



## *Contents of Vol 12 No 3*

*Easter Term 2007*

<b>A Message from the President</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Fiftieth Anniversary and Accession Banquet</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Background to the Society's Grant of Arms</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Current and Forthcoming Events</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Book Reviews</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Notices and General News</b>	<b>47</b>

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## **A Message from the President**

I hope everyone has had an enjoyable and gorgeous holiday despite the unexpected and unending showers in England. Having spent most of my summer in America writing my thesis, spending long hours in the silent Library of Congress I missed most of the English cloudy days and rain. However one might be less envious if one knew that it wasn't all roses for me either. Despite being in America's capital I missed the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks, distracted and frantically working on a first draft deadline for one of my chapters. Either way one can safely assume that we were all probably indoors far too long this summer, which means that one can delight all the more in the special summer evening CUH&GS members spent during the Golden Jubilee on 9 June. Claire Pike details the splendid celebration in the proceeding article, drawing you in almost reliving this event. Claire's description matches her talent in helping to organise the evening, which is resplendent from the drinks to the music's cadence.

Indeed, I'm delighted to recollect on the overall joy of working with CUH&GS' committee and officers. As I've mentioned in the past I believe that members understand that we make up more than just a Society at Cambridge. CUH&GS for me is about feeding one's curiosity, about learning, in the most delightful way, the language of heraldry and genealogy, and about the fellowship – for 50 years at Cambridge. If you were among the 110 who attended the June 9<sup>th</sup> event, thank you very much for sharing this day with us, however even if you weren't at Clare College we have many opportunities to see one another this year.

There were other 50-year festivities this summer. A close friend of mine, Anthony Teasdale, celebrated his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday in June and was also present at the Society's Golden Jubilee. But perhaps even more impressive was the Golden Wedding Anniversary of two very special members, Pamela and Derek Palgrave. I'm told that they had an utterly beautiful celebration with their children and grandchildren, invariably connecting them to heraldry and genealogy, subject matter from which they cannot escape – at least not this year. On behalf of the Society I would like to send many congratulations on the love and achievement of the happy couple, Pamela and Derek.

Quite suitably and at the behest of our dear Dr Gordon Wright, Derek Palgrave describes the expected and unexpected procedures in our attempt to secure our Society's Grant of Arms. Heraldry when explored might primarily be considered to be an art: creating, designing or claiming images for the identity of a family or organisation. However a tremendous amount of the 'art of the possible' and the science of the timing should not be forgotten. I would like to therefore thank last year's committee and officers for their spectacular help and assistance throughout this past year: Patricia McGuire, David Broomfield, Ambrogio Caiani, John Horton, Antti Matikkala, Matthew Moreau, Derek Palgrave, Adrian Ray, d'Arcy Orders, and of course our Senior Treasurer Dr Gordon Wright. I look forward to working with our new committee members and Junior Treasurer (detailed on page 47) and hope that many more will join us for the events our Society has arranged this academic year.

Many thanks and all good wishes,

*Monica Lee Morrill*

## FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY AND ACCESSION BANQUET

The banquet of the 9<sup>th</sup> of June 2007 will surely be remembered as a special event in CUHAGS history on two accounts. Firstly, an unprecedented number of special guests, past presidents, current members and friends joined to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of CUHAGS, enjoying fine company and a sumptuous dinner. Secondly, Garter Principal King of Arms presented the Society with our Grant of Arms – the culmination of a long and effortful process undertaken by members of the committee over the past year, and certainly a source of pride and celebration for all CUHAGS members. This report will endeavour to convey the spirit of the occasion for those who were unable to attend, and serve as a memento to those who were present.

The evening began in glorious sunshine in the Clare College Scholars' Garden. Champagne flowed freely as the assembled company milled and talked, the gentlemen looking resplendent in white- or black- tie, and the ladies creating a veritable rainbow with their gowns, stoles and feathers. Punting parties on the river Cam created a lively backdrop to the reception, and many passers-by regarded our gathering with quizzical – and, I daresay, envious – expressions as they peered over the garden wall. Music was provided by the Kallista Quartet – a student ensemble comprising some of the very finest players from the University Chamber Orchestra (CUCO). They entertained the assembled company with repertoire ranging from light classical works by Mozart and Haydn to contemporary jazz standards.

