

THE SOMERSET DRAGON

THE JOURNAL OF THE SOMERSET HERALDRY SOCIETY

No. 56
December 2023



AND A VERY HAPPY
CHRISTMAS AND PROSPER-
OUS NEW YEAR TO ALL
OUR READERS.

The arms of Heytesbury
quartering those of Hun-
gerford. The artist was
Torrence Trotter and the
date c.1800.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 2. The Hungerfords & Their Heraldry by Stephen Tudsbery-Turner
- 9. Notes from the AGM
- 10. Heraldic Signs and their Origins
- 12. Jahrgangsabzeichen Pt. II by Stephen Slater
- 17. Br Cooke Pontefract
- 18. Identify these Quarterings
- 18. A Tale of Two Bookplates
- 20. Picture Credits

THE HUNGERFORDS AND THEIR HERALDRY by STEPHEN TUDSBERY-TURNER



Sir Edward Hungerford, head of one of the most significant and powerful families in early seventeenth century Wiltshire, was born in 1596. He was descended from Walter, first Lord Hungerford, who had fought at Agincourt, was a member of King Henry V's council and was ennobled in 1426.

Sir Edward was made a Knight of the Bath in 1625 at the coronation of King Charles I, having served as an MP for first Bath then Chippenham. He was a JP for Wiltshire, a Deputy Lieutenant of the county from 1624, and High Sheriff in 1632.



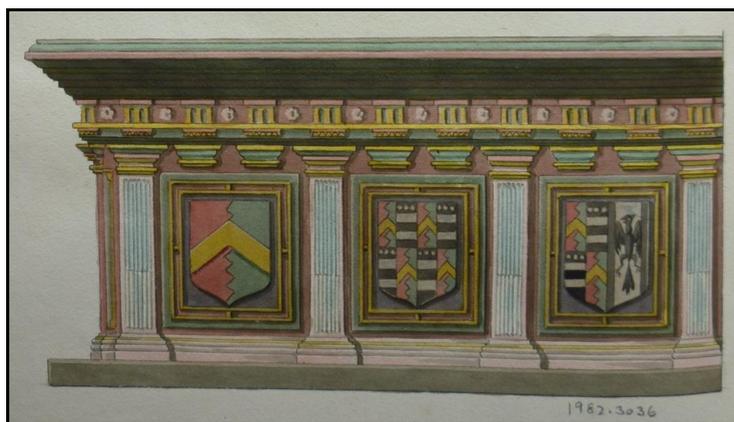
The family seat was Farleigh Castle on the Somerset borders, built by the first lord's father, although Sir Edward himself lived at Corsham House to its north, which his family had acquired in 1602. The castle itself was occupied by the widow of his great-uncle and name-sake. Sir Edward married Margaret Halliday, daughter of William Halliday, a wealthy London merchant of Puritan sympathies, which he and his wife both shared. Accordingly, when the civil war broke out in 1642 he was appointed to share the command of the Parliamentary forces in Wiltshire. He died six years later shortly before King Charles, the monarch he had deserted, mounted the scaffold at Whitehall.

The Civil War played havoc with family relationships and the Hungerfords were no exception as Sir Edward's half-brothers, Anthony and John were both staunch Royalists. Farleigh Castle itself was still the home of Cecily, Countess of Rutland, Sir Edward's great-aunt, whose sympathies were also Royalist. In 1643 it was occupied by a Royalist force commanded by John, then a Cavalier colonel. Two years later the tables were turned and Colonel John Hungerford had to surrender the castle to his Roundhead brother. Such were the fortunes of war.

The most obvious public display of Sir Edward's arms is an ornate baroque achievement over the main entrance to the almshouse at Corsham that his widow erected in 1668. The shield, helmet and crest of William Halliday are set within a frame surmounted by a split circular pediment while the Hungerford arms in an oval cartouche appear on the top of the pediment. The sickle and sheaves crest of the Hungerfords and the Halliday crest, a lion salient holding an anchor decorate its edges. It is not clear why Sir William's achievement rather than that of Sir Edward has pride of place in the design.



