

<p style="text-align: center;">The Escutcheon ISSN 2516-2187</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Journal of Cambridge University Heraldic & Genealogical Society</p>	
--	---	---

Volume 23 No 1

Michaelmas Term 2018

Contents

A Message from the President.....1

The Arms of Three Westminster School Winners of
the Victoria Cross..... .2
David Broomfield

Lend Me Your Arms!5
Terence Trelawny-Gower

‘When CUHAGS Got Tiddly, Wink, Wynk’. Speech given at
St Nicholas Feast, St Edmund’s College, 25 November 20188
Paul Jagger

A Brief History of the Corporation of Trinity House of Deptford Strond
Capt. John Bird, Younger Brother of Trinity House12

Editor’s Talepiece14

A Message from the President

Dear friends,

This year’s St Nicholas Feast, held at St Edmund’s College on the Feast of Christ the King (or for Anglicans ‘Stir-Up Sunday’), was without question one of the finest dinners I have attended; a good number of those present seemed to agree with me and their compliments have been passed on to the chef. Our newly-elected Manciple and my predecessor as President, Ir.Richard van der Beek, must be congratulated on putting together such a splendid menu, and for intoning the words “*Tempus vocandi à manger, O seigneurs*” so beautifully. So pleasant was the De Bortoli Willowglen Gewurztraminer-Riesling that one member has had a case of the stuff sent to Stockholm! I should also like to thank our equally splendid host, my dear friend and co-religionist Professor Allen Brent, former Dean of St Edmund’s. Those members who know me best will know that I am reasonably competent at a number of things (no, really, it’s true!), but after-dinner speaking is most certainly not

within my field of competence. All laud and thanks must ascend also then to Paul Jagger, whose loving-cup oration was very lovely indeed.

Attendance at our fortnightly supper and speaker meetings at Clare has been most encouraging, with an influx of freshers – no doubt inspired to join by our indefatigable Vice-President delivering our first lecture of the new academic year – and a healthy turnout of the old guard. Owing to the quality of the speakers this Term, with Charles Coulombe coming all the way from Vienna to give the Eve Logan Lecture – and Bari and Robert were both certainly with us in spirit while unfortunately unable to make it this year – any difficulties we have experienced at Clare where catering and securing our regular room is concerned has clearly not affected turnout at our merry gatherings. The range of topics addressed has taken us from Heraldry Down-Under to all sorts and conditions of scoundrel at Westminster School. Dr Paul Coxon as newly-elected Keeper of Ties has also been kept busy by the assembled masses pressing him for ‘CUHAGS Stash’, including the long-awaited summer tie! But, perhaps more than anyone, Dr Liz Macleod-Wright is responsible for everything running so smoothly this Term.

Though, as Burke would have it, the evils of change and changeability are to be feared more than the evils of stubbornness and prejudice, there is change – though hopefully not decay – in all around we see. For one, the website has a new address – www.cuhags.cam, much easier to remember than the old one. We have, alas and alack, a new President (!) and: a new Secretary, Edward Herbert, of my own dear Selwyn College; a new Publicity Officer, Dannielle Cagiluso (Gonville and Caius College); a new Junior Treasurer, Jacob McLoughlin (King’s College); a new Officer without Portfolio, David Pearce (Clare College). Perhaps the biggest change, however, is that we have for the first time in our Society’s history a new Editor of this Journal. A past Secretary of CUHAGS, Derek Palgrave has served as Editor of *The Escutcheon* since its inception in Michaelmas 1995, and has done a magnificent job. The new Editor, Terence Trelawny-Gower, was the obvious candidate to succeed Derek, and will do a very fine job too.

We know, and what is better, we feel inwardly, that Lent Term will be just as much fun as this last Term has been. It only remains for me to wish you all a very Merry Christmas.

Yours in pean,

Keir Martland

The Arms of Three Westminster School Winners of the Victoria Cross

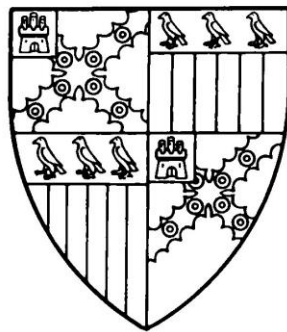
David Broomfield

I would have liked to have concluded my talk (given at Clare on 4th November 2018), on the heraldry and history of Westminster School with a section on the coats of arms that would make worthy additions to those already on display ‘Up’ School. Sadly time was against me

so I had to omit this section. I would like to use this article as a way of bringing them to a wider audience.