Having already immortalised the 2006-7 and 2007-8 committees, the invited photographer shepherded the party into a photogenic arrangement from his perch at one of Clare's higher windows, and we dutifully smiled and stayed still for the sake of posterity. Monica Morrill, our current president, then welcomed the assembled company and encouraged a move toward the Great Hall, which had been laid for over 100 diners.

Dinner was indeed a splendid affair. We were treated to a timbale of roasted vegetables and goats' cheese, followed by a fish course of salmon and broccoli and a palette-cleansing champagne sorbet. All were accompanied by delicious wines from the Clare Fellows' cellar and more delightful music from the Kallista Quartet, which soared across the hall from the Minstrels' Gallery.

A mid-prandial recital by tenor, Anando Mukerjee, accompanied by pianist, Rohan Stewart-MacDonald added colour and vibrancy to the occasion, not to mention proof of the multi-talented nature of our some of our past presidents! The usually highly talkative company were silently spellbound as Anando spun beautiful melodies

about the hall, whisking us between Italy, England and Germany with his masterly renditions of Scarlatti, Elgar, Strauss and Leoncavallo. The rousing applause that followed was richly deserved.

The main course of roast lamb and summer vegetables was then enjoyed, and followed by a turn about Old Court while the staff brought passion-fruit parfait and relayed the tables for dessert. A delightful selection of cheese, fruit, port, coffee and petit fours was brought forth, and when plates and decanters had been adequately passed, the gong sounded to signify the beginning of the ceremonial part of the evening.

Monica Morrill, our current President, proposed the Loyal Toast. Just as everyone



took their seats, the world premiere of 'Heraldic Fanfare' burst forth from the Minstrels' Gallery. This piece was composed by Francis Knights especially to mark the presentation of CUHAGS's Grant of Arms, and was played with exuberance by a trio of University student trumpeters. The audience listened attentively as the music expanded outward from the opening triplet motif, entering a central fugal section in a higher key and whisking through a nimble passage of overlapping scales. The patterns then blended into a rousing expanded version of the opening theme,

firmly restating the home key in a real sense of triumph and celebration. The

thunderous applause that followed was once again richly deserved – for both composer and performers.

With such a fitting introduction, Garter rose and wished us “A Very Happy Birthday!” He congratulated CUHAGS on its fiftieth anniversary, and said that we had bought ourselves a birthday present – namely the Grant of Arms. The magnificent document was held aloft for all to see, and Garter read the description of CUHAGS’s Armorial Bearings aloud before presenting them to Monica.

Monica graciously received the Grant of Arms, and then went on to speak about the historic nature of the event – indicated not least by the large number of former CUHAGS Presidents who were in attendance. She named and thanked the special guests who were present; describing the support they have each given CUHAGS. This list comprised Garter Principal King of Arms, Peter Ll Gwynn-Jones; Somerset Herald of Arms, David V. White; York Herald of Arms, Henry and Mary Paston-Bedingfeld; President, the FFHS, The Right Honourable Lady Teviot; University Ceremonial Officer and Vice Chancellor’s Representative, Timothy N. Milner; Honorary Vice-President, Cecil and Alice Humphery-Smith; and Peter and Wendy Mallas of Mayfield Jays. Members of the committee were also thanked for their contributions to the evening and to the smooth running of the Society over the years - in particular, our Senior Treasurer, Dr. Gordon Wright.

Timothy Milner then spoke, representing the Vice Chancellor. He congratulated CUHAGS on reaching its golden anniversary and upon receiving the Grant of Arms, in addition to discussing the fascination of heraldry and genealogy and marking the increasing popularity these subjects currently enjoy. Such sentiments were echoed by Cecil Humphery Smith, who spoke also about the history of the Society and his very long personal involvement with CUHAGS, relating a number of interesting stories from the early days of the Society and conjuring a colourful picture of Cambridge in the 1950s.

