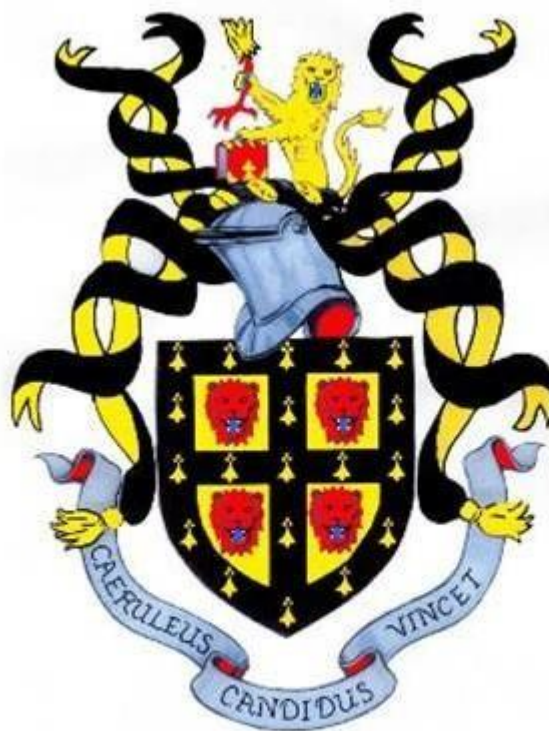


# The ESCUTCHEON

Volume 28 No. 2

Winter 2023

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The Journal of the Cambridge University  
Heraldic and Genealogical Society

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ISSN 2516-2187

**The Escutcheon ISSN  
2516-2187**

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University Heraldic &  
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## Letter from the President



Dear Friends, Members and Life Members,

It is a privilege to be writing my first message to you as President of CUHAGS. I would like to thank my illustrious predecessor Edward Hilary Davis for all the time and effort he devoted to running the Society over the last two years. His tenure will surely go down in memory as among the most exciting periods for the Society. In addition, congratulations and thanks are due to new members of the committee.

The society's AGM took place at Clare College at the beginning of Michaelmas and we were honoured by the presence of David White O.St.J., Garter King of Arms. Our other meetings this term took place at Fisher House, the Cambridge University Catholic Chaplaincy. I would like to thank the chaplain Fr Paul Keane for his support of the Society.

While the committee works to organise events for next term and beyond, I would like to strongly remind and encourage friends and members to make an effort to attend them. I know that in the past, Society meetings were preceded by a formal dinner. This made meetings more likely to appeal to a wider audience. Now that organising regular formals at a College has become practically impossible for CUHAGS, the allure of coming seems to have greatly diminished.

This unfortunate circumstance has possibly contributed to the fact that the Society over the past few years has struggled to attract new student members, especially undergraduate students. This in turn has left the future of CUHAGS as a Cambridge University student society in more jeopardy than anyone who cares about CUHAGS or heraldry and genealogy should be comfortable with. The committee and I are open to hearing ideas about how best to reach out to current members of the University and how to maximise the chance that they join and then remain involved with the Society.

It is part of my job as President to ensure the future of this Society, but it is an impossible task for one man. This is why I am grateful to the members of the committee and why I would like to encourage anyone who feels they could contribute ideas to step forward.

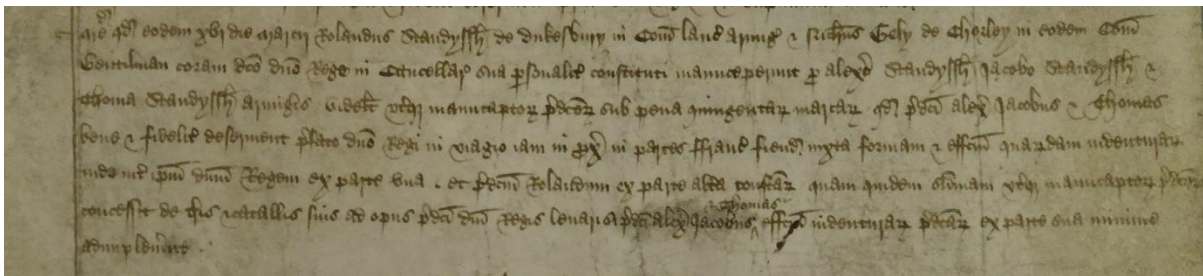
Yours in Pean,  
**Jan MacKinnon**  
**President**  
**CUHAGS**

## Was your ancestor a late Medieval soldier (Part 2)

*Stephen Jolly, Fellow Commoner, St Edmund's College, University of Cambridge*

In the Summer 2023 edition (Vol 28/1), I published a piece featuring the Universities of Southampton and Reading database of soldiers who served the English Crown during the Hundred Years' War (1337-1453): [www.medievalsoldier.org](http://www.medievalsoldier.org). Use of this database had thrown dramatic new light on my family history revealing forebears on active service in Lancastrian Normandy in the period 1430-42.

However, the discoveries didn't stop there. My forebears – men-at-arms Nicholas and Perkyn, archers Robert, John, Thurston, Teviston, Tristram – served in the personal retinues of at least two generations of Standish family captains. As a result, I have subsequently been able to trace the campaign itinerary my forebears took through Northern France in 1434-5 under the general command of John FitzAlan, 14<sup>th</sup> Earl of Arundel. I have also been able to establish from a Memorandum of Mainprise (*Calendar of Close Rolls*, 16 March 1425) that my earliest known forebear, Nicholas, “of Chorley, gentelman ... co. Lancaster”, may have been a lawyer to the Standish lords of Duxbury in the 1420s.



In turn, these findings support the assertions of JW Clay, ed. *Familiae Minorum Gentium* (Harleian Society Vol 39/3: 1048 ff London 1895) that my family were “minor gentry” six centuries ago. In fifteenth-century England, to put a family unit out on military campaign overseas – with horses, armour and weapons – for more than a decade required significant resources and by extension, in a feudal society, land to sustain campaigning from afar.

There is also a delightful twist in the tale, evidenced in Richard St. George's 1613 Visitation of Lancashire (see below). During the 1434-5 campaign, my ancestors were almost certainly involved in removing a relic of twelfth-century Irish saint Lorcán Ua Tuathail (St Laurence O'Toole) from his shrine in the Collegiate Church of Notre-Dame et Saint-Laurent at Eu. A “relique of St Laurence head” was taken back in a saddle bag to England; such an action at that time being considered an act of piety, a “translatio”.

In 1442, seven years after the death of Sir Roland Standish, the relic was used as the basis for the dedication of the parish church of St Laurence in Chorley. However, much controversy surrounds this matter. Some argue that the relic vanished during the Reformation in common with many other popish gewgaws. This is not a view accepted by local historians in Chorley. In line with the St Laurence Historical Society, they argue that the relic was more likely placed within the Standish burial vault by Alexander, the last living male descendant of Sir Roland Standish, in 1642. In 2005, the St Laurence Historical Society sought permission to open the vault to allow researchers from Trinity College Dublin to test for DNA and to locate the relic. The request was rejected by the Church authorities. To complicate matters further, the Collegiate Church of Notre-Dame et Saint-Laurent at Eu continues to claim uninterrupted ownership of the head of St Laurence.



DEPUTY HERALD RANDLE HOLME'S ACCOUNT OF THE "TRANSLATIO" OF THE RELIC OF ST LAURENCE COMPLETE WITH ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE SADDLE BAGS, LATER INCORPORATED INTO THE 1613 VISITATION OF RICHARD ST GEORGE

### CAMPAIGNING IN NORMANDY 1434-35

Based on the 1577 edition of Holinshed and the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, entry for John FitzAlan, 14<sup>th</sup> Earl of Arundel, it is possible to map a tentative route for Arundel and his troops during the 1434-5 campaign:

- St Lo (Arundel appointed captain of garrison in October 1434)
- Bomeline (Beaumesnil?)
- Dorle (Deauville? Chateau Bonneville-sur-Touques?)
- St Selerine (St Céneri-le-Gérei)
- Louviers via Orbec
- St Selerine (St Céneri-le-Gérei)
- Sillye (Sillé-le-Guillaume)
- Melley (Seigneury de Mellay, Juigné-sur-Sarthe)
- St Laurent, Beaumont-sur-Sarthe
- (Le) Mans
- Deep (Dieppe)
- Eu?
- Rue (Rouen?) - April
- Mantes (Mantes-La-Jolie) - May
- Gourney (Gournay-en-Bray)
- Beauays (Beauvais)
- Gerberoy – 9 May





THE LATER STAGES OF THE EARL OF ARUNDEL'S CAMPAIGN, MAY-JUNE 1435

While there is no direct evidence for Arundel's troops being in Eu in the late spring of 1435, we know that there was a longstanding English presence there (Joan of Arc being imprisoned overnight in Eu en route to her execution at Rouen in 1431). The town is also less than 20 miles east of Dieppe where Arundel's troops were stationed.

Holme's account suggests that Sir Roland Standish had some 19 men-at-arms and 60 archers under his direct command, including members of my family. On 9 May 1435, Sir Roland and many of his retinue met their deaths at Gerberoy. Arundel himself was wounded fatally.



THE BATTLE OF GERBEROY DEPICTED IN THE *VIGILES DE CHARLES VII*, c. 1484

Although written more than a century after the event, Holinshed's account of the battle merits recounting at length:

"The Erle cōming thither, encamped himselfe with fieve. C. horsemen in a little close not farre from the Castell. The Frenchmen perceyuing that the Earle and his horses were wearie, and that his archers were not yet come, determined to set vpon him before the comming of his footemen, the which they knewe to be little more than a mile behinde. Wherefore for a policie, they set forth fiftie horsemen as though there had beene no mo within the Castell. The Erle perceyuing this, sent forth sir Randolfe Standish to encounter them, hauing with him an hundred horses.

The Frenchmen fought courageously a while, and sodainly came out all the remnant, and slue sir Randolfe Standish, and all his companie, and boldly set on the Erle and his bande, which manfully resisted the French men, till at length the Hyre [Commander Étienne de Vignolles] caused three Culuerings to be shote off amongst the Englishmen, whereof one strake the



Earle on the ancle, and so brake his legge, that for payne he fell from his horse. Then the French menne entered amongst the Englishmenne, tooke the Earle lying on the grounde, wyth Sir Rycharde Wooduile, and sixe score moe, and there were slaine almoste two hundred. The residue saued themselues as well as they might”.



