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A Message from the President

Dear CUHAGIANS,

A big thank you for being patient with us whilst we wait out the present storm. It has been rather a pity that our society has been unable to meet in the flesh for the past nine months. It is certainly the wish and prayer of the committee for this injustice to be rectified.

The new committee was ratified before our Fresher's Squash in Michaelmas gone. With the turnover of the committee went our 56th President, Edward Herbert. I hope that I can bring a fraction of the charm and dynamism he brought to the role. In came a new member to the committee, Edward Hilary Davis, joining us as General Secretary for this academic year. New uptake for membership has been surprisingly positive with a steady stream of membership forms finding their way to our Membership Secretary.

Notably, the society has established a new Life Membership offer. For £300, you can become a member for life and be amongst the exclusive club who can say they own the special edition erminois CUHAGS life member's tie. For more information, do get in touch with the committee at our new email address: committee@cuhags.com

With the move to streamed lectures, attendance over Michaelmas consistently surpassed in-person averages, reaching a new international audience. Manciple and Honorary VP, Richard van der Beek, delivered the Fresher's Squash lecture on 'Orders and Decorations of the Netherlands' and the incoming Secretary, Edward Hilary Davis, delivered the customary Eve Logan Lecture on 'An Introduction to Napoleonic Heraldry'. Taking advantage of dial in attendance, we were pleased to welcome H.I.H. Prince Ermias Sahle Selassie of Ethiopia for his long anticipated talk on 'The House of Solomon, Heraldry and Symbolism in Ethiopia' and also The Most Honourable The Marquess of Reading who gave a talk on 'Rufus Isaacs, 1st Marquess of Reading, GCB GCSI GCIE GCVO PC, Viceroy of India: The Career and Heraldry of a British Jew'. Next term promises a similarly exciting array of lectures ranging from the Indian Kings of France to The Court of the Lord Lyon.

I am in debt to my committee who have assisted me greatly with my transition to the presidency and with the curation of this year's events; in particular, I wish to thank Richard van der Beek and Edward Hilary Davis. As the president always is, I am in debt to David

Broomfield who as always keeps the administrative gears of the society turning. And also, I wish to express gratitude to the editor, Terence Trelawny-Gower. As ever, if you have an article, or knowledge within Heraldry, Genealogy, Academic Dress, or related semantic fields and wish to write a piece, please do be in contact with him.

David E. Pearce

* * *

William Askew-Robertson and the Lutyens building at Magdalene College

David Broomfield

Sir Edwin Lutyens was commissioned to design Benson Court at Magdalene College in the late 1920's. The building as it stands is but a third of the original concept. The plan was for a U-shaped building, the open end fronting on to the river. If it had been executed in full the then row of jettied medieval shops that front Magdalene Street, facing the main entrance to the college, would have been demolished. A similar row of equally ancient buildings along Bridge Street were not so fortunate, they fell beneath the bulldozer when St John's Chapel Court was built in the 1930s.

The building that was erected was the South wing but the college lacked the funds to complete the project. The Lutyens building contains five staircases. The architect helpfully made the handrails of each stair unique so that, it is said, befuddled undergraduates returning to their rooms in the dark would know they had found the right one.



Fig. 1

Over the centre doorway there is the coat of arms of Robertson quartering Askew. (Fig 2 below) This commemorates William Haggerston Askew-Robertson Esq. who donated £5,000 towards the project. This would be worth £335,000 in today's money. This article will answer the question; who was William Askew-Robertson and what led to his munificence?



The Askews came from Lancashire and traced their descent from John Askew who died in 1686. He was succeeded by three generations of doctors. His son, Anthony, married Anne Storrs the heiress of Storrs Hall, Lancashire. His grandson Adam, a graduate of St John's, Cambridge, prospered and before his death in 1773 invested the profits of his medical practice in land in County Durham, Westmoreland, Cumberland and Northumberland. So great was his fortune that he set up all of his sons as gentlemen. His youngest son John Askew (1732-94) was given an estate called Pallinsburn House in Northumberland.

John married Bridget the daughter and heiress of Thomas Watson. John's grandson was named Watson in his honour.

Watson Askew attended Eton and Christ Church, Oxford. He married Hon. Sarah Robertson, a great heiress. She was the daughter of David Robertson who was born David Marjoribanks (pronounced Marchbanks) the youngest son of Sir John Marjoribanks 1st Bt. He was a successful stockbroker and Member of Parliament. In 1834 David married Marianne-Sarah the daughter of Sir Thomas Haggerston 6th Bt. and Margaret Robertson. Margaret was the sole heiress of William Robertson of Ladykirk in Berwickshire. Ladykirk was a large neo-classical house built in 1797 of three storeys, seven bays wide by three flanked by long, single storey wings. The stables were nearly as large as the house with a vast riding school to one side and it sat in an estate of 6,832 acres. Margaret Robertson left the house and estate to her daughter, Marianne, and her husband, David, on condition they both adopted the name and arms of Robertson.

The Robertsons of Ladykirk were a junior branch of the Clan Robertson. The arms of the Clan Chief were Gules three wolfs' heads erased argent. The Robertsons of Ladykirk differenced these arms by adding a plain border argent. The 4th Clan Chief was called Robert Duncanson. In 1437 Sir Robert Graham and Walter Stewart, the Earl of Atholl murdered King James I of Scotland. Robert captured the regicides who were then executed for their crimes. King James II in thanks for Robert's actions granted him and his heirs a crest of a hand holding a crown whilst beneath the shield was a naked man bound in chains representing the regicides. Robert's descendants all bore the name Robertson.

In 1873 David Robertson was created a baron. He took as his title his original family name of Marjoribanks, not that it did him much good. He was run down and killed by a horse-drawn bus a few days after his elevation. His widow bequeathed the estate of Ladykirk to her daughter Sarah and Watson Askew on condition that they too adopted the name and arms of Robertson which they did in 1890. The bookplate of Watson Askew-Robertson (Fig. 3) shows the Robertson arms, with the border and a canton further differencing the arms showing he adopted the arms, quartering Askew with an escutcheon of pretence for Robertson with just the border for his wife Sarah Robertson.

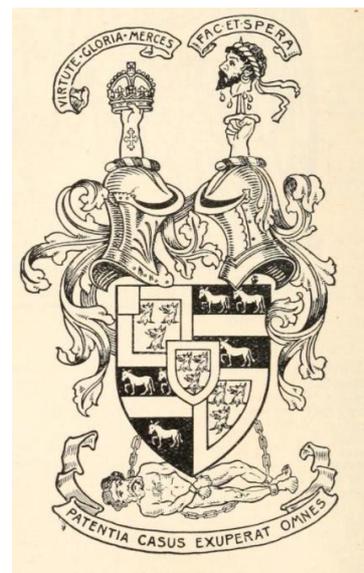


Fig 3

Lord Marjoribanks' hatchment is in the church at Ladykirk. (Fig 4 below). The arms are those of Robertson with an escutcheon of pretence for Robertson, both featuring the border and the chained and naked man beneath the shield. The horse supporters have hanging about their necks by chains the arms of Marjoribanks.