Finally, Dr. Gordon Wright took the floor – to much applause! He recounted his own journey with CUHAGS, and described how he has seen the Society grow and develop over his very long incumbency as Senior Treasurer. Several amusing anecdotes decorated the tale, and naturally, Monica was thanked for her efforts as President.

Monica wished the assembled company well and bid us good-night, and it was indeed a happy, satisfied group of people who wove their way home, or continued to talk in the Great Hall until the early hours of the morning. I am confident that all involved felt as if they had been a part of a very special occasion indeed; the banquet of the 9<sup>th</sup> of June 2007 will be preserved in CUHAGS history as an event to be remembered and to which to aspire.

*Claire Pike*

## BACKGROUND TO THE SOCIETY'S GRANT OF ARMS

Around the middle of September last year, our President, Monica Morrill, was advised by the College of Arms that our Constitution was such that the Society could be considered eligible to petition for a Grant of Armorial Bearings. As the Executive Committee had already appointed a small Sub-Committee to consider possible options, it was able to begin generating potential designs which would allude to the Society's aims, objectives, activities and significant associations.

Clearly it was important to reflect its interest in heraldry and genealogy whilst recognising the links with the University of Cambridge and Clare College in particular. However one overriding consideration was the Society's decision in 1958 to create a precedent by adopting the heraldic fur, Pean, for members' neckties and later the Presidential sash.

The Junior Proctor, who has a formal responsibility for University Societies, pointed out that on no account should we consider any obvious similarities to the Arms of the University. However he expressed the opinion that, as the College of Arms was the ultimate authority in this field, he did not foresee any potential infringement. Clearly it would have been inappropriate to incorporate lions passant guardant but more subtle allusion to lions were worthy of consideration especially as they had featured prominently in the Arms of three of the Society's Patrons namely Earl Mountbatten of Burma, Archbishop Bruno Heim and His Grace the Duke of Norfolk.

Traditionally, the shields of genealogical organisations have incorporated representations of trees or parts of trees, frequently oaks with acorns, although at least one<sup>1</sup> is known to feature a circular pedigree chart design, whilst another<sup>2</sup> displays a sequence of horizontal and vertical lines, depicting linked generations. The word "pedigree" is said<sup>3</sup> to derive from the French "pied de grue" meaning a crane's foot, displaying a vertical section dividing into four toe-sections, illustrating parental links to children: this has been adopted for at least one heraldic badge<sup>4</sup>.

Making heraldic allusions to heraldry itself is something of a challenge although the introduction of blank escutcheons is often an effective solution. However, the Heraldry Society and the Heraldry Society of Scotland had been granted crests with demi-figures wearing tabards, whilst the crest granted to the Royal Canadian Heraldry Society was a demi-lion holding an heraldic banner of its Arms.

A selection of preliminary designs was published<sup>5</sup> last Michaelmas. These all concentrated on exploring ways of exploiting the use of Pean optionally as a cross, a chevron or a bordure on a shield. Genealogy was represented by the inclusion of

either a crane or a tree. A demi-lion holding a Pean shield was suggested for the crest. An allusion to Cambridge University was in the form of a collar of light blue forget-me-nots around the lion's neck or a sprig of them in the crane's beak. Incidentally, the motto "Caeruleus Candidus Vincet" can be translated as "Let Light Blue Prevail". To emphasise the genealogical associations, the mantling was shown coiled in double helices to allude to the structure of DNA, which has been discovered at Cambridge in 1953 by Francis Crick and James Watson. This major scientific break-through was celebrated, quite recently in 2005, by the unveiling of a Charles Jencks' Aluminium sculpture, donated to Clare by Professor Watson, himself a College alumnus.

During the Lent Term 2007, further designs began to emerge, some of which were published in the next issue<sup>6</sup> of the Society's magazine. There were additional suggestions for the motto, including *Continuationem Gentis Fovere* and *Seriem Gentis Fovere*. The Society's Executive Committee, after a great deal of deliberation, decided in February to submit the three designs shown below to the College of Arms.