Between them, six Old Westminsters have won seven Victoria Crosses. Here are the stories and the heraldry of three of them.

Arthur Martin-Leake was born in 1874 and after Westminster trained as a doctor at University College Hospital. In 1902, when he was 27, he earned his first Victoria Cross serving with the South African Constabulary tending to the wounded under fire from 40 Boers at a range of 100 yards. He was wounded three times but refused aid until his patients were evacuated. In 1914 aged 40 he travelled to Paris to enlist as he thought he would be



turned down for service in England. His second Victoria Cross was won in November 1914 for constantly tending to the wounded under direct enemy fire.

Many of his ancestors were heralds



including Stephen Martin-Leake who was Garter King of Arms from 1754. The arms of Leake are, in the 1st and 4th quarters Or on a saltire engrailed azure eight annulets argent on a canton gules a castle triple towered argent, these are quartered with Martin in the 2nd and 3rd: Paly of six or and azure on a chief gules three merlins or.

Martin-Leake was the first of only three men ever to be awarded a bar to the Victoria Cross. He ended the war as a Lieutenant-Colonel and retired from the army. He returned to India where he was Chief Medical Officer of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway. He retired to England in 1937, commanded an ARP post in the Second World War and died aged 79, in 1953.



William Clark-Kennedy was a Lieutenant-Colonel in the Canadian Expeditionary Force. In August 1918 led his men in an attack despite being severely wounded, refusing to withdraw until the objective had been gained. He died in 1961.



He was descended from Sir Alexander Clark-Kennedy who, as a captain of the 1st Royal Dragoons, captured the eagle of the 105th Regiment

at the Battle of Waterloo. He was awarded an augmentation of honour and a crest of augmentation commemorating the act. The arms of the family were Argent a chevron gules between three cross crosslets fitchy sable. To this was added on a chief ermine the eagle and colours of the 105th Regiment and a sword crossed in saltire proper and above them the word 'Waterloo'. There was also a crest: A demi-dragon of the Royal dragoons holding in the dexter hand a sword and in the sinister the eagle of the 105th all proper.

Nevill Maskelyne Smyth was born in 1868 and after Westminster went to Sandhurst. In 1897 at the Battle of Omdurman he saved the lives of two men despite being wounded by a dervish's spear and was awarded the Victoria Cross. He went on to have a very distinguished military career. He was mentioned in dispatches eleven times, awarded the Belgian Croix de Guerre and the French Legion of Honour. In 1919 he was made a KCB and retired from the army in 1923 with the rank of Major General. He emigrated to Australia and died there in 1941.

Smyth was descended from Captain John Smith (1580-1631) who, before having his life saved by Pocahontas, had fought the Turks under Stephen Bathory Prince of Transylvania who awarded him a coat of arms. The arms, as granted to John Smith, were Vert a chevron gules between three Turks' heads coupé proper. This use of a colour on a colour whilst common in the heraldry of Eastern Europe did not find favour in England and so the chevron was fimbriated or.



To this was then added an augmentation of arms granted to his descendant Admiral William Smyth (1788-1865) who was an hydrographer and astronomer working in the Mediterranean.

The augmentation consists of a chief charged with a now extinct silphium plant. The leaves of this plant were said point to the cardinal points so it is called the Compass Plant. To this was added the Greek letters K Y P A which refer to Cyrene an ancient Greek colony in Libya. There was also a crest of augmentation that showed the silphium plant. The images

probably derive from a coin, minted for Magus of Cyrene in the 3rd Century BCE which shows the plant and the letters.



A coin of Magus of Cyrene circa 300 - 282/75 BC.
Rev: silphium and small crab symbols.

Lend Me Your Arms! **(Two Trials about a Coat of Arms)**

Terence Trelawny-Gower

A case before the Court of Chivalry in 1346 featured the descendants of Sir Edward Burnel, a soldier in service of Edward I, predominately in Scotland. He allegedly enjoyed travelling to battles in a chariot decked in banners with his coat of arms prominently displayed. He married Alice, daughter and heiress of Lord Despenser, by whom he had no issue. On his decease in 1315, his sister Maude became his sole heir and she married, firstly, John, Lord Loyal of Titchmarch, surnamed The Rich (obit 1335), and secondly, John de Handlow (obit 1346). They had one son, Nicholas, Lord Burnel, the subject of this paper.

