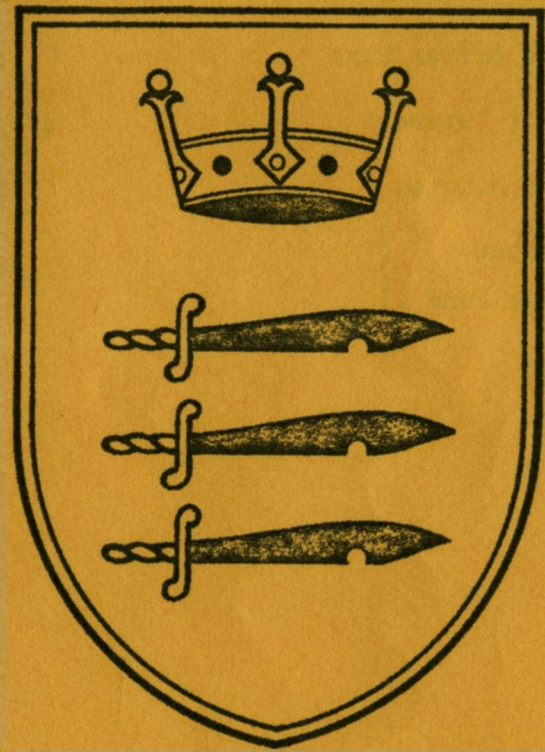


No. 1

# THE SEAXE



MIDDLESEX  
HERALDRY SOCIETY

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## VISITS TO OTHER SOCIETIES

A future visit has been arranged by "The Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy and Heraldry" for us to see Coughton Court, near Alcester, which is to the south of Birmingham.

In 1409, Coughton Court came to the Throckmorton family by inheritance, and it remained in their possession until presented to the National Trust in 1946. Distinguished throughout the centuries by a tenacious allegiance to Roman Catholicism, the Throckmortons were not directly implicated in the Gunpowder Plot, although it was in one of the rooms of the Gatehouse that the wives of the instigators awaited the result. The house contains a number of JACOBITE relics. The central Gatehouse dates from 1509, and the house consists of two mid-Elizabethan half-timbered wings.

The date for the visit is SATURDAY, MAY 13th.

Would anyone wishing to go please contact the secretary by the end of April so that the necessary travelling arrangements may be made.

Further visits are being arranged to ....

Rousham, in Oxfordshire, on June 17th, entrance is 75p per person.

St. Lawrence's Church, Cowley, on April 15th.

The Chairman has received pamphlets telling of coach tours arranged around visits to Brasses, Heraldry and Armour. Again details are available from the secretary.

VISIT TO CHISWICK

Saturday, 11th March provided a warm sunny day for a joint outing of our society with the Middlesex Society to Chiswick.

Twelve enthusiastic members met in the parish church "St. Nicolas with St. Mary Magdalene" and were treated to an interesting discourse on its history and a description of the church fabric, by the previous long serving church warden Mr. Stanley Collingwood.

One of our members, Betty Madden, had laid out the church silver and some of the more interesting vestments for us to view. Great interest was shown in the Devonshire Chalice presented by the Duke of Devonshire in 1785 and the Charles I Chalice of 1629.

From the church we passed to Hogarth House where lived the artist William Hogarth from 1749 till his death in 1764. Hogarth House with its small garden containing a mulberry tree known to have fruited in Hogarth's day, is a small cultural oasis bounded by factories and the M4. The house has a small museum containing a large number of prints of Hogarth's paintings and drawings together with other mementoes belonging to him and his family.

Our next visit was to Chiswick House a famous paladian type villa built by Lord Burlington between 1725-1729.

A delightful informative guided tour was given by the curator who appeared to be able to answer the most obscure of questions regarding this most handsome of buildings.

To end a long and satisfactory afternoon we all retired to the parish room in the vicarage where Angela Dickson and Betty Madden had prepared refreshments for a grateful company.

The only thing to mar the day was that only six out of a total of 27 members were able to attend from our society.

