

SOMERSET HERALDRY SOCIETY

CONGRESS 2006 EDITION

Journal No 10 November 2006

GRAND SUCCESS OF ST ANDREWS CONGRESS

Being a small town and home to an ancient university, St Andrews is very suited to being host to an international gathering of genealogists and heraldists, academic, quasi-academic, and artistic. The Congress made use of university accommodation for lectures and coffee-breaks, for administration, for exhibitions, for eating and sleeping, and above all, for ceremony and pageantry.



Lord Dundee, Royal Banner-Bearer, and Lord Maitland, with the National Banner, followed by gonfannons of St Andrews University and St Andrews Community Council

The first morning was taken up with registering the delegates and coping with their hundreds of questions and some quite extraordinary requests, all handled with great aplomb by Val Casely, the Congress Administrator, and her assistants. Each delegate was given a pale blue holdall with the congress badge on it and containing an assortment of books and pamphlets, an enamel lapel-pin of the congress badge, and, astonishingly, a beautiful large pewter quaich engraved with the congress badge and



“St Andrews 2006”. Also, since this was Scotland, every delegate was given an umbrella.

Proceedings opened with a plenary session, a general assembly of delegates, which was addressed by George Reid, presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament. He spoke very well, and in measured non-partisan tones which indicated that he, at least, understood the need for ceremony and pageantry in public life. We also had a rehearsal of the *Gaudeamus*, the celebratory Latin song traditional in the ancient universities. After a short break, the opening ceremony took place, and it was particularly splendid.



The framework of the ceremony was that of a university congregation. It began with a lovely unaccompanied Gaelic song, followed by a great fanfare on the organ. The congregation rose to sing the Gaudeamus, though not quite as well as in rehearsal, and the procession entered, headed by uniformed bedells carrying the six university maces, two by two by two. They were followed by the University Court, the Chancellor, Sir Menzies Campbell, and Vice-Chancellor in full academics, and by various officers of the genealogical and heraldic societies and the congress. Then more colour: kilted George Reid again, the four Scottish private officers of arms in their tabards, and foreign heralds, some in tabards, some not. At this point the congregation rose to sing a nearly-secular hymn by G.K.Chesterton, during which



Princess Anne, the Princess Royal formally opens the Congress, “Hic congressus appetus est!”

church representatives entered, headed by the holder of a most peculiarly Scottish office, hereditary clergyman. Niall Livingstone of Bachuil, younger, deputising for his father, Prior of Lismore, the Coarb of St Moluag and hereditary Abbot and Keeper of the Bachuil Mor, carried the 1400 year old pastoral staff, the Bachuil Mor of St



Lord Lyon reads the Letters Patent before presenting them

Moluag. Behind him followed a Cardinal, an episcopal Bishop and the Moderator of the Church of Scotland. Next there followed some English Heralds in court dress but without tabards, Lord Maitland, deputising for his father, Lord Lauderdale, the hereditary Banner-Bearer of Scotland, carrying the St Andrew’s cross banner, Lord Dundee, the hereditary Royal

Banner-Bearer of Scotland, carrying the Scottish royal banner, some Scottish officers of arms also in court dress but without tabards, and then the Lord Lyon, wearing both tabard and chains of office. Bringing up the rear was the Princess Royal, accompanied by the Lord Lieutenant of Fife and Mark Dennis, Secretary General of the Congress.



The Letters Patent granting the crest and supporters to the University



Niall Livingstone of the Bachuil, carrying the Bachuil, talking to George Reid, Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament, followed in the procession by members of various churches

The ceremony consisted of various set pieces printed in the programme in English and French, but because this was an old university, everything was said in Latin, except for Princess Anne's speech, which was in English and some French. She spoke briefly and well and declared the Congress open.

More Latin, then Lyon presented the University with letters patent granting it crest and supporters for its ancient arms, and the Congress President, Charles Burnett, presented two enormous gonfannons, one each to the University and the St Andrews Community Council, the Bishop of Edinburgh having blessed them. The Moderator then blessed us, we sang the national anthem, and Princess Anne departed, followed by the procession in reverse order. We all streamed out into the street and were marshalled rather haphazardly into line to proceed to a civic reception



Russian (half hidden), Belgian and Czech Heralds in the procession

in the quad of St Mary's College, a couple of streets away.