A 15TH FRENCH CULVERIN SIMILAR TO THAT USED AT GERBEROY

The muster rolls suggest that only Nicholas Jolly may have survived this bloody encounter but that he and a new generation of family members – archers Robert, John, Tristram – went on to enlist to serve under James, heir to Sir Roland Standish, in 1441.

Undoubtedly, there is further research to be done to understand both the context and the detail of these fifteenth-century military campaigns as well as my family’s role in them. While contemporary documentation is sparse and often inaccessible, Allmand’s *Lancastrian Normandy, 1415-1450: The History of a Medieval Occupation* (Clarendon Press, Oxford 1983) seems a promising place to start ...

I should like to express my thanks to Christopher Whittick of the Ranulf Higden Society, Anthony Christopher of the Chorley Historical & Archaeological Society, archival researchers Lee Richards and Graham Hicks for their support with this project.



Stephen Jolly



# Arms of Aldermen of the Ward of Aldergate 1452-1616

Facsimile of Heraldic MS by John Withie reproduced by Francis Compton Price 1878

'Herevex'



Fig: 1. Arms City of London

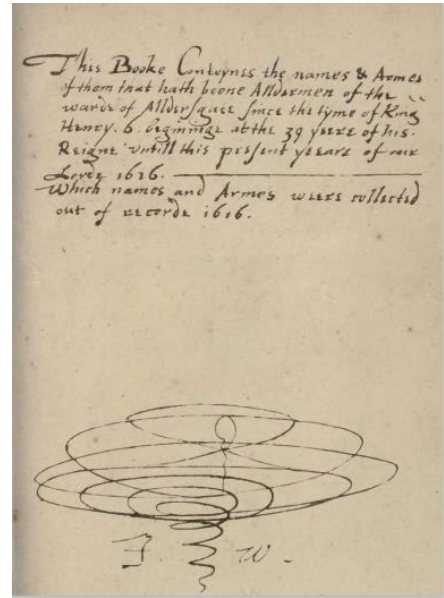
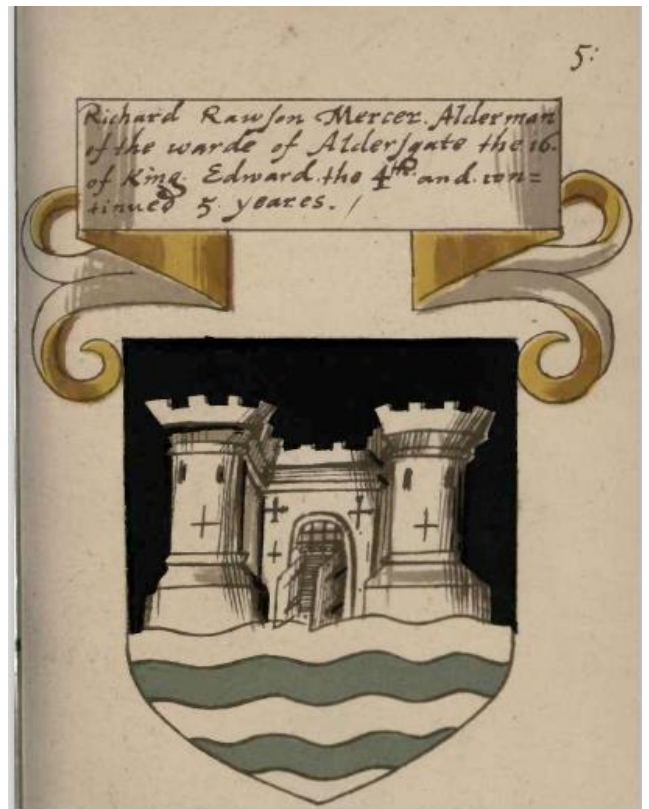


Fig: 2 Dedication

\*'This book contains the names and arms of those who have been Aldermen of the ward of Aldergate since the time of Henry VI beginning in the 30<sup>th</sup> year of his reign (1452) until the present year of 1616 when the names and arms were collected'.

Fig: 3 Matthew Phillipp. Goldsmith

Fig: 4. Richard Rawlson. Mercer



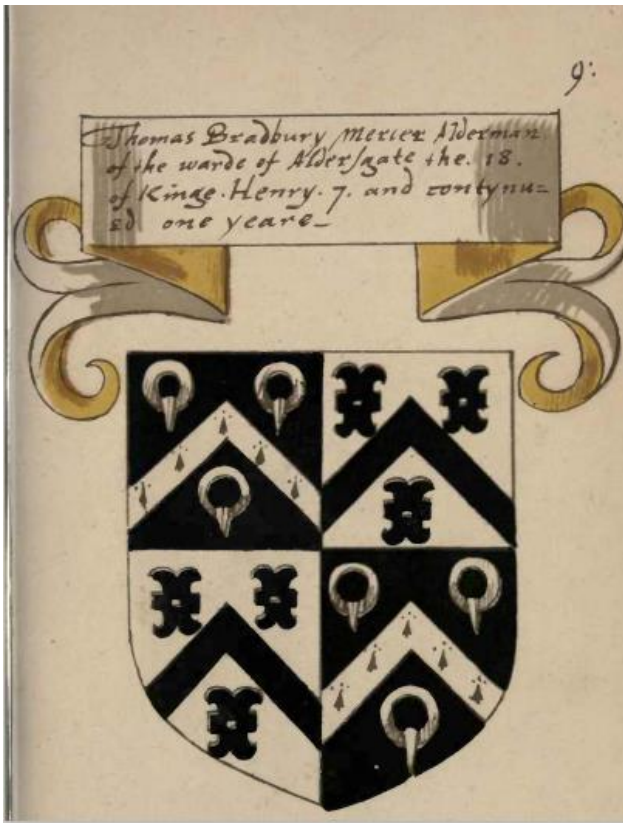


Fig: 5 Thomas Bradbury. Mercer



Fig: 6 Robert Fenrother. Goldsmith

Fig: 7 John Cotis. Salter

Fig: 8 Rafe Warren. Mercer







Fig: 9 Henry H. Skynner



Fig: 10 Nicholas Styles. Grocer



Fig: 11 Henry Parnell. Vintner



Fig: 12 Walter Champion. Draper



Fig: 13 Henry Anderson. Grocer



Fig: 14 Nicholas Mosley. Clothworker



Fig: 15 William Laxton. Grocer



## **The Actors:**

Fig 3. Sir Andrew Phillipp. Goldsmith. Alderman 1451. Sheriff in the same year and Lord Mayor in 1463. He was knighted by Edward IV., and received the Cross of the Bath with other Aldermen on the occasion of the King's marriage. Sir Mathew Phillipp was the son of Arnold Phillipp of Norwich.

Fig 4. Richard Rawson. Merchant Taylor. Alderman 1476 and Sheriff the same year.. During the Shrievalty of Rawson, the walls of the city were repaired. William Smith (?dates) says: "Richard Rawson, Sheriff, builded ye howse of St, Mary Spital without Bishopsgate, where the major and Aldermen do use to sitt and heare the sermons in ye Easter holly daies." Rawson was from Yorkshire, and the families of Rawson of Nydd Hall, near Knaresborough, and Rawson of Mill House, near Halifax, are presumed from similarity of arms to be descended from him.

Fig 5. Thomas Bradbury. Mercer. Alderman 1502 and Sheriff the same year. He became Lord Mayor in 1509. He died during his year of office (1st January 1510), and was buried at St. Stephens, Coleman Street. Sir William Capell, Draper, served out the rest of the year. Thomas Bradbury was the son of William Bradbury of Branghin, Hertfordshire.

Fig 6. Robert Fenrother. Goldsmith. Alderman 1511, and Sheriff in the following year. Fenrother was from Cambridgeshire.

Fig 7. Sir John Cotes. Salter. Alderman 1535 and Sheriff in the same year. He was Lord Mayor in 1542 the year of the plague. Sir John was the son of Thomas Cotes of Bearton, Buckinghamshire. He is buried at St. Stephens, Walbrook. "During the Shrievalty of Cotes. The lord Mayor, Sir John Allen, gave to the city the golden collar worn by himself and his successors". This Sir John Allen was of the Privy Council, and was chosen Lord Mayor by the King's request. If the Mayor was generous, the Sheriffs were inclined to parsimony for, says Stow, 'The forenamed Sheriffs, Monmouth and Cotes, did put away twelve sergeants and twelve yeoman, but by a Court of Common Council they were enforced to take them again'.

Fig 8. Sir Ralph Warren. Mercer. Alderman 1528 and Sheriff the same year. He was twice Lord Mayor, though it had been decreed in 1529 'that none should be mayor of London more

than one year.' Sir Ralph was first elected Mayor in 1536, and afterwards in 1543, serving the rest of the year in place of Sir William Bowyer, who died on April 13<sup>th</sup> during his year of office. Sir Ralph was buried at St. Sythes in Bucklersbury, '*where, says Nicholas Charles, his arms were taken downe by his sonne Richard Warren, and these set up in place thereof.*'



Sir Ralph Warren was great grandfather to Oliver Cromwell. The Lord Mayor's daughter, Joan, married Sir Henry Cromwell of Hinchinbrook, whose son, Robert Cromwell, M.P. for Huntingdon, was the Protector's father. Robert Cromwell's sister Elizabeth was the mother of John Hampden (1595 – 1643). He was Oliver Cromwell's cousin. He was wounded at the battle of Chalgrove Field 18<sup>th</sup> June 1643 and died 24<sup>th</sup> June of that year.

Fig: 9 Henry Herdson. Skinner. Alderman 1553. He died in 1555, and was buried at St. Dunstan's in the East.

Fig:10 Nicholas Style. Grocer. Alderman 1606 and Sheriff 1607. He died on 17<sup>th</sup> November 1615, and was buried at St. Bartholomew's by the Exchange.

Fig 11. Henry Pranell. Vintner. Alderman 1589 and had been Sheriff in 1585. He was buried at St. Michaels at Querne. Querne is a corruption of the word *Corn*. Pranell was buried at St. Michael-ad-bladum, or St. Michael at the Corn, so called because the church stood in a corn-market by Paternoster Row. The church was burned down in the great fire of 1666 and was not rebuilt.

Fig 12. Walter Champion. Draper. Alderman 1532; he was Sheriff in 1529.

Fig 13. Henry Anderson. Grocer. Alderman 1592. Sheriff 1601. (Obit 1604)

Fig 14. Nicholas Mosley. Clothworker. Alderman 1590, and Sheriff in the same year.

