

THE SOMERSET DRAGON

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It was pleasant to note that heraldry and tradition had their parts to play in the Coronation. There were even three dukes on display! Norfolk, in his capacity as Earl Marshal, plus Wellington and Buccleuch. Someone told me that Somerset had been dusting down his state coach but never received an invitation. Well, you can't win them all in the

egalitarian world we live in today. But please don't quote me on this. Our picture opposite is another in the BDV heraldic series. They are proving excellent and colourful fillers but it would be great to learn a little more about them.



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THE PRINCEDOM OF SAN DONATO

By Stephen Tudsbery-Turner



This splendid button surfaced recently in my collection and was identified by Stephen Slater as commemorating the union in 1865 of Prince Pavel Demidov, second Prince of Donato with his second wife Yelena Trubetska - and thereby hangs an intriguing tale.

The Principedom of San Donato was created in 1840 by Leopold II, Grand Duke of Tuscany, for Anatoly Nikolaievich Demidov a Russian aristocrat, diplomat and connoisseur, who was also a lover of all things Italian. The reason was to enable Demidov to marry Mathilde Bonaparte, niece of the great Napoleon, without his wife losing her title of Princess. The title itself, which was never recognised in Russia, was named after the Villa San Donato, the Demidov family villa, built by Anatoly's father, the art collector Count Nikolai Nikitich Demidov, just outside Florence, the Tuscan capital. As it happened the marriage was a disaster and there was an acrimonious separation three years later.

The arms of Demidov appear to be blazoned Per fess argent and sable a barrulet or between in chief three chevrons diminished vert and in base a mallet argent



The title of Prince of San Donato was recognised by King Victor Emmanuel II of Italy in 1872 and the Demidov arms, as borne by Prince Pavel, appear as an inescutcheon over arms quartering, presumably, the red cross of the House of Savoy (and Pavel served with the Red Cross in the Russo-Turkish War of 1875-6) with the stylized lilies of Florence.



The Demidov fortune was based on the family's land holdings in the Urals where they owned vast copper and malachite mines. Indeed in 1835 Anatoly, future prince and known as 'the King of Malachite' presented Tsar Nicholas I with the malachite Rotunda, now on display in the Hermitage as well as providing the material for the Malachite Room in the Winter Palace, now part of the Hermitage Museum, and the malachite for the columns in St Isaac's Cathedral, built in St Petersburg in the period 1818 –58.



Pavel, who had lived a somewhat rackerety life, altered his ways in 1867 when he met and married Princess Maria Mescherskaya. It proved to be a short lived happiness for she died two days after giving birth to their son, later to be the third Prince of San Donato in August 1868. His second marriage, to Princess Elena (Hélène) Petrovna Trubetskaya, which took place in St Petersburg in June 1871, was a success and the couple had six children before Pavel himself died in 1885 at the early age of forty-five.

Above, Prince Pavel by an unknown photographer.

Opposite, Elena Petrovna Demidova Trubetskaya by Albert Edelfelt, 1884.

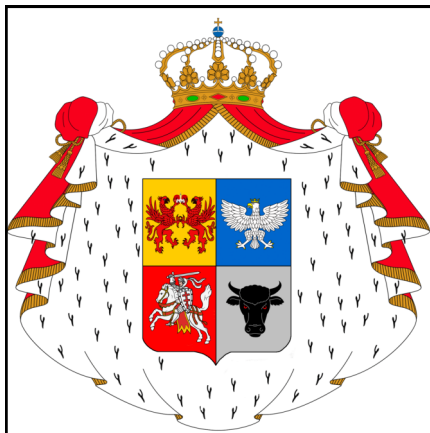
Picture credits with the exception of the button

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Thanks to his mining wealth Pavel Demidov was reckoned to be one of the richest men in Europe and he owned palaces in Russia, France and Italy. He sold San Donato itself after his marriage to Elena and the couple acquired as their Italian base the Villa Pratolino, now the Villa Demidov, which was restored and enlarged at vast expense. The art collection that his uncle had assembled at San Donato was largely dispersed at the same time. He was also renowned for his charitable work and his coat of arms still adorns the front of the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore in Florence, the facade of which he was instrumental in completing in 1887.

