parentage, where there were some of that generation, till of late years, remaining:....". He was knighted sometime before 19 January 1543/4 and later, by writ dated 23rd January 1552, was summoned to the House of Lords as Lord Paget of Beaudesert.



The Grant of Arms by King Edward VI confirming arms and crest
to William, 1st Lord Paget

His “mean parentage” was to cause him considerable grief later on in life when, after being admitted in to the Order of the Garter on 23rd May 1547 he was then, five years later degraded from the Order, according to the King “for divers his offences, and chiefly because he was no gentleman of blood, neither father’s side nor mother’s side”. He was also deprived of his arms and crest, which were ‘Azure a Cross engrailed Or between four close Eagles Argent’; and crest: ‘On a Wreath Argent and Gules A demi heraldic Tyger per pale Or and Sable charged with four Gouttes counterchanged armed and langued Gules supporting in his paws a Branch of Peach Tree leaved Vert fructed proper’, which had been granted by Clarenceux Hawley on 1st June 1541.

There were three requirements for admission to the Order of the Garter. Firstly, the prospective member must be of noble or gentle birth, secondly, he must be a knight, and thirdly be of good character and beyond reproach. It was also implied that he would be required to take the oath to maintain the statutes. The statutes of Henry VIII defined the requirements of birth. The candidate was expected to be descended from three generations of ‘Noblesse that is to say of Name and Arms both of his father’s side and also of his mother’s side’. The requirement that the candidate was to be of noble birth was generally adhered to but there were exceptions as in the case of Thomas Cromwell. He was a son of a cloth worker in Putney and there is no record of action against him on the matter of his low birth prior to his execution. Clearly Sir William’s degradation was politically motivated; the strict interpretation of the Order’s statutes were used to humiliate and ruin him. A year later in 1553 by Letters Patent from the King, Edward VI, arms, associated with the family previously granted without authority by an unnamed King of Arms were confirmed. Later that year Queen Mary reinstated him in to the Order of the Garter when she publicly declared that “he had highly deserved of the Nation by his Prudence and Counsel”.

Sir William died at West Drayton in Middlesex in 1563 when the barony passed to his eldest son Henry. The title continued to pass down the male line until it came, in 1713 to Henry, the 7th Lord Paget of Beaudesert. This Henry held many offices including Deputy Lieutenant of Staffordshire under his father. He was M.P for Staffordshire and a member of Council of the Lord High Admiral. He was also Captain of the Yeoman of the Guard from 1711 until 1715.

On 1st January 1711/2 he was created Baron Burton of Burton, co. Stafford. On 13th April 1714 Queen Mary appointed him envoy-extraordinary for a visit to Hanover but he refused to go unless he was made an Earl, which the Queen refused to do. However when King George I came to the throne he created him Earl of Uxbridge, co. Middlesex on 19th October 1714. On the Earl’s death his titles passed to his grandson Henry, his two sons, Henry and Thomas dying before him.

Henry, the 2nd Earl was a miser. According to the Dictionary of National Biography he was remarkable for an inordinate love of money. He was baptised at Isleworth in Middlesex and died in 1769 and was buried at West Drayton on 24 November that year. On his death the Earldom of Uxbridge and the Barony of Burton became extinct. The Barony of Paget passed to a distant cousin, Henry Bayley, the great-great-grandson of William the 6th Lord Paget of Beaudesert.



Arms of Paget

He was the son and heir of Sir Nicholas Bayley Bt. of Place Newyth in Anglesey and Caroline, daughter of Thomas Paget. On inheriting the Barony of Paget he assumed the name and arms of Paget in addition to his own. He was summoned to Parliament on 13th January 1770 and a fortnight later obtained a Royal Licence, dated 29th January 1770, to take the name of Paget in lieu of Bayley. He was a Colonel in the Staffordshire Regiment of Militia, Lord Lieutenant of Anglesey, and Constable of Carnarvon Castle. On the 9th of December his father died and he succeeded as 3rd baronet. On the 19th May 1784 he was created the Earl of Uxbridge, co. Middlesex. He married on 11th April 1767, Jane Champagné, the daughter of the Very Rev. Arthur Champagné, Dean of Clonmacnoise. Henry died aged 67 in 1812 and his wife Jane five years later. They had eleven children, the eldest of which, Henry-William inherited his father's titles and was himself raised to rank of Marquess of Anglesey on 4th July 1815.

The Arms of Chesterfield, Derbyshire.



The Arms of Chesterfield

In 1958 the Pomegranate was reinstated into the town's arms when on 10th November the following arms were granted. **Arms:** 'Gules a device representing a pomegranate tree as depicted in the ancient common seal of the borough, the tree leaved and eradicated proper, flowered and fructed Or. **Crest:** On a wreath of the colours issuant from a mural crown Gules, masoned Or, a mount vert, thereon a Derby ram passant guardant proper. **Supporters:** A cock and a pynot or magpie proper, each ducally gorged Or. Mantled Gules doubled Or.'

