

THE ARMORIAL BEARINGS OF QUEENS' COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.

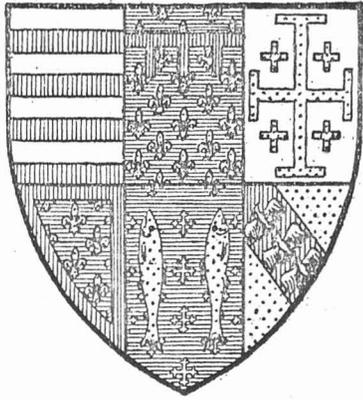
WITH Fuller, the historian of the University, we can say, 'No Colledge in *England* hath such exchange of *Coats of Armes* as this hath'; yet few know the story of this heraldic richness, and much error prevails in the blazoning of our present coat, as depicted in stained glass, as engraved on shields incorporated as architectural features in various parts of the College, as worn on College blazers, and as used in other connexions. This article is an attempt to explain, with as little technicality as possible, the various coats of arms belonging to Queens' College, to trace their history, and to correct errors.

Before Queen Margaret of Anjou refounded the College of St. Bernard as "The Queen's College of St. Margaret and St. Bernard" in A.D. 1448, Andrew Duket's foundation used the then Royal Arms (No. 4 in the Plate). From A.D. 1448, however, as shown by the original seal, the College used the Queen's personal arms (No. 1). A new common seal, made in A.D. 1465, when Elizabeth Widvile refounded the College and the apostrophe in its name changed position, bore the arms of Edward IV. (No. 4) and of Elizabeth his wife, with another shield in the base identical with the arms of the City of London (No. 2), though how this became associated with the College nobody knows.

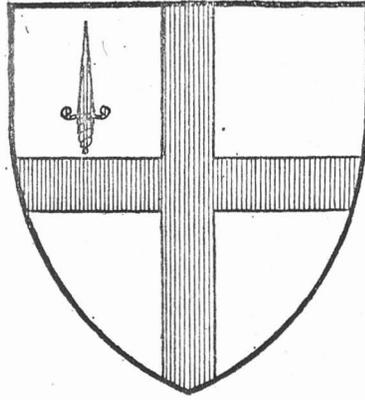
At a later date another coat was used (No. 3) bearing a boar's head, appearing variously blazoned. The boar's head is sometimes gold, sometimes silver, and the episcopal emblems vary. On the weighty authority of the late Sir William St. John Hope, the correct coat should show the boar's head silver, with the cross and crosier gold, the reason for so blazoning the boar's head being that it is obviously derived from Richard III.'s badge of a white boar, and therefore silver is correct rather than gold. The cross is that generally carried by St. Margaret, and the crosier that of St. Bernard. The device in this coat forms the badge of our Boat Club, and since it is used merely as a badge, apart from the shield, there is no objection to the practice of varying its colour to gold or green.

Under the Tudors, or at least under Henry VIII., arms suggestive of earlier benefactors seem to have been wholly or in part suspended, and the Royal Arms (No. 4) used instead.

Finally, in 1575, Robert Cooke, Clarencieux King of Arms, granted to the College a crest, specifying in the grant the arms as then borne. 'For the introduction of this novelty,' says Sir W. St. J. Hope, in reference to the green bordure then added, 'we are probably indebted to the worthy King of Arms himself.' Be that as it may, the green bordure came into use and is no doubt taken from the Queen's colours of red, white, and green, the latter evidently being preferred as it alone does not clash with the tinctures and metals of the enclosed coats. The arms as now borne and as properly blazoned appear as in the Plate (No. 5). They are as follows: Quarterly of six; first, barry of eight argent and gules; second, azure semée of fleurs-de-lis or, a label of three

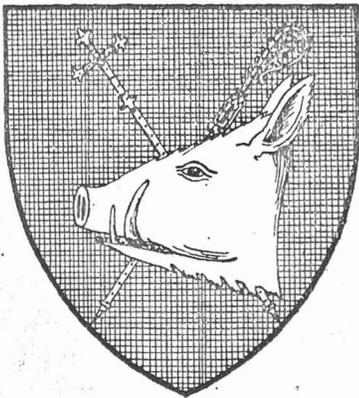


1.