The arms of the Trubetskaya family are blazoned *Quarterly 1. Or two Griffins combatant, their near claws conjoined and further claws uplifted supporting the coronet of a Russian Prince proper. 2. Azure an eagle displayed argent . 3. Gules, on a horse in full career argent a rider, his dexter arm uplifted holding fesswise a sword, proper . 4. Argent, the head of a bull caboshed proper.*



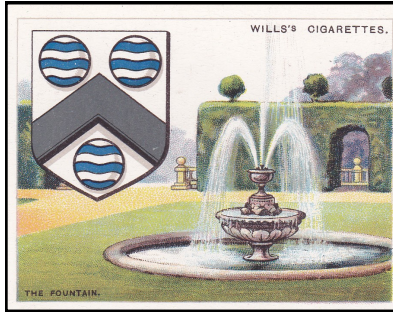
The arms of the Trubetskoya family

Elena herself lived on until 1917, initially taking on the responsibility of managing the family affairs as her children were minors. There was a distribution of the various Demidov estates in 1887 but the core of Pavel's empire was family owned until Elena's death.

Elim Demidov, Pavel's son by his first and short-lived marriage, succeeded his father as third Prince of San Donato and he in turn was succeeded by his half-brother, Elena's son Anatoly in 1943 (Opposite) This fourth and last prince died later that same year when the title became extinct.



HERALDIC SIGNS AND THEIR ORIGINS

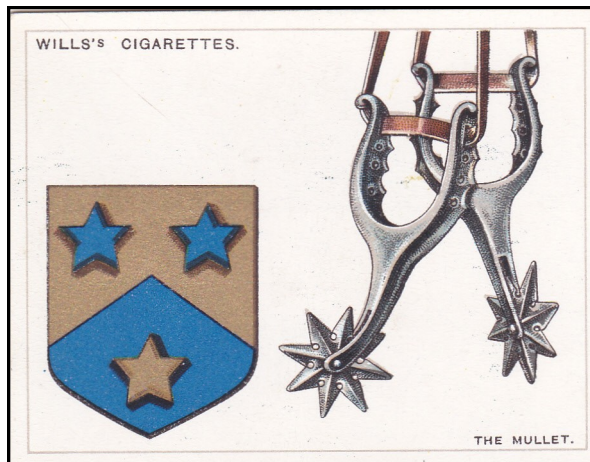


What an inspired way to introduce youngsters to the delights of heraldry. This set of twenty-five cards was produced by Wills' Cigarettes in 1925. One can take issue with the word 'signs' but it would be churlish to complain.

'The "fountain" is merely a roundel of the conventional heraldic method of depicting water by alternating wavy stripes of white and blue, and in actual fact is merely a representation of a spring or well,' our young collector could read on the back of the card. But there was a further snippet of information. 'In Yorkshire a well is known by its local old-fashioned name of a "syke." For that reason a coat of arms for any family of Sykes always has fountains upon it, and the shield depicted shows the arms of the family of Sykes of Sledmere, Baronets, whose ancestors can probably be traced to a family of the name living near Leeds in the thirteenth century.'

The bowman with his shield bearing "*Ermine three bows gules*" gave the writer the opportunity to explain that they were 'the coat of arms of the family of Bowes-Lyon, Earls of Strathmore, the ancestors of the Duchess of York', while opposite 'the origin of the "mullet" is determined by its name, for it is a corruption of the French word *molette*, which means a spur-rowel.'





Our last example, and the one most likely to have confused our young collector and potential heraldist is the "maunch".



‘Although the conventional heraldic maunch is not easily recognisable as a lady’s sleeve, that is what it really is, and it usually closely follows the form of the sleeve of the fourteenth century as here shewn.’ The commentator also pointed out that the Lords Wharton, Hastings and Conyers all bore the maunch as a charge.