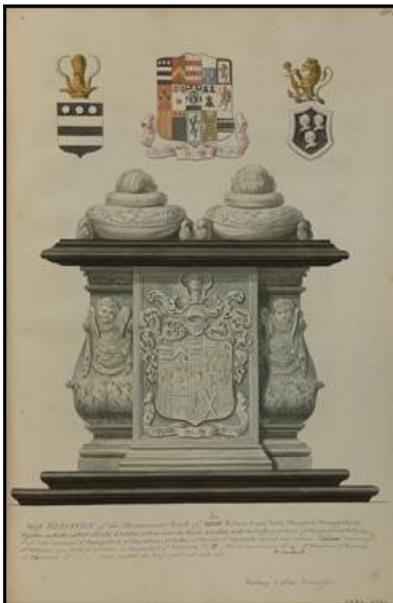
Sir Edward and Lady Margaret chose as their final resting place a table tomb in the chapel at Farleigh Castle next to the tomb of the founder of the castle. Five Hungerford tombs are to be seen in the chapel and these were all copied in watercolour by the artist Torrence Trotter c.1800. A particularly interesting tomb from the heraldic point of view is that of Sir Edward's great-uncle, another Sir Edward, who died in 1607 and was the son of the unfortunate Walter Lord Hungerford of Heytesbury. The three panels on the south side of the tomb all feature the arms of Hungerford of Heytesbury, an estate in Wiltshire that had been inherited by Sir Thomas Hungerford, the builder of Farleigh Castle, when he married the heiress of Sir John Strug, its owner.



Walter Lord Hungerford of Heytesbury, our Sir Edward's great-grandfather, gained his title in 1536 through his work as an agent for Thomas Cromwell. The original barony had by then been lost to the family. The new lord did not enjoy the honour for long. He remained too close to Cromwell for comfort and followed the latter to the block four years later. The charge against Cromwell was treason, that against Lord Hungerford was threefold; treason, witchcraft and buggery.

The westerly shield displays Heytesbury, the central shield Heytesbury quartering Hungerford and impaling the same, and the easterly shield Heytesbury quartering Hungerford and impaling Tufton; commemorating that earlier Sir Edward and his wife Cecily Tufton.

As far as our later Sir Edward and Lady Margaret were concerned, their effigies surmount a magnificent table tomb. Sir Edward is resplendent in armour and the crests of the Hungerford and Halliday families pose proudly at the base of the reclining figures. A shield of fifteen quarters with Halliday in pretence occupies the western panel of their tomb. As we have seen from the south side of the other Sir Edward's tomb, every quarter tells a story and another gruesome one is associated with Molyns, quarter number



Sir Edward's ancestor, Robert third Lord Hungerford of the 1426 creation, married Eleanor Molyns, acquired the Molyns title, but backed the Lancastrians in the Wars of the Roses. He was beheaded at Newcastle in 1464 following the Yorkist victory at Hexham. A similar fate awaited his elder son Sir Thomas, who met his end at Salisbury five years later.

The headship of the family then passed to the younger son Walter, who survived to die peacefully in 1516. He never regained the two baronies but at least he retained his head.

ARMS at the West end of the Black & White Marble Monument of Sir Edward Hungerford, of Farley & Corsham, & his Wife Marguaret [Halliday]: in the Side Chapel at Farley Castle. Sir E.H. died A.D. 1648, Lady H. 1672.



1. Hungerford. 2. Heytesbury. 3. Hussey. 4. Peverell. 5. Cornwall.
 6. Cobham. 7. Courtenay. 8. Moels. 9. Botreaux. 10. Botreaux.
 11. Mauduit. 12. Molyns. 13. Burnell. 14. Botetourt. 15. Lister (?).
 In centre, shield of pretence, Halliday.

SOMERSET HERALDRY SOCIETY
AGM 23-08-2023
Held at Soundings. Water Lane. Curry
Rivel - home of Carol Haines

Seven members and one guest attended. Four members present were also members of the Bath Heraldic Society. (BHS) There were three apologies for absence.

Given that the society has no regular meeting place and that the chairman lives in Winchester and the secretary has moved to Wiltshire, it was decided with regret that the days of the Somerset Heraldry Society (SHS) were probably numbered.

It was agreed that as the BHS would now be the only heraldic society in the West Country, members of the SHS who were not already members of the BHS should be encouraged to join it. Details could be available in the December edition of *The Somerset Dragon*.

The suggestion that the SHS and the BHS should merge was thought to be a non-starter as the BHS is a registered charity and there could be legal ramifications as well as unnecessary work to make this happen - also the BHS would be unlikely to welcome the idea!