There were no firm preferences on tinctures provided the principal field was Argent or Or with the cranes Gules or Sable. The bordure, cross and chevron were specified as Pean. Versions of the crest already published<sup>5</sup>, based on the demi-lion, were proposed.

The College of Arms responded by inviting the Society to consider the two shields shown below. Both made use of Pean together with plain escutcheons, in one instance arranged to represent a genealogical descent.



In the other instance, the escutcheons, representing heraldry, appeared in the bordure surrounding Gules a cross Pean between four lions' faces Or, inspired by





the University Arms but, nevertheless, significantly different from the cross Ermine between four lions passant Or. It is, perhaps, worth observing that the Heraldry Society shield bears a lion's face.



The demi-lion crest, originally suggested by the Society, had been transformed to include a crane's foot and leg, devoid of feathers, plus a book redolent of the one at the centre of the University Arms, albeit placed at a different angle. This struck some members as a possible reference to the book carried by the University Bulldogs who accompanied the Junior Proctor, the officer already mentioned in connection with our Society.

Members of the Society and the Executive Committee were asked to express their views on the College of Arms proposals. Whilst many approved of the shield with the four lions' faces, some were concerned that a cross Pean on a field Gules looked dull and appeared to contravene the tincture convention.



Others took the view that by introducing lions' faces there might be an opportunity to consider rather more radical changes, along the lines illustrated above.

Alternatively, by a very simple variation, the cross Pean could be fimbriated Or, in order to retain the tincture convention as shown on the left. However the College



of Arms took the view that it would be better to reverse the tinctures, Gules and Or, as shown on the right. Although this was very effective, the bordure Gules seemed rather more prominent than the cross Pean. Bearing in mind the role of Pean in the Society's affairs for almost fifty years, the Executive Committee suggested that



it also should feature in the bordure, conjoined to the cross in the manner known to be favoured by Garter. This had the additional advantage of alluding to the bordure "Sable goutty d'Or" in the Arms of Clare College, which had hosted the Society's activities for several decades.

Apart from suggesting the addition of some gold feathers to the crane's leg and showing the demi-lion issuant from the torse, Sable and Or, the crest design also

was accepted by the Society on 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2007. Five days later the designs were formally approved by the Kings of Arms and work began on the preparation of the Letters Patent (See pages 40 and 41).

We had been advised that the official version of the achievement would be in traditional format and would not embody the DNA-inspired mantling reproduced below.



## References

1. Society of Genealogists
2. Federation of Family History Societies
3. Fox-Davis, A.C., *A Complete Guide to Heraldry*, 1909
4. Institute of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies
5. *The Escutcheon*, Michaelmas 2006, pp 8-9.
6. *The Escutcheon*, Lent 2007, p 26.

## **CURRENT AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

- 6-7 August, 2007                      **CONTEMPORARY GRANTS OF ARMS**  
Conference at Birmingham
- 25 August 2007                      **14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FAMILY HISTORY FAIR**  
Manchester & Lancashire F.H.S.  
**SOUTHPORT**
- 1 September 2007                      **FFHS GENERAL MEETING**  
Durham University
- 8 September, 2007                      **NATIONAL FAMILY HISTORY FAIR**  
Gateshead
- 29 September, 2007                      **ONE-NAME STUDIES SEMINAR**  
Society of Genealogists, London  
*(sponsored by the Halsted Trust)*
- 6 October                                  **SUFFOLK F.H.S. FAIR & A.G.M.**  
Debenham, Suffolk
- 29 March 2008                              **FFHS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
Plymouth
- 3-5 May 2008                              **WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE LIVE**  
London - Olympia