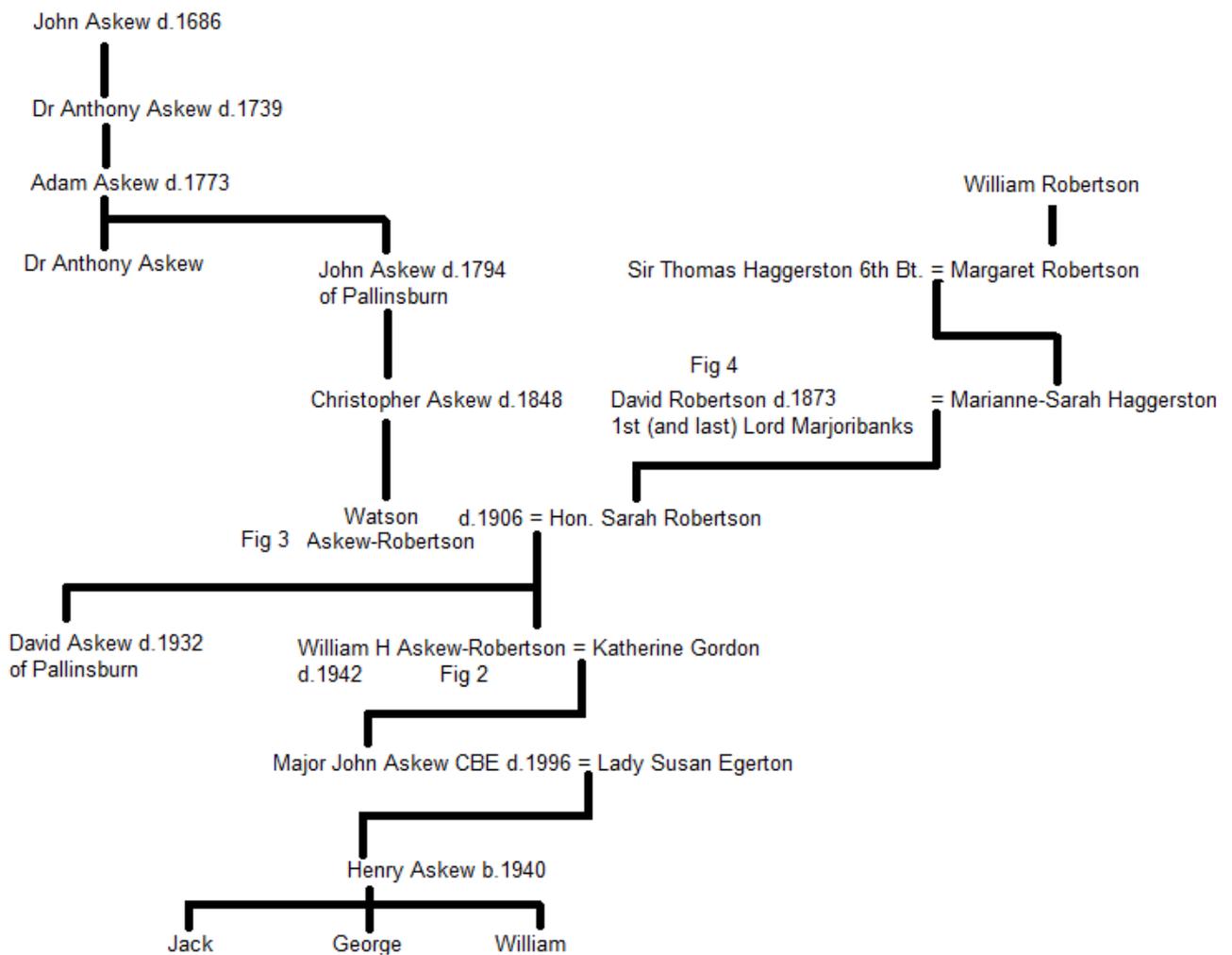
Fig. 4

William Haggerston Askew-Robertson, the second surviving son of Watson and Sarah, was a stockbroker in London before his inheritance came to him. His elder brother, David, inherited the Askew estates of Pallinsburn, which he sold in 1912, and Castle Hills. Castle Hills was the dower house to Pallinsburn, it was in the Regency gothic style with a three bay centre flanked by castellated towers and ornate iron verandas and stairs. When David Askew died in 1932, Castle Hills also passed to William. In the same year William gave the Ladykirk estate to his only son John Marjoribanks Eskdale Askew and moved into Castle Hills. William was a generous benefactor to many causes. He gave Duddingston Loch, a bird sanctuary and wildlife reserve, to the City of Edinburgh. He also gave £10,000 to Berwick-Upon-Tweed to build model housing for working people. Castle Hills is situated on the banks of the River Tweed with fine views of the Royal Border Bridge and the town behind it.

This brings us to Magdalene and the Lutyens building and the answer to our question. William's only son John Askew was an undergraduate at Magdalene between 1927 and 1930. The arms at Magdalene are those of the Robertsons of Ladykirk with the addition of the plain silver canton, they quarter the canting arms of Askew; Sable a fess or between three asses passant argent.

William died in 1942 aged 74. His son John was a Major in the Grenadier Guards and was awarded the CBE. He married Lady Susan Egerton a daughter of the 4th Earl of Ellesmere and sister of the 6th Duke of Sutherland. John demolished Ladykirk and built a new more modest house in the walled garden, the stables and riding school survive. The house at Castle Hills after a period as a maternity hospital was sold in 2012. John's only son Henry has three sons, the middle son, George, was a contestant in the 2006 series of Big Brother.

Fig 5



For more information about the Askews and photographs of their country houses see:
<https://landedfamilies.blogspot.com/2016/04/213-askew-of-redheugh-pallinsburn-and.html>

* * *

The Lewis Armorial Panel

Tim Cockerill

Several years ago we purchased the armorial panel illustrated here (fig1) from Cheffins, the Cambridge Fine Art dealers, who we had previously advised on its blazon. It came with no provenance or history and it was only recently that we happened to find out more about it when we visited Gainsborough's House in Sudbury, Suffolk.



Fig 1

This house, which is well worth a visit, is naturally mainly devoted to Gainsborough himself but the top floor has a John Constable room. In it is (or was) a pencil drawing by Constable of Malvern Hall, Solihull, Warwickshire, ‘the residence of land-owner and art patron Henry Greswold Lewis’. This man has proved to be rather elusive as he is not in the D.N.B. or in Venn or Foster, but luckily the description of the drawing adds that Mr Lewis's sister was the Countess of Dysart.

Burke's Peerage reveals that in fact Lionel, 4th Earl of Dysart (d.1799) ‘m.2ndly, Magdalene, dau. of David Lewis of Malvern Hall, Co. Warwick and died in 1833’. The Earl was succeeded by his brother Wilbraham, the 5th Earl, who married Anna, another daughter of David Lewis, so two of the sisters of Henry Greswold Lewis became Countess of Dysart, although neither of them produced any children. David Lewis, whose source of wealth I

have not discovered, was their father.

In any event, Gainsborough House adds that John Constable first met H.G. Lewis through his connection with the Suffolk based Tollemache family, to whom Lewis was related by marriage. This is perfectly correct since the surname of the Earls of Dysart was then Tollemache.

In 1809 Constable was invited to stay at Malvern Hall to paint a portrait of Mr Lewis and his ward. Then, in 1820, Constable returned to the Hall 'with a more eccentric commission, this time to supervise the painting of a panel by a local antiquarian which would depict Lewis's family heraldry.'

I think and believe that our heraldic panel may be the one referred to, although without any provenance it would be difficult to be certain. Anyway when we bought the panel we had no knowledge of the John Constable connection.

DNB: Dictionary National Biography

Venn: John & John A. 1834 –1923 & 1883 –1955 respectively.

Alumni Cantabrigienses, published in 10 volumes by CUP 1922-1925

Foster, Joseph, Genealogist 1844-1905

* * *

Oliver Cromwell, his genealogy, heraldry and family monuments in Ely Cathedral

Tim Cockerill

Family origins, Williams alias Cromwell

Oliver Cromwell (1599-1658,) the Lord Protector, although originally from a Welsh family, was born in Huntingdon and had close links with Cambridge and Ely.

Oliver's paternal line was called Williams not Cromwell. His three times great grandfather was Morgan Williams who left his native Glamorganshire for London in the late 15th Century. By a stroke of good fortune he married a sister of Thomas Cromwell, the right hand man of King Henry VIII.

They were the parents of Sir Richard Williams, a soldier and minor courtier, who was thus the nephew of Thomas Cromwell. The king took a liking to Williams and suggested, according to that not utterly reliable source the Revd. Mark Noble in his *Memoirs of the Protectorate House of Cromwell*, that it would be easier all round if Sir Richard assumed the English surname of his uncle Thomas, by now a great power in the land. From thenceforth he styled himself Williams alias Cromwell, perhaps not knowing quite how to ditch his Welsh patronymic completely or cannily keeping his options open in the event of Uncle Thomas rising too high and then falling from the royal favour, when he could have reverted to Williams. After the Restoration in 1660 one of Oliver Cromwell's relations, Colonel Henry Cromwell, who was a Royalist, did just that and became Colonel Henry Williams.

Mark Noble took the Williams pedigree back to Clothian, Lord of Powis, some fifteen generations back from Sir Richard Williams, including some rather dodgy characters, such as Gwaith Zoed, Lord of Powis, Rhyne ap Gronvey, Lord of Rybore and Yeban ap Morgan, several of whom are alleged to have married the daughters of equally obscure Welsh Lords of various places. Oliver Cromwell claimed ancestry from several Welsh princely families in contrast to his distinctly plebian English origins, but to what extent this is true remains questionable, although they may well have been local tribal chiefs.

What is beyond question is that both the Williams and Cromwell families did well out of the Dissolution of the Monasteries in the 1530s. Sir Richard Williams alias Cromwell, as we must now call him, was given the nunnery of Hinchinbrooke, the monastery of Saltry Judith, together with the rich Abbey of Ramsey. His uncle Thomas Cromwell is said to have amassed something like 60,000 acres after the Dissolution, but when, in 1540, after being created Earl of Essex, he fell from royal favour and was summarily executed and his lands attainted, Sir Richard managed to hang on to his many properties and it was later asserted that his annual income was between £20,000/£30,000, much more than most contemporary peers.

The Stewards

Oliver Cromwell's mother's family, the Stewards of Stuntney, near Ely, were also a family whose wealth was derived from ex-monastic lands. Some families, like the Scudamores of Abbey Dore, Herefordshire, later became convinced that they were cursed as a result, and if this sentiment ever entered Oliver Cromwell's head, he was twice cursed as both his paternal and maternal ancestors derived their wealth in this way.