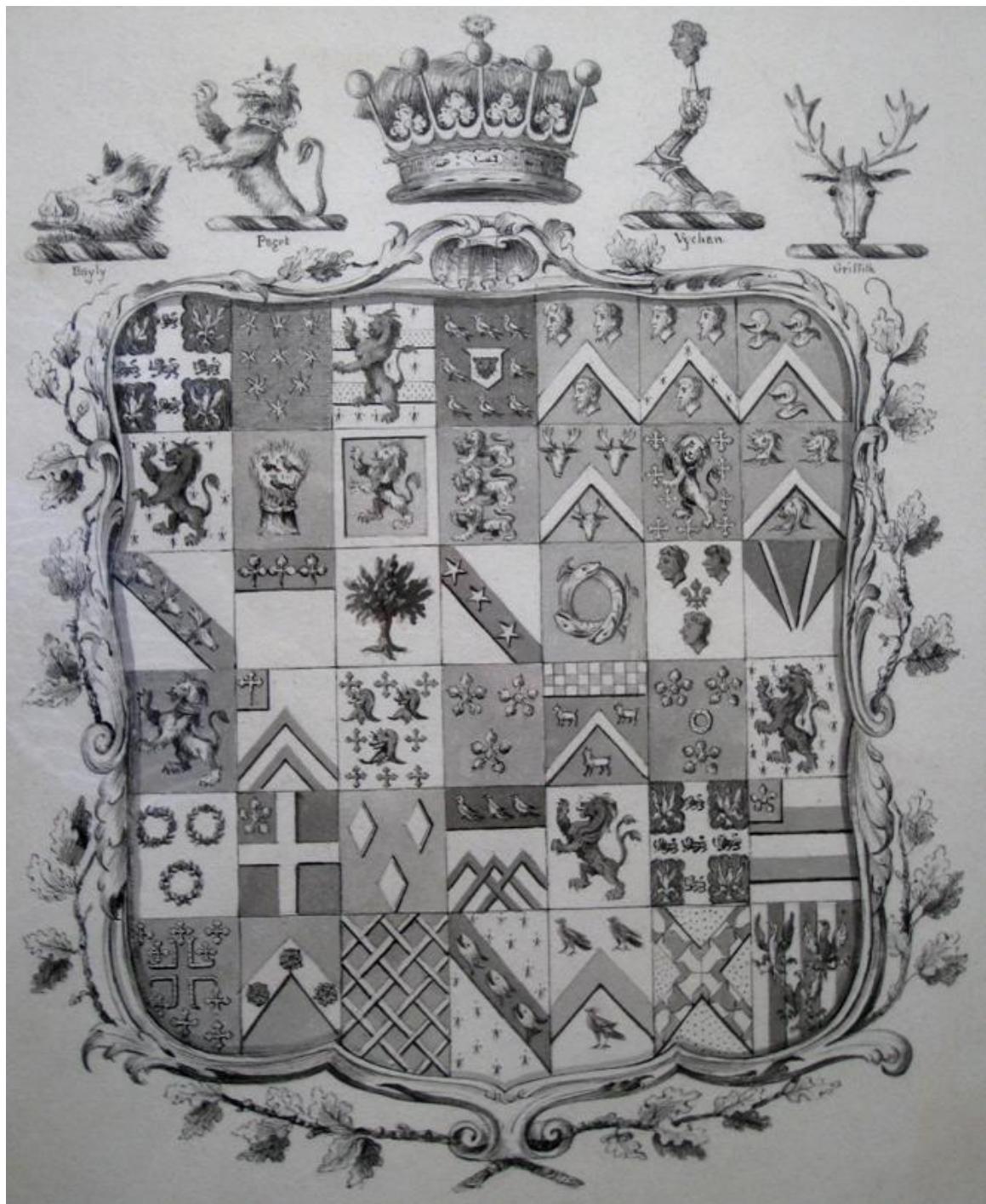
The fighting cock and magpie allude to the fact that the Earls of Devonshire and Danby along with other conspirators met at the Inn of the Cock and Pynot in Whittington, which is about two and half miles north of Chesterfield, to plot the downfall of King James II. The Earls later became the Duke of Devonshire and the Duke of Leeds respectively which explains the ducal coronets worn by the supporters. The compartment represents Whittington Moor, whilst the motto alludes to the crooked spire of the Church of St Mary and All Saints in Chesterfield.



The Seal of Chesterfield

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE HENRY PAGET, EARL OF UXBRIDGE, BARON PAGET OF BEAUDESERT.