**For full details of the events listed above please visit <http://geneva.weald.org.uk>**

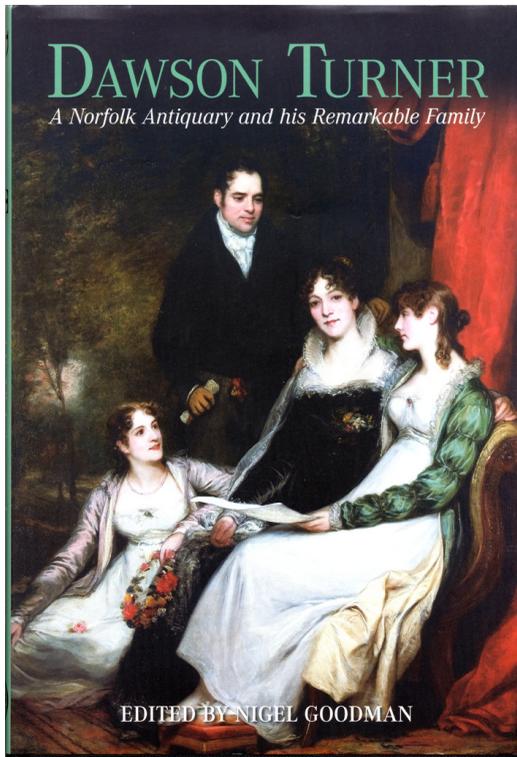
# BOOK REVIEW

**Dawson Turner: A Norfolk antiquary and his remarkable family, Nigel Goodman (ed), Phillimore, Chichester, 2007. 175 x 256 mm, pp 180, ISBN 9781860774454, £25-00**

This book has come about as a result of Christopher Barker's admiration for his great great great grandfather, Dawson Turner, who was not only a banker in Great Yarmouth but was also an antiquary, botanist, collector and patron of the arts. At the age of 22 he became a Fellow of the Linnaean Society and six years later a Fellow of the Royal Society.

So multifaceted were his talents that it has been necessary to involve a team of specialist researchers to do justice to his numerous achievements in so many areas of human endeavour. The editor, Nigel Goodman, a lecturer in fine arts and another descendant, has brought together six scholars to explore just how Turner managed to penetrate so far into each of his chosen fields. He was very much a family man and as far as possible he involved his wife and children in painting and etching by encouraging them to study with John Crome, John Sell Cotman and Thomas Phillips. Their skills came in good stead when he needed special illustrations for his various publications.

Andrew Moore, of the Norwich Museums and Archaeology Service, has contributed a chapter on Turner's accomplishments as a Patron, art connoisseur and collector. Turner had a substantial collection of Dutch masters and other important works at his home in Great Yarmouth, having developed a close network of contacts with London dealers. He had a regular stream of visitors including the celebrated



German art historian, Gustav Waagen who came in 1850.

Quite apart from his art collection, Turner accumulated a multitude of botanical specimens and according to the author of Chapter 3, Dr Ann Secord, research scholar at the Department of History and Philosophy of Science at Cambridge, he developed a special interest and expertise in seaweeds. This led to his producing the four volume major reference work *A Synopsis of British Fuci* published in 1819. He was very much encouraged in this field by his son-in-law, William Jackson Hooker who contributed several illustrations to the work.

Professor David McKitterick, Librarian at Trinity College, Cambridge, where over 82 volumes of Turner's correspondence has been deposited, has compiled a chapter dealing with his book and manuscript collecting. Turner appears to have been driven by bibliomania always opting for very large format illustrated material printed on expensive coloured paper or vellum. Price rarely was a consideration and, later in his life and also after his death, much of his collection was disposed of at values well below their cost.

It was indeed fortunate that Dawson Turner was a successful banker, otherwise he might not have been able to indulge his Gargantuan appetite for art and books. Jessie Cambell, former archivist with Barclays Bank, has traced his career from 1794 the year he joined the Norfolk and Suffolk Bank founded by the Gurneys thirteen years earlier. He remained the main partner throughout his working life although much of the day-to-day administration was in the hands of John Brightwen who became involved in 1816.