The Stewards, or Stywards, as this family originally spelt the name, not content with their new found wealth, made the assertion that they were descended from the Royal House of Stuart and thus were cousins of King Charles 1, a somewhat inconvenient fact that Oliver Cromwell tried to keep quiet as the Civil War approached. He need not have bothered as this was a totally spurious claim, with a bogus pedigree, which that redoubtable genealogist Dr Horace Round had great pleasure in refuting in the 19th Century. He proved beyond

doubt that these Stewards were originally pig keepers in Norfolk hence (Sty ward), probably of illegitimate descent and nothing to do with the King's family. It followed that the arms that they assumed and many of their quarterings were as false as their other claims.

Horace Round had a good swipe at the Cambridgeshire Visitation pedigree of 1575/1619 of the Stuarts/Stewards going back to Banquo in the 11th Century and chided *Burke's Peerage* for repeating such nonsense, yet it was not until the last printed edition of this peerage in 2003 that it was discreetly removed and a truncated but still inaccurate pedigree (showing no royal connections) substituted, which both Round and Rye had effectively demolished many years previously.

Family monuments in Ely Cathedral

This leads me on to the family monuments in Ely Cathedral of the Lord Protector's maternal relations the Stewards. Cromwell, who lived in Ely before the Civil War, must have been familiar with these, as one of them is to his mother Elizabeth's first husband William Lynne of Bassingbourne, Co. Cambridge who died in 1589. This wall monument is in the south choir aisle of Ely Cathedral and bears three shields, two of which show the Steward's bogus arms.



William Lynne of Bassingbourne

However, opposite this monument are two huge and imposing Stewart tombs, both with somewhat sinister effigies and covered with coats of arms. The easternmost is to Robert Stewart of Soham, died 1570, who is shown life size wearing a jupon with nine quarterings. His three columned table tomb shows him resting uncomfortably on his elbow surrounded by a further twenty shields, nineteen of which have been identified. Of these four appear to relate to families, such as the Bestneys and Baskervilles, with whom the Stewarts are known to be closely related whilst the rest are suspect.



Robert Steward

The equally large canopied tomb to the west of the above is to Sir Mark Steward, died 1603. This contains a life sized recumbent effigy over which is a shield containing twenty-three quarterings. There are also a further twenty-four shields beneath the effigy, many of them repeating the shield above. Again, many of these seem to be of families which no one has yet identified as having any connection with this branch of the Stewards. Were they invented as both Horace Round and Walter Rye of Norwich, both eminent and careful genealogists, believed?

Sir Mark Steward



Both the above mentioned Robert and Sir Mark Steward were first cousins once removed of Oliver Cromwell, although before his time. Cromwell closed Ely Cathedral for some fifteen years during the interregnum and it is possible that one of his reasons for doing so was to make sure that his family monuments were not demolished by enthusiastic iconoclasts.

Ely Cathedral is one of the finest buildings in the country and Oliver Cromwell one of the most controversial figures in British history. Today one can but wonder how he felt about the tainted source of the wealth of both his Williams alias Cromwell and Steward ancestors and the somewhat bizarre and spurious pedigrees that his family, and the heralds had together concocted between them. The *Who do you think you are* television programme often comes up with surprises. Of Oliver Cromwell we can only wonder who did he think he was?

Sources

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Noble, Mark, *Memoirs of the Protectorate House of Cromwell*, 2 vols, Birmingham, 1734

Round, J. Horace, *Studies in Peerage and Family History*, London, 1907, 115-146

Rye, Walter, *Two Cromwellian Myths*, Norwich, 1925. 3-74

St George, Henry, *The Visitation of Cambridge 1575 continued and enlarged in 1619*, The Harleian Society, vol. XLI, London 1897, 7-11

* * *

Elizabeth's seals

Margaret M. Smith & Claire Barnes

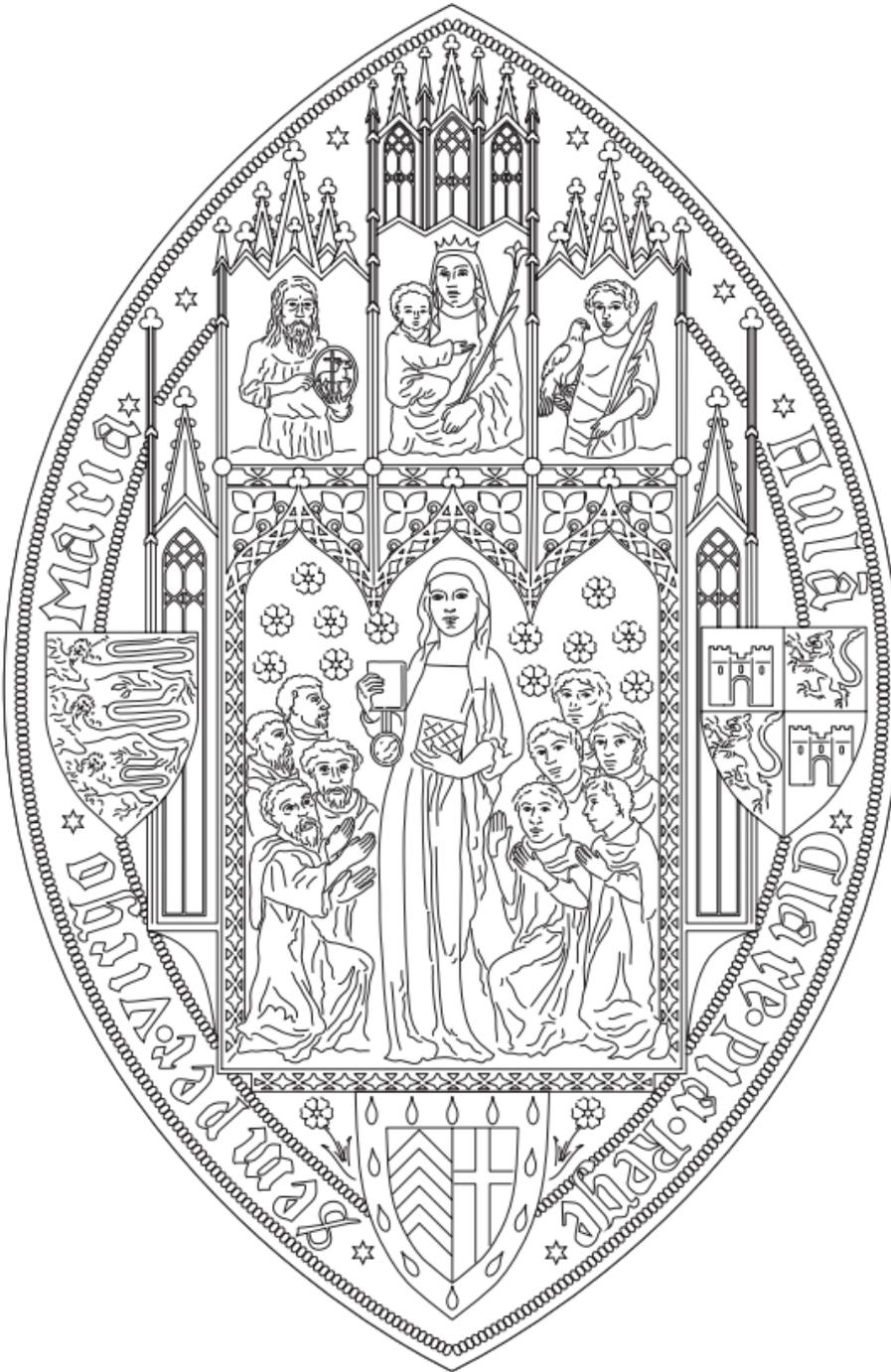
The only contemporary portrayal of Elizabeth is in the seal of Clare College Cambridge. The silver seal matrix dates from 1359 and is still in use today. It shows Lady Elizabeth presenting the charter of foundation to the kneeling master and fellows, while holding the book of statutes for the college which she had named and endowed.

The Virgin Mary and Child Jesus look on from above, flanked by St John the Baptist and St John the Evangelist. To left and right are the royal arms of England, and those of Castile and León, reflecting Elizabeth's distinguished lineage; below are her personal arms, adopted by the college. The inscription invokes for the college, which was then known as Clare Hall, the eternal guidance of the Virgin Mary:

Aulā Clare Pia Rege Semper Virgo Maria

Seals proclaimed the identity of individuals and institutions, as well as guaranteeing authenticity and legal standing of documents to which they were attached. This seal may be read as the visual counterpart of Elizabeth's preamble to the college statutes, set out in Appendix 6. It establishes the identity of the college, proclaims Elizabeth as the key benefactor, and alludes to other affiliations, discussed at the end of this section. Her confident stance, visually as verbally, commands our attention, and "remembrance of our deeds".

Elizabeth was an enthusiastic patron of all the arts, but her buildings are vanished or in ruins, and none of the books or artworks she commissioned are known to have survived. Visual traces are few, in contrast to the voluminous written records which enabled this biography. However, we have impressions or casts from two personal seals, as well as the college seal matrix. These three tiny designs give us some insight into how Elizabeth represented herself, and the attention paid to personal branding in an earlier visual age. Her ideas evolved over time, and culminated in the masterpiece of 1359. The following pages set out that development.