Forty-two quarterings by Joseph Edmondson, Mowbray herald extraordinary



1. Paget, Arms of Assumption, 2. Bayley, 3. Bagenall, 4. Bagenall, 5. Vycham, 6. Vycham, Coat of Augmentation, 7. Tudor, 8. Puirlin, 9. Grono, 10. Karadoc, 11 Griffith, 12, Griffith, 13. Dalton, 14. Byspharn, 15. Stanley Baron, 16. Barnville, 17. Maxter, 18. Heston, 19. Troutbeck, 20. Moor, 21. Hulles, 22. Dornville, 23. Moberley, 24. Hall, 25. Lambert, 26. Baron, 27. Lambert, 28. Horton, 29. Pickering, 30. Lassells, 31. Moresby, 32. Whitmore, 33. Danby, 34. Cressy, 35. Paget Baron, 36. Preston, 37. Knowles Baron, 38. Knowles, 39. Cave, Genell, 40. Cliff, 41. Hillington, 42. Whitcombe.

THE FOUR ANCIENT MILITARY AND MONASTIC ORDERS OF SPAIN – Part 1

On Tuesday 27 November 1095, in a field just outside the eastern gate of Clermont in France, a large crowd gathered, including the bishops attending the Church Council, and a number of Frankish knights and noblemen. They came to hear a sermon from Pope Urban II. The purpose of the sermon was to urge the knights to take up arms against Islamic rule in Jerusalem and free the Holy Sepulchre from Muslim control. The reaction of the crowd, and from around Christian Europe, was more than the Pope could have hoped for. Immediately he had finished talking, the bishop of Le Puy had stepped forward and pledged to take up the cross as urged by Urban. Others followed under the cry from the crowd of 'God wills it!' The First Crusade had begun. At this time the Iberian peninsula had already been under Muslim rule for nearly 400 years, the Moors having invaded Iberia in the 8th century and occupied most of the peninsula with the exception of small pockets of land in the north.

The First Crusade witnessed the foundation of the Military and Monastic Orders of 'The Hospitallers of St John' and of 'The Poor Fellow-Soldiers of Jesus Christ' better known now as 'The Knights Templars' or 'Templars'. Both Orders were answerable directly to the Pope. In that part of the Iberian peninsula which was later to become Spain, the idea of knights taking monastic vows was taken up more enthusiastically than in any other country in Europe. A number of Orders were founded, some of which did not last very long. However, those that did survive either prospered or were amalgamated with the larger Orders, principally Alcántara, Calatrava, and Santiago and to a lesser extent Montesa. These Orders have survived the test of time, and although they were suppressed twice in Napoleonic times and again by the Spanish Cortes in 1931, they still exist today.



The Cross of Calatrava

The four Orders were based on the Hospitallers and the Templars, these being the forerunners of such organisations. They all had knights and chaplain brothers, they all lived to a Rule, either Benedictine, Cistercian, or Augustinian and they all made vows of poverty, obedience and, with the exception of Santiago, chastity. The Order of Santiago was unusual in the sense that the knights were allowed to marry although the female members were not. The Hospitallers and the Templars both had property, including a number of castles and fortifications in Spain and they saw action against the Moors. However, their main purpose in Europe was to raise money and recruit men to send to the Holy Land. They were not enthusiastic in getting too involved in Europe. It was the Templars' reluctance to defend the castle at Calatrava, due to insufficient resources, i.e. knights and equipment, that saw the formation of the Order of Calatrava.

The castle was recovered from the Moors after they had held it for 400 years. Alphonso VII gave the castle to the Templars with instructions that it was to be held at all costs. However, in 1158, hearing rumours of a pending Moor advance, the Templars gave up the castle to Sancho III and withdrew. The castle was then given to Raymond Sierra, the abbot of St Mary of Hitero, a Cistercian convent, and the monk Diego Velásquez, a friend of Sancho. The abbot promised to bring his monks to Calatrava and to recruit knights to hold the castle. The rumours of the advance did not materialize and in 1164 Raymond Sierra died. In the same year Pope Alexander III gave official recognition of the Order.

The aim of the Order was to defend the Catholic faith and the kingdom, but just as significantly their prime allegiance was to the king rather than to the Pope. This was typical of Spanish Orders. By keeping the Orders directly under their control the kings prevented revenue from

being sent elsewhere. It also allowed them to keep a check on their power and influence. Membership was restricted to Catholic noblemen who could prove that they had no Moorish or Jewish ancestors. Today conditions for admission to the Order of Calatrava is for the candidate to prove the nobility of each of his four grandparents, that he and his parents and grandparents are legitimate and not descended from non-Christians, and he must prove that he himself is a Roman Catholic of good standing.

