

# The ESCUTCHEON

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**Contents**

**Godfrey, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Elton** .....

*David Broomfield*

**The Penyston Seal** .....

*Terence Trelawny Gower*

**Squirrelled away in the Herald's' drey: The story of  
Letchworth Garden City Town Council coat of arms** .....

*Paul Jagger*

**Editor's tale piece  
Curious Proceedings in the Earl Marshal's Court,  
temp Charles II** .....

<p>If you are contributing an article please ensure that it is in Word format with illustrations in the correct position.</p>
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## Godfrey, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Elton

*David Broomfield*

Over the centuries a number of historians have made it to the House of Lords. The earliest is probably Edward Hyde (1609-74) the author of *The History of the Rebellion* written whilst in exile with King Charles II. At the Restoration he was created Baron Hyde and a year later, at the King's coronation, he was made Earl of Clarendon. Although the elevation owed more to his role as a statesman and Lord Chancellor rather than to his writing. Thomas Babington Macaulay (1800-1859) distinguished himself as an undergraduate at Trinity College, and his coat of arms appears in stained glass in the Hall. He combined the roles of politician, Secretary of War and Paymaster General, with that of historian. In the 1840's he published his four-volume *History of England from the Accession of King James the Second*. He was created Baron Macaulay in 1857. Sir John Acton 8<sup>th</sup> Bt (1834-1902) also combined being a politician and an historian. He was created Baron Acton in 1869. He was appointed Regius Professor of History at Cambridge in 1895 and laid the foundations for *The Cambridge Modern History*. Hugh Trevor-Roper (1914-2003) read Classics at Christ Church, Oxford. His most famous work was *The Last Days of Hitler*, published in 1947. He was Regius Professor of Modern History at Oxford and Master of Peterhouse 1980-87. When he became a peer in 1979, he took the title Baron Dacre of Glanton. His arms can be seen above the dais in the Hall at Peterhouse. More recently is Alistair Cooke (1945- ) who was educated at Framlingham College and Peterhouse. In 2010 he was made a Life Peer with the title Lord Lexden. He is the official historian of the Conservative Party and the Carlton Club.

Godfrey Elton was born in 1892 in Newport Pagnell. He is not to be confused with Sir Geoffrey Elton (1921-94) who was born in Germany and originally called Gottfried Ehrenburg. Godfrey was educated at Rugby before gaining a scholarship to study Classics at Balliol College, Oxford. He took a first in Moderations in 1913 but then switched to history. He never graduated as in 1914 he joined the 4<sup>th</sup> Hampshire Regiment. He was wounded at the siege of Kut al-Amara and taken prisoner. After the war Queen's College, Oxford elected him a fellow. In 1921 he married Dedi, the daughter of Gustav Hartmann of Oslo. He published *The Revolutionary Idea in France, 1789-1878* in 1923. He too sought a career in politics, standing for election for the Labour Party in 1924 and 1929. He was a close friend of Ramsay MacDonald, he would later write his biography, and join the National Labour Party. Macdonald's son Malcolm had been his pupil at Queen's. In 1934 Elton was made Baron Elton of Headington in the County of Oxfordshire. At the time Malcolm MacDonald was an Under-Secretary of State in his father's government. Lewis Namier remarked "in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century the tutors of peers were made Under-Secretaries, in the 20<sup>th</sup> the tutors of Under-Secretaries are made peers". During his fellowship he took a lively interest in the goings on in College. On one occasion, in the 1930s, he urged the dean to find

out why a young lady, in a gown, should be descending an undergraduate staircase at 11am. In 1939 he gave up his fellowship and became secretary to the Rhodes Trust. He lived in the Dower House, Sutton Bonington, Nottinghamshire, and died there in 1973. His memorial (fig.1) can be seen in St Michael's Church in the village.