Nicholas was the subject of '*much contest*', in the Court of Chivalry with one Robert de Morley, who without authority, had assumed the arms that Burnel claimed were his by right of certain lands held in the Barony of Burnel, having been bestowed upon him by his mother. De Morley had previously served as an Esquire to Burnel and on the death of his master, had, it was claimed, assumed the arms that were now in dispute. When questioned, he allegedly replied that '*it was his will and pleasure to do so, and that he would defend this assumed right*'. It is likely that de Morley was not previously armigerous, being the first of his family to serve in any military capacity.

It happened that Burnel and de Morley were both at the siege of Calais under Edward III in 1346, displaying the same arms. Nicholas, Lord Burnel, challenged de Morley by claiming that the arms belonged to Burnel only. He (Burnel) had a hundred men under his command



Fig 1. 14th Century arms
of Burnel

and their banners carried his '*proper arms*'. Sir Peter Corbet, a knight in the retinue of Burnel, offered combat with de Morley in support of his master's claim to the arms; however, the duel did not take place as the King would not give his assent. Nicholas persisted with his claim and the case was referred to the Court of Chivalry, with the court being convened and held outside Calais. The judges in this case were William Bohun, Earl of Northampton, High Constable of England and Thomas Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, the Earl Marshal. The case lasted several days, with a number of witnesses being called in support of both parties.

However, Robert de Morley believing that the case against him would most likely succeed approached the King in order to swear an oath, that if the arms in question were adjudged from him, he would never again fight in the King's service (an oath that to a less understanding monarch would most probably have cost de Morley his head!). The King on hearing this oath, and in consideration of the good services of de Morley on the battlefield, was keen to conclude the case quickly, with the minimum of offence possible. The King

accepted the right of Burnel to the arms, and in order to effect a compromise, sent the Earl of Lancaster and other lords to Nicholas requesting that he would permit Robert de Morley to bear the disputed arms for his lifetime only. Nicholas, out of respect for the King, agreed to this, and the High Constable and Earl Marshal gave judgment accordingly. The judgment was proclaimed by a Herald in the presence of the assembled army at Calais.



Fig. 2. Arms 14th century used by Burnel



Fig. 3. Arms 15th century used by Burnel.

Robert de Morley was taken ill at Burgundy in 1360 when the English army was returning from the blockade of Paris. Fearing death, and mindful of the compromise of the arms, he directed that his banner, with the arms of Burnel, should, upon his decease, be delivered to Nicholas, Lord Burnel, in pursuance of the judgment passed in the Court of Chivalry at Calais. A banner-bearer, carrying the rolled banner, and with *'great ceremony'*, delivered it to Lord Burnel in the presence of a number of nobles who had been convened to witness the event.

A contemporary account states that *'Among the witnesses to this cause were several lords and knights, and many very ancient people, some of them above a hundred years of age; one of a hundred and forty and one of a hundred and twenty, all probably of Shropshire, as may be collected from their names'*. (It is not quite clear if this is an account of the banner hand-over or Burnel's funeral in January 1382). And there the matter lay; or did it?

Robert de Morley was succeeded by Sir William de Morley who was an attendant of Robert, Earl of Suffolk, in the King's service at Gascoigne. On his father's death he had inherited a number of manors in England and estates in Ireland, and also the office of Marshal of Ireland. It is presumed that he continued to use, unchallenged, the assumed arms of Burnel. William was succeeded in 1379 by Sir Thomas Morley, who in 1384 was summoned by the King to meet him at Newcastle upon Tyne in order to accompany him into Scotland. Morley was partly responsible for the burning of Edinburgh and a number of other towns, many whom had offered no resistance to the Kings army. In 1391, he accompanied the Duke of Gloucester to Prussia.

However, Thomas's continued use of the Burnel arms contrary to the 1346 judgment could not pass unnoticed, and in 1395 the Court of Chivalry was again convened to hear a case of alleged unlawful use of the Burnel arms by Morley. The plaintiff in this case was Sir John Lovel, Knt, who declared that the arms, *a lion rampant sable, crowned and armed or*, belonged to the Lords Burnel, whose heir he was, and proved in the following manner: Sir Phillip de Burnel, Knt, Lord of Burnel, bore these arms and had issue, Sir Edward Burnel Knt, who died without issue, leaving Maud, his sister, his sole heir, who married Sir John, Lord Lovel and had issue, Sir John, Lord Lovel (the plaintiff). Lord Morley argued that the arms had belonged to his ancestors from the conquest, without impeachment, except by Nicholas, Lord Burnel, at Calais in 1346. (As the de Morleys had been judged not to be armigerous in 1346, the claim is questionable, but has some degree of plausibility).