The Order adopted the Cistercian Rule, after the Master Don Garcia requested the Abbot of Citeaux to affiliate the brethren to the white monks. The knights were constantly being reminded of the Christian's seven obligations, '*comer, bever, calcar, vestir, visitar, consolar, and enterrar*', (to feed, give drink to, shoe, clothe, visit, console the sick, poor or afflicted and bury the dead). The frontispiece of the Calatrava Bible of about 1430 shows the Grand Master in a white cloak sitting on his throne. Underneath is a line of knights performing the seven obligations of charity mentioned above.



The Castle-monastery of Calatrava la Nueva stands on a hill above
the town of Aldea del Rey.

In 1195 the Christian army suffered a crushing defeat at the battle of Alorcos, which resulted in the fortress at Calatrava being lost. In 1212 the roles were reversed by the Christian victory at the Battle of Las Navas de Tolosa. This time the castle was deep inside Christian territory. The knights decided to abandon the castle in favour of another site at a more advanced position. This position became known as Calatrava la Nueva (New Calatrava). A convent fortress already existed on the site but was considerably added to by the Order. The remains of the convent fortress still stand on top of a high, steep-sided hill and is open to visitors.

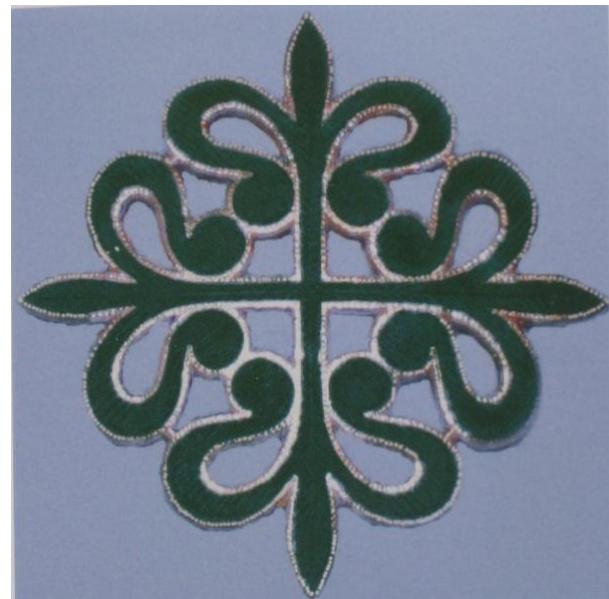
The original fortress site, known as Calatrava la Vieja (Old Calatrava) is situated in a fork in the River Guadiana about 20km north east of Ciudad Real. Calatrava la Nueva is approximately 50km south of Ciudad Real and only a few kilometers from the Castle of Salvatierra. The name Calatrava is derived from the Arabic Qalat-Rabah, 'mighty fortress'.

The knights and the monks wore a white hooded tunic (later grey as seen in the Calatrava bible). The knights wore a shorter habit than the monks, and when on service they wore a long sleeveless mantle. Their armour was always black. The badge of the Order was a Cross Flory Gules which they wore on the left breast of their tunic. Today the badge is a white-enamelled, gold rimmed medallion, bearing a stylized Cross Flory Gules.

The Order of Alcántara was derived from the Order of St Julian de Pereiro or of The Pear Tree. As such they used the Pear Tree as their device. Established in 1156 by the brothers Suerro and Gómez Fernandez, Ferdinand II, King of Léon and Galicia gave it the status of an Order of knighthood. The Order was approved by Pope Alexander III in 1177 and six years later, when their superior was given the title 'Master', took the Rule of St Benedict. Alphonso IX, after taking the town of Alcántara, made the Grand Master of the Order of Calatrava governor of the town and castle. In 1218 the Order of Calatrava gave the town and castle to the Order of St Julian de Pereiro on certain conditions. One was that they were to hold the town and castle and remain under subjection of the Grand Master of Calatrava and his successors. The Master of St Julian was to have the right to participate in the election of the Master of Calatrava to whom he was subordinate. The knights changed their name to Alcántara, and their Pear Tree device to that of Calatrava's, changing the tincture of the cross to Vert. They continued to follow the Rule of St Benedict and swore to defend the Catholic faith and in particular the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin.

Shortly after the agreement had been made, a dispute arose between the two Orders. The Master of Alcántara complained that the agreement between the two Orders had been broken by Calatrava, in that he had not been given the opportunity to take part in the election of Calatrava's newly elected Master as required in the agreement. As a result he declared the Order of Alcántara autonomous. Eventually the dispute was resolved and Alcántara received a number of estates from Calatrava, who remained its superior in disciplinary and ecclesiastical matters.