Fig 15. Sir William Laxton. Grocer. Alderman 1536, Sheriff 1540. He was Lord Mayor 1544. He lived in Budge Row, near the east end of St. Mary Aldermary's Church, in which church he was buried in the vault of Sir Henry Keble. (Obit 1556). Sir William was the son of John Laxton of Oundle, Northamptonshire. By his will he founded an Alms house and a Free School at Oundle which was administered by the Grocers' Company.

## Ancient Dunwich Seals (With some notes on the town)

*T M Trelawny Gower*

Alfred Suckling in his *History and Antiquities of Suffolk* (volume 2, 1848) observes that 'Dunwich is so enveloped in the halo of traditionary splendour, that he, who ventures to elucidate its history by pursuing the path of topographical inquiry, must exercise unusual caution, lest he be misled by imaginary light. The steady ray which truth might have shed over its earliest origin is almost wholly extinguished by the violent assaults of the ocean; for, unlike those ruined cities whose fragments attest their former grandeur, Dunwich is wasted, desolate and void. Its palaces and temples are no more, and its very environs present an aspect lonely, stern, and wild - assimilating well with the wreck of its former prosperity'.



Fig: 1 Ancient Dunwich Seals. 1-9

## Explanation of the Seals Fig: 1 (14<sup>th</sup> Century)

1. Represents the ancient corporation seal of the borough of Dunwich, probably granted by Edward III (r1327-1377). The legend is *Sigillum. Balliborum.de. Donwico*. The principal device is a royal head issuant from the hull of a ship; on either side of which is a star, and above, a star with a crescent. Hervey, in his Suffolk Visitations (1561), describing this seal says, 'This is the olde and ancient seal of long tyme used by the baylifs and burgesses of the borough and corporation of Dunwhice'. The matrix of this lozenge shaped seal is of brass, and is now in the possession of Fredrick Barne, Esq (1801-1886). He was MP for the 'Rotten Borough' of Dunwich from 1830-32. The Barne family were principal landowners of Dunwich and surrounding lands having purchased the area from the Dowling family in 1750.
2. The modern seal of the corporation used in their courts of admiralty, With the exception of its shape, it differs little from the former. The legend is *Sigillum. Admiralitatis. Donelwico*.
3. Seal of the Hospital of St. James. Gardner gives a seal much resembling this, but St. James holds a crozier in his left hand, instead of a cross and the right hand is in a different position. Gardner's seal has also two fleurs-de-lis instead of the escallop shells.
4. The brass matrix of this seal appears to be the same as that represented in Gardner's map, and is very probably, if not certainly, the seal granted to the town by King John, when he gave it its first charter. The character of the legends is as old as that period. The circumscription is *Sigill. Burgi.de.Donewiz*
5. The seal of Petrus de Normondeby, Rural Dean of Dunwich in 1343. Above the hull of a ship appears the name of this official, Petrus. The circumscription is *Decanus.de. Donewei*.
6. Impression from a seal-ring found at Dunwich.
7. A circular seal with an open crown, believed to be the seal of an Aulnager from the reign of Henry VI.
8. The seal of the Grey Friars at Dunwich. In the centre is a monk in a devotional attitude; from the lips of the devotee proceeds this legend; *s.joh.ora. p. me*. The circumscription is *Sigillu. Guardiani. fratrum.minor. Donewyey*.
9. ? The seal of Ethilwald, or Weremund, Bishop of Dunwich circa 850. This relic 'was dug up by a person in a garden about 200 yards from the site of the monastery at Eye', The seal appears to be of bronze, mitre shaped, of two rows of arches, surmounted by a rude fleur-de-lis, and supported by nine wolves' heads in the interstices of the arches; the eyes formed of small garnets, of which only one remains. Suckling is obviously in error with his description of this seal.





Fig: 2



Fig: 3

These are modern facsimiles of the seals shown in Fig:1 (no's 1&4). Fig 2 is a seal dating from 1199 showing a clinker-built sailing ship equipped with twin fighting castles and a fighting top at the mast. Note the large side rudder for steering. Whether the fish in the sea were meant to show it was a fishing boat is a point of conjecture. Fig 3, a later seal for Dunwich dating from 1346 depicts a different design of craft, the Hulc, which we have seen on Athelstan's coin. This was still a common type of merchant ship. The single mast and sail has been replaced by a portrait of Edward III. Little is known about this type of ship, as there have been no wreck finds. It also appears on the seal of Orford, and there are three hulcs (Sterns of) on the arms of Ipswich.

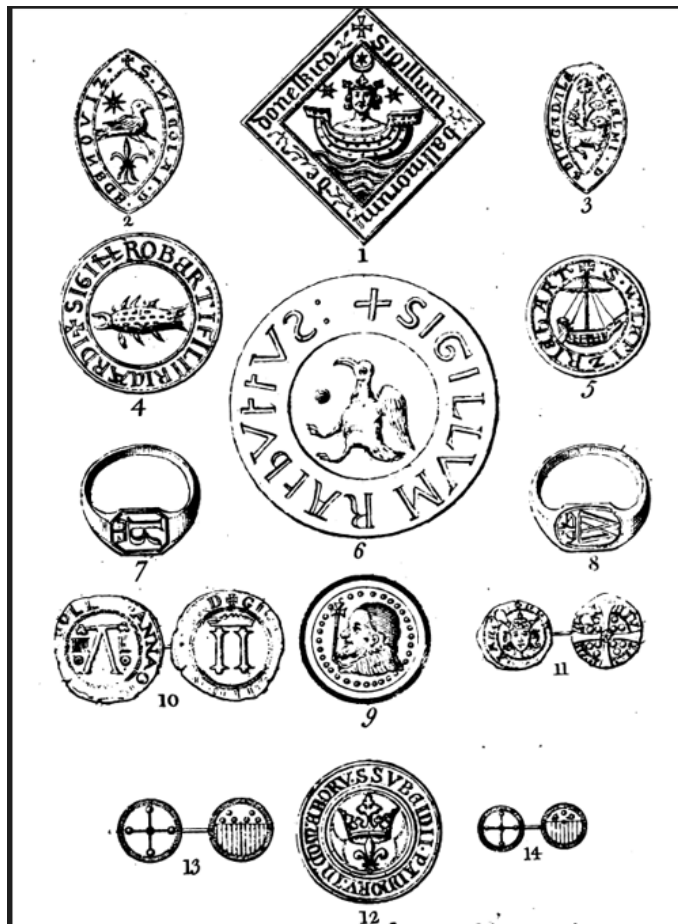


Fig 4: Seals 1-14 are from Garner's Dunwich, 1754

## Explanation of Seals Fig: 4

1. A seal probably granted on the Dissolution of the former magistracy. (Similar to number 1 in above plate). A king standing in the hull of a ship riding on the waves without rudder or rigging expresses King Edward III protecting the community of this sea-port town, deprived of its late governors, the Mayor and the Lords of Navigation due to the port being completely closed by silting. The addition of the two stars shows some favours received from the said king; perhaps the institution of the two Bailiffs and the retention of the crescent and star may have an allusion to the privileges granted to them by Richard I and his successors. This seal was allegedly attached to a map of the area granted by King John (r1199-1216), or on the confirmation of his charters by King Henry III. The main trade of Dunwich at the time was herring fisheries.
  2. Seal of Nicholas of Dunwich is as old as the beginning of King John's reign, or sometime of Richard III (r1483-1485).
  3. Seal of William of Dingle.
  4. Seal of Robert, Bailiff of Dunwich (1218). Most likely a Fish Merchant or Herring Hanger.
  5. Seal of William, Bailiff of Dunwich (1218). The ship suggests that he was a merchant, probably dealing with herring exports.
  6. An impression of a very old seal of one Robert. It is ceramic and glazed green.
  7. A brass ring with *R* crowned. *R* Comes, subscribed Walter de Riboss's Deed of Gift to St. James Hospital in Dunwich. Richard Earl of Clare was a witness to the donation of King Henry II to William de Norwich. Also, Richard Earl of Clare was one of the barons appointed by *Magna Charter* to adjust the differences between King John and his subjects. Another Richard de Clare was seized of the Manor of Southwold.
  8. A brass ring with *W* crowned. William Earl of Pembroke signed King Henry III's Charter to Dunwich. He was Lord of a Manor at Westleton (near Dunwich) called Valeins, where there stood a manor belonging to that family; it was demolished in the Baron's Wars of 1215-1217 (?).
  9. An ancient chisel wrought piece of bare metal, having on one side a bust with a sceptre somewhat resembling that of Canute.
  10. A coin of King Anna, king of East Anglia who reigned 640-653.
  11. A penny of Edward IV (r1461-1470) minted at Dunwich.
  12. An Aulnager's Seal<sup>1</sup>, thought to have been made during the reign of Henry VII (r1485-1509 when inter commerce was established between Dunwich and Hull. (This was found at Easton near Dunwich).
  13. A lead token (Large)
  14. A lead token (Small). Origin unknown.
- <sup>1</sup>*An Aulnager was an inspector of the quality and measurement of 'woollen cloth' introduced by Edward I (r1272-1307).*