The essence of the argument by Morley was that the 1346 judgment was solely against Sir Robert de Morley, allowing use of the Burnel arms for his lifetime only, and that as the continued unlawful use of the arms by his successors had not subsequently been challenged, therefore, the arms must be those of the Morleys. He claimed that after Sir Robert's death, his son William bore the arms; he could not have been unaware of the 1346 judgment, yet chose to ignore it. As the arms had reverted to the Burnels there could be no ambiguity in the matter. There were numerous influential witnesses in support of Sir John Lovel, including some who had been at Calais in 1346. The defendant produced a number of grants and deeds with the seals showing a lion rampant upon a shield attached to them, but none of the document seals showed a crown upon the lion's head. It was suggested that the most *ancient* arms of the Morleys were argent, a lion rampant sable, sometimes double queued (doubled tailed). However, these are allegedly the arms of Roger de Cressi, simply assumed by the Morleys.¹ There does not appear to be any documentary evidence showing the decision of the Court of Chivalry in the case of 1395. However, perhaps as another compromise, Sir Thomas Morley and his successors continued to use the contentious arms, and the Burnels used the same, sometimes with the distinction of a bordure azure.

Objectively, as the lion rampant has throughout heraldic history probably been one of the most popular charges, it is very likely that there are identical arms being used by thousands of armigerous families, without dispute.



Fig. 4. Arms of de Cressi, 14th century.

¹ By the 16th century, the Burnels, Morleys, Lovels and de Cressi were seemingly linked by marriages and land deals, when the matter of the arms use or misuse, became purely academic.

‘When CUHAGS Got Tiddly, Wink,Wynk’
Speech given at St Nicholas Feast, St Edmund’s College,
25 November 2018

Paul Jagger

Mr President,

Thank you.

Ladies and Gentlemen, having attended many CUHAGS banquets I was rather surprised when the President invited me to speak; to the best of my knowledge these events have not previously featured a guest speaker. However I decided I had better check my facts and asked some of the older and wiser members if they had recollections of past speakers (I say older and wiser members but mostly they were just older). I didn’t have to wait long for Julian Cable to point out that when Archbishop Bruno Heim was Patron of this Society he often came to these banquets and was invited to speak on several occasions.

Apparently the late Archbishop was so proud of this Society that he when traveling from the Vatican to the UK he was once asked by the passport officers at Heathrow ‘What is the purpose of your visit?’, he replied that he was ‘Patron of the Cambridge University Heraldic & Genealogical Society and the guest speaker at a forthcoming banquet’.

Armed with this knowledge, I was also proud and rather excited to answer my nine year old daughter’s question of earlier this evening “Daddy, where are you going all dressed up like a penguin?”. When I told her I was off to Cambridge to speak about City of London dining customs and traditions at a banquet of the Cambridge University Heraldic and Genealogical Society her response was as a brief as it was unimpressed, a simple: “Boring!”.

At this point if there are any nine year olds among the audience, it’s time for bed!

This Society has its own customs and traditions, and as befits a Society with a cookbook in the crest of its arms, many of them are associated with dining. Indeed I seem to recall Mr. President that you fell foul of one such custom during your inaugural banquet and a sonorous RESIGN was heard from one end of the table. Thankfully that proposal was not seconded and I hope Sir that you will stay in office until at least the end of my speech.

That incident reminds me of a Matt cartoon that appeared in the Daily Telegraph not long afterward. The scene was of an improperly dressed gentleman standing at the far end of a plank protruding from the rear of a cruise ship. The caption below read “If only I had known the dress code for dinner was so strict”.

The City of London’s Livery Companies have been described as the poshest dining clubs in the kingdom and it might reasonably be assumed that strict adherence to custom is a hallmark of the Livery. Of course the Livery Companies are much more than dining clubs; they are active in Charity, Education, Industry, support to the Church, Armed Forces, Cadets, Lord Mayor of London and of course Fellowship.