The Order of Alcántara suffered many troubles from within. It got involved in civil wars between the kings of Aragon, Castille, Leon and Navarre despite its vows not to take up arms against Christians. Schism had set in resulting on one occasion of the castle of Alcántara being laid siege to by members of the same Order. The Master, Suer Pérez de Maldonado died. His brother, Ruiz Périz, succeeded him, then resigned but was then persuaded by the Superior of the Cistercians, the Abbot of Morimond, to reclaim the Mastership. Pérez laid siege to the castle and with help from some knights of Santiago, received the surrender of the castle and acknowledgement of his claim to the Mastership. However, the king's candidate, Gonzalo Núñez still claimed the title and in time Ruiz Périz resigned again in favour of Núñez. Continuous squabbles continued in the Order until along with the other three Military Orders, it was taken over by Ferdinand and Isabella shortly after the victory in Granada.



The Cross of Alcántara

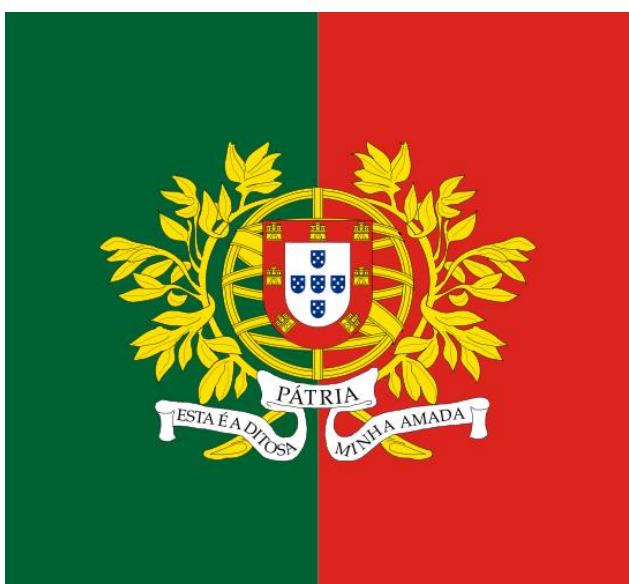
The town of Alcántara is on the Portuguese border north west of Cáceres. It sits on a rock above the southern bank of the River Tajo. The town derived its name from the Arabic word for bridge, 'Al-Qantarah'. The Romans originally built a six-arched bridge across the river. It was constructed of granite blocks and was held together without mortar. Although it has been repaired many times it is considered 'one of the noblest Roman monuments in Spain'. The old headquarters of the Order of Alcántara, the Convento de San Benito, has been restored and is now used as a backdrop for plays and festivals.

There is little mention of the habits that the knights and clergy wore. Ashmole in his 'Order of the Garter' says that the Bull of Alexander III recognizing the Order makes no mention of the habit the knights should wear nor was it known what it was, save "...that they used a secular habit, modest and grave, and the Ecclesiasticks a clerical habit; only to make a difference of these knights from other Seculars, and the Clergy from other Ecclesiasticks, they wore a shred of Cloth, and a Scapulary". The badge of the Order was worn on the left breast or suspended from a plumed helmet and a trophy of flags. Admission to the Order is restricted to "Catholic gentlemen" who can prove four noble quarters.

In Part 2 we shall look at the Order of Montessa and the Order of Santiago.



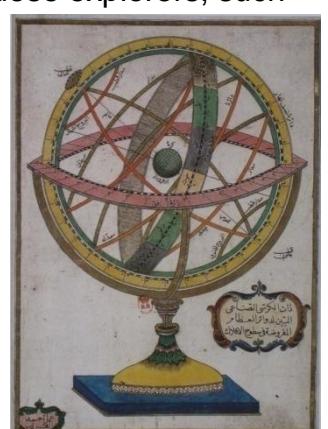
DID YOU KNOW...



The Military Flag of Portugal

... that an armillary sphere appears in the Royal arms of Portugal and can be seen on the Portuguese flag today? The armillary sphere was the personal badge of King Manuel I and was bestowed on him by his cousin, King John II when he was Duke of Beja. When John died in 1495 the crown passed to Manuel. His reign was to be the most glorious in Portuguese history. Known as Manuel the Fortunate, he assumed the title of 'Lord of the conquest, navigation and commerce of India, Ethiopia, Arabia and Persia'. It was during Manuels' reign that saw the great expansion of Portuguese influence. This was the era of the legendary Portuguese explorers, such as Vasco da Gama reaching India after navigating around Africa, Pedro Alvares Cabral

discovering Brazil and Ferdinand Magellan making the first voyage around the world. In these affluent times a new style of architecture grew in popularity. The style is now known as 'Manueline', a term coined by Francisco Adolfo de Varnhagen, Viscount of Porto Seguro, in 1842 in his description of the Jerónimos Monastery. The distinguishing features of the style was the consistent use of symbols taken from the sea, such as shells, sea weed, string of pearls and sea weed, from Christianity, such as the cross of the Order of Christ, carved rope and knots and also instruments used on ships such as anchors, anchor chains and armillary spheres. In the Torre de Belém, the fortress built at the mouth of Lisbon's river, the Tejo, heraldry is everywhere and the armillary sphere is one of the most prominent symbols displayed. It was used on all buildings built by the king, and it



A Turkish Armillary

became not only the symbol of the king but also of the Cross of Christ and the Royal Shield, in fact the symbol of the empire.

