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Message from the President

Like 22:3, our Easter 2017 issue, publication of this issue of *the Escutcheon* is rather delayed as the backlog of articles has dried up. The Journal Editor and I would therefore like to remind you that if you have any knowledge of Heraldry, Genealogy, Academic Dress, or cognate subjects that you would like to share, the Escutcheon is the place for it. *The Escutcheon* is in the process of moving to a new digital format so there will be more scope for larger illustrations.

Sadly, during Michaelmas our Vice-President, Prof. Peter Spufford, FSA, FRHistS, FBA passed away. Peter was President himself in 1959-1960 and was always willing to offer sound advice to incoming (and remaining) Presidents. In his last message to me he already indicated that he was rather ill, but that he was also happy to have been able to see sixty years of CUHAGS. A Memorial Service for Peter will be held in the Chapel at Queens' College on Saturday 5th May at 2pm. All are welcome to attend, but the College would be grateful if you could let them know if you intend to do so by email: alumni@queens.cam.ac.uk

All that is left of 2017-2018 is the Easter Term. As usual there will be two talks, this time delivered by Somerset Herald and Dr. Peter Cooper, a garden party, and the Accession Banquet. More about these last events will be in the Lent issue which should follow shortly.

Richard van der Beek

Miscellaneous Seals (Major and Minor)

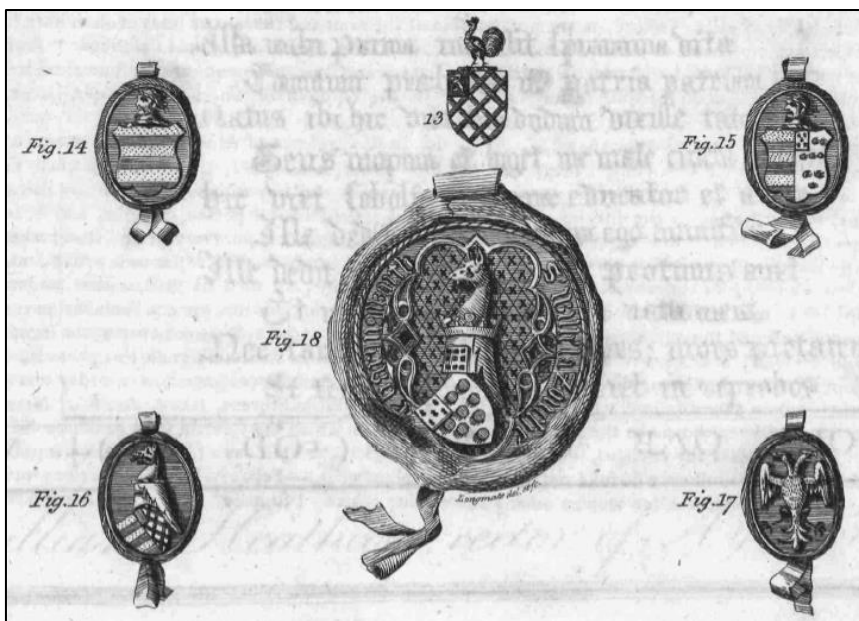
A seal or sigil is generally a piece of lead, silver, wax or paper attached to a document as a guarantee of authenticity. This would in most cases, ensure that the content could not be tampered with without breaking the seal. The more important seals were usually impressed on both sides and attached to the document with strings or ribbons. The legend usually included the armiger's name. The material on which the design is engraved, is the matrix; of gold, silver or steel. Signet rings used gems or were engraved direct to the ring metal. This is small example of local (not page 1) seals, many from 13th & 15th centuries. One thing that became apparent during researching these generally obscure seals, was that when manors were absorbed by marriage, the seals of these acquisitions appeared to be used by the new Lord of the Manor; somewhat confusing.