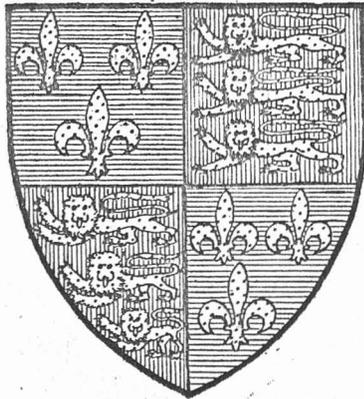


2.

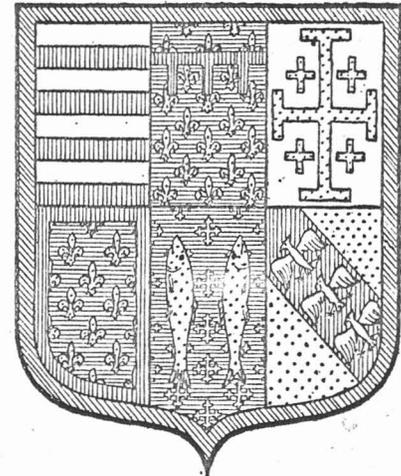
NOTE: All the small fleurs-de-lis and cross crosslets are gold.
 The cross and crozier in No. 3 are also gold.



3.

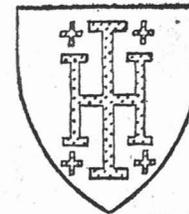


4.



5.

Azure  Blue
 Gules  Red
 Vert  Green



6.

Sable  Black
 Or  Gold
 Argent  Silver

points, throughout gules; third, argent a cross potent, cantoned with four crosses, or; fourth, azure semée of fleurs-de-lis or, within a bordure gules; fifth, azure semée of cross crosslets or, two luces hauriant and endorsed of the last; sixth, or, on a bend gules three alerions displayed argent; the whole within a bordure vert. Crest: in a coronet of gold an eagle rousant sable, wings of the first.

The coat has an interesting historical bearing. Margaret of Anjou was daughter of René, Duke of Anjou, of Lorraine and of Bar, and King of Naples, which latter rank carried with it the crown of Jerusalem. From the time of Charles III. of Naples, who was called to Hungary and made that country's king, the kings of Naples have had the right to be called Kings of Hungary also. Hence Margaret was able to quarter the arms of these various possessions and titles in her coat of arms, and so the coat we use displays in order from left to right, taking the top three quarterings first, the arms of Hungary, Naples, Jerusalem, Anjou, Bar, and Lorraine.

The grant made by Robert Cooke cites the arms of Naples with a silver label, but actually the arms of Naples bear a red label, and so it should appear red in our coat, as in the Plate.

The small crosses in the arms of Jerusalem should be as shown, and not like the large one. Originally this central cross was different, being a combination of the letters H and I, but later use has corrupted this device into a cross potent. The letters are the initials in the older name Hierusalem. This is shown in the Plate (No. 6).

The arms of Bar should have the field sown with cross crosslets and not cross crosslets fitchy, i.e. with

a point at the bottom, as so often depicted and described. The fish are in older blazons called luces (pike) but are generally now called barbels, probably in allusion to the name of the province.

Since first writing this article I have found that a correction is needed in the quartering for Lorraine, viz. alerions for eagles. Alerions are strange heraldic eagles without beaks or feet.

The practice of using the boar's head as a crest above the coat of arms is contrary to all rules of heraldry and should not be tolerated.

I owe much to Mr. Plaistowe, the Librarian of Queens', for his assistance in obtaining for me several old MS. notes and other necessary references.

REFERENCES.

- Searle's *History of Queens' College*, pp. 36, 37, 101, 322-3.
 Atkinson and Clark, *Cambridge Described and Illustrated*, p. 374.
Publications of Camb. Antiquarian Soc., Vol. I. (1840-46), pp. 53-4,
 and Vol. VIII. The Armorial Ensigns of the University and Colleges of Cambridge.