THE HERALDRY ON THE TOMB CHEST OF GEORGE BROOKE, 9TH BARON COBHAM AT ST MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH, COBHAM, KENT - Part 1



Tomb Chest of Sir William Brooke, 9th Lord Cobham of Cobham, Kent. Viewed from the north-east.

Sir George Brooke K.G., 9th Baron Cobham died on September 29th 1558 and was laid to rest in the chancel on the exact spot of the pre-reformation altar in the church of St Mary Magdalene in Cobham, Kent. Sir George's tomb was built by his eldest son and heir, William in 1561. On the top lie figures of Sir George and his wife, Anne Bray. He is in full armour with the Garter strapped just below his left knee. Over his armour he wears a tabard bearing his quartered arms. Overall he wears the mantle of the Order of the Garter. Anne is wearing a surcoat, emblazoned with her husband's arms impaling her Bray arms, over a full-length gown.

Around the chamfered edge of the table is an inscription in Latin describing as is usual the virtues of the deceased. On Sir George's side the text translates as follows:



Sir George Brooke, KG and his wife Anne Bray

"The most honourable and illustrious gentleman George Brook. He was titled Lord Cobham on the strength of his possession of the town of Cobham. And the most excellent gentleman was for some years Governor of Calais being admitted into the most splendid Order of the Knights of St George. Not only did he enjoy this most outstanding eminence of honour and of family, but he also had an excellent disposition and a mind embellished by every kind of merit. In war he was a most outstanding leader, and in peace a most wise councillor of the princes in whose times he lived, being singularly pleasing to his fellow citizens of Kent, amongst whom he lived. He was especially dear to the whole state, and most famous and beloved on account of the glory of his honours and virtues. And all these qualities in him were even more splendid because he had undertaken the profession and defence of the gospel, and maintained the same right up to his final breath. And when that most noble gentleman, loyal servant of God, and excellent citizen of his fatherland had reached a ripe old age, in his

sixty-second year and burning with the heat of the fever, he died on September 29th in the year 1558. At his departure the many children of foremost excellence whom he left behind, his friends, colleagues and indeed the whole state experienced a great and fitting grief. But then Sir William Brooke, called Lord Cobham by the former title of his family, son and most benevolent heir of George his father dedicated this monument to the memory of George his most dear father in the year 1561, the third year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth".

On Anne's side the much shorter inscription is written in couplets:

"She was fortunate, her father and husband being Lords, the one Bray the other Cobham.
Anne was virtuous, and a most favourable mother;
Anne made offerings to the poor with a generous hand.
Nothing was better, nothing more happy than this woman till at length she was more beloved
than her husband.

The last year of Mary's reign eclipsed him with death, and she met a similar fate in the month of November.

Thus these two whom life always kept united the same tomb keeps together in death".

On a semi-circular projection at the top of the tomb is placed Sir George's ornately carved barred helm together with his crest of a Saracen's head. At their feet are family badges. At the feet of Sir George is a goat, whilst Anne has a Bray badge, the winged lion. Interestingly, the church guide book refers to the winged lion as a GAYTER but this term is not in any of the common heraldic glossaries or dictionaries.

Around the sides of the tomb chest are kneeling figures representing the couple's fourteen children, ten sons and four daughters. They are placed in the order of their position within the family. Looking east at the tomb, head on from the nave William, the eldest is the first on the south side. Henry the second son is the first on the north side and so the sons alternate with sons 1,3,5,7, and 9 on the south side and sons 2,4,6,8 and 10 on the north side. The daughters are positioned at the ends facing each other.

William, 10th Baron Cobham



William, 10th Lord Cobham

William is wearing a peer's cloak adorned with ermine. Underneath the cloak he wears a tabard bearing his arms impaling those of his first wife, Dorothy, daughter of George Neville, Lord Abergavenny. She died on 22nd September 1559. Her arms are Neville quartering Warenne, Clare, Despencer, and Beauchamp.

William was born on 1st November 1527. He spent his early years abroad studying. Before he went his father, Sir George, drew up a list of 'Rules of Conduct' entitled "Remembrances to Mr William Broke". There were nine in total:

1. First in the morning remember to serve God, thanking him for his benefits and humbly desiring his grace to aide and assist you.
2. To hear Mass devoutly upon your knees and pray fervently at that time (all other fantasies and worldly pleasures clean set apart), that your mind and body may that time only be given to call upon Almighty God.
3. To apply your learning diligently (and that your own mind

without any compulsion) your learning shall be Civil law, Rhetoric and Greek.