EDITOR'S LETTER PAGE

Dear Members,

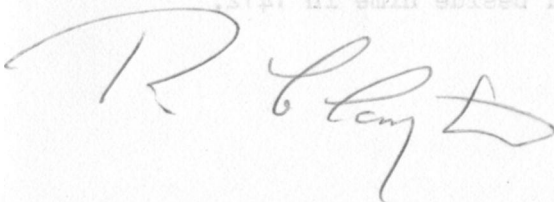
On page three I would personally have put in this space a pin-up of a local beauty, but I do not think that this would go down well in the society. So you are going to have my letter instead!

I have been approached by the committee to write the "Middlesex Heraldry Society 'Seaxe'." At first I shall only publish it at various times, so as to get 'in the swing of things', as they say. After that, when I have had more lucrative ideas of how to go about it, then I hope to bring it out once a month.

Also I shall be approaching you all from time to time in order to question your interests, and perhaps you yourselves would like to add an article to the 'Seaxe'.

Perhaps you would even like to describe your own findings which you may have picked up on your holidays. I shall be open to all your suggestions in the future and hope you will come forward and help me to help you develop your interests. I do hope that I can meet all your ideas as time goes on.

EDITOR



PLACES OF INTERESTFARLEIGH HUNGERFORD CASTLE

I wonder how many of you have ever wandered through the highways and byways of rural Somerset? How rich in history and heraldry is that county. Of its eight castles, I think the most interesting is that of Farleigh Hungerford, near Trowbridge, on the Wiltshire border. A mere ruin, but steeped in history, it started out as manor house of the Montfort family (no relation to Simon!) who, from the time of the conquest to that of Edward III, were known as Farleigh Montfort. Between 1334 and 1348, Reginald de Montfort sold the property to Bartholomew de Burghesh, one of the trusted soldiers of Edward III and a founder Knight of the Garter. He and his son after him held it until the latter's death in 1369, when the son's daughter Elizabeth le Despenser, a childless widow, sold it in 1369-70 to Sir Thomas de Hungerford, a Wiltshire squire from Heytesbury,

Sir Thomas, speaker of the House of Commons in 1377, obtained a pardon in 1383 for having fortified or "crenellated" his newly acquired manor house at Farleigh, so converting it into a castle. The reason for having done so could have been any of a variety of causes, stemming from the unemployed soldiers of fortune returning from the French wars, or the French, who having gained victory over the first half of the Hundred Years War, started to retaliate by invading English shores. However, Sir Thomas died there in 1398 and was buried in the Chapel of St. Anne which he had built onto the parish church. His widow, Joan, was buried beside him in 1412.

He was succeeded by his son Sir Walter Hungerford, a distinguished soldier, also speaker of the House of Commons. In 1426 he was summoned to the House of Lords as Baron Hungerford, and from his time Farleigh became known as Farleigh Hungerford. In the course of his life he endowed two charities, and enlarged the castle with the addition of the Outer Court. As this enclosed the parish church, he made that his chapel and built the present church in its stead. Dying in 1449, he left two surviving sons, Robert, the second baron, and Edmund, from whom descended the Hungerfords of Black Bottom.

Robert, second Baron Hungerford died in 1459, and was succeeded by his only son, Robert, the third Baron. He was known from his wife's inheritance as Lord Moleyns. This third baron was unlucky from the start. Having been involved first in a private war with his neighbour, he was later captured at Chastillon in 1453, where the last English army in Gascony was defeated, and was imprisoned in France for seven years. Following his release, he was embroiled in the Wars of the Roses, taking the side of Lancaster, and was duly attainted in 1461. He was finally captured in the Lancastrian rout at Hexham, and beheaded in 1464. He left two sons; Thomas, the elder, was attainted and beheaded in 1469, while his wife and younger son Walter survived.

However, in September 1462, the castle was granted by Edward IV to his brother, Richard, Duke of Gloucester, and it was during his tenure that Margaret Plantagenet, later Lady Margaret Pole, Countess of Salisbury (executed by order of Henry VIII in 1541) was born here in 1473. As you know, she was the daughter of George, Duke of Clarence by Lady Isabel Neville.