And all this information in a packet of twenty cigarettes!

A CORONATION TRIBUTE



Our coronation tribute is this rather charming heraldic presentation of the royal coat of arms complete with lion, unicorn and dragon, by Esme Eve. Florence Olive Esme Eve A.R.C.A (1920-2001) was a British author & illustrator, best known for her illustrations for childrens' books. She studied at Croydon College of Art from 1937-41, followed by the Royal College of Art from 1941-44. She taught at the Royal School of Needlework and various art schools. She lived for many years in Seaford, East Sussex. Our illustration was an original design for Book Tokens Ltd

JAHRGANGSABZEICHEN!

By Stephen Slater

To those that read my articles, both in the Dragon and the Heraldry Gazette, it will come as no surprise that I have a love with most things Austrian- its history, heraldry and - yes, its cooking!

Although a republic since 1919, Austria is justifiably proud of a military tradition formed when the Holy Roman Empire, and later the Austro Hungarian Empire was ruled over by the Habsburgs. Certain insignia in current use by the Austrian Army today have their origins with the old imperial army, whereas others have a more recent tradition, in particular the wearing of unit badges on the uniform jacket pockets, they are suspended by a leather hanger from a pocket button.



Some of the most spectacular badges are to be found being worn by the cadets of the Austrian Military Academy, which has its historic home in the city of Wiener Neustadt, about 60km south of Vienna. The academy (Germ: Theresianische Militärakademie) takes its name from the formidable empress, Maria Theresa (1717-1780), who, in 1751, decreed that an institution be formed to train officers for the imperial armed forces, the first actual officer intake was formed the following year. With such an early date, it makes the Theresian Military Academy one of oldest and most august institutions of its kind in the world.



The academy is actually located in the Wiener Neustadt Castle complex which adjoins St. George's Cathedral. On the exterior of the cathedral church is an extraordinary heraldic display. The so called 'Wappenwand' carved in stone the facade bears the statue of Frederick III, Holy Roman Emperor from 1452 until his death in 1493. The emperor is shown surrounded by serried ranks of shields, 88 'attributed' to biblical characters and mythological rulers. Others are for genuine ancestors of Frederick.

Since 1966, not only do the cadet classes at Wiener Neustadt have a title chosen by the academy, the cadets also sport splendid pocket badges, their design taken from their title. Those titles might commemorate a battle or more likely, a famous military commander or hero, they are crafted in enamel and metal. To give the correct Austrian name for these class badges, they are 'Jahrgangsabzeichen' i.e. Annual Class Badges.

The idea for the class badges in Wiener Neustadt came about after a visit in 1964 by Austrian officer cadets to their counterparts in that equally renowned and ancient military 'academy', the 'Ecole Speciale Militaire de Saint-Cyr', in France, founded by Napoleon in 1802. Since the 1930s the cadets of St. Cyr started to wear 'insignes de promotion' on their uniform breast pockets, furthermore the (two year) classes of the military school tend to take their titles from battles and military heroes. The badges are intricate in their design, made in coloured enamel and metal, and show a typical flare for detail and aplomb, as we would expect from France.

Nearly all the St. Cyr promotion badges sport one common emblem in their design, the so-called 'casuar', this being the strident red and white plumes that crest the top of the cadets shakos, they create the most applauded part of the yearly Bastille Day Parade in Paris, watched by millions.



There is a curious and rather amusing story of how those plumes got the title 'casuar', it was a word which I was not familiar with, it actually translates as 'cassowary'- strangely enough there is a British connection.

In 1855 Emperor Napoleon III feted Queen Victoria on her first official visit abroad- the emperor in an early fit of 'entente cordiale', ordered the cadets of St. Cyr to sport upon their shakos plumes in the English national colours, red and white. The cadets were not over the moon with their emperor's anglophilia- it just so happened that not long before the Queen's visit, the zoo at Vincennes, on the outskirts of Paris had taken delivery of a cassowary bird , the head of creatures are highly coloured in reds, blues and other hues. The birds are also decidedly stropky and downright aggressive. So it was the cadets of St. Cyr came to think that their new found cap adornment gave themselves the look of the 'casuar'!