Godfrey Elton's ancestry can be traced with confidence back through seven generations to Richard Elton of Newent in Gloucestershire, who was born in 1630. The family evidently claimed descent from Thomas de Helton who is recorded in 1268. His arms were, Paly of six argent and gules on a bend sable three mullets argent. The Eltons of Ledbury, Herefordshire and Newent, Gloucestershire, bore Paly of six or and gules on a bend sable three mullets or. These arms formed the basis of Lord Elton's arms (fig.2), although he took his time in having them granted. In the Debrett's of 1944 they are described as "not yet exemplified".

His shield was, Paly of six or and gules a bend and on a chief sable three mullets pierced or. His crest was a variation of the Elton one of An arm embowed in armour proper holding in the gauntlet a scimitar argent pommel and hilted or tied around the arm with a scarf vert. This was differenced for Lord Elton by the addition of a wreath of laurel vert fructed or and two flanking mullets pierced or. His supporters consist of, to the dexter a knight in mail armour with a white surcoat holding in the exterior hand a sword point downwards proper. This may well represent Thomas de Helton the medieval ancestor of the Eltons. His sinister supporter was a Viking holding a battle-axe blade downwards. On his memorial the Viking is of course depicted with a horned helmet regardless of historical accuracy. The Viking is a rather neat allusion to the ancestors of his Norwegian wife. He chose the motto, *Fide Quam Fortuna*, By Faith Rather Than Fortune.

When he died, he was succeeded by his only son Godfrey as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lord Elton. He is a Conservative politician and sits in the House of Lords as one of the ninety hereditary peers.

Sources; Online Dictionary of National Biography.

Burke's General Armory

Debrett's Peerage

Dr. John Horton for the photograph of Lord Elton's memorial.



# The Penyston Seal

*Terence Trelawny Gower*



The Penyston Seal is of silver, weighs 90gm is 85mm diameter and was in the possession of W.J. Hemp (1882-1962, Archaeologist & Antiquarian). It had been purchased by the late J. Challenor Smith in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century following the dispersal of the family property after the death of the heiress of Penyston, of Cornwell House, Oxfordshire, circa 1880.

The inscription, 'HEC FVERVET ARMA ET INSIGNIA DE PENYSTON A°1448' does not record the actual date of the matrix, which is believed to be in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century.

The arms consist of 20 quarterings and twelve crests selected from the twenty five quarterings cited in the confirmation of arms by Cooke, Clarenceaux to 'Thomas Penyston, Lord of Hawruge, Buckinghamshire, Esq,' dated February 8<sup>th</sup> 1573. The choice of crests appears to be arbitrary, and in one case there are no corresponding arms on the seal.

The differences in the treatment of the fields and charges by dots, hatching, etc., are only to give variety to, and in no way represent the conventional methods of indicating the tinctures.

The confirmation of arms was printed at length in *The Genealogist* for 1877 and as it records the pedigree of the family and the source of the quarterings, it will be sufficient here to quote the names and arms of those families only which are represented on the seal.

## The Blazons

1. Penyston: Argent, three Cornishs Choughs proper.<sup>1</sup>
2. Fawconbridge: Argent, a Lion rampant, a border Azure. (The border is omitted)
3. Harpden: Azure, a Mollet of six points gules pierced Or
4. Hosterley: Barry of six Argent & Sable.
5. Bewchamp: Gules, a fesse between six billets Or. [? cross-crosslets]

6. Earl of Worcester: Per pale Or and Gules three rounds counter changed.
7. Fflett: Argent, on a fess Azure three fleurs de lis Or.
8. Mowbray: Gules, a lion rampant Argent, a crescent Sable (The crescent is omitted)
9. Chesham: Vert, on an escutcheon Argent a Hartes head caboshed Gules.
10. Bruse: Azure, a lion rampant Or crowned Gules, a seme of cross-crosslet.
11. Hereis: Azure, a chevron ermines between three heresies<sup>5</sup> Or.
12. Hames: Sable, a fesse Or between three cinquefoils ermine.
13. Willcotts: Azure, an eagle displayed Argent beaked and membered Sable.
14. Arderburgh: Argent, a chevron engrailed between three escallops ermine.
15. Purcell: Vair, Argent and Gules on a bend Sable three boar's heads Argent, tusked Or.
16. Shershall: Argent, three bends Azure, on a canton Sable a lion passant Or.
17. Marshall. Gules, a bend fusilly Or.
18. Gowsell: Or, three bars Azure, a canton ermines.
19. Daynton; Per bend indented Or and sable.
20. Crossell: Or, a cross formy Vert.