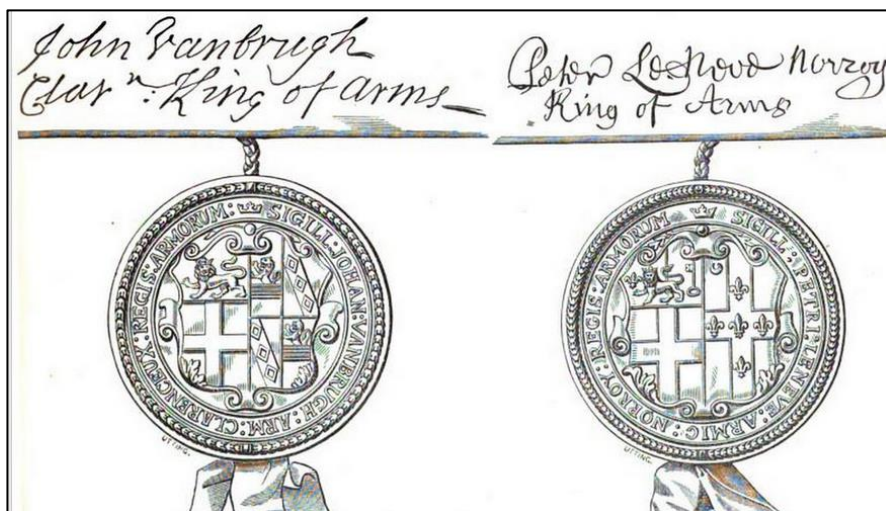
Great Seal
of William
III and
Mary II
(1689 -
1702)



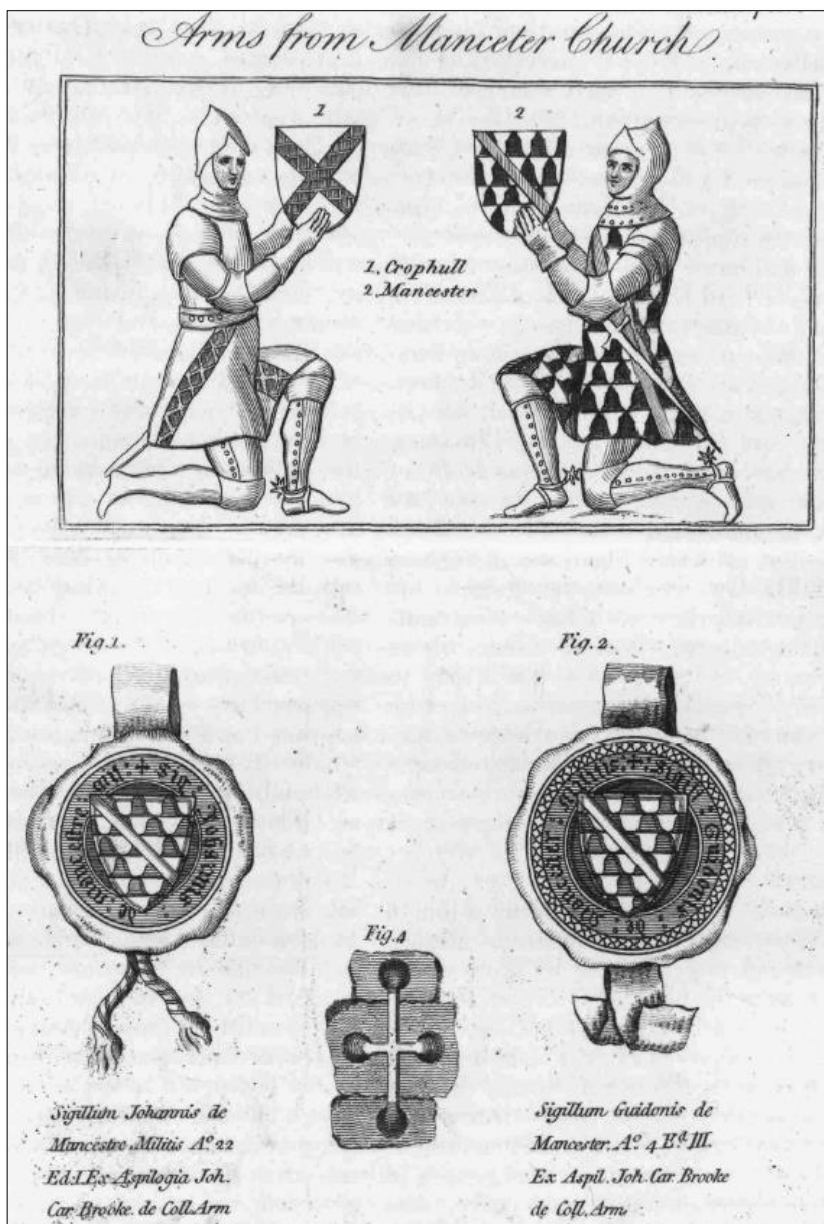
Great Seal of England. George III (Reigned 1760- 1820)