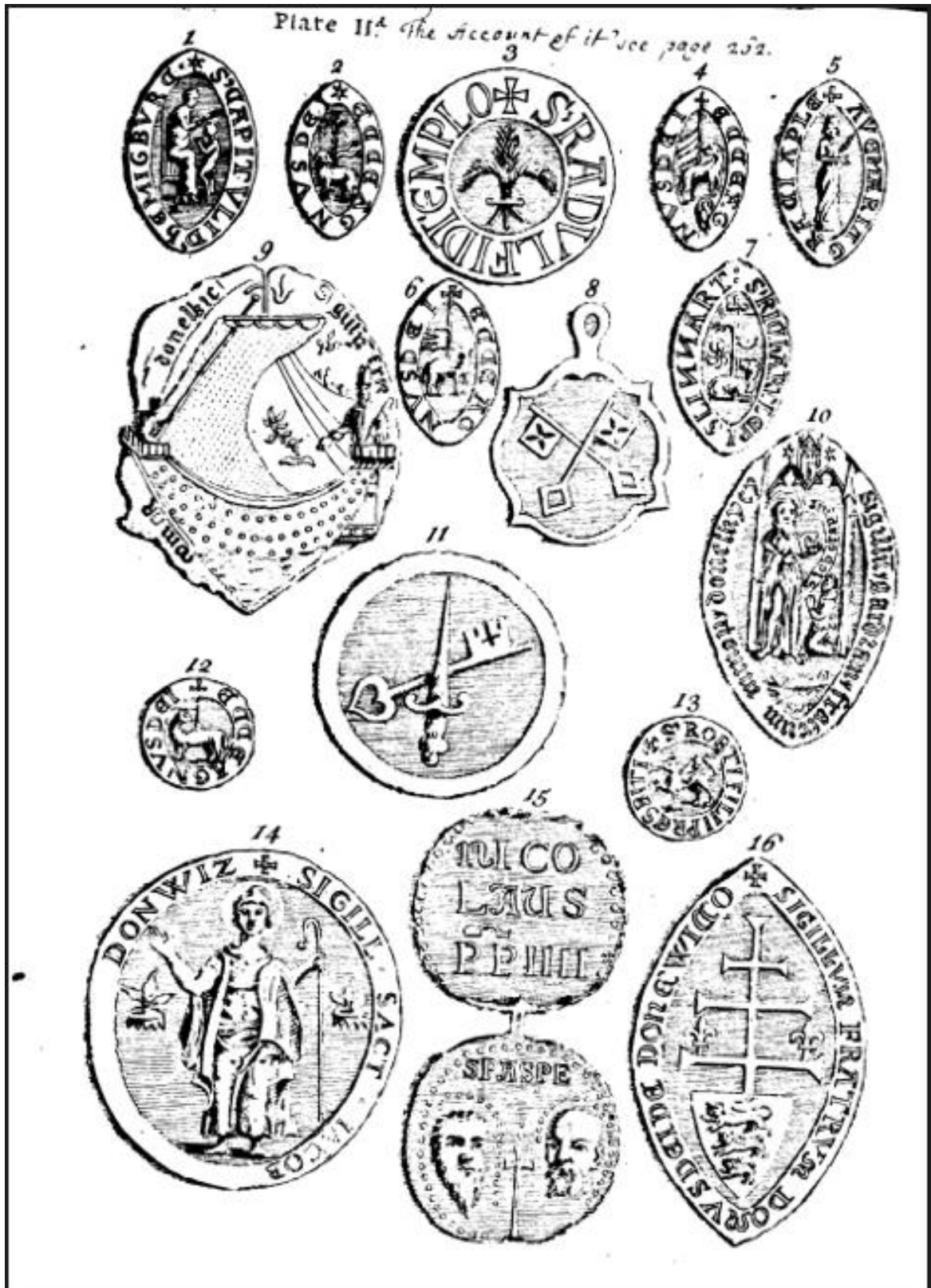


Fig 5: Seals found at Dunwich. (Gardner's Dunwich 1754).

## Explanation of Seals Fig: 5

Seal of a College at Hemynburgh in Yorkshire, founded by the Prior and the Convent of Durham in 1427 to the honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary, for a Provost, three Canons, six Vicars and six Clerks. (Why this was a Dunwich seal is not clear but in view of the number of ecclesiastical establishments in Dunwich at the time there is probably a link somewhere).

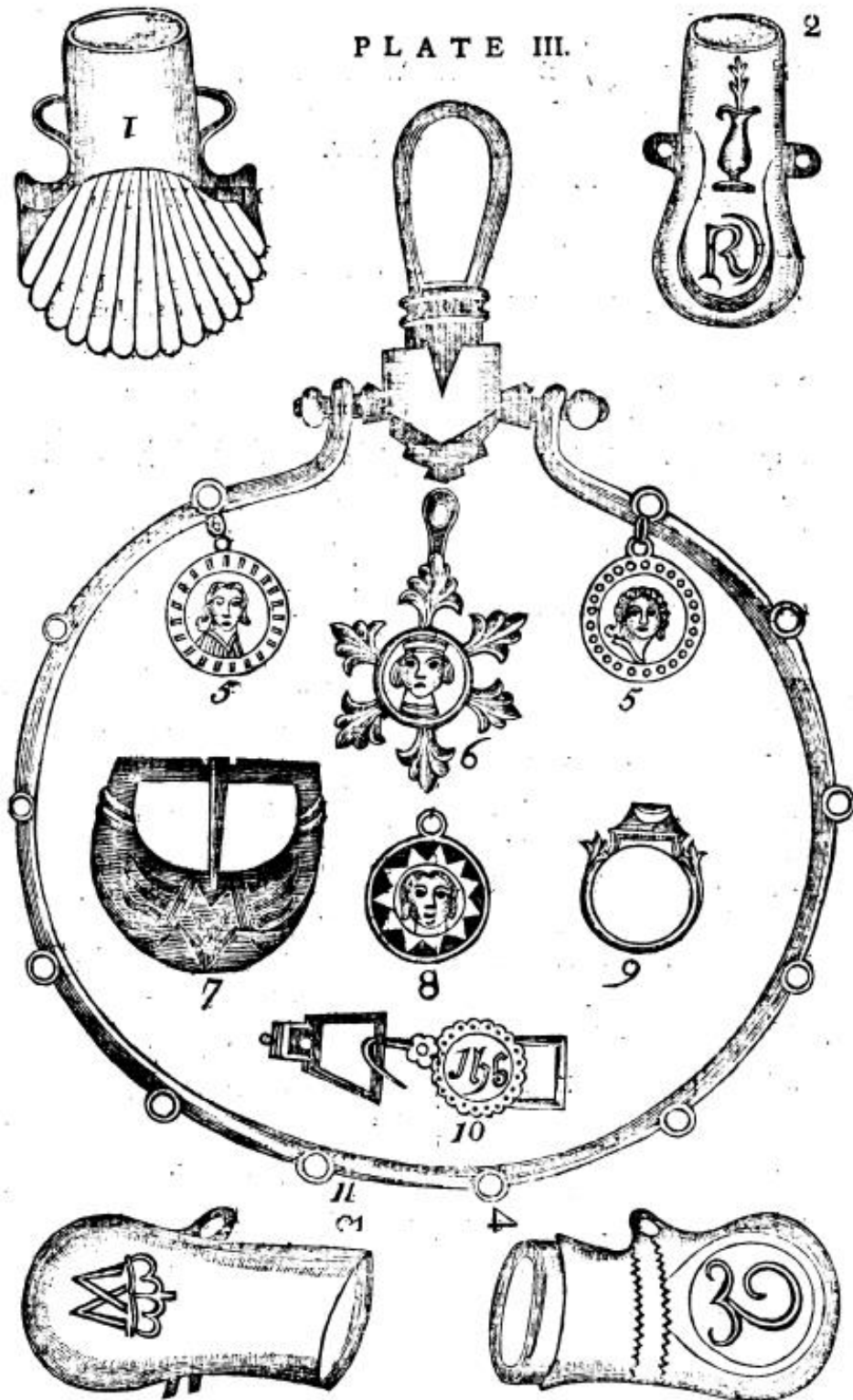
1. A seal with Agnus Die.
2. Seal of Radulf a Priest of the Temple in Dunwich (Edward III).
3. A different Agnus Die.
4. Seal of the Temple of Dunwich.
5. A different Agnus Die.
6. Seal of Richard, a Priest at St. Leonards in Dunwich (c1334).
7. An impression of a seal. It is of bare metal, and by the style may have been appendant to some deed. It may be that of Brother Wills who was Divinity Reader at Gloucester, to which Abbey these arms appertained.
8. Seal of the Greyfriars at Dunwich, taken from an impression.
9. Another seal of the Grey Friars.
10. An impression of the emblem of St. Peter and St. Paul.
11. An Agnus Die.
12. Seal of Robert. He was a Priest at Dunwich in 1334.
13. Seal of St. James Hospital at Dunwich.(From an impression)
14. A lead seal (a Bulla affixed to a document). On one side are the heads of St. Paul and St. Peter; and on the reverse the name of the Holy Father Nicholas IV(Temp Edward I)
15. Seal of the *Maison-Dieu* Hospital at Dunwich.



Fig 6: Prospect of Dunwich from North (Date unknown)



Fig: 7 Seals and Artifacts found at Dunwich.



## Explanation of Seals and Artifacts (Fig: 7)

1-4. Are small portable leads vessels, called by some *Pilgrim's Pouches*, by others *lachrymatories* thought to hold liquid relics or tears; the first, scalloped, is peculiar to the Order of St. James de Compostella, and a church at Dunwich dedicated to that saint shows some probability it did belong there. The other three might appertain to particular shrines; as to my Lady of Walsingham, Thomas Becket of Canterbury and others. But their proper name, use and dependency, I leave to the opinion of the curious.

5 (2). Heads of the Apostles.

6 & 8. Radiated heads of our Saviour.

7. A copper buckle with an M; perhaps an ornament to the image of St. Mary or St. Margaret.

9. A Ring with a stone supposed to grace some image.

10. A Hook or Clasp to fasten a priest's cape; the three letters thereon express *Jesus Hominum Salvator*.

11. An instrument with twelve holes, to which are affixed with lengths of wire, the heads of the apostles. Gardner notes that he had seen some different loops where numbers 6 & 8 might be linked; and one with fourteen loops which might exhibit *Mark* and *Luke* along with the twelve apostles.

## From a Major Town to a Hamlet in Eight Centuries

Brief notes on the slow decay of a town:

Looking a Dunwich today (although there is a feeling of historical past) it is hard to believe that it was once the capital of East Anglia (7<sup>th</sup> century), the See of a Bishop, and was one of the most significant commercial towns of the kingdom.

Now a hamlet on the shore of the North Sea, it was formerly a large town with six or eight parish churches, a number of chapels and monastic institutions, all of which, except the ruins of All Saints church and some remains of the Chapel of St. James Hospital and the Maison Dieu Hospital, have been washed away by the incursions of the ocean.

Suckling states that 'Though many of the traditional accounts relating to Dunwich are probably fabulous, it is unquestionably a place of great antiquity'. It is conjectured by some to have been a station of the Romans, based on the number of their coins discovered locally. In the reign of Sigeberht I, King of the East Angles (r 617-c650), Felix, the Burgundian Bishop, in 630 established his episcopal See at Dunwich; and here his successors continued for more than two hundred years.

Land was being lost to the sea before the Domesday Survey, when it was the manor of one Robert Malet, containing eleven Bordarii, twenty four Freeman each holding forty acres (16 Hectares, (actually slightly more, as a Domesday acre was 1.2 modern acres) of land, one hundred thirty six Burgesses, one hundred seventy eight poor, and three churches.