The book concludes with two chapters written respectively by Jane Knowles of the National Gallery, and Wendy Kett, a biographical researcher, covering other members of Dawson Turner's family including his wife, Mary née Palgrave. She was an accomplished artist with work on display in the National Portrait Gallery. Had it not been for her and her talented daughters, many of Turner's ambitious publishing activities, which included reproducing literally thousands of their illustrations, would not have been possible.

The reader is given a remarkable insight into a quite extraordinary man with a very broad range of interests in science, the arts and commerce. One sees a vision of an individual so ardent and passionate that he wanted to share his enthusiasm with others by inviting them to see his collections and to read his many books. In spite of some acceptable overlap of content between the contributors, this book provides a comprehensive insight into the amazing life and achievements of a man that one can only describe as a genuine polymath

**Derek A Palgrave**

# NOTICES AND GENERAL NEWS

## Officers elected at AGM for the next Academic Year:

President	Monica Morrill (St John's College)
Senior Treasurer	Dr Gordon Wright (Clare College)
Secretary	Ambrogio Caiani (Sidney Sussex)
Junior Treasurer	Jacob Davis (Trinity College)
Committee	David Broomfield Kelsey Lee Claire Pike (Clare College) Adrian Ray
Scrutineer	D.C. d'Arcy Orders (Trinity Hall)

## Federation of Family History Societies

We have been asked to draw your attention to a new feature introduced by the FFHS earlier this year, namely the *Federation Ezine*. This replaces the long established *Family History News and Digest* which was abolished last year. This new email newsletter is designed to make available family and local history news, reviews, competitions and much more to anyone with internet access. It targets hundreds of thousands of individual researchers around the world, as well as all the Federation's Member Societies in the UK and overseas.

If you would like to view the *Federation Ezine*, it can be located on the FFHS website at [www.ffhs.org.uk/ezine/intro.ph](http://www.ffhs.org.uk/ezine/intro.ph). You may wish to sign up to receive your own copy of the *Federation Ezine* which will be emailed out around the middle of February, April, June, August, October and December of each year. You can subscribe on the Federation website, [www.ffhs.org.uk](http://www.ffhs.org.uk).

## **British Newspaper Library**

The British Library announced in March 2007 major plans to move its historic newspaper collection from Colindale in North London to Boston Spa in Yorkshire. It is anticipated that by 2011 access to the Newspaper Library will be at St Pancras by means of microfilm or digital copies (referred to as surrogates), with access to the original documents being allowed only in exceptional circumstances.

## **Family Record Centre**

The ONS announced in January its intention to provide facilities to search indexes of births, marriages and deaths on the internet from early 2008. Due to a longer-than-expected development period for the index, and some delays in the digitisation project which will deliver the index data in searchable electronic form, it will not now be possible to deliver the new index in the short term.

The continuing fall in visitor numbers at the Family Records Centre and the need for ONS to rationalise its London accommodation in the light of its relocation programme mean that both ONS and TNA will be keeping to their intention of vacating the existing FRC facility at Myddelton Street by the end of March 2008.

## **Editor's Postscript**

This issue of the **Escutcheon** completes volume 12 of the Society's magazine which was launched in Michaelmas 1995, during the Presidency of Paul Mitcham and under the Patronage of His Excellency Archbishop Bruno Heim. Our very first effort was a mere eight pages and was entirely devoid of any form of illustration apart from the University shield on the front cover. Over the next few years, a one or two black and white line drawings were introduced, but they tended to be the exception rather than the rule.

When the Society celebrated its Fortieth Anniversary in 1997, a commemorative issue was published featuring the speeches given by the guests at the celebratory banquet. These were supplemented by black and white illustrations of their Armorial Bearings.

By 2001 there were sufficient contributors within the society to make it possible to expand each issue to 16 pages. This naturally provided scope, from volume 7 onwards, for rather more illustrations including a few in colour, which were first introduced in Michaelmas 2002. Most issues since have sported a colourful centrefold which seems to have been much appreciated.

If there are any volunteers who would be prepared to index the series to date, this would be most welcome. Alternatively we might be able to scan all back numbers to produce a CD-ROM with an integral search feature. If you can help, please let me know.

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