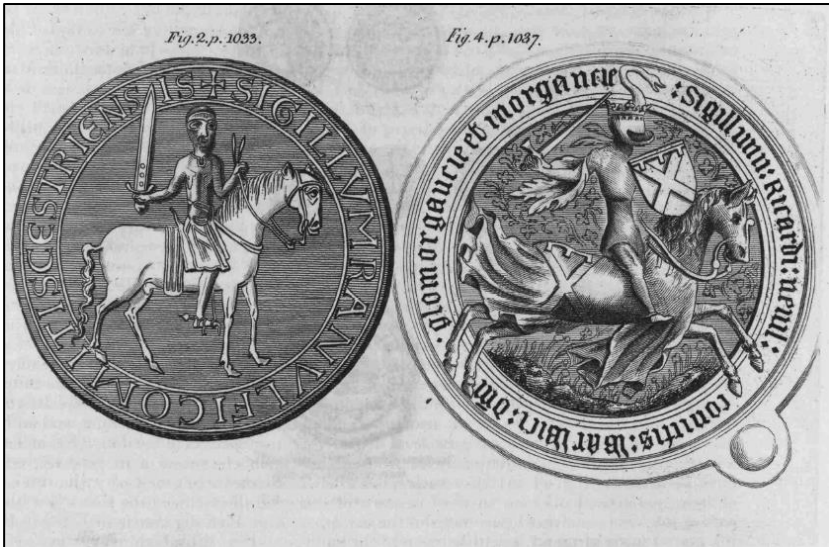
Seals: 18. William de la Zouche of Harynworth. (1369) 13. Cotes of Aleston. 15 & 16 Cotes impaling (?) 17. Also used by Zouche. (Lubbesthorpe, Leicestershire)



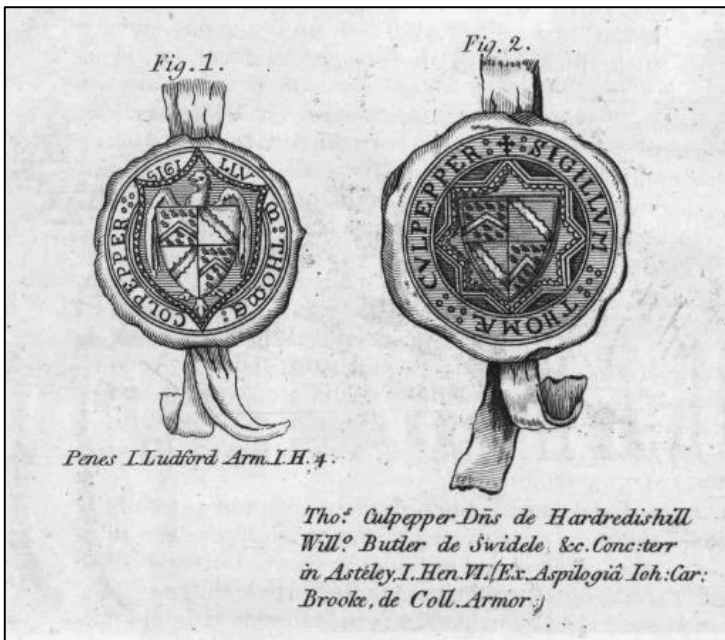
Seals of John Vanbrugh - Clarenceux King of Arms (1704-26) & Peter Le Neve' Norroy King of Arms (1704-29). From grant of arms to Revd. Benjamin Hoadly - 1715.



