



The Blazon

Patron of the BC/Yukon Branch: The Honourable Judith Guichon, OBC, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia

FALL 2015

ROYAL HERALDRY SOCIETY OF CANADA

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the second edition of the *Blazon* for 2015! This past May our branch hosted the 49th annual conference of the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada at Victoria's Coast Harbourside Hotel. The weather was excellent and our delegates who had arrived from many parts of Canada, the United States and even further afield were treated to warm temperatures, sunny skies and flowers in full bloom which wouldn't be seen in their home provinces for weeks thereafter!



Our guest speakers for this event were Snawdoun Herald and Clerk of the Lyon Court in Edinburgh Mrs Elizabeth Roads, and Hugh Brady, Secretary of the American Heraldry Society and past-President of the North American Vexillological Association. Both gave rousing addresses, Mrs Roads speaking at the after-dinner Wilkes Lecture and Mr Brady speaking at the Friday night Beley Lecture. Elizabeth Roads' lecture was entitled *Nothing is New Under the Sun* and explored how the heraldic trends of today have their origins in the distant past. Hugh Brady's lecture *Of Flags and Formalities: What the Mother Science of Heraldry Might Learn from Her Children* was a discussion on themes taken from vexillology and applied to the heraldic context.



Saturday afternoon was spent in Government House, where staff laid on a special welcome which included a glass of sherry and docents who kindly escorted groups of heraldists around the staircase and the main rooms of the house and answered questions about the multitude of interesting items on display, including many of heraldic interest. The visit wrapped up with a cup of tea and a tour of the Cary Mews and the Lawrence J. Patten Heraldry Exhibit.



appointed a Fellow; Shirley Greenwood, our own Branch social events director and the Conference's main organizer, was appointed an Honorary Fellow, as was the Society's Hon. Secretary, Steve Murray. Branch Vice-President Steve Cowan was presented with his Licentiate Diploma. Also, the Presidents of the two West Coast Branches, Allan Ailo of Vancouver and John Neill of BC/Yukon, both received the Meritorious Service Award. The weekend wrapped up with a meeting of the Inaugural Board of Directors on the Sunday morning, before delegates dispersed until next year's 50th anniversary conference in Ottawa.

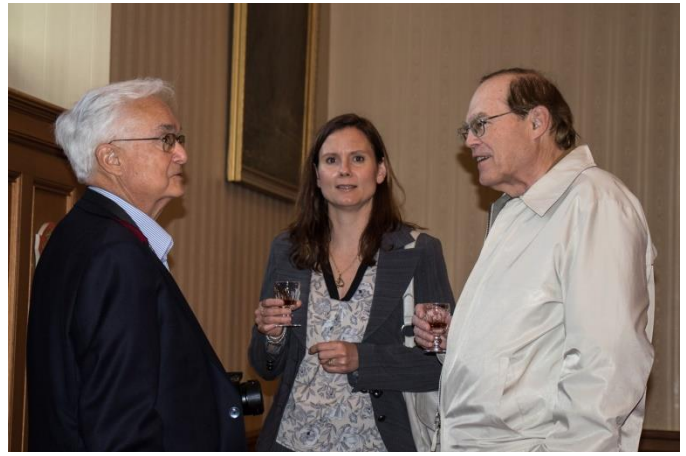


The next Branch function will be a luncheon to be held on Saturday, November 28 at the Quamichan Inn, Duncan BC at 12 noon. Our guest speaker for that event will be Mr. Mark Hood, who will present on the use of heraldry within the Society of Creative Anachronism, and I look forward to seeing you there.

John W. Neill, President, BC/Yukon Branch

A number of awards were made during the Conference: Peter Hogan, President of the Laurentian Branch, was





OBITUARY – John B. Wilkes, FRHSC (Hon.)

Our Branch and the Society lost one of its staunchest supporters with the demise earlier this month of John Ballingal Wilkes, for many years a driving force and Hon. Secretary of our Society. John was born in 1922 in Galt, Ontario, the son of Major Gerald Wilkes, a mechanical engineer for a machinery manufacturer in the same town.

In 1942, while still in his first year of Civil Engineering at the University of Toronto, John joined the 23rd Field Regiment (SP) Royal Canadian Artillery, 4th Cdn. Armoured Division. The regiment was transferred to Britain in July of 1943 and, after one year of intensive training, landed in Normandy in July, 1944. John and his regiment – equipped with the Sexton self-propelled 25-pdr gun – fought throughout the campaigns in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. However, on March 10, 1945, on the west bank of the Rhine, his luck ran out and he was wounded by shellfire. His war was over.