The procession was led by three pipers and a drummer, and the banners that had been carried at the opening ceremony, together with the two new gonfannons, were paraded through the streets followed by numerous

personal banners belonging to delegates. The spectacle was strikingly colourful, augmented by the many people in highland dress, and there were numerous spectators as we processed through the town and eventually under an arch into the quad where the reception was held.

The reception was a genteel free-for-all, everyone mingling on the lawns, champagne glasses in hand. It was an opportunity to meet the movers and shakers of Scottish heraldry, and many took advantage of it. Trying to have a word with the Lord Lyon was difficult, but taking photographs was easy, and there were many taken. Lyon Clerk was easier to buttonhole, and so on down the hierarchical ladder.



Slains, Garioch, Endure and Finlaggan Heralds slowly follow

Tea would have been welcome, but was not to be had. The quad, enclosed by buildings from 16th century Scottish vernacular to 19th century classical, was lovely, with a few mature trees amidst good lawns. It was a gracious occasion.



The congress organisers cleverly decided

Donald Campbell's banner to near left, Raymond Morris of Balgonie with guidon in centre, Michael Howe to right and many others following

on a Scottish dancing evening as an ice-breaker. A team of demonstration dancers from the local branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society showed how it was done, and then split up to bring other people onto the floor. By the end of the evening, nearly everyone had taken part, and as always with country dancing, it was a cheerful and friendly session.



Robert Harrison hiding Keith Lovell's banner entirely, Don McKee to right

The next day, Tuesday, the congress got down to business. Three lecture halls on the go at once, three lectures in each in the morning and two in the afternoon, and so it went each day, except that a day-trip to



A Brice of Bruces (for nouns of multitude see the Book of St Albans), Adam, Finlaggan, with Elizabeth, Carrick, and Alastair, Fitzalan

Edinburgh had been organised for Thursday, when there were no lectures. The lectures were given in English, German or French, with simultaneous translation available for the French and German ones. The papers presented varied from excellent to indifferent, and are to be published. One

gained more atmosphere than knowledge from the presentations themselves; the knowledge will come, one hopes, from the published papers.



Lord Lyon (Robin Blair) and Clarenceaux (Hubert Chesshyre) amused while waiting



Raymond and Stuart Morris of Balgonie, Fife lairds, who offer a good show of tartan



All the heralds photographed together in St Mary's Quad

Other evening events were a whisky-tasting, with a lecture on the classification of single malts by an expert in the field, and a reception at the Museum where there was a special heraldic exhibition mounted. On the last evening there was a banquet for the delegates. All the peacocks were strutting, but no tabards this time, and there was much noise and laughter, suspended briefly for a brief speech from Mark Dennis and the presentation of a couple of medals.



On the Saturday morning there were still some of lectures, followed by the closing Plenary Session,

English heralds, Clive Cheesman (hidden) Rouge Dragon, Alastair Bruce of Crionaich, Fitzalan and Hubert Chesshyre, Clarenceaux



South Africans in their wonderful new tabards, Marcel van Rossum and Themba Mabaso and Irish Michael O'Comain

more thinly attended than the opening one. To mark the end of the congress, John Malden, one of the congress stewards, broke his white wand of office in two to show that his duties were now complete - a suitable medieval gesture for a congress on genealogy and heraldry.

Saint Andrews had one great surprise for us: the weather was beautiful and warm for

the whole week, for which everyone took personal credit; umbrellas remained unused.

John Hamilton Gaylor, photos by Mike Thompson



Mark Dennis shows how the Reel of the 51st ought to be danced (Monday night)



Mark Dennis receiving from Mlle Micheline de Drion, Managing Director of the Baron André de Moffarts Foundation the coveted de Moffarts Medal for Outstanding Heraldic Artist during the Dinner. He won this for his design of and emblazoning of arms for the International Association of Nobel Laureates, for which see over. All Congress photos by Mike Thompson.