Later, at the beginning of the reign of Henry II (1154-1189), Dunwich became the demesne of the Crown, at which time the town had a mint. The town was described by a contemporary chronicler as *'A Town of good note abounding with much riches and sundry kinds of merchandises. The annual farm rent was £120,13s 4d and twenty four thousand herrings. This was probably the period of its highest prosperity'*.

Under Richard I (1189-1199), Dunwich was fined one thousand marks (£218K at 2022) for unlawfully supplying the King's enemies with corn. The size of the fine may give some idea as to the importance of the Town at the time.

King John 1(1199-1216), in the first year of his reign, granted a charter to the town by which its inhabitants were empowered, among other things, to marry their sons and daughters as they pleased, and also to give, sell or otherwise dispose of their possessions in the town as they should think fit. This charter of 29<sup>th</sup> June 1199 cost the town three hundred marks (£75k at 2022 value), ten Falcons and five Ger-Falcons.<sup>1</sup>



1. Ger-Falcons must have been quite rare in East Anglia, as they are usually found in the Arctic.

In the reign of Edward 1 (1272 – 1307), after the town had significantly declined, it had eleven ships of war, sixteen fair ships, twenty Barques, or vessels trading in the North Sea, plus twenty four Long-shore fishing boats. In 1293 the men of Dunwich built at their own cost, and equipped for the defence of the realm, eleven ships each manned by seventy two men. Four of these vessels valued at £200 (600 marks) (£117.5k at 2022) each were taken and destroyed by the French whilst in service off the coast of France. In 1347 the port sent six ships each one manned by one hundred soldiers and mariners to assist in the siege of Calais,

but during the war with France, most of the ships were lost, together with the lives of around five hundred townsmen plus merchandise to the value of 6000 marks (£1.2 million at 2022 values).

A still greater loss however was sustained by the town when the port was removed, a new one being opened within the limits of Blythburgh, not far from Walberswick Quay, near Southwold. This event, while it greatly increased the trade of these places, caused that of Dunwich to decline in the same proportion, and combined with the ravages of the sea, gradually reduced the town to poverty.

The present decayed state of this once flourishing place is owing to the encroachment of the North Sea, as the geology, composed of loam and sand on a coast having no rocks, it is not surprising that its buildings should have successfully yielded to the impetuosity of the waves breaking against, and undermining the cliffs and beach.

From Gardner's historical account:

'A wood called East Wood, or the King's Forest, extended several miles south east of the town but it has been destroyed by the sea over time. In 1739, a storm exposed the roots of a great number of trees which appeared to be the extremity of some wood, which was in all probability, part of the submerged forest'.

On January 1<sup>st</sup> 1286, as the result of a violent storm, several churches were overthrown and destroyed and in 1328, the old port was rendered entirely useless and by 1360 the greater part of the town, containing upwards of 400 houses, with shops and windmills, had fallen prey to the sea' After this, the church of St. Leonard was destroyed and in the course of the same century, the churches of Sat. Martin and St. Nicolas were also destroyed.

In 1540, the church of St. John Baptist was demolished, and before 1600, the chapels of St. Anthony, St. Francis and St. Katherine, together with the South Gate and Gilden Gate were swallowed up, so that not one quarter of the remaining town was left standing. In the reign of Charles I (1625-1649), the Temple building yielded to the irresistible force of the storm surges and the sea reached the market place in 1677. In 1680, all the buildings north of *Maison Dieu Lane* were demolished, and in 1702, the sea reached St. Peter's church which was dismantled and soon undermined. The Town Hall also shared the same fate. In 1715, the jail was absorbed, and in 1729, the farthest bounds of St. Peter's churchyard were washed away. In December 1740, the wind blew very hard from the north east, continuing for several days, devastating what remained of the town. In the same storm, much of the cliff was carried away by the strength of the waves, which destroyed the last remains of the churchyard of St. Nicholas together with the Great Road, formerly leading from the Quay to the town.

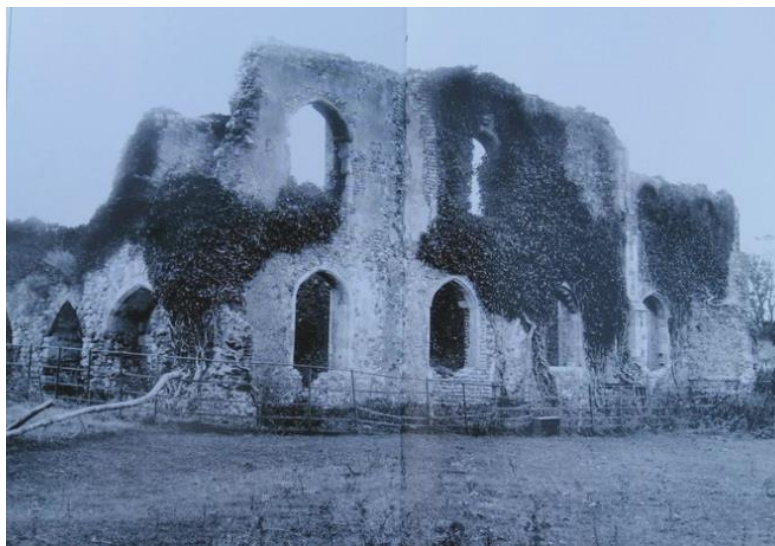
Visible at Dunwich are the remains of Greyfriars, a Franciscan Friary founded by Richard FitzJohn and his wife Alice, and after by Henry III. It was recorded in 1277 when there were already 20 friars living there. In 1289 it was moved further inland from its original site.



Fig 7: Greyfriars Gateway.



Fig 8: Greyfriars, probably the Refectory



Dunwich Priory 1909

Following ferocious storms between 1286 and 1288, the River Blyth's course changed, the harbour at Dunwich was partly blocked, and large areas of land were devoured by the sea, all of which marked the beginning of the major decline of the town. The Grey Friars (Franciscans) had to move to this site for safety under threat once again from the sea. The romantic ivy-covered ruins of the Franciscan priory are now the most substantial building left in the medieval town of Dunwich. The ravages of the North Sea have demolished the coastline, and legend says that on a quiet day the church bells of the drowned town can be heard ringing from under the sea

In 1897 Henry James wrote of Dunwich:

'I defy anyone, at desolate, exquisite Dunwich, to be disappointed in anything. The minor key is struck here with a felicity that leaves no sigh to be breathed, no loss to be suffered... The biggest items are of course the two ruins, the great church and its tall tower, now quite on the verge of the cliff, and the crumpled, ivied wall of the immense cincture of the priory. These



things have parted with almost every single grace, but they still keep up the work that they have been engaged in for centuries and cannot better be described than as adding mystery to mystery. This accumulation, at present prodigious, is, to the brooding mind, unconscious as the shrunken little Dunwich of today may be of it, the beginning and the end of the matter. I hasten to add that it is to the brooding mind only and from it, that I speak. The mystery sounds for ever in the hard straight tide, and hangs, through the long, still summer days and over the low, diked fields, in the soft thick light’.

Of course, there are different views as to the actual historical importance of Dunwich through the ages, and I touch only briefly on these opinions.

Stuart Rigold give details, in his paper (1961) to the *Journal of the British Archaeological Society* of the site of the East Anglian see of Dommoc, founded by Felix c.631, he suggested that the location was near Felixstowe rather than Dunwich. Rigold’s primary hypothesis was that the Roman fort at Walton near Felixstowe was the site of Felix’s see. This was based on three premises: first, that the place-name Felixstowe preserves the memory of St. Felix himself; second, that there was no identifiable Roman site at or near Dunwich, (Norman Scarfe in 1972 noted that there were at least four Roman roads converging towards Dunwich, suggesting that the Romans were there in some force.) and third; that Dunwich itself was of little significance before the Conquest. Whitelock in 1972 pointed out that there were doubtless a number of unrecorded and probably unidentifiable monastic sites of the period in East Anglia, and Felix’s Activities were not likely to have been confined to one place or even one region alone.

With regard to the roads, from the fact that the modern roads follow the alignments of parts of these, it can be inferred that this site provided a settlement focus throughout the Saxon period. A hypothetical Saxon shore fort situated to the east of Dunwich (long destroyed by the sea), placed approximately mid-way between Walton Castle and Burgh Castle, has been suggested as a focus for these roads. (West 1973). This would have been well placed to ensure the defence of the Blythe estuary. However, another writer on the subject denies both the Roman date of the roads and the existence of any large Roman settlement at Dunwich, noting in part, the absence of any Roman finds from near Dunwich. But since any Roman site is likely to have been destroyed by incursions of the sea by the late Saxon period, this argument loses much of its force. Rigold’s third premise that Dunwich was ‘not of any commercial importance before the Conquest’ is also questionable. He argued from the lack of references to Dunwich before Domesday, and from the absence of coins attributable to a pre-Conquest mint there. However, Ringold’s arguments do nothing to demonstrate the non-existence of a town at Dunwich before the conquest; neither is the absence of a mint at Dunwich in the middle of the Saxon period necessarily demonstrated by the lack of any mint signature on sceattas.

Other more positive evidence, however, suggests that Dunwich was a place of some significance throughout the Saxon period. It was the largest town in Suffolk at the time of Domesday, and already had a sizable population by 1066 (Estimated at 3000 people). The hypothesis of the existence of a trading place at Dunwich in the middle of the Saxon period also accords with the evidence, equivocal though it is, relating to sea levels and coastal erosion at that time and later. It has been suggested that the East Anglian coast only began to

sink in relation to the sea from the 14<sup>th</sup> century, with a consequent period of erosion in the late medieval and post-medieval periods. There is also a suggestion, based on recent observations (1975) that the coast was already sinking in the late Saxon period.

Whatever the points of conjecture, Dunwich now may not indicate much of its former glory, but it has a church, a pub, a Fish and Chip parlour a teahouse, museum and a wonderful shingle beach. The claim that one can hear the bell of a long submerged church may be from the mists of ancient folk-lore, but standing on the beach, one wants to believe it; the visitor will find that there is a Spirit of Place to absorb.

Nearing conclusion, I could not resist re-printing the preface to Gardner's Dunwich 1774.

'The study of antiquity being generally agreeable to the disposition of many ingenious people, I have presumed to publish this small tract of some places, especially the once famous *City of Dunwich*, which will afford speculation sufficient to ruminate on the vicissitude and instability of sublunary things.