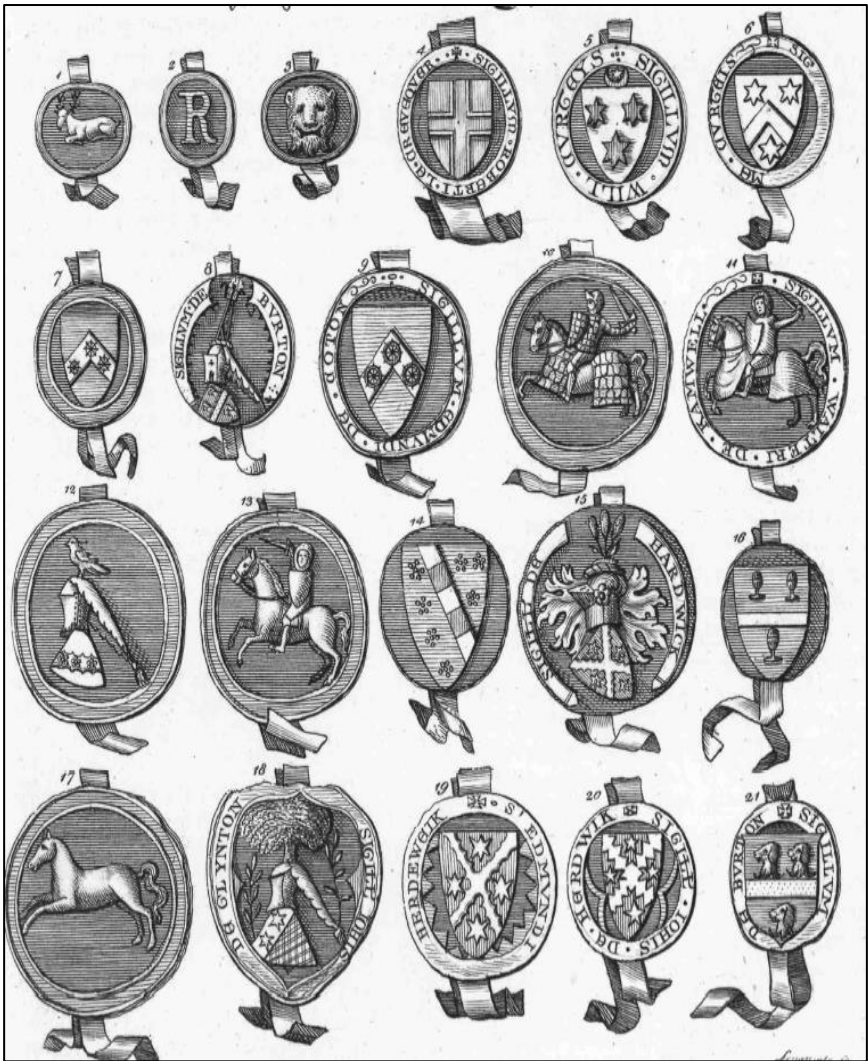
Seals: Johannis de Mancestre & Guiddonis de Mancestre. 1294 & 1331. (Leicestershire). 1. Arms Crophull & Manchester



Left, Seal of Ralph de Blondville, Earl of Chester, (1200) Right, Seal of Richard Atherson Nevil, Earl of Warwick, (c1462)



