

ROYAL ARMS IN SOMERSET CHURCHES

A SUPPLEMENT

BY R. D. REID, D.PH., B.SC.

In *Proceedings* Volumes 83 and 84, Professor Edward Fawcett gave an excellent general account of Royal Arms in Churches, together with a catalogue and description, which he considered complete, of those in Somerset churches. This has also been published by the Society as a separate booklet.

It became apparent to the writer after the first article had appeared that the list was unlikely to be complete. Fortunately, he was able to point out to the professor the omission of the achievement at Holy Trinity, Bath, and a description of this was inserted, out of place, in Vol. 84. This achievement was destroyed by enemy action in 1942, the only one so lost in Somerset. The professor added four more arms to the list in Vol. 85 p. 240, but strangely enough omitted to mention the achievement in Wells Cathedral, which has below it the unique inscription, "Jacobus Rex Ecclesiae Nutritius". A note about this was inserted by the writer in *Proceedings*, Vol. 95, p. 181.

Rather than publish further additions piecemeal, he has waited until able to complete a fresh itinerary of Somerset churches. This, with the considerable help of Mr. Peter Pointz-Wright, has now been done. The task proved a longer one than was anticipated. It was made by car, and served to underline the great industry of Professor Fawcett, who went round most of the 500 churches on a bicycle.

Thirteen more achievements were found, and the list is now probably complete, unless of course arms are found outside churches and returned to them. A few errors of observation were discovered, at least one of which, at Batcombe, was due to the fact that a very dingy picture has since been excellently restored.

In the following list the method adopted by Professor Fawcett has been followed except that details have been omitted where there is no variation from the normal.

PLATE III (a)



ST. CUTHBERT'S CHURCH, WELLS

PLATE III (b)



BATCOMBE CHURCH ACHIEVEMENT AS RESTORED, 1957

Ashcott

House. Hanover after 1816. *Site.* N. end of N. aisle. *Material.* Cast iron. *Size.* $2\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ ft. *Harpstrings.* Gilt. No *Mantling*. *Motto.* "Dieu . . ." Nicely repaired.

Bath*St. Michael's*

House. Hanover after 1837. *Site.* Attached to organ, S. nave aisle. *Material.* Carved wood in full relief, painted dull grey with scraps of gold — this is probably the result of unfortunate restoration. *Motto.* "Dieu . . ." No *Badges*, and *Supporters* are almost *passant* according to late Victorian custom. A fine example of its kind. *Size.* $4\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ ft.

St. Stephen's

House. Hanover after 1837. *Site.* West wall of gallery. *Material.* Cast iron. This seems to be a pleasant example of a mass-produced article and identical with that described by Professor Fawcett at near-by South Stoke. *Size.* $1\frac{1}{2}$ ft. sq.

St. Saviour's

House. Windsor, Elizabeth II. *Site.* Over west door. *Material.* Painted on wood. *Size.* 3 ft. sq. *Harp-strings.* Gold. *Motto.* "Dieu . . ." On frame in addition, "Domine salvam fac reginam".

Beercrocombe

The existing achievement, described by Professor Fawcett, is made up from the boards of an older one and the incomplete and jumbled remains may be seen on the back. This latter was evidently larger. The *House* is Stuart, since the shield is complete and there is a detached four arched crown. It seems to be late in that period.

Brompton Regis

House. Hanover, after 1837. *Site.* Lying loose in church during restoration (1958). *Material.* Cast iron, painted black. No *Motto*.

Cossington

House. Hanover, 1714-1801. *Site.* Nave, over chancel arch. *Material.* Cast iron. *Motto.* "Dieu . . ." Supporting lion crowned, crest lion not. *Size.* 2×1 ft.

Churchstanton

House. Hanover, dated 1813. *Site.* Over S. door. *Material.* Canvas, framed. *Size.* $4\frac{1}{2}$ ft. sq. *Motto.* "Dieu . . ." *Harp-strings.* Gold. In good condition.

Glastonbury*St. John's Church*

A second achievement has been found in a room in the tower. *House.* Hanover, 1816-1837. *Material.* Cast iron. In good condition save for many layers of black paint. It probably came from the Mayor's pew, which was destroyed in the last century, and it is hoped to set it up again in its former position.

Raddington

House. Hanover, dated 1813. *Site.* Nave, S. wall. *Material.* Painted on canvas and framed. *Motto.* "Dieu . . ." No crown to supporting lion.

South Petherton

A new achievement of House of Windsor, Elizabeth II. *Site.* Over S. door.

Stratton-on-the-Fosse

House. Hanover, dated 1803. *Site.* Over chancel arch. *Material.* Painted canvas in plain frame. *Size* 4×3 ft. *Initials.* G.R. III^d. *Motto.* "Dieu . . ." Two roses instead of rose and thistle. *Harp-strings.* Gold. In good condition and would much repay cleaning.

Wambrook

House. Stuart, dated 1703 with initials A.R. *Site.* N. wall of nave. *Material.* Painted boards framed in lozenge form which is unusual, this shape being reserved for hatchments. *Size.* 2 ft. sq. All crowns appear to be two and not four arched, but the painting is dim and would repay restoration. No *Badges.* *Motto.* "Dieu . . ." Professor Fawcett at first found no arms for Anne for the short period before the union with Scotland in 1707. One afterwards turned up at Beckington and this makes the second in the county.

CORRECTIONS TO FORMER DESCRIPTIONS

Batcombe

This achievement has now been finely restored. It is painted on wood, not canvas, and the size is 6 ft. square, not 4 ft. × 5 ft. The crown of Charlemagne is correct and is not a gold mitre. It is shown, however, end on.

Brislington

Scotland is correctly impaled with England and not with France.

North Wootton

This is a Hanover achievement dated 1826. Professor Fawcett comments that France's fleurs-de-lis are gold on a red field. What is more remarkable is the fact that they are here at all, since they were not used after 1801. Moreover they are in the fourth quarter where they are never found even prior to 1801 except in the Tudor arms. The inference might be that this was a Tudor achievement, painted over, but this seems most unlikely.

West Pennard

Professor Fawcett says that this is a Hanover Achievement, but, in fact, it is very fine Stuart work probably by the same hand as that at near-by Glastonbury; date *c.* 1660. A Hanover shield has clearly been stuck on the front of the Stuart one, forming a unique example of this sort of adaptation.