When, in 1964, the Austrian cadets arrived at the French military school their counterparts were sporting the badge for the 'Promotion Camerone'. The title was taken from an heroic last stand of a unit from the French Foreign Legion, which had been sent to Mexico to support the new emperor there, the Austrian archduke Maximilian of Habsburg.

We do not have the time to detail the sad demise of Emperor Maximilian, suffice to say, he ended up in front of a Mexican firing squad! But we can say something of the last stand of the legionaries at the Hacienda (farm/estate) of Camerone. There were sixty-five of them, commanded by Captain Danone, and they faced three thousand Mexican troops. When the battle was over forty-three legionnaires were dead, and seventeen were wounded. A macabre relic of the battle survives as the most treasured possession of the Legion is the wooden hand of Captain Danjou, who was killed in the battle.

REMINDER

Our AGM/EGM Social will be held at Soundings, Water Lane, Curry Rivel on Thursday 24th August at 2.30pm. The main items on the Agenda will be the election of officers and the future of the society. Do we fix, fuse or fizzle as one member put it! If those attending could bring an item of heraldic interest to show us and perhaps talk about it , this would help to make the occasion a most enjoyable and long awaited get-together.

It would help if you could let me know if you intend to be there as we would not want to run out of cake. If you need directions please phone Carol on 01458 252411.

Many thanks,
Stephen

THE ANCESTRY OF JAMES BOND

An Anonymous Contribution



In 1683 the spendthrift Duke of Albemarle was forced to sell his palatial mansion on Portugal Street, now Piccadilly, to a syndicate headed by Sir Thomas Bond of Peckham.

The members of the syndicate aimed to make their fortunes by demolishing the house and selling off the extensive grounds in which it stood, and their successful efforts resulted in the development of Bond, Albemarle and Dover Streets.

Sir Thomas Bond was a close friend of King Charles II, who created him a baronet in 1658, two years before the Restoration, after which he served as Comptroller of the Household of the king's mother, Queen Henrietta Maria. Sir Thomas died in 1685 and was succeeded to the baronetcy in turn by his two sons, Henry and Thomas, but on the death of his grandson Sir Charles Bond in 1767 the baronetcy became extinct.

The first baronet, however, achieved a strange form of immortality when the writer Ian Fleming decided to make him the supposed ancestor of his hero, the fictional spy James Bond. Sir Thomas's motto *Orbis non sufficit* is shown as Bond's family motto in the film *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*, and it also became the title for the Bond film *The World Is Not Enough*.

The arms of the Bond family, *argent, on a chevron sable three bezants*, and their crest, a winged demi-horse ensigned with six stars, complete with the motto were emblazoned in a window of the church of St Giles, Camberwell, but were destroyed by a fire in the nineteenth century.

Eagle eyed readers will have noticed that the crest on our picture, *On a mount vert a lion sejant argent*, is not that which was to be seen in St Giles Church. A glance at Burke's General Armory clears up the mystery. Sir George Bond, Lord Mayor of London in 1587, from whom Sir Thomas was descended, was himself of Cornish descent and the crest of the Bond family of Holwood, Cornwall was a demi-pegasus.

Doubtless James Bond was fully briefed about all this before he set out on *Her Majesty's Secret Service*, for the heraldic consultant on the film, which came out in 1969, was Rodney Denys, first appointed assistant to the Garter King of Arms, then finally Somerset Herald at the College of Arms. He was also a former 20 year veteran of the Secret Intelligence Service.

The illustration of the arms illustrating this article is supplied courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

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Contributions welcome



As the only date for our diaries in 24th August—see page 13—we have rounded things off with No.7 in our selection of B.D.V. heraldic silks, the subject of a piece in Issue No. 54. Judging by its size and shape it would have been located in a pack of twenty cigarettes. Silk No. 14, standard size, appears on the front cover of the magazine.