Seals. Thomas Culpepper de Hardredishill, 1039



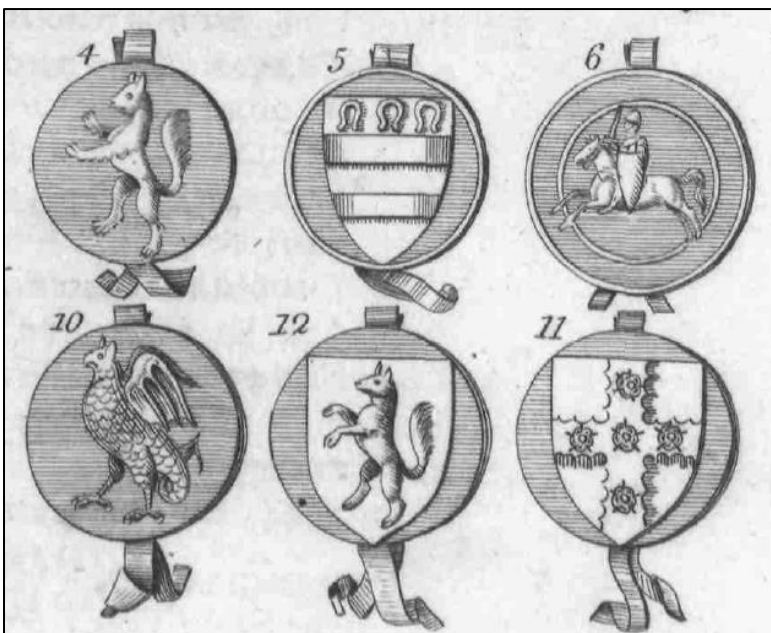
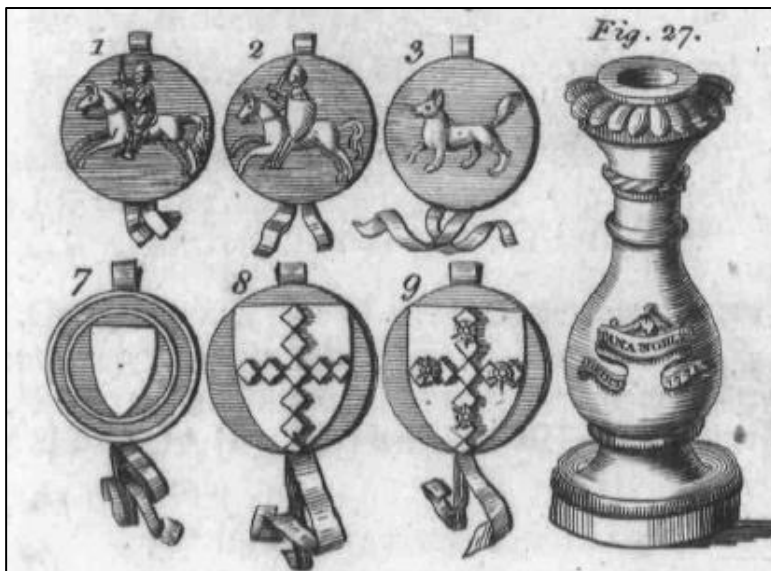
Seals from documents used in assigning various lands in manors of Leicestershire. 14th-15th cent.
 1 & 2. Johannis de Flanders.1426 3. John Hardwick 1459. 4. Robert le Crevequer 1372. 5. William
 Curteys 1365. 6. John Curteys 1350. 7. Arms of Coton family 1456. 8. Ralph Burton 1479. 9.
 Edmund Coton 1344. 10. William de Ferrariis, Earl of Derby (no date). 11. Walter de Camville 1165.
 12. Robert Swinfen 1416. 13. Thomas de Arden 1165. 14. John de Rodeville of Lindley 1382. 15.
 John Hardewike 1481. 16. Henry Boteler 1472. 17. Peter de Bracebruge 1771 (?). 18. John de
 Clynton 1376. 19. Edmund Hardweik1406. 20. John Hardwik 1360. 21. William Burton 1456.