The identification of the twelve crests presented some difficulty. Seven are specified in the confirmation, of which six appear on the seal, the omission being *Wilcotts*. The confirmation also mentions 'the other Crests or cognizances assigned to him by William Harvey Esq., Clarenceux on 8<sup>th</sup> of July 1564', but does not list them. MS No 4 in the collection of the Society of Antiquaries entitled 'William Tyllotson, curate, his book at Cawsell 1594' and containing various heraldic notes, has a long list of 'The Armes of Penystons Pedigree', beginning at folio 97, while at folio 110 are the crests without, however, any clear indication of the families to whom they owe their presence. The identification is not made any more easy by the fact that William Tyllotson<sup>2</sup> '*writes in the vilest hand*' and gives Penyston 209 quarterings to his shield, some of which quarterings are subdivided into sixteen and eighteen coats. However, the following list of crests on the seal may be taken as correct: the numbering begins with the Penyston crest placed over the Penyston arms in the first quarter. The letters C and T following a blazon indicates that it is quoted from Cooke's confirmation or Tyllotson's book, as the case may be.

### **The Crests**

1. Penyston; A griffin passant valant (sic) Sable (C).
2. Harpeden; A hundes head Or (T).
3. Beauchamp: A swans head & neck Argent beaked Gules between a pair of wings Sable
4. Hosterley: An Eagle displayed Argent in a crown Or (T).
5. Bruse: A lions paw Or out of a crown Or (T).
6. Gowsell: A Unicorn passant Or (C).
7. Marshall: A Tiger Or (C).
8. Shershall: A Lion sejant with tail coward. (T)
9. Hereis: A Dragon passant Or (C) with a small writhed tail. (T).

10. Ursors: A Bear couchant Argent muzzled Or. (T)
11. Chesham: A Falcon volant proper (C)
12. Maudit: Earl of Warwick: a demy griffon with wings elevated before and behind issuing from a crown Or (T). This crest is inserted in the border at the end of the inscription, apparently as an after-thought. The coat of Maudit (Argent two bars Or), does not occur among the quarterings.

The matrix is a good example of the craftsmanship of its period, and the heraldry is well drawn, reflecting the tradition of an earlier date.

A finer specimen, probably by the same hand as the Penyston seal, is that of the Towneley seal, now in the British Museum. This was made for Richard Towneley<sup>3</sup>. The technique is much the same; there are three crests only, but each rests on a helmet and the mantling covers the remaining space, which on the Penyston<sup>4</sup> seal is occupied by crests.



Towneley Seal

Of about the same date is the private seal of Sir Walter Raleigh, also in the British Museum; this displays sixteen quarterings, their crests, supporters and rather meagre mantling.



Seals of Sir Walter Raleigh<sup>6</sup>

1. Also the attributed arms of Thomas Becket. Argent, three Cornish Choughs proper. The original arms were blazoned Sable, three birds argent membered Gules.
2. William Tyllotson: Curate & Antiquary; Obit 1615
3. Richard Towneley: 1566 – 1628
4. I have used the original Penyston spelling throughout. The name was later spelled Peniston.
5. Hedgehogs.
6. Raleigh. An interesting tale reported in the Times of 1904 with regard to his seals being presented to the British Museum. Apparently, three seals made for Raleigh (1584) were sent for auction at London. The auctioneers being aware of the interest from the BM, had 600 sets of the three seals made for sale; 200 sets were sold and Messrs Crichton Bros of Bond Street decided to donate the originals to the BM. They were described as *'having artistic qualities of no mean order' though the Elizabethan age was far from being the best period of English seal engraving*. The largest (sinister above), of approximately 75mm diameter is historically interesting, being Raleigh's seal as Governor of Virginia, the first English colony; a place in which he never set foot.