The oldest inhabitants of this neighbourhood report that Dunwich (in ancient times) was a city, surrounded by a stone wall, and *brazen* (Brass) gates; had fifty two churches, chapels, religious houses and hospitals; a king's palace, a Bishops seat, a mayors mansion and a mint; as many top-ships as churches and many windmills. Also a forest that extended from the town southeast for seven miles, is now covered by the sea: and the port converted [by silting and reed colonisation] to firm land. These revelations excited my curiosity of visiting this place, where I beheld the remains of the *Rampart*; some tokens of *Middlegate*, and the foundations of down-fallen edifices. There were tottering fragments of noble structures, with the remains of the dead exposed. There were also naked wells divested of the ground around them by the waves of the sea, divers coins, several mill hills and part of the old key [quay]

These antique objects induced me to make a further search into the reality of the town's original state; but to my surprise I found its archives ransacked of all records except the common Court Books, and those too close confined for my due inspection. Notwithstanding to preserve the fame of that renowned city, now almost swallowed up by the sea, from sinking into oblivion, I have endeavoured to collect such occurrences dependent thereon, which may perpetrate the memorial thereof to posterity.

The uncertain sound of the *Trumpet of Antiquity*, or these towns now beheld in despicable miniature, afford no substantial reasons why they were not heretofore in estimation for magnitude, grandeur and riches. Therefore, with submission, I flatter myself that the studious in the ancient state of things will favourably interpret any ambiguities contained herein'.

#### **A Brief Chronology of the Decay of Dunwich (Compilation from various sources)**

1. A coast destitute of rocks, or some artificial means of preservation lies exposed to the constant assaults of the raging waves of the sea, which are observed to fret high ground more than low beach; as is manifestly apparent by Dunwich, Southwold, Easton and Pakefield, and most of the cliffs on this coast which have no sands lying off them to break the seas. Dunwich having the main part built on a hill composed of a loose texture,

- the firmest stratum thereof being loam, and the rest sand; the surges playing against the foot, easily undermines the cliff which collapses in abundance.
2. Of the two carves of land taxed in the time of Edward the Confessor (r1042-1060) ; one at the Conqueror's Survey was devoured by the sea, which continued the erosion as agitated by strong north-west winds, or furious gales from the eastern quarter, making conquests quite to the town. For whole preservation, King Henry III in 1222 not only required assistance of others, but himself was pleased to grant two hundred pounds toward the making of a form of coastal defence.
  3. The Church of St. Felix, and a cell of monks, was lost very early. In 1286, on the night after New Year's Day, through the vehemence of the winds and violence of the sea, several churches were overthrown and destroyed in divers places; Dunwich was one of the sufferers
  4. In 1328 (Edward III), the Old-Port was rendered utterly useless.
  5. Before 1345, a great part of the town, and upward of four hundred houses with certain shops and windmills, were devoured by the sea.
  6. The Church of St. Leonard was overthrown.
  7. In the fourteenth century, the churches of St. Martin and St. Nicholas were overthrown by the Waves of the Sea.
  8. In 1385 (Richard II), the sea eroded the shore near to the Black Friars.
  9. In 1540, the church of St. John Baptist was taken down.
  10. In c1560, the Chapels of St. Anthony, St. Francis and St. Katherine were overthrown. Also South-Gate, and the Gilden Gate. Not one quarter of the Town was left standing.
  11. In 1570, Dunwich suffered incredible damage.
  12. 1608. The High Road to the sea was eaten away, and another was made through Peter Willet's ground.
  13. In the reign of Charles I, the foundations of the Temple Buildings yielded to the irresistible force of the undermining surges.
  14. 1677. The sea reached the Market Place.
  15. 1680. All the buildings north of Maison-Dieu Lane were demolished.
  16. 1702. The sea extended its dominion to St. Peter's Church, which was obliged to be broken down.
  17. The Town Hall suffered the same fate.
  18. 1715. The Jail was undermined.

Perhaps the final word should go to James Bird, from *Canto First*

Where the lone cliff rears its rugged head,  
 Where frowns the ruin o'er the silent dead,  
 Where sweeps the billow on the lonely shore,  
 Where once the mighty lived, but live no more,  
 Where proudly frowned the convent's massy wall,  
 Where rose the gothic tower, the stately hall,  
 Where bards proclaimed, and warriors shared the feast,  
 Where ruled the Baron, where knelt the priest,  
 There stood the City in its pride –'tis gone –

Mocked at by the crumbling pile, and mouldering stone,  
And shapeless masses, which the reckless power  
Of time hath hurled from ruined arch and tower!  
O'er the lone spot, where shrines and pillared halls  
Once gorgeous shone, the clammy lizard crawls;  
O'er the lone spot where yawned the guarded fosse,  
Creeps the wild bramble, and the spreading moss:  
Oh! Time hath bowed that lordly City's brow  
In which the mighty dwelt – where dwell they now!



Facsimile of Southwold Seal c1400.



Sceattas from early Anglo-Saxon Period found at Dunwich.

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## Human figures as Crests

### *From The Scheiblers Armorial (15<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup> centuries)*

*‘Herevex’*

*The Scheiblers Armorial* (Scheiblersches Wappenbuch) is an armorial manuscript compiled in two separate portions over the course of the 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. It is named for its first known owners, the baronial Scheibler family of Hulhoven in the Rhineland.

The first part can be dated to the later 15<sup>th</sup> century, ca.1450-1480. It contains a total of 476 coats of arms. The second part, compiled during the 16<sup>th</sup> to early 17<sup>th</sup> century centuries, adds 148 additional complete coats of arms, for a total of 624, not including 62 delineated coats of arms left empty. Page numbers and a register were added in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century.

The collection includes coats of arms of noble families from much of the Holy Roman Empire, predominantly its southern areas, including Bavaria, Swabia, Alsace, Franconia, and the Low Countries. The later part added more specific categories of Hegau, Lake Constance, Westphalia, Moravia and Bohemia. (Figs: 1-8)



Figs: 1-8 Illustrations from *Scheiblers Armorial*









## A Display of Heraldry

### The use of heraldry in the adornment of domestic buildings

*Edward Martin*



Helmingham Hall, Suffolk  
Arms of the Tollemache family over the entrance to the hall

Heraldry is a form of pictorial language and Edward started his talk with a basic introduction to some of its rules and language before showing how one could look beyond the decorative and often colourful images of rampant lions and fierce dragons to read messages from the past about house ownership, status and family alliances. But, as he showed through the course of the talk, care was needed in the interpretation of those messages.

Starting around 1300 with *Le Manoir de la Vigne* at Les Mesnil-sous-Jumieges in Normandy he showed how a *grand salle* was decorated with rows of shields painted on its walls.

Gatehouses and entrances were particularly favoured for heraldic displays and messages. One of the most spectacular examples is in Suffolk at Butley Priory. The front of the gatehouse here was adorned by the priory's patron, Sir Guy Ferre the younger (died 1323), with rows of shields of kings, earls, barons, knights and esquires, reflecting his wide-ranging contacts in his career as the royal lieutenant and later the seneschal of Gascony.

A particularly interesting and complicated example is at East Barsham Manor in Norfolk. The front of the gatehouse is decorated with a dramatic set of the royal arms of Henry VIII with the shield supported by a dragon and a lion. Executed in red brick, some of it moulded and some of it is carved, in situ (Fig: 1). The royal arms also occur, in stone, over the entrance to the two-storey porch of the house – but there, the supporters are a dragon and a greyhound. It is often stated (as in the Pevsner guide) that the change in the supporters can be confidently dated to 1527, but the dragon and lion combination can be found as early as 1515.

More certain dating evidence is provided on the north, inner side of the gatehouse. There, two shields are suspended by straps held by hands issuing out from clouds. One bears the arms of Fermor, with a label of three points, impaling Knyvet, for Sir Henry's son William and his wife Catherine Knyvet (Fig:2). This shield, with a label indicating an eldest son during his father's lifetime firmly dates the gatehouse to a period between the marriage of William and Catherine in 1526 and Sir Henry's death in 1533.



Fig: 1. East Barsham Manor, Arms of Henry VIII



Fig: 2. East Barsham Manor, Arms of Sir Henry Fermor.

Another wonderful, but equally complex display of heraldry, this time in painted stonework, is on the gatehouse to Hengrave Hall in Suffolk (Fig:3), built 1525-40 by Sir Thomas Kytson, a rich London merchant (d.1540). Once again, the royal arms of Henry VIII are the centrepiece (Fig: 4) and analysis carried out in 1999 when the painting was restored suggests that it was the only part painted in the first phase of work. Below the royal arms are those of the Kytson family, but subtly altered from their first design.

Faint traces in the upper part of the shield (the 'chief') show that items that were on the original grant to the family in 1527, and which hinted at their mercantile origins, had been chiselled off to accord with an amended grant to Thomas Kytson the younger in 1568. This removed all the items from the chief *'being an alteration of the coate borne by his ancestors, which was confused and greatly needed correction'*. This was not the only correction.





Fig: 3 Hengrave Hall, Suffolk. Built 1524-40

On both sides of the royal arms are other shields supported by heraldic beasts, each shield being suspended in a similar manner to those at East Barsham by hand issuing out of clouds and holding the shield's strap. To the right are arms of Thomas Darcy, Earl Rivers and his wife Mary Kytson (the sister of Thomas the younger) who married in 1538 (Fig: 5). The normal Darcy supporters are a goat and a buck, but here the supporters are two pegasus gules (red), winged and tailed or (gold), each wing charged with two roses gules. However, these are actually the supporters of The Merchant Adventurers Company of London – of which Thomas Kytson was a member. To the left [sinister] are the arms of Sir Charles Cavendish and Margaret Kytson, his wife (married 1582) (Fig: 6). The normal Cavendish supporters are two bucks, but here they are two unicorns sable (black), horned, maned and unguled

(hoofed) or. These are likely to have been intended as supporters of the arms of the Mercers' Company of London, of which Sir Thomas the elder was Master.



