

SOME LOCAL HERALDRY SOURCES

For the student of heraldry there are many text books on the subject. The essential reading list has to include A.C.Fox-Davies', *Complete Guided to Heraldry*, first published in 1909 with numerous editions since, and *Boutell's Heraldry*, revised by C.W.Scott-Giles and J.P.Brooke-Little, which has also been published numerous times.

In addition to text books there are a number of what one might call directories, these include:

- A.R. Wagner, *Records and collections of the College of Arms* (1952);
- J.B. Burke, *General Armory of England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales* (1884);
- A.C. Fox-Davies, *Armorial Families: a directory of gentlemen of coat-armour* (1929);
- J. Fairbairn, *Fairbairn's Book of Crests of the Families of Great Britain and Ireland* (1905);
- J.W. Papworth and A.W. Morant, *Papworth's Ordinary of British armorials* (1977).

The latter is particularly useful in being a directory of arms alphabetically ordered with reference to the charges on the shield.

In addition to these are the printed copies of the 'Visitations' printed by the Harleian Society and one or two other organisations. These were enquiries conducted by heralds into the authenticity of arms and pedigrees of armigerous families in their provinces between 1530 and -1686.

Beyond the printed visitations the opportunity to access original sources for heraldry are few and far between. The manuscript collections in the British Library, especially the vast Harleian collection, contain original sources, but access to them requires trips to London. The College of Arms is the authority on all things heraldic and possesses, and jealously guards, originals of the heraldic manuscripts. Access to these is not only limited by distance but by the exorbitant costs of research there.

The Cheshire Archives and Local Studies centre in Chester possesses many texts books, including those listed above, on its open shelves. More importantly they hold many original manuscript sources for investigating Cheshire heraldry.

Here are some of the material available.

ACADEMY OF ARMORY OR A STOREHOUSE OF ARMORY AND BLAZON

Academy of Armory or a Storehouse of Armory and Blazon was printed in 1688 and can be described as an encyclopaedia of armoury and blazon terminology. It was written by Randle III Holme of Chester between 1682 and 1688. The book was intended to be a comprehensive guide to heraldry in the 17th century but there are numerous occasions when Holme diverges from his topic as it includes sections on religion, husbandry, etc. These digressions, although irrelevant to the book provide an extremely useful insight into the manners, customs, clothing and everyday lives of people in 17th century Cheshire and are invaluable to the study of culture and society at that time. There are drawings illustrating various aspects of the process of creating coats of arms and crests throughout. Of this edition the title page, some early pages and the whole of book III are missing. **Local Studies reference 227947, Class no. RB2/3**

A copy of part of *Academy of Armory or a Storehouse of Armory and Blazon*, edited by I. H. Jeayes and printed for the Roxburghe Club in 1905, from Harleian MSS., 1920-2180, is also available. It contains many engravings throughout. This folio volume of 543 pages, contains all that could be gathered of Holme's second volume with fac-similes of the engraved plates and other illustrations that were available for reproduction. Only a limited number of copies of this book were printed, and it is, like the original work, scarce. The engraved title page represents a landscape, with, in the foreground, figures of a herald standing and wearing a tabard, to the left, and a man, seated and engaged in writing, to the right. These are perhaps portraits of Randle Holme. There are also figures of beasts, monsters, birds, a winged angel, etc. Within a scrolled cartouche, decorated with a leopard's face, amorini, fishes, flowers, cornucopiae, and an escallop shell, is the title. **Local Studies reference 227954, Class no. RB2/10**

A COPY OF THE VISITATION OF CHESHIRE 1580

A copy of the Visitation of Cheshire, 1580, taken by 'William Flower alias Norroy Kinge of Armes and with hym Robert Glover Somerset Herald his Marshall' can be viewed at Chester. It has additions which seem to have been made by William Smith of Old Hough, Warmingham, who was Rouge Dragon, Pursuivant at Arms in 1609. The title page has coloured illustrations of the arms of Flower, Glover and the earldom of Chester. The 97 folios are bound in book form though it is apparent that not all of the pages were originally together as some of the paper is of different sorts. There is an index at the end. When compared with the usual copy of the Visitation printed by the Harleian Society there is far more detail – there are many more drawings of seals and coats of arms with more detailed pedigrees.

There are pages which are not related to the Visitation. Folio 31 is headed:

.....these Blazons followinge were taken and was Bought of the Widow of Marche Kinge of Armes by Garter Roy D'Armes des Anglais Anno the 6: of H: the 7th. This Booke is of Parchmente and in the handes of Robert Cooke Alias Clarencieux Kinge of Armes Ao: Do 1583.