## Sources

Penyston article is based upon a paper from the *Archaeological Journal* vol. 87, 1930 W. J. Hemp.

British Museum MS

Wikipedia

Times Newspaper 1904

Christie's sales catalogue

Burke's.



## Squirrelled away in the Heralds' drey

### The story of Letchworth Garden City Town Council coat of arms

*Paul Jagger*



*Image copyright HM College of Arms*

The coat of arms granted to Letchworth Garden City Town Council on 17 May 2010 is the last vestige of that short lived council which was voted out of existence in 2012. Until now it has remained an untold story, and one that highlights the continued relevance and role of HM College of Arms in the 21st century.

The design of the coat of arms granted to Letchworth Garden City Town Council features three inward facing horseshoe magnets which signal the association with Sir Ebenezer Howard's idea for the world's first garden city. The crest (that's the bit on top of the helm) features the famous Letchworth black squirrel sitting on top of a torse or wreath, which in the real world would have been used to attach the crest to the helm.

The description of the arms is written in blazon, the language of heraldry. Blazon is a concise language that is a curious combination of English and Norman French, and has its own grammar which lacks punctuation. It is the written description that defines the coat of arms, not the visual depiction, which will vary in precise detail from one artist to the next.

The blazon of Letchworth Town Council's coat arms reads as follows:

Shield: Vert on a Pall reversed between three Horseshoe Magnets the poles to the centre Argent three Roundels Vert each charged with a Rose Argent

Crest: Upon a Helm with a Wreath Argent and Vert a Squirrel sejant erect Sable holding between the forepaws a Rose Argent and crowned with a Garland of oak leaves Vert.

Mantling: Vert doubled Argent

A heraldic badge was also granted to Letchworth Town Council, the blazon reads:

Badge: A Rose Stem Or flowered Argent leaved Vert enfiling four two-bar fences conjoined in a square Pen Or



Photograph of the heraldic badge granted to Letchworth Garden City Town Council

*Photograph copyright Paul D Jagger (2019)*

The choice of the horseshoe magnets and black squirrel are clearly links to Letchworth, perhaps less so the white roses and the garland of oak leave. Those elements are derived from an earlier coat of arms granted to Letchworth Urban District Council and later transferred to the Heritage Foundation, now prominently displayed on the junction of Hitchin Road and Broadway, as well as in the town centre by Manor Pharmacy.

The heraldic badge is a device that an armiger, that is the person or organisation to whom the arms belong, may give to their followers to wear in order to show affiliation. The badge also gives reference to the origins of the town's name, which is probably a conjunction of the Old English for an enclosure (Lycche) with that for a farm (Worth), hence Lyccheworth.

When Letchworth Garden City Town Council’s coat of arms was granted, the fees payable to HM College of Arms (the College is not funded by the taxpayer) was £9,975. That has since risen to £13,325. A personal grant of arms to an individual and their lawful heirs presently costs £6,400. The good news is there is no VAT to pay on a lawful grant of arms.

How does an organisation or a person obtain a lawful grant of arms?

A coat of arms, or more correctly armorial bearings, may be granted to a living person and their heirs or to a corporate body in the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth Realms where Her Majesty the Queen is Head of State. Arms may only be granted to an entity that can own property, which is why there is no such thing as arms for a surname, despite what you might read on the web. Vendors of coats of arms or the mythical ‘family crest’ who ply their trade on the web and in heraldry shops are engaged in heraldic fraud. Caveat emptor!

In the United Kingdom there are two granting authorities: HM College of Arms in London and the Court of Lord Lyon in Edinburgh. The reason for the existence of two authorities is that the granting of arms predates the union of the crowns when King James VI of Scotland became King James I of England on 24 March 1603. Scotland maintains a different legal system to the rest of the UK and that also applies to the law of arms.