Seal of Clare College Cambridge – artist’s impression by Sarah Beare 2019



de Clare



John de Burgh



Damory



de Verdon



Lion rampant
of León



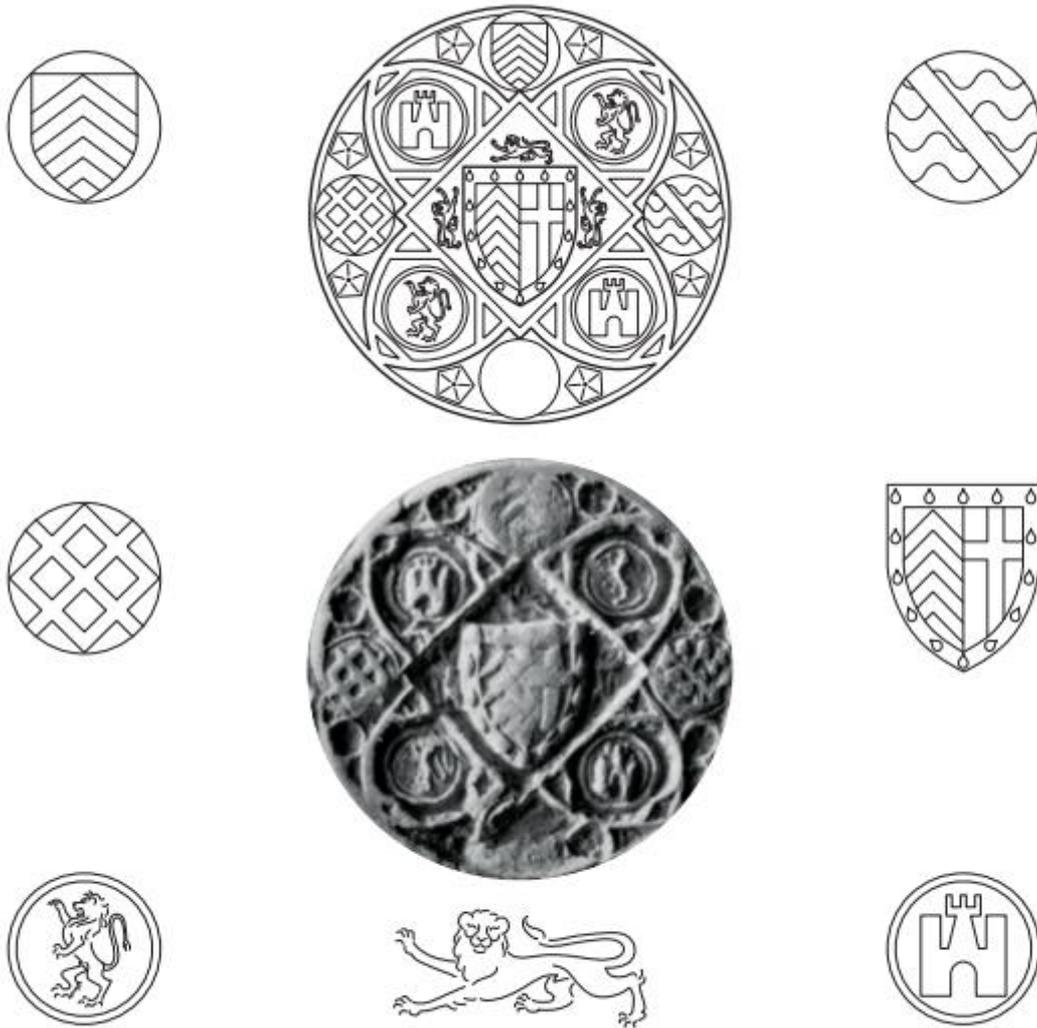
3 lions passant guardant
for England



3-towered castle
of Castile

The first of two personal seals used by Elizabeth features in the centre a shield with the arms of her third husband Roger Damory. This is surrounded by three lions passant guardant from the royal arms of England, alluding to her grandfather King Edward I. The three chevrons of her natal family, de Clare, are in roundels to left and right. A roundel at the top carries the arms of her first husband John de Burgh: the de Burgh cross overlaid with a three-point label differentiating John as the heir. The lower roundel carries the arms of her second husband, Theobald de Verdon. Surrounding trefoils contain the lion rampant of León and the castle of Castile, alluding to Elizabeth's grandmother Queen Eleanor (known as Eleanor of Castile) and the kingdoms of León and Castile which had been united by Eleanor's father.

The prominence of the Damory arms suggests that this seal may have been made before 1322 when he died, but the known impressions date from 1327 to 1352; according to *Clare College 1326-1926* by Mansfield Forbes, Elizabeth was still using this seal in 1353. This image was recorded by the National Archives from a document dated to the 20th year of Edward III's reign, 1346/47.



In Elizabeth's second personal seal, these elements are rearranged. She had resumed the use of the de Burgh name, styling herself Elizabeth de Burgh and Lady of Clare. The central shield reflects this, the Clare chevrons impaling the cross of de Burgh, with a border of teardrops representing her widowhood. The Clare arms appear on the dexter side, proclaiming her family the more prominent of the two. This coat of arms, used by Elizabeth in 1353–1360, was later adopted by her Cambridge college. The photo of this seal is taken from the book by Mansfield Forbes, published in 1928. The diameter of both personal seals is 32 mm.

Arms of de Clare: Or, three chevrons gules

Arms of de Burgh: Or, a cross gules

Arms of John de Burgh: Or, a cross gules, a label azure

Arms of Damory: Barry wavy argent & gules, a bend azure

Arms of de Verdon: Or, fretty gules

Arms of Clare College: Or, three chevrons gules, impaling Or, a cross gules; all within a bordure sable guttée d'or.



Seal of Clare College Cambridge – from the last available photograph, published in the 1939 Catalogue of the Plate of Clare College



1



2



3

The Virgin and Child in the Clare College seal (1) partly mirror the revered statue of Our Lady of Walsingham, as depicted with lily sceptre in the seal of Walsingham Priory (2), on which modern versions are based (3). The canopy, pinnacles and tracery evoke contemporary design in wood and stone, for example at Ely, and at Walsingham Friary, which Elizabeth had founded twelve years earlier.



4



5



6

St John the Baptist (4), identified by unkempt hair, beard and camel-hair garment, is holding an oval wax *Agnus Dei*, with a lamb and cross; Merton's variant carries a flag (5). Clare College was in the parish of St John Zachary (the Baptist, son of Zachary). St John the Evangelist is young, beardless, carrying an emblematic eagle, and probably a long quill pen (6). He was associated with loyalty and duty, good practice, and learning. St John's Hospital was important in Cambridge, and dedicated to the evangelist; it received a bequest in Elizabeth's will.



7A



7B



8



9



10

From the charter hangs a large round wax seal, probably the double-sided Great Seal of Edward III (7). Royal lineage is emphasized by the arms of England (8), and Castile and León (9). Elizabeth is clearly identified by her arms, henceforth also assumed by the college (10). The seal measures only 63 x 41 mm; in each use by the college it would proclaim Elizabeth's role, and highlight her legacy.

The article 'Elizabeth's seals' by Margaret M. Smith & Claire Barnes was published in:
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by Frances A. Underhill
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* * *

The Curious Gold Seal of Prince Edmund, King of Sicily (or was he?)

Terence Trelawny-Gower

This seal (fig 1) was purchased by Thomas Astles, a member of the Society of Antiquaries in 1774 and his curiosity as to the origin and purpose of the seal caused him to carry out extensive research into the matter.



Fig 1.

Astles considered significant events in England contemporaneous with the grant of the kingdom of Sicily to Prince Edmund, the second son of Henry III and the results of this investigation were laid out in a paper presented to the Society of Antiquaries on February 24th 1776.

The grant of the Kingdom of Sicily by Pope Innocent IV to Prince Edmund (1254) resulted in significant consequences in England; these are rather complex but include murder, and the rather predictable interwoven conspiracies and intrigues. Among these events were the problems of the dissenting Barons aligned against King Henry III, the appointing of conservators of the peace in several counties and the settling of the democratic part of the existing constitution on a permanent basis by Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester¹, whilst the king was his prisoner (1264-1265). Astles declares *'As the king's wars with his barons have not been generally attributed to his connections with Sicily, and foreign historians being almost silent on the matter, I will endeavour to clarify the position'*.