There then follow a series of blazons in simple alphabetical order of the families

From folio 90 there are pages with drawings of arms that relate to the arms borne by members of the Cheshire gentry from about the time of King Edward III. The first page is headed: 'A Booke in the Office: written: ~~Edw~~ H 5: time'. The erasure of Edward II is somewhat strange and seemingly completely at odds with Henry V, but can, I think, be explained. Evidence suggests that the initial compilation was during the reign of Edward III, with additions during the 15th century. **Local Studies reference DCC17/1.**

OTHER COPIES OF THE 1580 VISITATION

A folio volume of 121 folios bound in half leather. Title on spine 'Visitation of Cheshire by Wm Flower 1580'. With additions to 1663. **Local Studies reference DDX 255.**

Another copy of Flower's Visitation, 1580, has arms and pedigrees from various sources, with additions. The title page has the arms of the earldom and of Flower and Glover and of Starkey with a note that much of the contents of the book were gathered by Ralph Starkey of London from the papers of Sampson Eardswick in 1610. Loose papers found with the volume include pedigrees and notes on

various families including Starkey, Mainwaringe, Dutton, Savage, Vernon, Bamville, Leigh of High Legh, Milnes, Neville, Alexander Rivalloni, Sonds, Stanley, Thornton, Warburton, Pointer, Pigot, Tofte, Arderne of Dorfold, Baguley, Brooke, Booth and Shakerley. **Local Studies reference DDX 364.**

VISITATION OF CHESHIRE TEMP ELIZABETH BY SOMERSET HERALD

This book has additional material to the version of the Visitation at DCC17/1. It is quite apparent from the numbering of the pages and the hand-writing styles that two or more books have been combined into one. There are additions from the early 1600s.

In addition to Cheshire families, there are four pages at the rear with the arms of the arms of Yorkshire families taken from churches and houses and the Visitation of York, 1584. **Local Studies reference DCC17/2.**

GARTIER

This book is by William Smith, Rouge Dragon, Pursuivant at Arms and is dated 1575. It contains historical and heraldic notes concerning Cheshire, including an illuminated pedigree of the earls of Chester. Other pages relate to the Order of the Garter and various other earldoms. It also includes 'A note of the musters of Spayne', 1571. **Local Studies reference DAR/I/50**

A MANUSCRIPT OF HERALDRY

A manuscript of Heraldrye, is probably by Thomas Chaloner of Chester, Ulster King of Arms (d. 1598). The 77 folios, in a parchment cover, includes: blazons of arms; a list of knights of the Garter from 1348; orders of precedence, households of great officers, coronation offices, titles of sons and heirs apparent; a description of the County of Cheshire; a list of Members of Parliament from 25 Edward I; a list of all the Barons, knights, esquires, gentlemen and other free tenants in the County of Chester 1579 (under hundreds); blazons of arms of the Earls and Barons of Scotland and of nobles and gentlemen of Co. Stafford; a note concerning the offices of the three Kings of Arms; an index of names with blazon of arms (A - H); blazons of arms of the nobility of Italy. There is a loose item being a letter from P.M. Barnard, bookseller of Tunbridge Wells, to Lord Crewe, concerning the above, dated 17 Jan. 1917. **Local Studies reference DCC 33**

AN 18TH CENTURY BOOK OF ARMS

The cover of this book is labelled 'This book of Heraldry belongs to me Peter Shakerley of Hulm April 11 1725' and 'Peter Shakerley of Somerford Cheshire, No. 6'. It contains arms born by families in Lancashire, Westmoreland, Lincolnshire, Cornwall, Cheshire, Warwick, Yorkshire, Northumberland, Cumberland and Durham.

It includes a copy of the arms in Smith's Vale Royal; a list of arms in Astbury Church [1632];

alphabetical catalogues of gentry by county; alphabetical list describing coats of arms; and several pedigrees. **Local Studies reference DSS 3991/344.**

AN 18TH CENTURY ARMORIAL

This book begins with coloured arms for names beginning with letters A and B and continues with verbal descriptions of arms for names beginning with letters C to Z. Includes quarterings and arms of various Cheshire gentlemen, and 'A collection of the creation Succession and Descents of the Duckes Marquesses Earles and Barons of England since the Conquest'.

It has an armorial of temp Richard II and a copy of the armorial to be found in DCC17/1, f. 31 – 32r.

Local Studies reference DAR J/5

A SMALL NOTE BOOK OF ARMS

This small note book illustrates various arms found in Cheshire churches and houses during the 1650s. **Local Studies reference D 5081/2**

Items not yet studied:

DAR/E/42 is a single volume that contains notes on the pedigrees and arms of various Cheshire families written in the late 17th century; also includes papers concerning the erection of a monument to Mr. Rous in Tachbrooke church, co. Warwick, 1692-1695.

DAR/I/39 is a single, 17th century volume of heraldic and genealogical notes of John Crewe.

DAR/J/5 is a single, 18th century volume titled *Armorial*. It begins with coloured arms for names beginning with letters A and B and continues with verbal descriptions of arms for names beginning with letters C to Z. Includes quarterings and arms of various Cheshire gentlemen, and 'A collection of the creation Succession and Descents of the Duckes Marquesses Earles and Barons of England since the Conquest'.

DAR/J/6 is a single volume armorial of the late 17th century, 'Liber C'.

DAR/J/7 is a single volume armorial of the 18th century, 'Liber D'. Contains coloured and uncoloured arms of various kings and nobles.

DAR/J/8 is another single volume of the 17th-18th centuries, 'Liber F'. Begins with 'A note of the names and armes of the five Conquerors of this famous Ilande called England, and of the nobilitye at and since the Norman conquest', with coloured arms and index. Continues with 'The Armes of all the knights and gentlemen which wer at the Seidg of Caleverocke in Scotland Colected together by Francis Tipsley Citizen and Haberdasher of London 1600'. Ends with small section of sketches and notes of arms of various kings and nobles.

DSS 3991/351 is an unbound loose volume of heraldic notes on Cheshire families. It is indexed alphabetically by name and includes pedigrees and drawings of seals and coats of arms.