*Photograph copyright Paul D Jagger (2019)*

Photograph of the Letters Patent granting armorial bearings to Letchworth Garden City Town Council, sealed on 17 May 2010.

Attached are the seals of Garter Principal King of Arms, Clarenceux King of Arms, and Norroy and Ulster King of Arms.

The College of Arms is part of the Royal Household. The Queen delegates supervisory and judicial powers over Arms and the College to the Earl Marshal, a hereditary title held by the senior peer of the realm, His Grace the Duke of Norfolk. The officers of arms are appointed by the Monarch and the day-to-day management of the College is in the hands of Garter Principal King of Arms; the senior officer of arms in England. The power to grant Arms belongs exclusively to the Kings of Arms.

Garter is assisted by two other Kings of Arms; Clarenceux King of Arms who has responsibility for grants made to persons living south of the River Trent, and Norroy and Ulster who has responsibility for persons living north of the River Trent, to the border with Scotland, and Northern Ireland.

The other officers of arms are Lancaster, Somerset, Richmond, York, Chester and Windsor Heralds in Ordinary, and Rouge Croix, Rouge Dragon, Bluemantle and Portcullis Pursuivants. There are also five supernumerary officers including New Zealand Herald Extraordinary who is a member of the Governor General's Household in Wellington, and in 1988 Canada established its own heraldic authority in the Governor General's office in Ottawa; but let's return to the UK, and specifically England where the Earl Marshal's baton directs all state ceremonial and has the 'power to judge and determine all matters touching arms and ensigns of nobility, honour and chivalry'.

Any subject of the crown or legal entity (such as a company, parish council, university) that wishes to be granted arms must first write to or phone the College of Arms. If the enquirer knows one of the Heralds or Pursuivants in person it is usual for that officer to deal with the enquiry, otherwise the College operates a rotational appointment whereby the officer in waiting picks up all enquiries not addressed to a specific officer.



Photograph of the arms of the Duke of Norfolk, hereditary Earl Marshal of England; Her Majesty the Queen, and HM College of Arms. These arms appear on every Letters Patent and signal the Royal authority by which armorial bearings are granted and regulated.

*Photograph copyright Paul D Jagger (2019).*

The person or organisation that wishes to be granted arms is known as a petitioner, and the process is called petitioning. Petitioners are not expected to have knowledge of heraldry or the law of arms, and it is the responsibility of the officer of arms to guide the petitioner through the process. Most petitioners will come with some ideas about the elements they would like included in their coat of arms, but if they don't the officers of arms are well versed in proposing design elements that capture the ideas of the petitioner.

Each coat of arms must be unique, and that usually means at least two differences when compared with other coats of arms, not including a simple change of colour. Heraldry is immensely inventive, and by using division lines, symbols and a palette of colours the number of possible designs is near infinite.

The colours used in heraldry are yellow/gold (Or), white/silver (Argent), red (Gules), green (Vert), blue (Azure), black (Sable) and purple (Purpure). The precise shade of colour is up to the artist, although the bold and distinct colours of the child's paint box are the norm. A key design principle is that of contrast, so gold and silver are known as metals, and are never placed next to each other. Similarly the other colours are always placed next to a metal, so red next to gold is fine, but red next to green.... that should never be seen.

Once the design is agreed, it is presented to the Kings of Arms for approval and the blazon is engrossed on vellum with a depiction of the coat of arms. The grant becomes official when the seals of the Kings of Arms are attached. For corporate bodies the presentation of the arms is often conducted in person by the officer of arms who guides the process, usually at public event such as a council meeting or annual general meeting.

This is where the story of Letchworth Town Council's coat of arms ends as the Council never took receipt of the vellum scroll, and it has no lawful heir to the arms. However, the absence of a lawful heir does not grant license for any other person or organisation to use the arms, or claim them for their own.