THE MOFFARTS PRIZE FOR HERALDIC ART

On the death of the Baron, the Moffarts Foundation decided the modest annual heraldic art prizes it had been sponsoring in the Benelux countries should become a fully international, biennial event. The prize, a beautiful bronze medal and €5000, would be awarded at the International Congresses. The first competition was announced this year.

The competition theme this year was to devise heraldic ensigns for an imagined association of Nobel Laureates. Competitors were to produce an A4 coloured painting and a smaller monochrome, appropriate for letterhead, and were to explain their choices and the reasons for them. Competitor had to submit their entries with a portfolio of other heraldic works by May Day 2006.

Eleven submissions were made and anonymously judged by a very distinguished international jury panel. The winner was Mark Donald Dennis.

Mark Dennis said— *"I used an atypical shield, nothing that could be associated with any century or country. If anything, the whole design has a faint belle époque/ art nouveau sense – fitting for the time of Alfred Nobel. The blazon is: Azure six piles reversed Or, the shield encircled with victor's laurels entwined with an scroll bearing the words: SOCIETAS LAUREATORUM NOBELIUM. The colours reflect the Swedish State liveries. The image was selected because the prize winners are all at the apex of their respective disciplines, the pile reversed Or. Collectively they generate light and energy to the world – and in this the reference to the sun's rays is appropriate. The scroll and wreath is also a small pun on the plant the 'noble laurel', laurus nobilis, and the Nobel Laureates. The whole achievement is non militaristic – no helms, crests or trophies of war – but dignified and complete."*

The Posable Dennis Doll



Mark Dennis as seen by Barbara McKee (remember Don McKee in that wonderful hunting pink regulation doublet in the procession)

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS Spring 2007

Wed 17th January	7.30 pm	Origins of Military Badges in Civic Arms, by Col Iain Swinnerton, Grammar House
Wed 21st February	7.30 pm	AGM, followed by a talk: Scots Armorials from the C16 and C17, by Alex Maxwell Findlater, Grammar House
Wed 14th March	7.30 pm	John Hanning Speke, the Explorer, by Tom Mayberry, Grammar House
Wed 25th April	10.30 am	Visit to Gloucester Cathedral and Elmore Court, led by Richard Cann 10.30 am coffee in Refectory 11.00 am tour of the Cathedral 1.00 pm lunch in The Comfy Pew 3.00 pm visit to Elmore Court, home of Sir John and Lady Guise Limited numbers, booking essential: cost £10
Wed 16th May	2.30 pm	The Tournament, by Ron Gadd, Grammar House

DIRECTIONS: THE GRAMMAR HOUSE, THE HILL, LANGPORT

Coming from Taunton: after the town square, when the road does a sharp left turn, go straight ahead up the Hill.

Coming from the East or the North: come into Langport and after Tesco, LOOK OUT. At a sharp right-hand corner, turn left round the Post Office, up the Hill;

Both: Park; walk back down until you come to the first house on the left (coming down) on the incline of the hill. Go down the alley next to the house and knock!

SOMERSET HERALDRY SOCIETY

Officers

Chairman	Ronald Gadd, MBE, RD
Hon Secy	Alex Maxwell Findlater
Hon Treasurer	Anthony Bruce
Committee Member	David Hawkings
Co-opted Member	Peter Giles

Objects

The aims shall be to promote and encourage the study of heraldry especially in the historic county of Somerset.