The Fellowship aspect of the Livery is most evident in formal dining. The theatre of formal

dining in the City is a series of acts in which the audience are integral to the script. Let's explore some of the scenes in this theatre of fellowship and feasting by imagining a banquet hosted by the Master and Wardens of the Art or Mystery of the Worshipful Company of Tiddlywink Makers.

I should mention that several Past Masters of the Tiddlywinks' Company have served in the office of President of the Cambridge University Tiddlywinks Club, a club that has the longest and most complex constitution of any Cambridge student society and a bewildering array of traditions of its own. Anyway, back to the City and to what is colloquially known as Wink Makers' Hall.

Our friends the Tiddlywink Makers are affiliated with the Combined Cadet force unit of an ancient private school at Much Piddling on the Green. This affiliation explains why the Cadets are to be seen standing in the entrance hall, up the stairs and along the corridors of the Tiddlywink Makers' Hall providing what is often erroneously described as a 'Carpet Guard'. Ladies and Gentlemen, the Cadets are not there to guard the carpet!

The evening opens with a receiving line during which diners are introduced to the Master Winkmaker; his Mistress (a lady amenable to a wink) and other senior officers of the Company. I should emphasize that the Mistress Winkmaker is in fact the Master's lawfully wedded wife, but she's formally addressed as Mistress; apparently this ensures better treatment.

To aid introductions each diner who ascends the stairs to the great hall is announced by the Company's Beadle. Often the Beadle is a retired Sergeant Major, which can lead to all sorts of amusement as recently happened when one guest was asked by the Beadle "How should I introduce you Sir?" to which the guests response was "Oh, no need to make a fuss I'm just General Public".

The receiving line is followed by a drinks reception, much as we have experienced this evening. Some of the more convivial members of the Company will have started drinking early; perhaps visiting one of the City's many pubs such as the famous Pot and Squidger where they imbibe liberally at the festive board before going on to the banquet. Members of the Tiddlywink Makers' Company are described by members of other Livery Companies as 'Tiddly by name...' well you get the idea. Anyway, back to the formalities.

When it's time for guests to take their places the Beadle will announce dinner, at which point all but the top table enter the dining room and stand behind their seats. It is the custom in the City that the Master, principle guest and other diners on the top table are clapped in to dinner, usually accompanied by an appropriate musical accompaniment such as SCIPIO, the slow march of the Grenadier Guards. Clapping in the Master ensures that attention is focused on the Master and top table and not on chit chat with fellow diners or selfies taken on mobile phones. Considering that some City banquets involve as many as 7 toasts in addition to the pre-dinner drinks and the wine taken with the meal, it's not uncommon at the end of the evening for the Master Tiddlywink Maker to also be...clapped out.

The meal itself is served a la Russe, in three or more courses, with a musical interlude before the toasts.

The Tiddlywink Makers maintain the custom of the Rose Bowl ceremony, which involves the diners passing an elaborate bowl of rose water counter-clockwise among them. As the bowl is passed around the diners dipping the corner of their napkin in the water having first fashioned it into a rabbit's ear. The moistened napkin is then dabbed behind either ear in order to stimulate the Alderman's nerve. The Alderman's or vagus nerve is known to have a positive effect on digestion, among certain other side effects unique to female physiology. Gentlemen, I encourage you to investigate further at a later date.

The next custom common throughout the City is the Loving Cup. Historians differ as to the origins of the Loving Cup ceremony and the way it is interpreted also differs in minor detail from one Company to the next.

The common aspects are that a large double handed silver or gilt cup is filled with wine and passes among the guests. Three or more guests stand, one holds the cup, the other removes its lid, one or more guard the backs of those holding the cup and the lid, sometimes the guards also hold daggers. Much bowing takes place among those standing, and the person holding the cup either drinks from it or makes a play of doing so, then wipes the rim with a napkin tied to one of the handles for the purpose. The cup then proceeds to the next diner, and the process continues, with one guard returning to the seated position and other diner standing to adopt the position of guard.

If this all sounds very complex I can assure you it makes no more sense when you see it done, and the only way to participate in this ceremony is to have a go. At the last Livery Banquet that I attended a great confusion ensued and resulted in me enjoying two swigs from the Loving Cup. During a different event I once ended up with two Loving Cup lids and briefly gave thought to establishing a new tradition whereby the lids might be used as cymbals to bring the ceremony to a crashing end. A stern frown from the Beadle caused me to rethink that particular idea.