Fig: 4. Arms of Henry VIII. Centre of Gatehouse

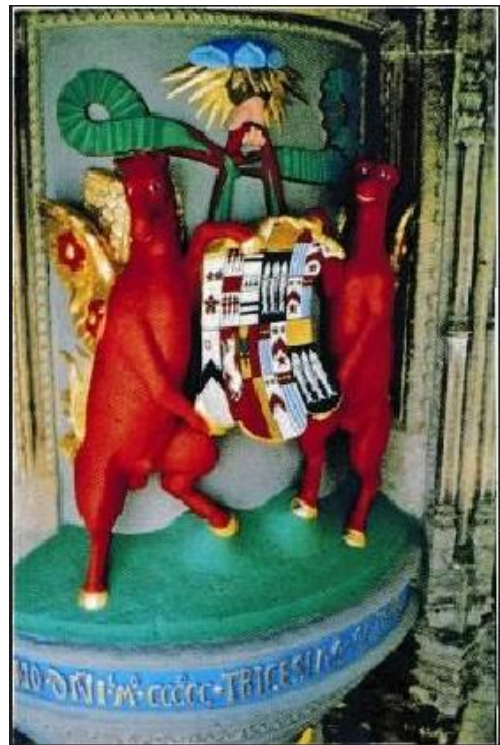


Fig: 5. Arms of Thomas Darcy and Mary Kytson





Fig: 6. Arms of Sir Charles Cavendish and his wife Margaret Kytson, with unicorn supporters that probably belong to the Mercers' Company of London.

The use of supporters by the company is not clearly recorded, but on top of the hall bay window at Hengrave is a shield with the Mercers' arms held by a unicorn.

On the gatehouse of West Stowe Hall is a terracotta panel with the arms of Mary Tudor, dowager Queen of France and Duchess of Suffolk (died 1533) which has been used to bolster claims that Sir John Croftes (ca.1490-1558) was Master of Horse to the queen. However Croftes only acquired the manor of West Stowe in 1540, long after the queen's death. In her lifetime it was owned by the abbot of Bury and there is an identical panel at Mendham which came from the priory there, strongly suggesting that these were gifts from the queen to local monasteries.

Terracotta, a new technique brought into Tudor England by Italian craftsmen, was extensively employed at Westhorpe Hall by the queen's husband, Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk. The house he built c.1525-30 at a cost of £12,000 was demolished c.1750 but some fragments of the terracotta decorations that covered its façade have been dredged from the moat. Some of these bore moulded heraldic badges and in 2012 excavations by 'Time Team' on the site of Henham Hall [Suffolk], (another of Brandon's mansions) uncovered fragments of similar badges, but made of cheaper moulded brick.

Shelly Hall, built for the courtier Sir Philip Tilney, 1517-33, has a curious heraldic creation on its side. A square moulded brick frame encloses a shield shape made of pieces of brick, within which is a chevron made of two bricks and three small moulded brick plaques each with a griffin's head (Fig: 7). Altogether they make the Tilney arms, which are also rendered

in a more elaborate stone carving on another part of the building (but not now in situ). Moulded brick griffins' heads also occur in the spandrels of the entrance doorways and, in carved wood, in the spandrels of interior doorways.



Fig 7: Shelly Hall, Suffolk. Moulded and Plain bricks 1517-33

Heraldry carved in wood also occurs on the front of *The Smart* at Clare, where the sill is from an oriel [Bay] window, probably taken from a lost building within Clare Castle, is decorated with badges and shields that relate to Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York (1412-60) who was also Lord of Clare. Windows themselves were a favoured place for heraldic displays, utilising the great colour potential of stained glass. The SHBG visited Alston Court in Nayland in 2013 and saw the amazing display of Tudor-period arms in the windows there – one set relating to the Payne family of Roudham in Norfolk whose arms were mysteriously adopted by the Abell family of Nayland, and a second set relating to the Haltoft family of Outwell in Cambridgeshire.

In Erwarnton Hall there is armorial glass dated 1575 that commemorates the marriage of Sir Henry Parker (d. 1522) to Elizabeth Calthorpe (d.1578), who had inherited Erwarnton from her father in 1549. These arms are repeated on the exterior of the house in painted stone and were mistakenly thought by Pevsner to be on the separate brick gatehouse to the hall, which he therefore '*dated for heraldic reasons c.1549*'. A double fault – wrong building and wrong dating – the glass shows that the arms were still in use in the 1570s. Similar armorial glass, dated 1572 (Fig: 8), was seen by the SHBG on its visit to Smallbridge Hall in Bures St. Mary in 2015. There the glass commemorates the marriage of Sir William Waldegrave (c.1540-1613) and Elizabeth Mildmay (d.1581).



Fig: 8. Smallbridge Hall in Bures St. Mary, Suffolk. Arms of Waldegrave impaling Mildmay.

In Cockfield Hall in Yoxford [Suffolk] there is a pair of stained glass shields that seem to commemorate the marriages between a Wingfield man and a Barnardiston woman, and a Hawtrey man and a Kemp woman (Fig: 9). But they are, in fact, a very unconventional way,

in defiance of the normal use of heraldry, of showing the marriage alliances of the Blois family, owners of Cockfield Hall: William Blois (1600-73) married Cicely Wingfield; Sir William Blois (1626-83) married Jane Barnardiston; Sir Charles Blois (1657-1738) married firstly Mary Kemp and secondly (1694) Ann Hawtrey.



Fig: 9. Cockfield Hall in Yoxford, Suffolk. Stained glass bearing unconventional ‘impaled’ arms of the Blois family, dating from 1700.

Helmingham Hall contains a wide range of heraldry, both on the exterior and interior, but not always accurately executed or truthfully explained. The brick gatehouse has, on its inner side, a repositioned sill from an oriel window with, in the centre the arms of Tollemache impaling Joyce, for Lionel Tollemache (c.1482-1552) and his wife Edith Joyce. Above this is curious hybrid of an impaled and quartered set of arms. In quarters one and four are the impaled arms of Tollemache and Joyce, but in quarters two and three are arms that are currently painted as or [gold], a lion rampant azure [blue] within a bordure gules [red]. The latter are explained as the arms of the Creke family-the medieval knights after whom Crekeshall, now known as Helmingham Hall, was named. But these are not the recorded arms of the Creke family (azure, a maunch) [a stylised garment sleeve] ermine), and the transfer of Helmingham to the Tollemache/Joyce family was not through inheritance but by purchase from the Creke heir in 1391 by William Joyce, vendor or supplier of oats for the royal stables. The arms over the inner entrance (see first page) present a curious jumble of quarterings that do not follow the usual rule of heraldry of putting the quarterings in the sequence in which they were acquired. One quarter also appears to show three red horses’ heads where wolves’ heads were required (for Visdelew – the name means ‘wolf face’) and another has a curious version of the Peche arms which has five chevrons where only two were required!

A very recent and exciting discovery is a room full of heraldic wall paintings of Tudor date at Town Green in Wymondham, Norfolk. In an ordinary-looking house there is an amazing



display of painted shields, of which, forty one still survive in some form (Figs: 10 & 11). These are organised into a top register decorated with peer's arms within garters and with lion supporters, with staggered rows (four rows still surviving in places) below them of gentry arms, each with an identifying label above it.



Figs: 10 & 11. Town Green, Wymondham, Suffolk. A room with walls decorated with wall-paintings of heraldic shields. Traces of forty one still survive and those identifiable suggest a mid-16<sup>th</sup> -century date. (Photographs Dr.Andrea Kirkham).

Particularly interesting is the presence of the arms of the earls of Oxford and Westmorland, for John de Vere, 6<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford, married Dorothy, the daughter of Ralph Neville, 4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Westmorland, in 1536. However, Dorothy left her husband in 1546 and died in 1548: and he remarried later that year. So there is an argument that the room was decorated in the period between 1536 and 1548, when it would have been appropriate to display the arms of their two families together. It may also be significant that John is known to have been a keen supporter of his family's company of actors – the Earl of Oxford's Players. Perhaps the room's unique decoration is the result of its use by the Players.

Wall paintings with the royal arms were probably intended as marks of loyalty and respect to their sovereigns. One example, dated 1593, is in Upper Brook Street in Ipswich, and another, with the arms of James I, was discovered around 1920 in a room in 42, Cumberland Street in Woodbridge under eight layers of wallpaper. Royal arms also occur on the outside of buildings in plaster as pargetting. An example in High Street, Hadleigh, has the arms of Queen Elizabeth allied with those of St. Edmund. A particularly grand example is on the Ancient House in Ipswich, where the arms of Charles II were added by Robert Sparrowe to the house his father bought in 1603. The High Street in Hadleigh also has an example where



royal badges are found together with the arms of the Bayning family. Originally from Dedham in the Stour valley, the family became rich merchants in London and were raised to the peerage as Viscounts Bayning of Sudbury in 1628. Their connection with this building in Hadleigh is less clear, as their ostrich crest, which only survives in vestigial form on the Hadleigh building and is probably unintelligible to most onlookers.



Fig: 12. The Swan Inn at Clare, Suffolk. The front of the inn is decorated with a beam taken from a high-class oriel window, with heraldry that relates to Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York. (1412 – 60)



Fig: 13. 46-48, High Street at Hadleigh, Suffolk. A building with heraldic devices executed in pargetting: including the arms of the Bayning family.

(Edward Martin was for many years an archaeologist with Suffolk County Council, specialising in pre-history and historic landscape studies. He has written and lectured widely on the archaeology, history, landscape, buildings and gardens of Suffolk and East Anglia. He is a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London. The article is based on a talk given to the Suffolk Historic Buildings Group (SHBG) as part of their Day School Group on *Decorative Finishes to Historic Buildings – October 2016*).

## Heraldic Dolphin

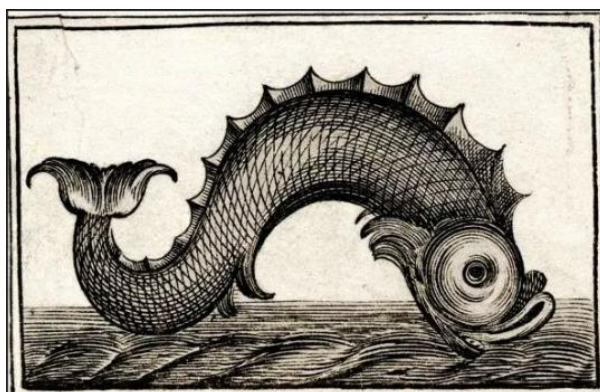
A decorative (Dolphin) down-pipe from a 19th century rail bridge spanning the Boulevard de Gambetta at Tourcoing France. The Boulevard was named in honour of Leon Gambetta (1838-1882), a politician and sometime President of the Council of Ministers of France. (I doubt that any returning 19<sup>th</sup> century resident would recognise the once grand boulevard).



(Photo: T. Trelawny Gower)



Railway Bridge at Boulevard de Gambetta. The down-pipe is behind the man standing (Dexter).