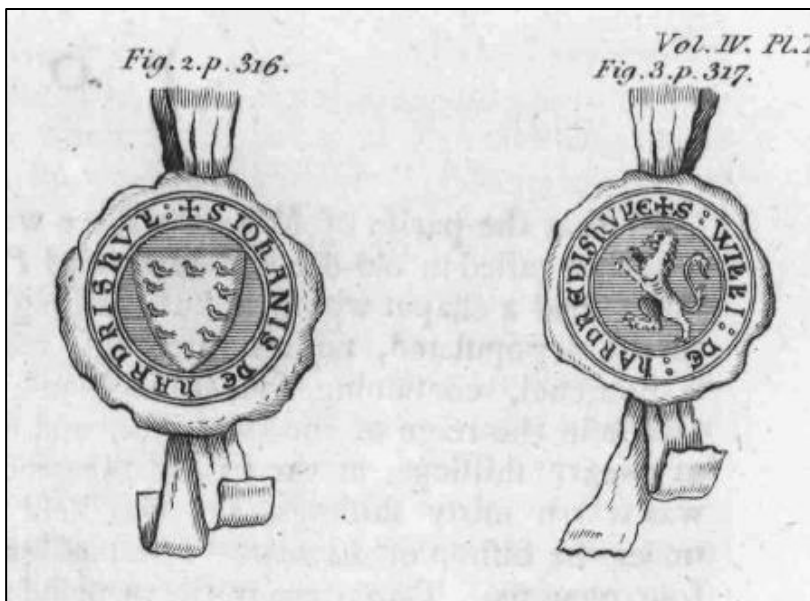
Seals of Nevile, Earls of Chester. 1341, 1313, 1374 & 1340 including Isabella de Nevile.
Whetstone, Leicestershire



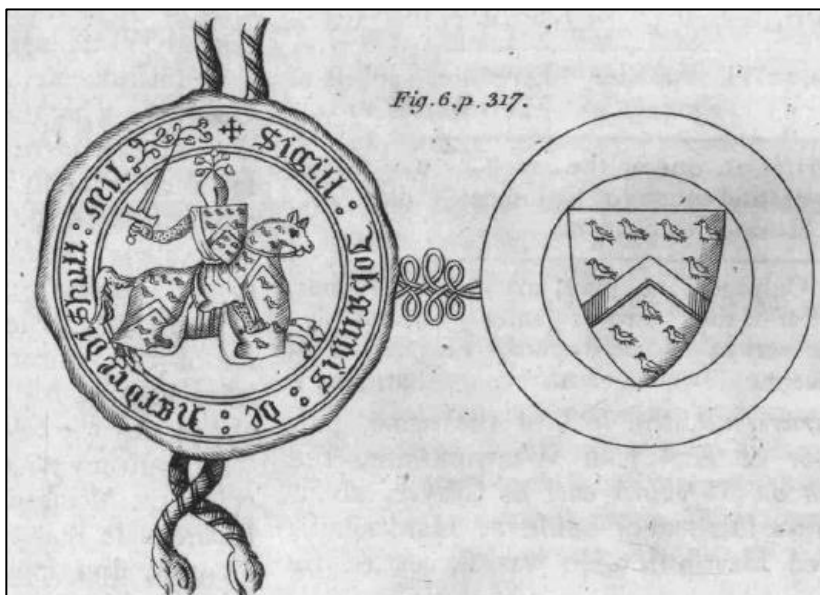
Sir Thomas de Burton (15th cent)



Foston and Frolesworth, Leicestershire., 13th-15th century. 1. Richard Burdet, 2. Hugo de Anver, 1232, 3. Wolfe, 4. Wolfe, 5. Danvers, 6. Anvers, 1259, 7. Amory, 8. Amory (later), 9. Amory (?), 10. Unknown, 11. Burdett, 12. John Wolfe, 1413.



William de Hardreshull. Original arms. Later, Argent, a chevron sable between ten martlets. (c1206)



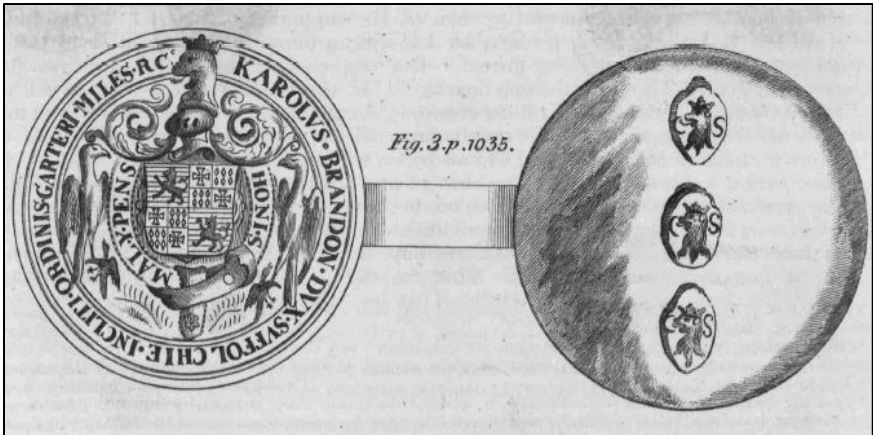
William de Hardreshull, later arms, (1210).