4. To be obedient in all points to your Tutor and do nothing without his advice and Counsel.
5. To keep yourself chaste and to take great heed that ye set no mind or pleasures upon the abominable sin of lechery ever having in your remembrance the bound of your promise of marriage and keep your vessel clean according to the Commandment of God.
6. To send letters over to my Lord into England so often as the commodity of carriage shall serve you.
7. At vacant times to play upon the lute or other instruments.
8. To mark well the best forms and manners in the country and those to put in use and accustom yourself to the best.
9. To take heed ye do not speak too thick (ie too quick).

At the end of the document William makes his promise –

"I will perform all these things by the grace of God by me your son William Broke".

Shortly after his father's death he was made Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports. He was later to become Constable of Dover Castle, Lord Lieutenant and vice-admiral of Kent. He was also to be made Deputy Governor of Calais and it was whilst deputy governor that he tried to create one of his servants, one Edmund Baker of Calais, as his pursuivant. Unfortunately there is no record of the creation ever having taken place. On 17th November 1558 Queen Mary died. On the 18th November, just over three weeks after his mother's death he was appointed by the new Queen, Elizabeth 1st, as special ambassador to take the news of Mary's death to Phillip II. He married twice. Firstly in 1545 to Dorothy, daughter of George Neville, 3rd baron of Abergavenny. They had one daughter Frances, before they separated eight years later in 1553. Dorothy died at Cobham Hall in September 1559. Four months later, at Whitehall Palace William married Frances Newton, daughter of Sir John Newton. Frances was promoted to Lady of the bedchamber. Her arms are impaled with William's on the west end of the tomb which we see in Part 2.

Henry, 2nd son

Henry died at a young age and so on his tabard he bears Brooke impaling blank.

George, 3rd son

George was the third son of Sir George Brooke. He was born on January 27th 1532/3. In 1545 he was sent abroad to Venice with his tutor Edmund Harvell, to study Greek, Latin, and Italian but returned a year later. On his return he was apprenticed to his father as a merchant of the Staple of Calais. Ten years later in 1561, the year the tomb was built, he got in to financial trouble and fled to Antwerp to escape his German creditors. Some believe that George's attitude here is a direct allusion to his fleeing. The guide at St Mary's told me that the story that George was not religious and couldn't be bothered with all this praying nonsense and was getting up to leave. It should be noted that all the sons bar George are knelling on both knees.

George married Christiana, daughter and heir of Richard Duke of Otterton in Devon. He wears on his tabard the Brooke and Bray quarterings impaled with those of his wife: 'Per fess Argent and Azure three wreaths counterchanged'. Interestingly, Richard Duke owned the house at Hayes Barton, where Sir Walter Raleigh was born. In 1584 Raleigh was looking for a base in Devon. What better than the house in which he was born? He wrote to Richard Duke asking him to name his price for the house. As an extra inducement he added, "If at any time you shall have occasion to use me, you shall find me a thankful friend to you and yours". Duke was not interested and didn't sell the house to Raleigh.

Thomas, 4th son

Thomas was the black sheep of the family. At the age of 17 his tutor wrote to his father about his 'licentious mode of living, his idleness, his disregard of his (the tutor's) many discourses, which did not seem to make the youth a bit better. Then he spends the whole days drinking in taverns, and the time he should give to his studies he passes away at tennis or wanders through the streets, even by night, in the company of "lost men", now from this, now from that



George, 3rd son

craving money; nor would he go to public lectures, etc'. Later in life Thomas roamed the seas as

a sort of semi-pirate. The following account of one of his "adventures" demonstrates the sort of person he was.

'A Spanish ship was loaded up in Flanders destined for Bilbao. The cargo was valued at 80,000 ducats. On board the ship were 40 prisoners condemned to serve in the galleys. Cobham, cruising the Channel caught sight of the vessel and chased it. He caught up with it in the Bay of Biscay where he boarded the ship and ultimately captured it. The Spanish captain's brother and several men were killed in the fighting. After taking the ship he had the captain and the remaining members of the crew sown up in their own sails and thrown overboard. What happened to the prisoners is not known. The ship was scuttled and Cobham made off with the booty to his hideout in the South of Ireland. Later, eighteen bodies were washed ashore the Spanish northern coast'.



Rear view of Thomas, 4th son

Cobham was tried for piracy the following year but refused to plead to the indictment. The sentence of "Peine Forte et Dure" was passed upon him. His father and other relations strained their influence to prevent it from being carried out and it seems that either they succeeded, or that Thomas yielded and consented to answer the charge. He somehow avoided the sentence because later he was back

on the high seas. He got himself involved in the conspiracy of the Duke of Norfolk and Mary, Queen of Scots and was arrested by his own brother, William 10th Baron Cobham on the night of 14th October 1571. He married Katherine, daughter of Sir William Cavendish, whose mother was Alice, daughter and co-heir of John Smith of Podbrook in Cavendish.