Heraldic Dolphin

(TMTG Archives)

## Editor's Tale-piece

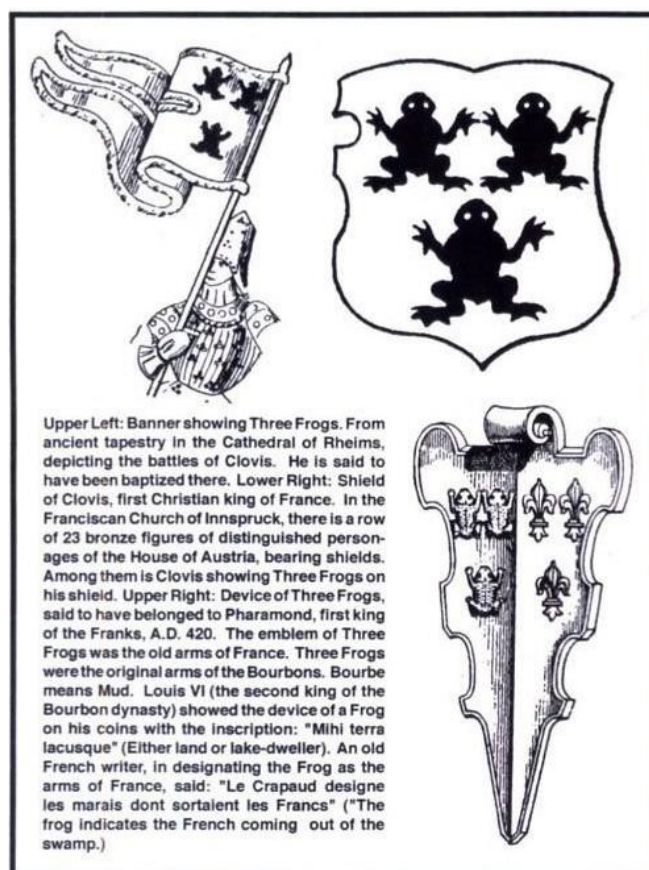
### Q&A

I am occasionally asked the question 'Why are the French referred to as *Frogs* and what is the connection to the *Fleur de Lys*?

A1: '*Qu'en dissent les grenouilles*' was the common flippant phrase at Versailles (ca1791) when any new absurdity was planned, meaning 'What will the frogs say to this'? The French court, in allusion to the quaggy state of Paris, formerly, when known by the name of 'Lutetia', called its inhabitants 'frogs'.

A2: Because the upper part of one leaf of the three petaled Iris, when fully expanded, and the two contiguous leaves, seen in profile, have a faint likeness to the top of the Flower de Luce, which often appears on the crowns and scepters in the monuments of the first and second race of the kings of France, and which was probably a composition of these three leaves. Louis VII., engaged in the second crusade, distinguished himself, and as was customary in those times, by a particular blazon and took this figure for his coat of arms; and as people generally contracted the name of Louis into *Luce*, it is natural to imagine that this flower was, by way of corruption, distinguished in process of time by the name of *Flower-de-Luce*.

However, some antiquaries are of the opinion that the original arms of the Franks being three toads, became unacceptable, and were gradually changed, so as to have no positive resemblance to any natural objects, and named Fleur-de-Lys.



From, *Things not generally known*. John Tibbs, 1856



I was not able to find a suitable heraldic festive season illustration, but this seemed attractive and glitzy with lots of gold.

*A Merry Festive Season  
and a Happy New Year to all Cuhagians.*

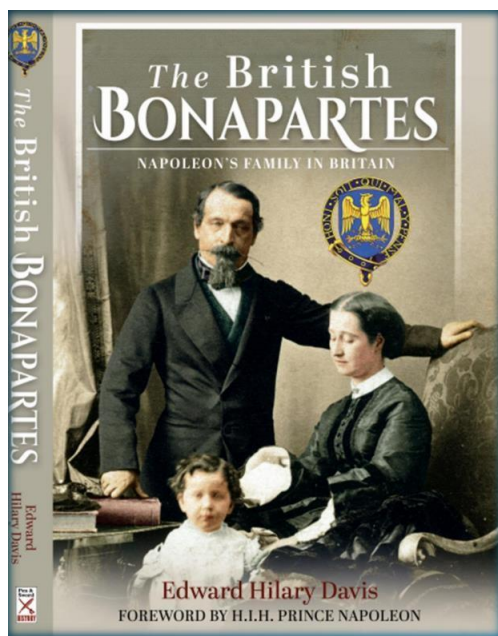


(Achievement attributed to Charlemagne - From Livre Do Almeiro- 1509)



## The British Bonapartes by Edward Hilary Davis

The book does indeed touch upon heraldry, particularly the garter stall plate of Napoleon III in St George's Chapel. A rendition of his arms and circlet is on the cover as well as inside the book painted by Alison Hill, one of the heraldic artists at the College of Arms. As the Bonapartes are a broad and complex family, each chapter has a different family tree to help explain connections. In some cases, these show how the Bonapartes are connected to many famous and noble British families from Pepys to Montagu, Stewart to Wellesley, and even descended from King George II.



# THE BRITISH BONAPARTES

NAPOLEON'S FAMILY IN BRITAIN

by Edward Hilary Davis  
with a Foreword by H.I.H. Prince Napoleon  
Published in the UK and launched at Versailles  
21 May 2022

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## THE BRITISH BONAPARTES



A hitherto unexamined history of the wider Bonaparte family, presented in a new way shedding fresh light on their eventful lives in Britain. From duels on Wimbledon Common and attempted suicides in Hyde Park, to public brawls and arrests in Shropshire, and the sexual adventures of a princess who rescued Freud from the Nazis and brought him to Britain, this book exposes the curious events surrounding the family's exploits in England, Scotland and Ireland. Originally an island family themselves, the Bonapartes have had a surprisingly good relationship with the British Isles. In just two generations, the Bonapartes when from being Britain's worst enemies to one of Queen Victoria's closest of friends. Far from another mere history of Napoleon Bonaparte, this book is divided into different branches of the Bonaparte dynasty, detailing – in an anecdotal way – their rather scandalous lives in Britain.

For example, few will know that Napoleon III was once a volunteer constable in London and arrested a drunk woman; or that Princess Marie Bonaparte sponsored Prince Philip's education as well as conducted her own scientific research into the clitoris in her quest to achieve an orgasm; or that Napoleon IV fought for the British army and was killed by the Zulus; or that one Bonaparte was even made a High Sheriff in a British town. Today, the head of the family is London-based and works in finance. The Bonapartes are known to most as the enemies of Britain, but the truth is quite the opposite and far more entertaining.

**Sold out on Amazon.com in its first week of publication**

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*"A new book on the often-scandalous lives of the Bonapartes has revealed details of the episode that nearly led to the death on English soil of one of France's most noted leaders."*

– THE TIMES

EDWARD HILARY DAVIS is a historical consultant and special advisor. He began his career as a researcher at *Her Majesty's College of Arms*, London, later becoming a medals specialist at *Spink & Son*, and has independently advised royal families, governments and embassies on protocol, ceremony and medals as well as been a historical advisor for film and TV productions. He has worked in architectural heritage consultancy for *Purcell* as well as interviewed and worked with other historians such as Professor Kate Williams.

Educated at Lancing, Royal Holloway and Cambridge, he is President of the Cambridge University Heraldic and Genealogical Society, Councillor of the Huguenot Society of Great Britain and Ireland, and co-organiser of the Royal Versailles Ball 2022.

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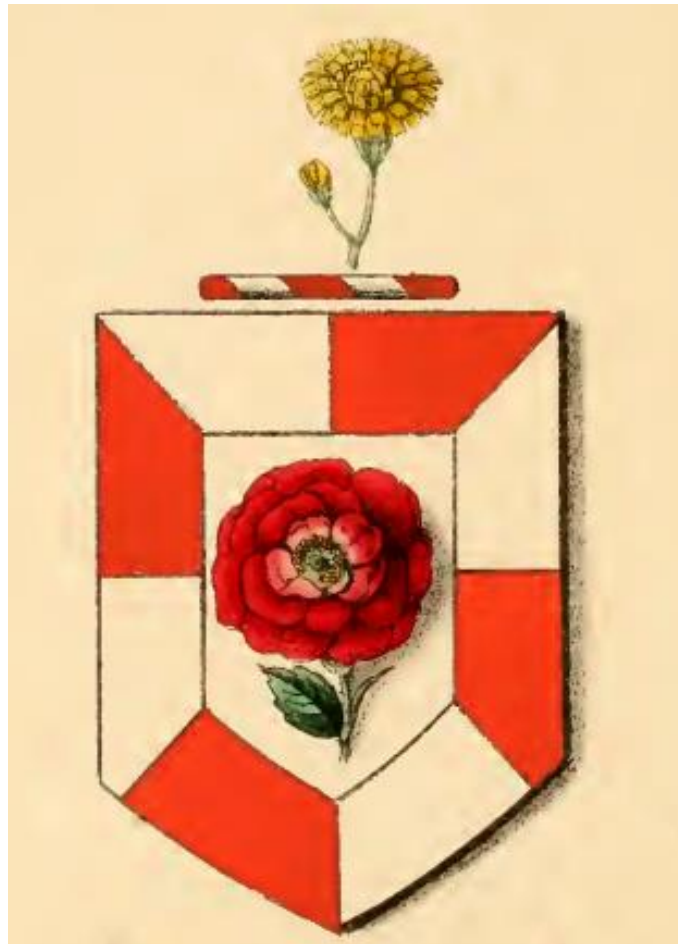
*This DVD can be purchased through CUHAGS*

The collections are generally presented in HTML (web) format, with the actual documents in searchable PDF format. Usually there are tables of contents and often a search facility.

All are offered for sale in UK at £20 each (elsewhere £25) including postage and packaging.

Enquiries and suggestions to the project editor: Andrew Gray ([archive@theheraldrysociety.com](mailto:archive@theheraldrysociety.com))





[Articles for Escutcheon may be sent to the Editor, Terence Trelawny-Gower at [tmtregower@aol.com](mailto:tmtregower@aol.com) and [ttrelawnygower@yahoo.com](mailto:ttrelawnygower@yahoo.com)]

**Members and guest writers are encouraged to contribute articles on the primary subjects, but also papers loosely connected with same, such as flags, medals, seals, awards, illuminated manuscripts, academical dress; or if not related, interesting and stimulating papers.**

[The illustration is not significant other than as an *eye-catcher*, and is from *Flowers and Heraldry* – Robert Tyas- 1851]