

## THE ARMORIAL BEARINGS OF QUEENS' COLLEGE

**I**N *The Dial* of Michaelmas Term, 1921, there appeared an article by Mr. L. Galley, the purpose of which was to correct mistaken impressions about the coats of arms of the College. While the present author, in the account that follows of the various achievements, is greatly indebted to Mr. Galley, he suggests that there are still errors to correct, and with due deference attempts to do so.

Until 1575, the only evidence of armorial bearings, though highly valuable, are the various College seals. The earliest is the seal made for St. Bernard's College in 1446. It depicts St. Bernard seated beneath a canopy. Beneath him on the left is the kneeling president, and on the right, the figures, also kneeling, of the original four fellows; between them there is a shield bearing the arms of France modern and of England, quarterly. (Fig. 1.)

In 1448, when Queen Margaret of Anjou, the wife of Henry VI and daughter of King René (or Reynard) of Sicily and Jerusalem re-founded the College, a new seal was made, which added the figure of St. Margaret and changed the shield to the Queen's own arms. Since these are the basis for the present coat, it would perhaps be advisable to give a short description. There are six quarterings. The first is that of Hungary, a barry of eight argent (silver) and gules (red), which had descended to Margaret from her ancestor Charles II of Anjou, who had married Mary, the daughter and heiress of Stephen IV, King of Hungary. The second is Anjou-Sicily—azure (blue) semi-de-lis or (sown with gold fleurs de lys), a label of three points gules. (The better opinion prefers red for the label, although M. Renée in *Les Princes Militaires de la maison de France* insists that the label should be silver.) The third is the coat of arms of the Latin kingdom of Jerusalem. This, in the seal, is depicted as a cross potent between four small crosses potent, all gold on a field of silver. Opinion here differs as to the shape of the small crosses; the coins of René and previous Kings of Jerusalem lend support to the view that the small crosses should be plain. The fourth is the patrimonial coat, Anjou ancient; azure semi-de-lis or, a bordure gules. The fifth, the arms of Bar; azure, semi-cross crosslets fitchy (pointed at foot) or, two barbels haurient

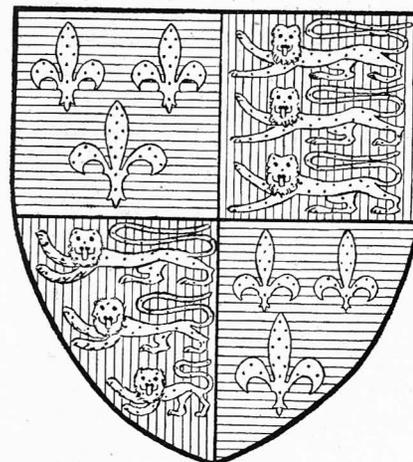
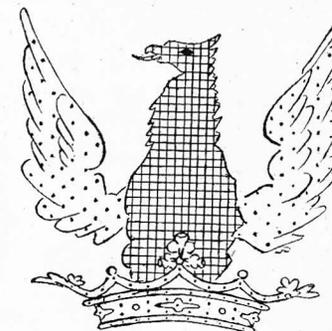


Fig. 1



Azure		Blue
Gules		Red
Vert		Green
Sable		Black
Or		Gold
Argent		Silver

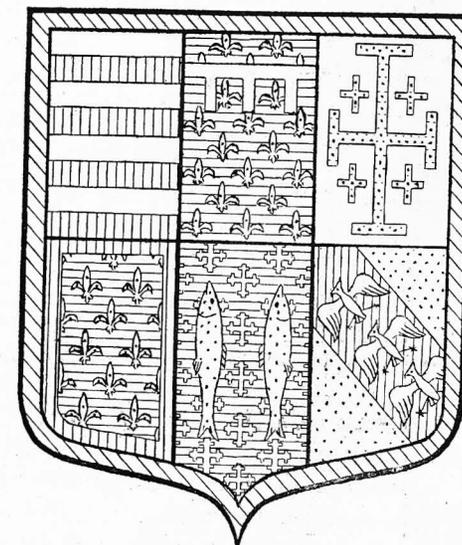


Fig. 2

(more commonly called pike or lucas), or, René himself, however, bore his cross crosslets fitched at the foot. Such ambiguities will help to explain the slight changes that the College arms underwent in the sixteenth century. The last coat is that of Lorraine, which René bore in honour of his wife, the Duchess Isabel; or, on a bend gules three alerions (small eagles) argent.