The arms on his tabard are - Brooke of 15, with a fleur-de-lis argent for difference impaling 'Quarterly 1 & 4 Sable three stags heads caboshed Argent', for CAVENDISH 2 & 3 Argent a chevron gules between three cross-crosslets Sable for SMITH with a crescent Or for difference. The fleur-de-lis cadency mark in the Brooke quarterings is obviously an error as this denotes the sixth son.

John, 5th son

John was born on 22nd April 1534. He had great abilities and distinguished himself as a soldier in the wars of the Low Countries. He took part in the preparations against the Armada and a possible landing of the Duke of Parma. He married Alice, daughter and heir of Edward Cobbe widow of Sir John Norton. He bears Brooke impaling Cobbe 'Argent a chevron between three cocks Gules'. Apparently he has a splendid tomb at Newington on the Street and his wife a brass.

Edward, 6th son

Edward died at a young age. On his tabard he bears the Brooke quarterings impaling blank.

Henry, 7th son

Henry, the 7th son was born on 5th February 1537. He was a career diplomat who spent many years as ambassador, principally to the French and Spanish Courts. He was knighted by the

Queen at Kenilworth in July 1575. He was unmarried at the time this tomb was built and therefore his tabard shows Brooke impaling blank. He later married Anne, daughter of Sir Henry Sutton and widow of Sir Walter Haddon, Principal Master of the Court of Requests.

Thomas, 8th son

Thomas died young. He also bears the Brooke quarterings impaling blank.

Edmunde, 9th son

Edmunde died at a young age and consequently bears the Brooke quarterings with a blank impalement.

Edward, 10th son

Edward died young and so his tabard bore just the Brooke quarterings.

In the next issue we will look at the Sir William's four daughters and the four achievements at the west and east sides of the tomb.

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THE CREDIT CRUNCH – WHAT'S NEW?

The main news of today, and it will continue to be so for the next few years it seems, is the credit crunch and the loss of confidence in the failing banking system. It may surprise some people that this phenomenon is not new. In the fourteenth century bad debts and loss of confidence brought down the largest banks medieval Europe had ever seen. The Bardi and the Peruzzi families of Florence were the largest merchant banks of their day. They were manufacturers, traders, and bankers with widespread operations throughout the Mediterranean and Western Europe. Their collapse in the 1340s has been attributed to huge unpaid debts principally on loans made to King of England.



The Bardi arms with the crowned shield of England.

The Bardi made lucrative deals with Edward III to loan him large sums of money in return for exclusive rights on the import and export of wool from this country. One of the privileges given to the Bardi was the right to difference their arms with the Royal Arms of England. The loans to Edward were made on the profits made in the dealings in the wool trade. However, when the loans started to exceed the profits and various loans remained unpaid, confidence fell. A contemporary chronicler put the debt by Edward at 1.5 million florins. An enormous sum of money. Edward sent in his auditors who queried everything and slashed the debt said to be owed. Whatever that figure was it was never repaid. Just as we have seen with Northern Rock, creditors started to panic and demanded their money back. The Peruzzi bank collapsed in 1343 and the Bardi followed three years later in 1346. The total combined losses were calculated at over 1.75 million florins. In addition to the English losses the King of Sicily also reneged on a loan of 200,000 florins.

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Next Meetings

Combined meeting with the Chilterns Heraldry Group.

Heraldry Now
Dr Clive Cheesman
Rouge Dragon Pursuivant of Arms

Saturday 14th March
at 2.30pm

Barn Hall, Community Centre, Chiltern Avenue, Amersham HP6 5AH

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Tiaras, Hats and Pikes
Stephen Kibbey

Saturday 4th April 2009
at 2.30pm

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Combined meeting with the Chilterns Heraldry Group.

Elias Ashmole's Visitation of Berkshire
1665-66
Dr Adrian Ailes

Saturday 9th May
at 2.30pm

Pearson Hall, Sonning on Thames,
Berks RG6 1DD

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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

New Members

We extend a very warm welcome to the following new members:

Mr T. Powys-Lybbe, Windsor, Berkshire
Mr. R. d'Apice, Sydney, Australia

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Subscriptions

For 2008/09 were due last September and are unchanged at:-

£6.00 for full membership
£4.00 for Country membership

Please give or send your cheque to The Hon. Treasurer or to any member of the committee.

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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

Officers and Committee

Chairman Stephen Kibbey
Hon. Treasurer Stuart Whitefoot

Committee Member
Dr Andrew Gray

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