The point was made that far flung members of the SHS would not be able to attend meetings in Bath but that they were members of the SHS so they could keep up to date via *The Somerset Dragon*. The BHS has a journal, *The Tabard*, but it has not appeared for several years

The SHS has enough funds to make sure that existing members could receive the *Dragon* for two more years without there being any need to pay any further subscription.

It was felt that the committee of the BHS should be made aware of the situation.

There was a lively discussion regarding the problems of copyright and the need to make absolutely certain that illustrations in the *Dragon* were appropriately credited and permission to use obtained where appropriate.

The business side of the meeting was followed by an interesting and amusing display of heraldic items brought in by various members.

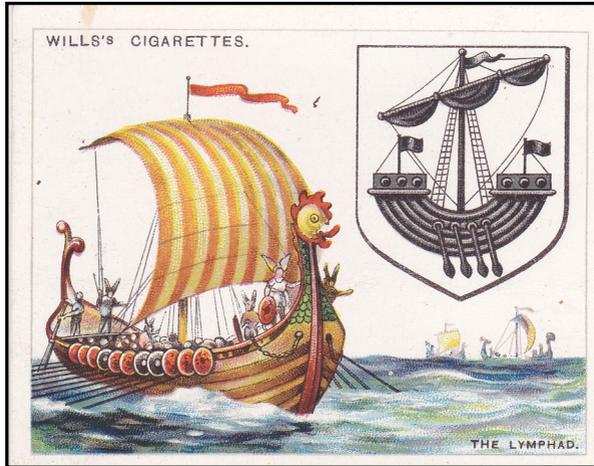
Carol and her granddaughter Beatrice were thanked for their excellent hospitality and the meeting closed at 6.00pm

NO NEED TO PAY A SUB FOR 2024

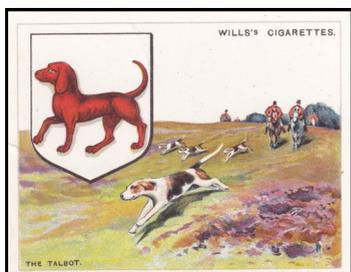
**SOMERSET DRAGON TO CONTINUE FOR
THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE**

**CONTRIBUTIONS STILL WELCOME.
PLEASE RING 01249 247658 TO DISCUSS
LENGTH AND NUMBER OF ILLUSTRATIONS**

HERALDIC SIGNS AND THEIR ORIGINS



Our four illustrations from the colourful Wills Cigarette Card 1925 issue are the Lympiad, the Talbot, the Fret and the Eagle. 'The heraldic "lympiad"', we are told, 'is the representation of the ancient Norse vessel with both oars and sails with which the Vikings raided our coasts in early days' The writer went on to point out that though comparatively rare in English heraldry the charge was far more common in Scotland, particularly among the many branches of the Campbell clan, headed by the Duke of Argyll. The Talbot, on the other hand, is very English, although 'the family of Talbot, Earls of Shrewsbury, have no talbot either on their arms or as the crest, but they have two talbots as their supporters, originally doubtless a badge of the family.' Our commentator went on to explain that 'the shield which is illustrated is of the arms of the family of Wolseley.'



‘The heraldic fret,’ we are informed, ‘is a saltire interlaced with a mascle, but in their earliest forms there can be little doubt that the coats of arms which are now blazoned “a fret” were originally “fretty,” which means that the lines of the mascle were continued “throughout” in the form of a net.’ One learns a lot from the back of a cigarette card! And another tit-bit, this time regarding the eagle displayed as used by the Lords Monthermer. ‘The curious position is far more likely to be the result of an artistic desire to fill the available space upon the shield than to represent any natural position.’ And here ends today’s lesson on heraldic signs and their origins.



JAHRGANGSABZEICHEN! Part II

by Stephen Slater

So we have seen an Austrian connection to the Camerone Promotion, the badge for that class features the Mexican national symbol of an eagle seizing a snake, beneath which is the grenade badge of the French Foreign Legion.



Obviously the Austrian cadets were impressed with the 'insignes de promotion' and on return to Wiener Neustadt suggested to the academy staff they also might enjoy such a tradition. The idea was indeed taken up, and the very first 'Jahrgangsabzeichen' was presented two years after the visit to St. Cyr. The class of 1966 bore the title 'Lissa' after a famous sea battle 100 years before, when, on the 20th July 1866 an Austrian fleet defeated a larger fleet from the Italian Navy, the action took place off the island of Lissa, in the Adriatic.