A new common seal was made when Queen Elizabeth, wife of Edward IV, refounded the College in 1465. St. Bernard and St. Margaret stand beneath a canopy; on their right are the arms of England, on their left, the arms of Elizabeth, again a coat of six quarterings. Elizabeth's mother was the aristocratic Jaquetta of Luxemburg, who, having been left a widow by the Duke of Bedford, married Sir Richard Wydevil (or Woodville), and added to his patrimonial coat the arms of Luxemburg, Vaux, Cyprus, Orsini, and St. Pol. In the base of this seal are the arms of the City of London. There is, it is submitted, little need to explain this away by alleged obscure connections between the City and the College. The engraver was doubtless a Londoner, and in the interests of symmetry a third design of some sort is required to fill up a circular seal. The arms of the City of London must have suggested themselves for the purpose.

In an inventory of 1544 there is mentioned "antiquam sigillum argenteum, ex dono Ricardi scdi, Rex Angliae insculptum porcellis seu apris" (Secundi is an error for tertii). No impression is known of the seal, but the boar was the household badge of Richard III when Duke of Gloucester, and he used two as supporters when King. Fuller notices these arms in his *History of the University*: ". . . . another distinct coat (viz) a Crosier and Pastoral Staff saltyre; piercing through a boar's head in the midst of the shield. This, I humbly conceive, was bestowed upon them by Richard the Third (when undertaking the patronage of the foundation) in allusion to the Boar which was his Crest, and wherein the Church implements disposed in saltyre and in form of a St. Andrew's Cross might in this device relatè to Andrew Duckett . . ." It is doubtful whether this coat was used under the Tudors, for in 1529 another seal was made depicting the two patron saints, and in base the same arms as had adorned the seal of 1446 (i.e., France Modern and England).

In 1575, the President, Dr. Chadderton, invited Robert Coke, Clarencieux king of arms, who was then making a visitation of Cambridgeshire, to make a grant of arms to the College, by which grant the blazoning of the College arms is governed to-day. "Quarterly, the first quarter barry of eight argent and gules; the second Azur, semy flower-de-lucis gold, a label of thre pointes argent; the third, argent a cross batune (potent) between fower crosses golde; the forth Azur, semy flower-de-lucis gold a border gules; the fift, Asur two lucis indorsed semy cross crossletts golde; the sixt, gold, on a bend gules thre Egles displaide argent; all the which six cotes are inclosed within a border vert." He went on to grant that heraldic anomaly for incorporate bodies, a crest: "Yet nevertheless for divers good consideracions me moving and at the request of William Chatterton (etc.), I have assigned, geven and graunted unto these their saide armes the Crest and cogaissance hereafter following, Videlicet, uppon the healme aute of a croune golde an Egle rowsent sable wings golde." (Fig. 2.)

These arms are not the same as those on the seal of 1448; the small crosses in the Jerusalem quartering are plain, not smaller editions of the large cross potent; while the crosses in the Bar quartering are crosslets fitchy or cross crosslets fitched at the foot. Moreover, the grant clearly says the label in the second quarter is argent. Notwithstanding, the College continued to use a red label. In a manuscript history of the Colleges and their arms by John Scott (the Queens' College copy of which is MS. No. 5 in King's College library), written between 1620 and 1622, the label is blazoned gules, and to this day there is an erroneous but popular belief that this should be so.

P. R. N. F.

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If all the clergy produced by Queens' were placed end to end, they would stretch from Geneva to Rome. (*Dial*, Lent Term, 1927.)