Background: The Emperor Frederick who died in 1250, by his will shared his kingdom among his children, giving the Isles of Sicily to his son Henry, the result of the union between Frederick and his third wife Isabella of England, sister to Henry III (1207-1272). However, his successor Conrad IV being at war with the Pope attempted to seize Sicily, and to this end he endeavoured to persuade Richard, Earl of Cornwall, the third brother to Henry III, to accept the crown of Sicily. There was of course an ulterior motive behind this offer, as Richard was known to be immensely wealthy Conrad attempted to persuade Richard to finance his military operation to gain control of Sicily. Unfortunately for him, Richard, described as *'a prince of great economy'*, declined the offer, causing the desperate Conrad to offer the crown of the two Sicilies to Henry III who also declined the offer, being unwilling to deprive his nephew Henry of his kingdom. However, Conrad, having put his brother Henry to death and made himself Master of Naples, was subsequently poisoned by his bastard brother Manfred who then usurped the throne of that kingdom. As a result of this unwillingness by Richard and Henry to assume the kingship of Sicily, Pope Innocent IV took the opportunity to make himself Master of Naples but found himself opposed by Conradine, son of the late emperor who continued to be at war with the Pope who found himself unable to maintain the army that had been sent to occupy Naples.

Pope Innocent IV again approached the King of England offering the crown of Sicily for his second son Edmund, commenting that *'as his nephew Henry was dead, there was no need of further room for his scruples'*. Henry was both weak and vain enough to accept the offer and was no match for the Machiavellian wiles of the Pope, and as a result sent to the Pope all the money which he could borrow or extort from his subjects, but was also so foolish as to stand surety for the payment of all the sums which to Pope might borrow (from any

source) for the placing of Prince Edmund upon the throne of Sicily. Naturally, as it was to his advantage, the Pope persisted with his flattery of the king who had become enamoured with his Sicilian connection, and sent his notary, the Bishop of Bononia to London with instructions to grant the kingship of Sicily to Prince Edmund and his heirs.

The Pontiff realized that Henry was totally in awe of him and had fallen into his trap; as a consequence *'he spared not the king's purse, and drew money so fast that his ordinary revenue could not possibly support the expenses'*. Henry had to devise methods of appropriating money from his subjects in order to support his vanity and slavish association with the Pope, and this had the effect of making him extremely unpopular. However, Henry was so enamoured with the prospect of acquiring a kingdom for his son that he dismissed any complaints and continued to send large amounts of money to the Pope who drew Henry further into his web.

Pope Innocent being fully aware that Henry was completely under his control exploited this condition to his advantage; he also realized that without his help Henry would not be able to continue the supply of money to him that fully supported the Pope's ambitions. The Pontiff therefore gave Henry apolistic authority to extort money from both clergy and laity, and when this authority was not enough to generate sufficient funds to support the Pope's extravagances; he threatened to give the crown of Sicily to some other prince.

Henry might have been saved from this predicament when the forces of the Pope were defeated by those of Manfred between Troya and Foggia in 1254: the Pope died soon after this defeat, allegedly of vexation. His successor, Alexander IV, at great expense, continued the war against Manfred, who, having again defeated forces of the Pope, this time at Nocera, was crowned king of the Two Sicilies. The Pope was betrayed at this battle by General Hoemburch (Herebroke), a German Marquis² who had been in the pay of the Pope Innocent for many years but seemingly found the financial inducement offered by Manfred more attractive. More than likely he wished to be on the winning side.

Pope Alexander IV, as cunning, aggressive and voracious as his predecessor continued the financial and psychological exploitation of Henry III of England *'who was made the dupe of this designing pontiff'*. In order to conceal his intentions Alexander sent the Bishop of Bononia to London with a bull confirming his predecessor's grant of the kingdom of Sicily

to Prince Edmund. Of course, the grant was subject to a number of conditions heavily weighed to the advantage of the Pontiff, and included:

- That Edmund should perform liege homage to the Pope.
- That Sicily should no longer be divided and the two parts should be under the same government and king. (This could only be achieved militarily)
- That the king should make a gift to the Pope every year of two thousand ounces of pure gold.³
- That Edmund and his successors, when they paid their homage should swear that they should never consent to be chosen emperors, on pain of losing their crown and being excommunicated.
- There were many other conditions for putting Edmund into possession of the kingdom that allowed the Pope and his successors to maintain significant control.
- One, prime facie unusual condition, is that Edmund should confirm and maintain the grants made by his predecessors to the family of Hoemburch (see ²)

At the end of October, 1255, the investiture ceremony was performed at London by the Bishop of Bononia in the presence of the king and numerous other personages, by the symbol of a ring which the Pope had sent for that purpose. Henry, in his deluded state, actually believed that his son had become king of Sicily and it is reported that *'The poor king wept for joy at this ceremony, and sent the Pope immediately afterwards fifty thousand marks, and bound himself to send two hundred thousand more within a stated time'*. In return the Pope granted Henry one tenth³ of the revenues of the English and Scottish clergy.

Although the king's flatterers congratulated him upon this augmentation of perceived glory, there were many wiser people who were upset and indeed angry to see their sovereign being manipulated by the Pope, and agreed that all the available, realisable money in the kingdom was not sufficient to achieve the undertaking in which he was embarked. The Sicilian adventure was becoming very unpopular and the amount of money that was being given to the Pope in order to place his son on the throne of Sicily was placed under severe questioning; indeed there was alarm that the king had lost all sense of reason in the matter. However, not to be diverted from his mission and responding to pressure from the Pope, Henry was obliged to call a Parliament in order to ask for more money; and in order to avoid any opposition he omitted to send writs to the refractory barons. In this Parliament the king apparently introduced his son *'clothed in the Apulian habit'*. Henry made a speech in which he demanded large sums of money in order to place his son upon the throne of Sicily; but the barons, cogniscent of the avariciousness of the Pope (whom they termed *'a*

ridiculous cheat'), and consequently determined not to '*lavish the treasure of the kingdom upon such a chimerical project*', absolutely refused to comply with the king's demands; and gave the following reasons for their refusal:

1. The great distance of that kingdom from England.
2. The difficulties of securing free passage through territories held by enemies of England.
3. Manfred being in possession of Labor (Laboris) and other places [in Sicily] through which communication might be carried out.
4. The strength of the prince (Manfred) in the kingdom as he held most of the cities, castles and fortresses. From these holdings he received a vast income.
5. The immense expense already incurred by the king without any advantages in return.
6. The excessive sums required for discharging the debts due and defraying the expenses of Edmund's re-location to Sicily; all this would amount to more money than the whole kingdom of England could produce.
7. The destruction and impoverishment of England, which must be the consequence of a variety of extortions, seizures and other oppressions to obtain money for payment to the Pope in order to pursue his war against Manfred, which could in no way be of any advantage to England.
8. The '*scantiness*' of the king and his son's treasures, and the poverty of the English, both clergy and laity.

There were a number of objections in a similar vein to those indicated and they concluded that the resolutions that they had taken were justified by the fact that if they had consented it would be seen that they had consented to his being betrayed or delivered into the hands of his enemies. They confirmed that they were not supportive of the king or his son in this ill-advised venture on which vast amounts of money had already been spent. The conditions expressed in the proposed agreement between the Pope and Henry were such that having spent a fortune in obtaining the kingdom of Sicily it could easily be lost on the whim of the Pope or his successors. In fact, it might be considered that if Henry's support for the Pontiff had succeeded in defeating Manfred (which was most unlikely), the Pope might well have dismissed Edmund and assumed the authority of the two Sicilies himself.

Needless to say, the king and the pope were not happy with this response from the barons and united in efforts to extort more money from the people of England; to that end, Henry issued a proclamation commanding that all who were worth £15 per annum in land to take the order of knighthood or pay a sum for refusing to do so. He also took a tallage⁵ of 500 marks from the citizens of London and the Pope sent his legate Rutland into England to

extort more money. Rutland summoned an assembly of bishops and abbots and explained to them the demands of the king and pope; these demands were considered by the assembly to be so exorbitant that they found it hard to believe that such demands had been made of them. The bishop of Worcester declared that *'he would lose his life rather than comply'* and the bishop of London said that *'if the mitre were taken off his head, he would replace it with a helmet'*. However, in spite of the robust objections, the bishops and abbots, threatened with excommunication, were forced to comply with the demands. The Pope, having his revenge on some of those who had obstructed his demands, on 5th of October 1256 issued a bull excommunicating all those who had not contributed money to his cause. The Pope, using Henry's name, also borrowed 135,540 marks from several Italian merchants, and to repay these amounts he ordered bishops and abbots in England to assume responsibility for the debts. At first they refused to do so, but again the threat of excommunication was raised and they finally submitted. Not content with extorting money from the English clergy the Pope ordered a subsidy levied on the Scottish clergy to be used for repayment of the debts of Henry in his obsessional pursuit of the Kingdom of Sicily.

On the 20th of October 1256 Alexander issued a bull:

- Allowing Henry 6 months to repay debts owing to him.
- Ordered the king to send an army to Sicily.
- Pressed the king to send him more troops and money to Italy.

The demands of the Pope were insatiable, and it is of little surprise that the Parliament convened to discuss the Pope's demands absolutely refused them and told the king that *'he had inadvisably accepted the Kingdom of Sicily from the Pope without the counsel of his nobles, ignoring their deliberations and wisdom; that he ought to have been instructed by the example of his brother, who had rejected the offer.'* They also expressed concerns that the problems of conquering a country so far from England were considerable, and *'that the sincerity of the Pope was to be doubted and that the Apulians were the most treacherous people, who poisoned their relations'*. They concluded that they would no longer tolerate the continuing extortion and oppressions by the king and Pope.