I have already mentioned that some Livery Company banquets can feature as many as seven toasts, but the norm is five, and they are, in order:

The Loyal Toast

The Royal Toast

The Civic Toast

The Toast to the Guests

The Toast to the Company and Master

City ceremonial becomes particularly complex where toasts are concerned, and those who are otherwise well versed in toasts, perhaps through their experience in the military, are often wrong footed by the custom in the City. In the case of the first three toasts, the Master calls the diners to stand.

The Loyal Toast may be just to the sovereign or coupled with the Church. Unlike Masonic or military loyal toasts, the toast is called in two stages, the first to call the diners to rise but not to drink, once standing the diners sing the first verse of the National Anthem, in the second stage the Master again calls the toast which invites diners to raise their glasses and respond.

The Royal Toast follows immediately after but not before the diners have returned to the seated position. Again the Master calls the toast in two stages, the first to The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, The Prince of Wales, The Duchess of Cornwall and the other members of the Royal Family. This time the diners rise and remain silent while the national anthem is played. Once the music stops, the Master will call ‘The Royal Family’, and the diners raise their glasses and respond likewise.

The complexity continues with the third toast to The Lord Mayor, the City of London Corporation and the Sheriffs. In this case the word Sheriffs may sometimes be omitted, especially if no Sheriff is present. In this instance the Master proposes the toast, all the diners rise, no music is played and the response is simply ‘The Lord Mayor’.

After the Civic Toast the Master Winkmaker makes a short speech to thank the members and guests for attending, and perhaps draw on a few achievements and events of the Company, many of which are reported in Winking World, the official journal of the English Tiddlywinks Association.

I should mention at this point that the origins of Winking World are in dispute with the Stationers & Newspaper Makers’ Company whose hall is located on the spot where Wynkyn de Worde set up shop with William Caxton in the mid-15th century. The Stationers’ claim that Winking World is merely a corruption of Wynkyn de Worde and as such the copyright to that publication lies with them; the Tiddlywink Makers say otherwise and the matter has yet to be settled by the Court of Alderman.

The toast to the Guests is usually proposed by the Company’s Senior Warden, and precedes the speech by the guest speaker. Guest speakers at City events are encouraged to speak for no more than eight minutes and are invariably given the simple advice to stand up, speak up, be humorous if you can, but always sit down when your time’s up.

The final toast of the evening is in the gift of the guest speaker, and it is always to the Company and the Master, so returning to this evening’s festivities ladies and gentlemen I invite you all to stand and toast ...the Society and the President.



A Brief History of the Corporation of Trinity House of Deptford Strond, 1514 - 2018

Capt. John Bird

Younger Brother of Trinity House

To write a brief review of any Corporation that has been in existence for almost 505 years is, to say the least, quite a daunting prospect. It really begins in March 1513 when a guild of mariners troubled by the poor state of pilotage on the River Thames petitioned Henry VIII



for a license to set up a fraternity to regulate pilotage on the capital's river. On the 20th May 1514 Henry incorporated by Royal Charter the same guild of mariners as 'The Master Wardens and Assistants of the Guild Fraternity or Brotherhood of the most glorious and undivided Trinity and of St. Clement in the Parish of Deptford Strond'. In essence the business then established, remains the same today after more than five centuries – "to improve the art & science of mariners, to examine and regulate the conduct of those in charge of ships, to consult on all matters marine, to conserve and maintain safe passage on all

assigned waterways & seaways and to help in the general wellbeing of seafarers and their relatives".

This newly established fraternity already owned a Great Hall and 21 almshouses for the benefit of distressed seamen and their dependents. The new corporation was to be governed by a Master, four Wardens and eight Assistants who were to be elected annually. A seal served as the legal mark and the corporation was authorised to hold property to conduct its charitable affairs and meetings with a chaplain appointed to pray for the kings, queens and brethren living and deceased. To this day, the Corporation is headed by the Master, The Princess Royal, whose extensive powers are deferred to the Deputy Master who is the executive head of the Corporation, presiding over Board and Court meetings. The four Wardens were the principal authorities under the Deputy Master – two senior and two junior. The Senior Wardens were the Rental Warden, being responsible for the superintendence of all the Corporation's revenue and the Buoyage Warden, being responsible for examining and the placing of buoys & beacons, as well as the supervising the tenders and lightvessels. The two Junior Wardens were the Measuring Warden and the Book Warden, being responsible for the measurement and collection of light dues – fees levied for the use of the lights. Today just two positions remain, that of Rental Warden and Nether Warden. The current Deputy Master, Capt Ian McNaught, chairs a corporate board of 31 Elder Brethren and over 400 Younger Brethren admitted from the Merchant Navy, the Royal Navy and other ranks within the UK's various maritime sectors.