Address for correspondence

The Grammar House, The Hill, Langport,
Somerset, TA10 9PU

Telephone & facsimile 01458 250868
email alex@findlater.org.uk

Annual Subscription

for ordinary members £10 pa
for family members £15 pa

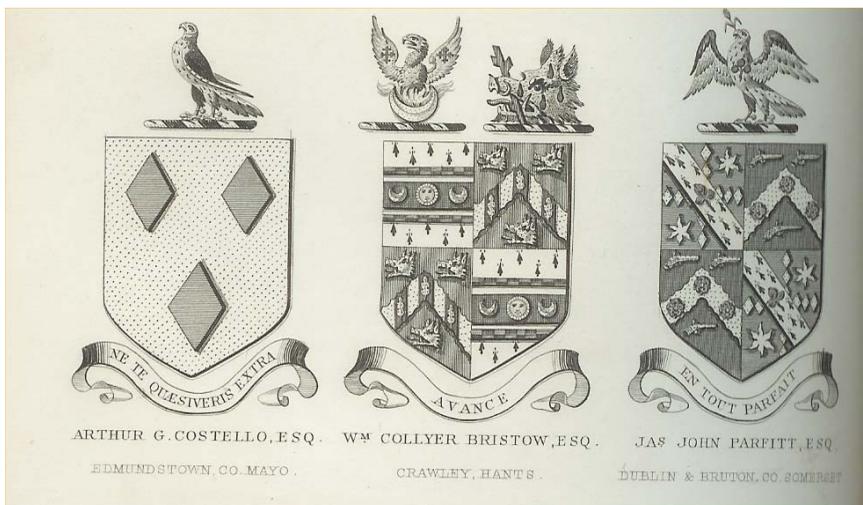
‘A Selection of Arms Authorized by the Laws of Heraldry, with Annotations’
by Sir Bernard Burke, LL.D., Ulster King of Arms, published 1863.

Susan Hood writes, in ‘Royal Roots, Republican Inheritance’, “Sir Bernard Burke’s family name had long been associated with the compilation of detailed pedigrees. He was a son of John Burke, founder of the genealogical printing house that had produced *Burke’s Peerage* (from 1826) and *Burke’s Commoners*, later *Burke’s Landed Gentry* (from 1837). Following an education in Chelsea and Normandy, Burke had been called to the English bar in 1839, and developed a good practice in peerage and genealogical cases. Indeed, he continued to practise in some high-profile inheritance cases after his appointment as Ulster. Since his father’s death in 1816, Burke had re-edited both the *Peerage* and *Landed Gentry*. He also published revised editions of the *Extinct and Dormant Peerage* (in 1883), the *General Armory of England, Scotland and Ireland* (in 1878 and 1883), in addition to an impressive original list of publications of his own.”

This book is apparently unknown to the heraldry enthusiasts I know. I wonder how many copies were printed? The book contains 275 coats of arms and each coat is illustrated in black and white. There are notes on each family (some Irish) and some also have drawn pedigrees. The following Somerset families are recorded:

Harry Edmund Edgell, Esq., Captain RN., Standerwick Court, Somerset; Conrad William Finzel, Esq., Frankfert Hall, Somerset and Bristol; John Hamilton, Esq., Fyne Court, Somerset and of Howden, Devon; The Rev. Thomas Robert Joliffe, Ammersdown Park, Somerset; James Earnshaw Marshall, Esq., Belmont near Taunton, Somerset late of Aigburth near Liverpool; Parfitt of Bruton, Somerset, who descend from Peter Parfyte 'living about the middle of the 15th century', whose eldest son the Reverend Robert Parfyte was rector of Shepton Mallet in 1448; Charles Whitting, Esq., Sandcroft House, in the parish of Uphill, Somerset.

David T. Hawkings



REVIEW OF EVENTS

September took us to Shrivensham, where Arline Fisher showed us this interesting church and gave us an excellent tea afterwards. In October we returned to Dunster after some three years, to host the AGM of the Associated Societies of the Somerset Archaeological Society, one of which we are. Ron Gadd did an excellent talk, as always, on the Origins of Heraldry. This was followed by the equally excellent Stephen Slater, talking on Funerary Heraldry.

After lunch, we gathered in Dunster Church, and were gratified to find that most of the guests for the AGM had decided to stay on for the afternoon's visit. Alex Maxwell Findlater showed us around the hatchments and also the monuments of the Luttrell family, with kind help from colleagues, especially from Joan Jordan, for this is her patch and it was she who welcomed us here for our very first field trip in 2003.

Finally, we were honoured to have Mark Dennis, Secretary General of Congress 2006 as our speaker and guest of honour at the annual dinner in November. After viewing the film of the Congress, we had our now traditional pre-prandial drink, before Mark talked to us about the development of the Scottish Royal Crown. He also mentioned the new crown of the Lord Lyon. As always the Bishop's Palace provided an excellent meal.



The Dinner showing both Ron Gadd and Mark Dennis engaging in animated conversation.