Whereas the 'Insignes de promotion' use the 'casuar' as a common symbol, the Austrian equivalent is the badge of the Military Order of Maria Theresa (Germ: Militar-Maria-Theresien-Orden). This was the highest military award for the Austrian military (until the demise of the Austrian Empire in 1918). The order was founded by Empress Maria Theresa the same day (18th June 1757) Austrian forces defeated the Prussians (the latter side commanded by Frederick the Great), at the Battle of Kolin. The badge of the order is the main feature on the emblem of the Military Academy.

The Austrian officer cadets are presented with their badges in a ceremony in Wiener Neustadt Castle. Each cadet has a number on the class muster roll and this is stamped on the back of the badge. There are also a number of un-numbered badges presented to honoured guests - often these might be descendants of the person commemorated in the class title.



Prior to the presentation the badges are laid out and then blessed by a military padre. The actual presentation is usually made by the academy commandant.

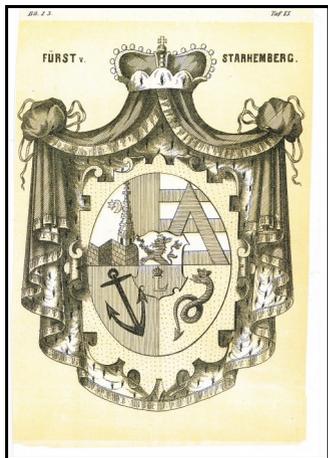


While some of the Jahrgangsabzeichen feature no heraldry, many do sport the coat of arms of the commander or hero whom the class is named after.

Jahrgangsabzeichen are a work of art and are not easy to come by, they tend to be quite expensive when they come up for sale. I have four. The earliest class badge I have is that for 1973, which is named after Ernst Rudiger, Count Starhemberg, the commander at Vienna when the city was besieged by the Ottomans in 1683.



Although not obviously heraldic, the badge bears a Turkish standard ('tug') and the outline of St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna. It was from the spire of the cathedral that Starhemberg, armed with a telescope, was able to direct the city's successful defence.



Alongside the badge there is a picture of the arms currently borne by the Princes of Starhemberg - there, in the first quarter, is an augmentation to the arms - featuring the crescent and the spire of St. Stephen's. Although very small, you may also be able to glimpse on the central escutcheon, the original arms of the family, but with a grizzly difference, the panther holds in one paw a sword garlanded with laurel, in the other paw a severed Turks' head!

Two more of my little collection of 'Jahrgangsabzeichen' are much more heraldic. That for the class of 1998, was named after Maximilian, Baron von Sterneck, who was one of the commanders at the Battle of Lissa (the subject of the original class badge). His ship rammed the Italian flagship, which sunk soon after.



In 2005 the cadet class was named after Karl, Count O'Donnell von Tyrconnell. He was one of the commanders at the Battle of Kolin and a holder of the Grand Cross of the Theresian Order. O'Donnell was descended from one of those Irish Catholic nobles who took part in the 'Flight of the Earls' on the 4th Sept 1607. They chose exile rather than continuing to watch their estates eroded through the 'settlements'. Many of their type saw military service in the armies of the Catholic states of Europe, also gaining high rank in the nobility of those countries. Not only were the O'Donnells created counts of the Holy Roman Empire, they achieved in Spain the dukedom of Tetuan. The O'Donnell arms with the arm holding a cross is a simple testament of their faith.

Many of the men from whom the cadet class titles were taken were recipients of the Theresian Order. I was therefore pleased to obtain the badge for the class of 1996 named after Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington. It is interesting to note that the ducal coronet is shown here on top of a peer's helm, thereby fitting into the confined space of the design. Wellington was both holder of the Grand Cross of the Military Theresian Order and a field marshal of Austria - his baton being one of several given to the Iron Duke, now housed in his home, Apsley House - better known for its address, No 1, London!



The title for the cadet class of 2021 has already been chosen at Wiener Neustadt, thereby continuing a splendid tradition which I hope will continue for many years to come.

With thanks to Colonel Thomas Lampersberger, Theresianische Militariaakademie, Wiener Neustadt, and ADC Frederic Delvolte, Militaire de Saint-Cyr.