Believed to be seal of William de Canteloupe. Grants of land in Audley Leicestershire. (c1200).



Great Seal of Richard II. From deeds at Sapcote, (Leicestershire).



Charles Brandon Duke of Suffolk 1484-1545 (created 1514)



Roger de Quincy, Earl of Winchester. 13th Century.

From the early 13th century, it became fashionable, and a projection of significance, for lords to have their seals engraved with equestrian or armoured figures; complete with shields and banners. Obviously, these seals were rather cumbersome, and it was necessary to have a lesser ornate seal for general use. A signet or seal ring ideally served this purpose, and bore a crest, or some other device. (Ornate monograms were used by the non amigerous, (although the assumption of arms via tenuous, and questionable links, was not unusual.) The shape of the shield on the seal may in many cases give an indication of the date. Early shields were elongated, however, in the 13th century the heater style shield was popular.

Terence Trelawny Gower

The Grant of Arms – A Proposal

2017 is the tenth anniversary of CUHAGS being granted its own coat of arms. CUHAGS was the first, and is to date the only, University society that has been granted arms. Before the grant CUHAGS, like other University societies, was entitled to use the Cambridge University arms. Unlike some we stuck to this, there have been those that have “adapted” the arms to suit their own purposes, this is in contravention of the Proctor’s rules.

It was decided to apply for arms to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the combined heraldic and genealogical society. An appeal went out to members as the funds to pay for this were not to come from the Society’s reserves. The Society was fortunate to engage the services of a former President, David White Esq. Somerset Herald, to steer us through the process. A small subcommittee was formed of the then President, Antti Matikkala, the Editor of the Escutcheon, Derek Palgrave, and the Membership Secretary. Thank heavens for e-mail!

The arms of the University were the starting point. They should reflect the two aspects of the Society, heraldry and genealogy and pay tribute to the Society’s long association with Clare College under the tutelage of Dr Gordon Wright, Senior Treasurer for many years.

Pean, a variant of ermine consisting of a black field scattered with golden ermine tails, had been the Society’s “livery” long before any thought was given to getting a coat of arms. It was decided to convert the ermine cross of the University arms to pean and conjoin this with a black border. The border comes from the arms of Clare, the golden tears of Lady Elizabeth de Clare being replaced by the golden ermine tails. To contrast with the black of the cross and the border the background or field was made gold, on this were placed four red lions’ faces. This again alludes to the University arms which has four lions passant guardant.

Turning to the crest a demi lion guardant again refers to the University’s arms. It rests one paw on a book, bound in red and edged in gold, this sits in the centre of the University arms. The lion holds in its other paw a crane’s leg. This is the allusion to genealogy. In early family trees the scribe would indicate descent with a pattern of four lines, one at the top and three below. This gave it the appearance of a crane’s foot, in French “pied de grue” from which we get the word “pedigree”. It was soon pointed out that the lion could be seen as waving about a joint of meat whilst resting the other on a cookery book. Singularly appropriate for a society that values fine dining so highly. A subtle touch is that

the tongues of all the lions are painted light blue rather than the more conventional dark blue.

Until now the Grant of Arms has rested rolled up in its box. At the Accession Banquet it is taken out and placed in a temporary frame. This is not a satisfactory arrangement. Having obtained quotes from a number of picture framers the cost of framing the grant would be between £170 and £180. If any members would like to contribute towards the cost of doing this then please e-mail me, db01@btinternet.com.

David Broomfield