From the beginning to the mid-16th Century the Corporation had most of its influence on the London river. Private speculators who were also keen to receive the new shipping tolls (light dues), installed lights of varying reliability, on the South and East coasts. In 1566

Queen Elizabeth I granted an Act of Parliament known as the ‘Seamarks Act’ that considerably increased the powers of the Corporation, effectively extending its operational area beyond the River Thames. She also granted the Coat of Arms to Trinity House in 1573 – the motto being “Trinitas in Unitate” It took another hundred years however, to the mid-17th Century before the Corporation was able to establish itself outside the London area with the help of a new charter and further power granted by King Charles II. The Board was increased, electing new Elder and Younger Brethren. By the end of the Century the Corporation owned and managed some 28 almshouses and a chapel in the Deptford area, close to the Naval Dockyard. Today those almshouses are no longer, but the Charity of Trinity House is the UK’s largest endowed maritime charity. It presently owns almshouses at Mile End in London, Walmer in Kent, and rental farmland in Lincolnshire for the benefit of retired or disabled seafarers. The Charity also spends around £3 million every year on the welfare, education and training of seafarers.

The first lighthouse built by Trinity House was at Lowestoft in 1609. Private lights and lighthouses around the British coast continued until the mid-19th Century when in 1836 an Act of Parliament enabled the Corporation to compulsory purchase all remaining private lighthouses. In 1854 the Merchant Shipping Act officially constituted Trinity House as the General Lighthouse Authority for England, Wales, the Channel Isles and the adjacent seas and islands, and Heligoland and Gibraltar. The island of Heligoland became a German protectorate in 1890. Various Merchant Shipping Acts followed up to 1995, which established Trinity House as the General Lighthouse Authority (GLA), for England, Wales, the Channel Isles and Gibraltar. The GLA for Scotland being ‘The Northern Lighthouse Board’ and the whole of Ireland comes under the ‘Commissioners of Irish Lights’.

Today Trinity House provides nearly 600 aids to navigation ranging from lighthouses and buoys to the latest satellite navigation technology. It also inspects over 10,000 local aids to navigation on behalf of port and harbour authorities and offshore energy providers around the UK. It also continues to act as a Deep Sea Pilotage Authority and is entirely funded by Light Dues set by the Department of Transport and providing other commercial marine services.



Its present day headquarters are at Tower Hill, London where there has been a presence since 1793 although as can be seen from the group photograph, the operational day-to-day running of Trinity House Services, buoy maintenance and vessel logistics are conducted from Harwich.

Editor's Talepiece*



‘Heraldry has been contemptuously termed ‘the science of fools with long memories.’ There is more wit than wisdom in the remark, and with the many, a smart saying has an advantage over a just one. The absurd fancies of writers, who have furnished even Adam with a coat of arms, and would give as many quarterings to Noah as might satisfy a Count of the Holy Roman Empire, are fit subjects for ridicule; but the abuse of an art can never, amongst thinking men, lessen the use of it; until all respect for high and noble deeds shall be destroyed on earth, an art which assists to perpetuate the remembrance of their enactors can never truly be called the ‘science of fools.’ Heraldry is the short-hand of history. In its figures, properly interpreted, we read the chronicle of centuries. If knowledge of history be a desideratum in the education of youth, surely nothing that tends to facilitate its acquirement and increase its impression can be considered vain or worthless. In place of branding Heraldry as the science of fools, might we not rather it as one which properly directed, may render even fools wise? Would not a general knowledge of the arms of our principal ancient English families form a sort of artificial memory for the young student of English History, and give additional interest to the details of the deeds of those who bore them: of events in which the founders of those families were actors?’

*('Preliminary Observations' in *The Pursuivant of Arms*, J.R. Planche, 1873. Planche was Rouge Croix Pursuivant, 1854, and Somerset Herald, 1866.)

FINIS

The Editor and staff wish all fellow
Cuhagians a very happy Festive Season