

The Newsletter of the British College of Arms: See How the *Professionals Do Heraldry*

By Eleazar ha-Levi

The British College of Arms was founded in 1484 and has since then created and maintained official registers of coats of arms and pedigrees. The heralds who make up the College are members of the Royal Household and act under Crown Authority. Central activities include: the granting of new coats of arms; the registration of family trees; genealogical and heraldic research; advising central and local government, corporate bodies, and private individuals on all aspects of heraldry. The College also:

- Serves as the authority for matters relating to the flying of flags and holds the only official registers of flags for the UK and much of the Commonwealth;
- Advises on matters relating to the peerage and baronetage, precedence and ceremonial; and
- Has a role in UK state ceremonial and assists the Earl Marshal in the organization of state ceremonies including Coronations and State Funerals.

The URL for the British College of Arms is www.college-of-arms.gov.uk/.

The Newsletter of the British College of Arms is published every three months and is available online by free subscription at www.college-of-arms.gov.uk/news-grants/newsletter.

The *Newsletter* reports the activities of the college:

- Official business of the college;
- Research being conducted;
- New Appointments and promotions within the College of Arms;
- New elevations to the various Royal Orders; and
- Newly approved arms, often including both a picture of the device or badge and the full blazon.

Issue 72 (September 2023) had a lengthy article on the College of Arms' role in the Coronation of King Charles III and a link to the entire script of the Coronation Service.

www.royal.uk/sites/default/files/documents/2023-05/The%20Coronation%20Order%20of%20Service.pdf

Since many parts of the Service, including the actual language, date from our Period, this text might be of interest to anyone planning the ceremony for a coronation or the investiture of a baron or baroness.

The current issue, number 75 (April 2024), includes a discussion of commercial arms; that is, arms issued to an individual business. The first such grant in the College's "modern" (post-1673) grant records was by Garter and Clarenceux Kings of Arms to the firm of Peter de Clux, William Sherard and Paul Clowdesley and Partners, makers of alamoses, renforcé, and lute strings, on 14 March 1692. Those arms are:

Argent on a Cheveron Azure between two Butterflies countervolant in Chief Sable and a Mulberry Tree proper on a Mount in base Vert both charged with several Silkworms Or, three Cocoons or Silkworms Eggs of the last.

The article also discusses how armigerous businesses use their arms for various commercial purposes. Some of this is of interest to display of Arms by Society members.