This decision by the barons put into motion significant changes to the power of the monarch and Henry agreed that the government should be reformed and put into the hands of 24 commissioners, who formed the six famous articles called the Provisions or Statutes of

Oxford. The barons before adjourning parliament agreed upon 'an oath of association', whereby they obliged themselves to maintain these provisions with their lives and fortunes; the City of London soon afterwards entered into the association. It was not to last, for the king, resenting the fact that his powers had been severely curtailed, was absolved by Pope Urban IV from his oath which he had taken to observe these statutes, and Henry dismissed by proclamation all 24 commissioners and replaced them with his own men.

After this the situation in England deteriorated rapidly, ultimately resulting in civil war, and the king and his son were taken prisoner by the Earl of Leicester (Simon de Montfort) at the battle of Lewes in 1264. However, fortunes changed speedily and de Montfort was killed at the Battle of Evesham in 1265 thus allowing Henry to return and overturn all acts of Parliament that he felt had been forced upon him. From that date he left much of the government to his son, as Henry was suffering progressive dementia apparently made worse by the death of his brother Richard in 1272. Henry died in 1272 and was succeeded by Edward I (1272-1307).

It is worth noting that after the vast sums of money Henry III had expended in his obsessive pursuit of the Kingdom of Sicily, that Pope Urban IV in 1263 revoked the Grant of Sicily to prince Edmund; and his successor, Pope Clement IV, granted the same to Charles of Anjou brother to St. Louis, king of France. On June 6th 1265, the king whilst a prisoner of de Montfort issued instructions to renounce the kingdom of Sicily on behalf of himself and prince Edmund, with further request that the Earl of Leicester notify the Pope by a letter from the king. De Montfort and several of his supporters had agreed not to make peace with Henry until he had renounced his pretensions to the kingdom of Sicily. (In order to save the honour of the Holy See, Clement IV issued a Bull revoking the grant to Edmund). The matter of course did not lie there, and Henry and Edmund later had their revenge in that the large estates of the earl of Leicester together with those of Robert Ferrers, earl of Derby, John of Monmouth and others, were given to Prince Edmund, who was created earl of Lancaster, Leicester, Derby and Campaigne. These vast possessions laid the foundations for the future greatness of the House of Lancaster. At least the monies were not used in any further pursuit of the Kingdom of Sicily.

The Seal of prince Edmund as king of Sicily was authorized by Pope Innocent VI in 1254 for use in affairs of that kingdom. The seal is of gold and on the obverse the prince is seated

upon a throne, holding a sceptre in his right hand, and in his left an orb surmounted by a cross with the legend, 'Eadmundus Die gratia Sicilie Rex'. On the reverse is a shield charged with the arms of England with the legend 'Eadmundus natus Regis Anglie illustris'. It may *prime facie* seem unusual that Prince Edmund should assume on this seal the royal arms of England without any mark of cadency whilst his father was still extant, however, as the seal was made for him as a sovereign of a kingdom over which his father has no jurisdiction, it is in order. Sadly, Edmund was king in name only, which was probably for Henry, who had almost bankrupted England, made himself so unpopular that civil war was inevitable, decimated some of the most powerful families in the country in his desire for revenge on those who he perceived as having thwarted his ambition- quite justifiable.

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Footnotes

¹Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester (1208-1265): de Montfort was long regarded as an alien upstart (curiously so by a number who were of Norman extraction), who had arrived from France in 1229 with a claim to the Earldom of Leicester which was granted to him in 1238 when he secretly married the king's widowed sister the Countess of Pembroke (January 7th 1238). This act might in part explain his success at court. The claim of de Montfort was devolved from his father's mother, Amica, sister of Robert IV (obit 1204), the last Beaumont Earl of Leicester whose lands had been divided between Amica and her younger sister Margaret, countess of Windsor. King John had recognized Simon's father as earl (1203) but had deprived him, as a French subject (1207), and the Montfort claim lapsed. (de Montfort had probably gained the honour of Leicester pre 1238 but had not been officially styled earl until his marriage)

²1270– 2021. 2000 ounces of pure gold: £1 equivalent value comparison = approximately £726,825,670.17 at January 4th 2021.

³ Marquis von Hoemburch (Herebroke): a Lt. General in the army of Pope Innocent IV. Changed sides and tricked his superior, the Pope's Ecclesiastical General Octavian Umbadini Florentinus into dispersing his forces before the proposed battle at Nocora. As a result Manfred later defeated the weakened troops of the Pontiff (1254), allowing him to escape and crown himself king of the two Sicilies. The two Sicilies were Sicily and the city of Naples.

⁴Tenths: A tax of one tenth of the income of the clergy levied by Popes and kings.

⁵ Tallage: A form of arbitrary taxation levied by kings on towns and lands of the crown. This tax was abolished in the 14th century.

Gable stones in Sittard – Heraldic and Otherwise

Richard van der Beek

We are now accustomed to locating where we want to go by referring to a place's street name and house number, though this was not always the case. The Romans had the *cardo* and the *decumanus* and in mediaeval times one might refer to a street by what was produced on it. Locals might have multiple names for the same street and no legal record of its name would exist. In The Netherlands this situation would persist until the mid-nineteenth century: street names were not formalised until the Municipality Act 1851. How did one communicate spatial information before then? Enter the *gable stone* – also known as *wall stone* or *stone tablet* – a decorative stone tablet on the façade, emblematically depicting the inhabitant's profession, place of origin, religion, any other information the commissioner of the stone wants portrayed, or indeed simply the name of the building. Take the sign hanging from a British pub, with its iconic name, but then imagine it cut in the façade of a wide variety of buildings. Some 10,000 of these stones can still be found all over The Netherlands, though Amsterdam (1600) and Maastricht (600) account for almost 22% of all stones.

Even a small provincial town like Sittard, the author's place of origin, has its gable stones. What makes these unique, however, is that a large number had been lost over time. Unlike Amsterdam or Maastricht, most stones in Sittard are not original but reproductions or indeed completely new creations. As part of the 1993 celebrations commemorating 750 years of city rights, 27 buildings within the mediaeval ramparts received new gable stones referencing the old name of the building or the street on which they are located, or to remember famous inhabitants. Together with the few remaining original gable stones and other commemorative stones, they offer any visitor to the town an illustrative guide to the town's history, deeds, and triumphs. This article seeks to provide an introduction to the use

of such gable stones and will discuss a curated selection of the gable stones and commemorative stones found in Sittard – heraldic and otherwise.

Those familiar with the history of Sittard and the wider area will know that it was often the victim of war. It suffered severely in the Eighty Years War, was plundered for three days in April 1676 by the French, and ransacked and burnt in August 1677 (again at the hands of the French), leaving little standing but two churches and some houses. The city's defences were rebuilt but later torn down at the behest of the Dutch. The city never recovered from this disaster and as a result there are but a few remaining examples of gable stones prior to 1677. To add insult to injury, brutalist tendencies of the 1960s and 1970s saw the destruction of the City Hall and other old buildings in the inner city, removing some stones that were added during Sittard's reconstruction.

The oldest remaining gable stone is *INT VERGULDE HIRT ANO 1645* (figure 1), found on the *Putstraat* – the main road leading east from the market square in the direction of Cologne and Aachen. Dating from 1645, this stone shows a gilded deer by depiction and inscription. The origin is unknown but it could have been an inn or public house. The building currently houses an art gallery of the same name.



Fig. 1 INT Vergulde Hirt, 1645

Dating from 1680, just after the disaster year 1677, the gable stone *herMannVs CLerCX sChoLastICVs CapItVLI In sIttert* (fig. 2) is found on the *Kloosterplein* in the oldest part of the city. The stone was put up by Herman Clercx, who as *scholasticus* was head of the chapter school attached to the *Great Church of Saint Peter Chair of Antioch* down the road. Herman's last name might also point out his status in the world: that of a cleric. Students of the chapter school were preparing for the priesthood or civil office. The stone contains

Clerex' arms and a chronogram, in which all capitals – MVCLCXCLICVCIVLII – add up to 1680, the year in which Herman built his dwelling there. Until recently the property housed a primary school. The original spelling *Sittert* with an *e* is prevalent – this is retained in Limburgish but not in Dutch, which uses an *a* instead.



Fig. 2 HerMannVs CLerCX
sChoLastICVs CapItVLI In sIttert,
1680

Similarly on the *Kloosterplein* are the next two stones, both referring to the history of the city itself. The stone *Sittard 700 jaar stad* (fig. 3) was designed by Charles Tangelder in 1948 and celebrates 700 years of city rights. Made from terracotta, it depicts Walram *the Good* of Limburg on horseback, granting the key to the city to a kneeling alderman. Flanking on either side are a farmer and a miner, representing the two major economical contributions to the city in 1243 and 1943. It also shows the spire of the *Great Church* of Saint Peter as it was before the lightning strike and fire of 1857 (L) and as it is now (M). In chief are the arms of the city – a cross moline consisting of snakes.