North Hertfordshire District Council and Hertfordshire County Council each has its own coat of arms of which more in future articles. A key point to note is that the coat of arms belong to the respective local authorities, and not to the populous of the town, district or county at large. In any case, neither the district council nor the county council became the owners of the former town council's arms when it ceased to exist.

Should a hypothetical future Letchworth Garden City Town Council be formed, it would need to apply for a Royal License to transfer the arms of the former Town Council to the new body. Until then, the letters patent granting the armorial bearings will remain squirrelled away in HM College of Arms.

### **About the author**

Paul Jagger is Trustee of the Heraldry Society; he is also an Arts Society accredited lecturer on heraldry, civic insignia and the treasures of the City of London's Livery Halls. He is the author of *The City of London Freeman's Guide* and *City of London Secrets of the Square Mile*. He lives in Letchworth Garden City.

His blog is at [cityandlivery.blogspot.co.uk](http://cityandlivery.blogspot.co.uk) and he may be followed on Twitter @CityandLivery

### **Credits**

The author is indebted to Her Majesty's York Herald of Arms in Ordinary, Peter O'Donoghue, Esq MA FSA, for his kind permission to photograph the Letters Patent, and for confirmation of various facts pertaining to the arms.

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**Editor's tale piece**  
**Curious Proceedings in the Earl Marshal's Court,**  
**temp Charles II.**

‘About this time, West, Lord Delaware, commenced a suit in the Court of Honour, or Lord Marshal's Court, against one who went by that name. The case was; a person of a far different name by birth, and but an ostler, having by his skill in wrestling in Lincoln's – Inn Fields got the name of ‘Jack of the West’, coming afterwards to be an innkeeper and getting a good estate, assumes the name of West, the arms of the family of Lord Delaware, and gets from the Heralds his pedigree, drawn through three or four generations, from the fourth son of one of the Lord Delaware. His son, whom he bred at the Inns of Court, presumed upon this pedigree to be a gentleman. This vexed his neighbours in Hampshire and they procured him to be cited by the Lord Delaware in this court, where, at the hearing, he produced his patent from the Heralds. But so it came out, that an ancient gentleman of the name of West, and family of Delaware, and named in the pedigree, who had long been beyond sea and conceived to be dead, had now newly returned. West would have had his father to have been the old gentleman, who appeared in court at the hearing, which dashed the whole business; and the pretended West, the defendant, was fined £500, ordered to be degraded, and never more write himself gentleman’.

*(Unknown source)*





## HERALDRY IN NORFOLK CHURCHES

### 12: Fincham and Feltwell Deanery

By

Chloë Cockerill M.B.E, M.A.

Tim Cockerill F.S.A. SCOT.

Robert J. Meeds. F.H.S.

There are over 40 churches in this Deanery which is part of the Diocese of Ely although in the county of Norfolk. All have been visited and only 7 were found to have no examples of heraldry of any kind. The photo above is from the church of Holy Trinity, Stow Bardolph where the North Chapel is full of wonderful monuments to the Hare Family

The book costs £20.00 including postage and packing. It is 204x294mm in size with glossy card cover and over 130 pages with 360 colour photos and as many colour drawings of the arms.

It is only available from Chloë Cockerill, Old Mill House, Mill Hill, Weston Colville, Cambridge CB21 5NY Tel 01223 290439

Email: [chloe.cockerill@btinternet.com](mailto:chloe.cockerill@btinternet.com)

**Your email requesting a copy, with your address, will be sufficient; an invoice will be included with the book.**



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  - Norfolk Standard from 1976 to present
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The collections are generally presented in HTML (web) format, with the actual documents in searchable PDF format. Usually there are tables of contents and often a search facility.



All are offered for sale in UK at £20 each (elsewhere £25) including postage and packaging.



Enquiries and suggestions to the project editor: Andrew Gray ([archive@theheraldrysociety.com](mailto:archive@theheraldrysociety.com))