When he became King Richard III in 1483, he granted it to John Howard, newly created Duke of Norfolk. Norfolk fell on the field of Bosworth in 1485, and Walter Hungerford was knighted there and in 1486 he recovered Farleigh. When Sir Walter Hungerford died in 1516, he was succeeded by his only son Sir Edward, whose second wife was Agnes, widow of one John Cotell. Sir Edward Hungerford died in 1522, leaving the property to his widow, who was arrested shortly afterwards, and within eight months was hanged at Tyburn in 1523 for her part in the murder of her first husband, Cotell, in 1514 (in order to marry Sir Edward Hungerford).

Sir Edward was succeeded by his only son Walter, subsequently created Lord Hungerford of Heytesbury, in 1536. In his short life, he managed to marry three times, and his third wife, in a letter to Thomas Cromwell, complained that he had immured her for three or four years in one of the towers of the castle, with little to eat or drink, in the custody of his chaplain, who tried to poison her. (Lord Hungerford had been a close friend of Thomas Cromwell, Earl of Essex and when the latter fell foul of Henry VIII, Hungerford fell with him, and he was attainted and beheaded in 1540 for treason and unnatural vice, and for the second time Farleigh passed to the crown.

To be continued .....



1978  
1999

FROM THE MINUTES

At the January meeting our guest speaker was Mr. Surnam, who talked on Brasses and Brass Rubbings. He brought along some of his own collection of Brass Rubbings which contained heraldry, some of which had been coloured, showing what they most probably looked like when new and freshly enamelled. As usual, our time ran out before the Brass Rubbings! However, we all had a most enjoyable and informative evening.

Then, at the February meeting our speaker was Mrs. Grove, who gave us a lecture with the use of colour slides on Windsor Castle. Being a resident at the castle, she was able to give us a very informative history of the place throughout the centuries, from when it was first built by William the Conqueror. I am sure on all accounts that the magnificent St. George's Chapel must be on the agenda for a visit in the near future.

A new item has been introduced, that of a member talking for a few moments on something of general interest which they have come across since the previous meeting. Mr. Bennett spoke of some Heraldic Bookmarks seen in a Harrow shop, and produced a picture of the Royal Supporters, the Lion and the Unicorn, having a go at each other! Mrs. Dickson showed a set of colourful coats-of-arms of countries of the world, bought from an Uxbridge stamp shop. Mr. Bennett also spoke of the brasses in Thaxted Church in Essex. (For my own part, I will be rummaging around the old city of Gloucester for anything that might be of interest).

EDITOR

BOOK REVIEWS

In each publication I shall be reviewing books from the library in order to give the members an idea of what we have in our collection.

As this is the first edition of the new "Seaxe", I have had no opportunity in which to contact Gary, our Librarian, to give me a run-down. So for this edition I am reviewing a book of my own.

"A COMPLETE GUIDE TO HERALDRY" by

ARTHUR CHARLES FOX-DAVIES Of Lincoln's Inn, Barrister-at-Law.

The aim of the work is to give, in a convenient form, a comprehensive and accurate guide to the law and practice of heraldry. Grouped under each heading will be found the rules applicable thereto and fully explained. Nearly eight hundred designs and several plates were specifically executed for this work by Graham Johnston, Herald Painter to the Lyon Court.

If anyone wishes to borrow this book at any time, would they please get in touch with the Editor.

PROJECTOR FUND

Owing to all the fund raising activities of the past few months we were able to buy our own projector in February. However, the committee have decided to keep it going, but under anew name. Now called the "Reserve Fund", it will be used to repair the projector as and when necessary, and, hopefully, eventually to be able to purchase our own screen and projector stand, and any books for our library which we hope will be of use to our members. We will also gratefully accept any donations!

FUN PAGE

'Face' up to these blazons.

(Blazons. Try drawing these 'coats')

1. Argent, in chief 2 hurts; in centre point a lozenge with, in base an anulet gules.
2. Or, in chief 2 fusils in centre point a cross formy sable, in base an inverted crescent.
3. Gules, in chief 2 plates voided azure, surmounted by 2 inverted crescents; in centre point a plate, in base a voided lozenge, with 2 crescents fesswise between the last two, all within a bordue engrailed argent.

Stuck? Try adding 'Mantling' along top and down sides.