Fig. 3 Sittard 700 jaar stad, 1948



Fig. 4 Walram de Rosse, 1993

Walram de Rosse (fig.4) was created for the celebrations of 750 years city rights in 1993. Walram of Valkenburg was a nephew of Walram *the Good* and Lord of Valkenburg, Montjoie, and Sittard. His sister Beatrice was the third wife of Richard of Cornwall, King of the Romans. In 1299 Walram raised the church of Saint Peter to the status of chapter church and designated part of the inner city as a *claustrum* in which only ecclesiastical law applied – the aldermen of the city had no say within the claustrum. The canons of the *Great Church* of Saint Peter retained this privilege until the French abolished it in 1801. This stone sadly repeats the same “conflict of lions” as

mentioned in the author’s talk on the armorial bearings of Limburg – the lion is neither Limburg nor Valkenburg. A Limburgish lion should be armed, langued, and crowned *or*, a lion from Valkenburg should be armed, langued, and crowed of the same, that is, all *gules*.

Close to the claustrum was an area now known as the *Begijnenhofstraat*. In earlier days this street housed the Beguines. This is illustrated by the stone *De Ijdele Beghijn*, in which a vain beguine is shown looking into a mirror. The stone *Helga* portrays a woman operating a loom, referring to the weaver Helga Paetzold who lived in this house between 1980 and 1990. In this case the stone is used to illustrate the inhabitant’s profession, as was once common. **Mastricht** is the last stone in this street, depicting a view on Maastricht, containing the Roman bridge of Saint Servatius.(Fig.5) The famous singer and writer Toon Hermans lived in the house Mastrigt. All three stones were created in 1993.



Fig. 5 De ijdele Beghijn, Helga, and Mastrigt, 1993

The stones *Die Scheer* (the scissors) and *Der Wildemann* (the wild man) were both added in 1993 as part of the celebrations of 750 years city rights, as replacements of similar stones which had once adorned the two 1678 properties but which had been lost during subsequent building work.



Fig. 6 Die Scheer and Der Wildemann, 1993

Heraldry has its canting arms and other jokes heraldic. Members of CUHAGS will be pleased to learn that gable stones are no different. On the corner of the *Helstraat* and the *Paradijsstraat* (Hell Street and Paradise Street), one finds the aptly named gable stone *Der Vorhöll*, referring to the state of limbo which is neither in Hell nor in Heaven. Further down the street is the stone *Das Paradeis*, depicting a scene from the Garden of Eden. Both stones date from 1993. (Fig.7)

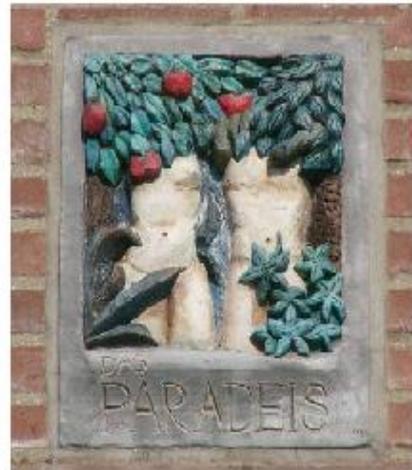


Fig. 7 Der Vorhöll and Das Paradeis, 1993



Fig. 8 IM H Geist, 1710

On one of the houses on the west side of the *Markt*. There is a gable stone called *IM H GEIST 1710* (Figure 8). Dating from 1710, it depicts the Holy Ghost by means of a dove

and radiant sun. The use of German on this and the previous gable stones is not unusual, for Sittard was part of the Duchy of Jülich at the time and German was the formal language, alongside the cultural language Limburgish. Dutch would not replace German until the late nineteenth century. The property housed a tobacconist but is currently vacant.

Making reference to Sittard's history as the westernmost city in the Duchy of Jülich (and by extension what would later be known as Germany), it this commemorative plaque from 1738. *DUX CaroLUs phILlppUs eaM renoVaVIIt* (fig. 9) is found on a building on the corner of the *Helstraat* and the *Molenbeekstraat* and was put up in gratitude for the assistance given by Charles III Philip, Elector Palatine, Count of Palatinate-Neuburg, and Duke of Jülich and Berg, who had the building restored. Not necessarily a gable stone as the ones above, it is still a useful tool for learning the city's history.



Fig. 9 DUX CaroLUs phILlppUs eaM renoVaVIIt, 1738

Some buildings have kept their names for a long period of time. *Der Gulden Haen* and *Die Crohn* (Fig.10) were both added to their particular buildings in 1993, showing a golden cockerel and a crown respectively. The properties have long catered to the inhabitants of Sittard as public houses under those names, though the lunchroom in Der Gulden Haen

recently closed. Hopefully its new owners will keep the old name that is attached to the building and immortalised by the gable stone.



Fig. 10 Der Gulden Haen and Die Crohn, 1993

Other stones depict buildings which no longer exist. Where a public house with the name *Witte Paard* once stood – the aforementioned Toon Hermans frequented this place – the stone *Im Weissen Pferdt* now adorns the wall. Similarly, on the house where one of the gatekeepers lived, *De Putpoort* represents the city gate on the *Putstraat* which was torn down in the 19th century. The word “put” means a well, so this gable stone contains a well in addition to the gate in the background. These stones were both added in 1993. Another stone with the name *De Putpoort* was created in the early 2000s when an apartment building was constructed along the road on the other side of where the gate was located. This similarly shows a well but also depicts the *Putstraat* curving northwards towards the market square.



Fig. 11 Im Weissen Pferdt (1993) and De Putpoort (1993 and 2002)

Leaving the old city by walking west, just 150 metres outside the ramparts one finds the smallest “castle” in The Netherlands. *Casa Mia* (Figs.12&13) was built in 1903 in Gothic Revival style by the vintner Joseph Rutten in his back garden as a gift for his wife, Anna. After Joseph’s death, Anna married the French Comte de Rocheouart de la Rochejaquelin, who often entertained the Prince Consort, Duke Henry of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, at *Casa Mia*.



Fig. 12 Casa Mia in 1915

Although not an example of gable stones per se, the entrance to *Casa Mia* is adorned with decorations. In the centre there is a statue of Our Lady with Child, flanked by the arms of the vintner Rutten (L) and de Rocheouart de la Rochejaquelin (R), all dating from 1912.



Fig. 13 Casa Mia, 1912

Opposite *Casa Mia* was the *Diocesan Grammar School*. Built in 1908, its façade features a statue of Saint Anthony of Padua, and the arms of Pope Pius X (L) and Laurentius Schrijnen, Bishop of Roermond (R). (Fig.14)



Fig. 14 Bisschoppelijk College Sittard, 1908

Found just to the southeast of the town, just over the *Kollenberg* hill, is *Huize Watersley*. Built as a hunting lodge in 1752, it was greatly expanded and later served as a monastery for the Order of Friars Minor and as a German Gymnasium. Above the main entrance of the house one can find a gable stone portraying a hunting depiction and the alliance arms of Arnold Godfried Loyens – an alderman and magistrate in Maastricht – and his wife Marie Delhougne (figure 15), all surrounded by a rococo ornament.



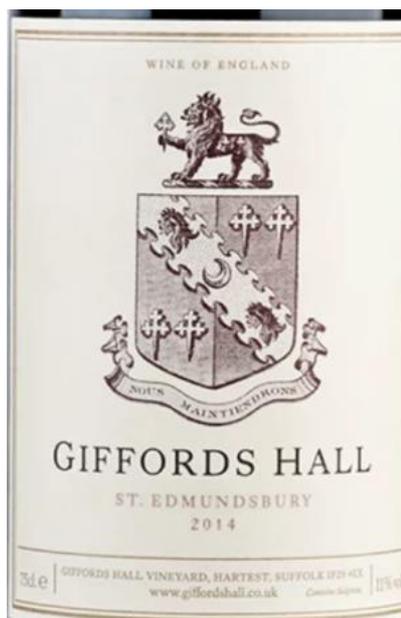
Fig. 15 Huize Watersley, 1752

This use of gable stones, much like the ones at the Diocesan Grammar School or Casa Mia, will be familiar to the reader. It is the use of stones depicting not full arms but small, everyday objects or animals used to name a house and give directions that might be new. Hopefully, this article has served as an introduction to the fascinating concept of gable stones. Just a few gable stones and some commemorative plaques in the city of Sittard were discussed. Nonetheless, the author hopes that it has become apparent how such stones can narrate the history of a city – from the granting of city or ecclesiastical rights to even something more subtle like the change in language. Many more stones exist in the area within the ramparts, with such illustrative names as *The Wine House*, *the Golden Man*, *The Raven*, *Saint Francis*, *In the Millstone*, *The Black Hat*, *The Moor*, *The Red Cockerel*, *The Unicorn*, *The Golden Keys*, *The Iron Man*, *The Clover Leaf*, or *The New Cathedral*. All

could be British pub names, with some inspiration! Some stones clearly demonstrate what went on there, others require more background information (The New Cathedral refers to one of the canons' home town, which was building a new cathedral). Other gable stones are more heraldic in nature and simply tell us who (or what religious order) once lived in the property. For a local in the past, all that was required to find someone or something was the name of one of these houses and navigation would be easy. The cities of Maastricht and Amsterdam still retain many original stones, a good number of which are richly decorated and well worth a visit – or a subsequent Escutcheon article!