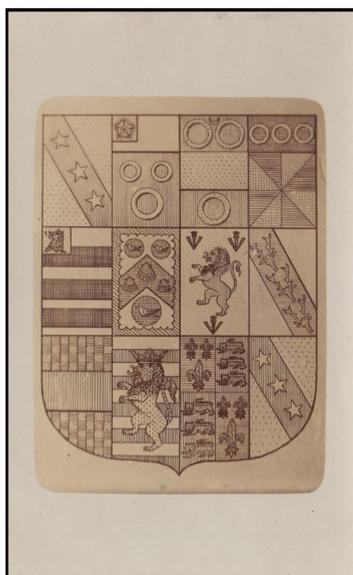


HELP!

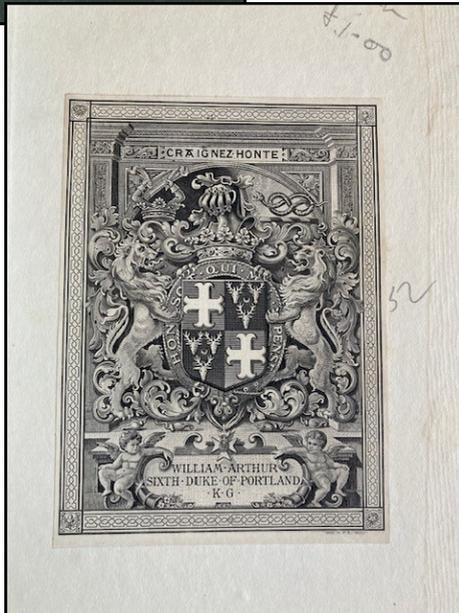
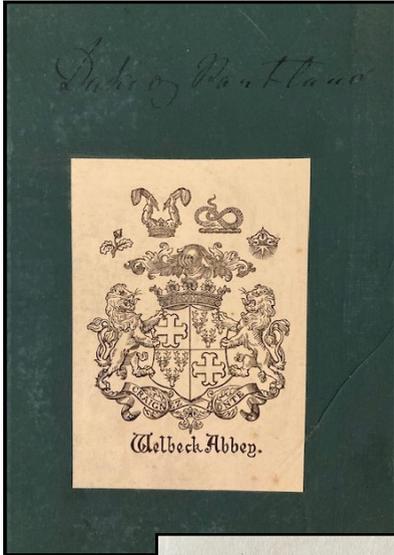
One of our readers has asked whether anyone can help out with identifying Br. Cooke of Pontefract. It looks as if we are dealing with a bookplate and judging by the shape of the shield the date would appear to be early eighteenth century. Do contact me if you have any bright ideas.

Suggestions/solutions will appear in Issue No.57 (April 2024).

And for those who like a teaser— can you identify the gentleman who commissioned this postcard to illustrate his coat of arms? Answer to be given in our April issue. (Note: No.7 is rather important!)



A Tale of Two Bookplates





The two bookplates illustrated opposite come from volumes from the library at Welbeck Abbey, Nottinghamshire, seat of the Dukes of Portland. The first is in the *Life and Times of Sir Joshua Reynolds* published in 1865 and the second in *The Devonshire House Circle* which dates from 1907. They were probably sold after the last war when Welbeck was let to the Ministry of Defence to become an army training college, and the dukes' working library was dismantled.

The sixth Duke of Portland (1857-1943) was a British landowner, courtier and Conservative politician. He served as Master of the Horse from 1886 and 1892 and again between 1896 and 1905. He was appointed a Knight of the Garter in 1900 so perhaps the second bookplate was commissioned to take account of his receipt of the honour. Before then he could have been using the standard Welbeck Abbey plate.

This Welbeck Abbey plate contains the signature 'Duke of Portland' above the plate itself and just visible on the green inside front cover. Given that the sixth duke succeeded in 1879 it would seem that the bookplate was the one used by his predecessor, the eccentric fifth duke, who is remembered for the underground tunnels and rooms he created at Welbeck Abbey and which still survive to this day.

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Contributions welcome

PICTURE CREDITS

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Portrait of Sir Edward Hungerford location unknown.

Picture of Hungerford arms - photograph courtesy of Mike Hayter from the Corsham Photographic Club.

Torrence Trotter Watercolours (c) Wiltshire Museum, Devizes

Portrait of Ernst Rudiger, Count Starhemberg courtesy of Wikimedia Commons