* * *

What's in a label? Editor's talepiece



An interesting wine label from the Gifford Hall vineyard at Stoke by Nayland, Suffolk (if only I could work out whose arms these are). I have not been able to identify the arms although one would naturally presume these to be of the Gifford family – but alas, not identified as such. In a description of Gifford Hall the arms are indicated as being of moulded brick located on the southern turret of the gatehouse to Gifford Hall.

A brief history: The house was built or revamped by George Mannock in the mid-16th century, although the Mannocks had held the estate for some centuries prior to then. The arms are described by Deny Spittle (1965), as 1. Mannock impaling Waldegrave, 2. Hastings. 3. Goldringham impaling Mannock. 4. Mannock impaling Goldringham. 5. Clopton impaling Goldringham. 6. Isle of Man. Another source has Heigham, Clopton linked to Moulton and Howard. (Grancey and Francis also appear). Also associated, but not necessarily coeval with the date of the gatehouse construction, are Allington, Fitch, Parys, Saunders, Henage, Blashopp (?), Petre, Cannings, Allwyn, Arthur, Strickland, Nevil (alias Smith), Yates, Howard and Stoner. Mannock arms are: Sable, a cross flory argent. The Mannock baronetcy was created in 1627 and became extinct on the death of Sir George Mannock in 1787. He died when the Dover Mail coach overturned in that year.

William Gifford held the estate in 1287 and on his death in 1310 it was inherited by his son Thomas. In 1318 it passed to William and then to Robert. The Giffords had removed to Pond Hall sometime in the 14th century and Robert Gifford was extant there 1353). In 1377 the manor was held by Simon Burley Knt. Date unknown, the manor passed to John Withermarsh (obit 1395), when it was inherited by his son Richard (extant there in 1427). In 1428 Philip Mannock purchased the manor from the crown, and the family held the estate for many generations. The Mannocks had resided in the neighbourhood since the time of Edward III and are believed to have originated from Denmark. On Philip Mannock's death the manor passed to his son and heir John who married the daughter of Sir Thomas Waldegrave Knt. Their son George succeeded his father in 1476. Keeping it in the family, George married Katherine, daughter of Sir William Waldergrave Knt. On his death in 1541 the manor passed to his eldest son William. We then have Francis (obit 1590) and his eldest son William (obit 1616).

During Williams's tenure, in 1596 Elizabeth I let to R. Croft, two thirds of the estate '*in the possession of William Mannock guilty of recusancy*'). In 1602 James I granted a general pardon to William, but in 1612 two thirds of the estate was again forfeited for recusancy. On Williams's death, the estate passed to his son and heir Sir Francis Mannock, created a Baronet by Charles I in 1634. Sir Francis and his wife were both recusants and as the estate was under sequestration, attempts to recover some of the land were made using his son in law Sir George Heneage as a guarantor. The matter droned on, and in 1658 Richard Cromwell granted a release of the estate sequestered for recusancy to Richard Waterman on

the payment to the exchequer of £150 per annum. The Mannocks remained at the estate until the death of Sir George the 8th Baronet in 1761 (*dspm*), when the estate came into the possession of William Comyns who assumed the name of Mannock. He died in 1819 (*dspm*), and the manor devolved upon Patrick Power who likewise assumed the name of Mannock. The connection between Power and Mannock arose through marriage with the Strickland family. The name therefore, rather than the direct descendants, maintained a presence at Gifford Hall.

Footnote: The Giffords had decamped to Pond Hall at Hadleigh and were extant there in 1347. Pond Hall was bought by Helminge Legat (Constable of Windsor Castle), presumably from the Giffords, in 1359. This branch of the Gifford family are perhaps extinct (?). Any information on the arms would be gratefully received by the Editor.

(I have tried on a number of occasions to seek the views of the owners of the vineyard, to no avail.)



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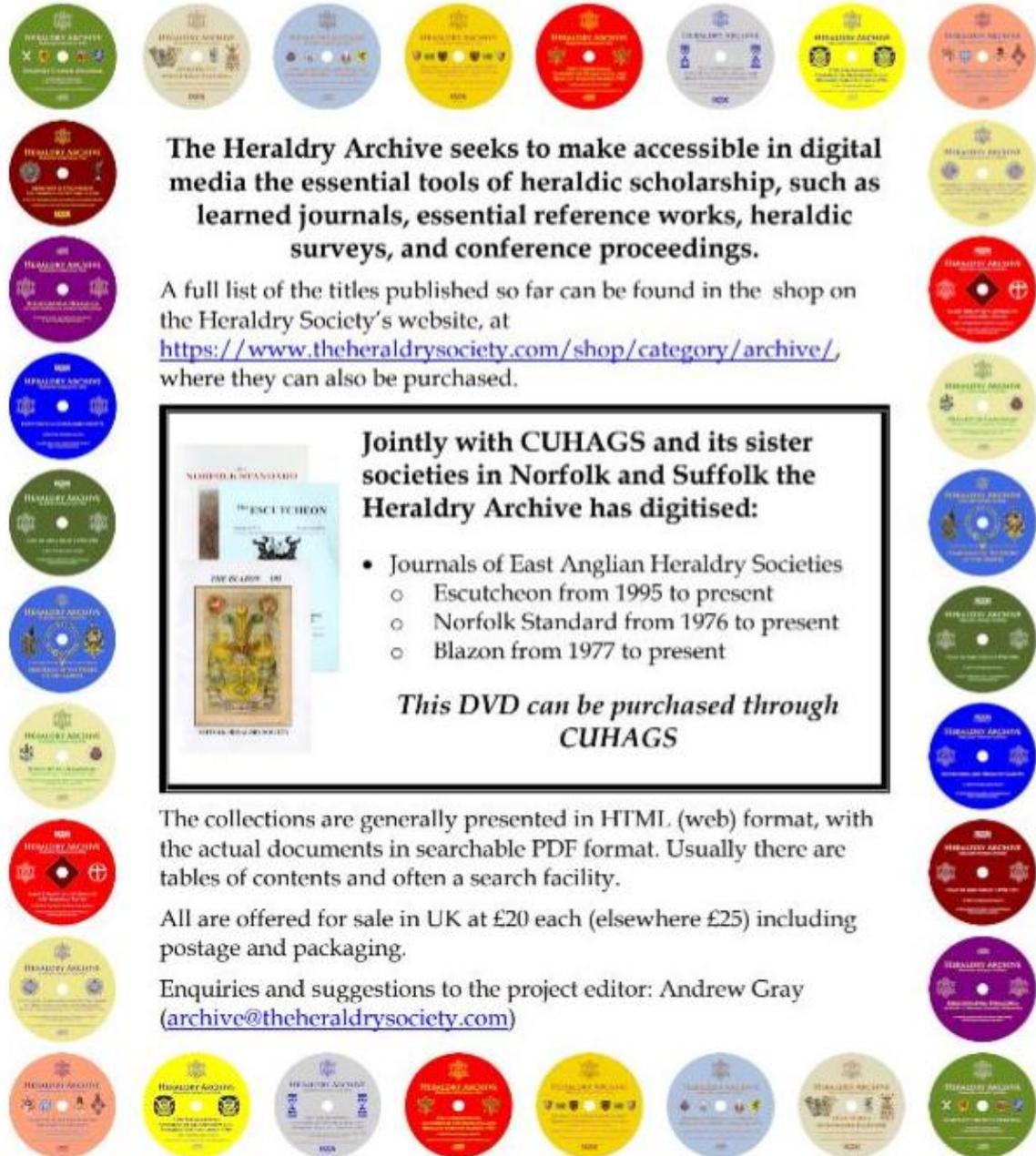


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The collections are generally presented in HTML (web) format, with the actual documents in searchable PDF format. Usually there are tables of contents and often a search facility.

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)

For Her Good Estate

The life of Elizabeth de Burgh, Lady of Clare

by Frances A. Underhill

New edition with additional material available from September 2020

[For detailed information see the book website](#)

The extraordinary life of Elizabeth de Burgh (1295-1360), known to many of us as the Lady Clare, was described in a 1999 biography by the late Frances A. Underhill, Professor Emerita at the University of Richmond. Only a few documents survive in which we hear Elizabeth's voice directly – her 1326 testimony against tyranny and injustice, her 1355 will, and her 1359 statutes for Clare College. However, the administration of her estates required detailed book-keeping, and a remarkable number of these records survive. Studying these in combination with official and legal archives, Professor Underhill pieced together a remarkable portrait of our resilient and determined benefactor.

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