Once recovered from his wound, John returned to U of T, completing his engineering degree in 1949. He then started a remarkable 36-year career with the Ontario Department of Highways – later known as the Ministry of Transportation. His first appointment was supervising the last paving contract which used steam-rollers on the Queen Elizabeth Way near Fort Erie. His career took him to a number of locations, including Ottawa, Cochrane and Toronto. As Ministry Planning Engineer, he introduced the idea of constructing the twelve lanes on Highway 401 through Toronto. He retired in 1985 as Executive Director of the Ministry's Municipal Transportation Division, responsible for the Provincial subsidies for all municipal roads and transit.

John's father, Gerald Wilkes, had a great interest in heraldry as a hobby, as well as considerable talent as an heraldic artist. In the 1950's, he had given an heraldic flavour to his church, St. Philip's Anglican in Etobicoke, by painting twelve church and state shields for the roof trusses, carvings for the bishop's chair and heraldic designs to illustrate the history of the church. He joined the Heraldry Society of Canada in 1968, just two years after it was founded in 1966. John shared his father's enthusiasm for the subject and joined the Society himself after his father passed away in 1971.

In 1991, not long after his retirement, John became active in another part of the Society. He became Secretary Treasurer of the Toronto Branch. Through a number of Branch Presidents – and a number of ups and downs – John was always there to ensure the Branch's survival and financial stability.

John became a Director on the Society's National Board of Directors in 1995 and was named Honorary Secretary at the same time. That year, under Jean Matheson's presidency, the Society had hired an administrator. While that had reduced the Board's work-load, it had made the Society seem a bit impersonal and created a need for closer contact with members by a well-known person on the Executive. John volunteered for this job – known as Membership Chairman – and, as he said, he was never fired! In 1998, he was the Director who suggested the production of a book that would explain heraldry to beginners. The result was *A Canadian Heraldic Primer*, for whose publication John was largely responsible.

He continued for several years as an ex officio Director on the national Board, having been created the first Honorary Secretary Emeritus in 2013 and peacefully passed away with his family by his side on October 7. **DR**

Honours and Awards:

2012 Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal

2010 Wilkes Lecture named after him; given at Annual Conference.

2007 Society's Certificate of Meritorious Service

2004 Honorary Membership in the Toronto Branch

2003 Honorary Grant of Arms, Canadian Heraldic Authority, Ottawa

2002 Honorary Fellowship in the Society

2002 Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal



THE SHERINGHAM WINE EWER

John W. Neill

A friend of your editor recently acquired on eBay a wine ewer or jug engraved with a very fine marshalled coat of arms. The ewer came with the provenance that it was engraved to celebrate the marriage in 1847 of the Rev. John Sheringham, curate of St. Barnabas, Kensington, London to Caroline Tryon of Wheelock, Cheshire. The Rev. John assumed a coat of arms subsequent to his marriage *Or five fusils conjoined in fess Gules on a chief dancetty of the second a cockerel's head between two escallops Argent*, later legitimized by grant of the College of Arms in 1888. As his wife was an heraldic heiress, to indicate this he bore her arms on an escutcheon of pretence, which include the quartered coats of no fewer than four additional armigerous families in the south Cheshire area and beyond: First and sixth, *Azure a fess embattled Or between six estoiles of the second* (for Tryon); *Gules a lion rampant between three trefoils slipped Argent* (for Sheridan); *Azure two organ pipes in saltire the sinister surmounted of the dexter between four crosses pattée Argent* (for Williams); *Argent three bendlets wavy Azure* (for Wilbraham) and *Ermine on a chief Azure three lions rampant Or* (for Alsager).



The Sheringham assumption of arms evidently took place prior to 1862, the date the ewer was hallmarked in London by the silversmiths Hunt and Roskell. Other marks on the ewer include a punch with 'ISH' which show that it was made by John Samuel Hunt (1785-1865). Along the ewer's foot can be found 'Hunt & Roskell Late Storr & Mortimer' which establishes that the firm was heir to the legendary Regency silversmith Paul Storr (1771-1844), who began his business as Storr & Co. in London in 1819.



Heraldry is not only engraved on the ewer, it is also incorporated into its very design, the handle being partly formed of a cockerel's foot! As shown in the illustration below, a cockerel's head not only forms part of the Sheringham shield of arms, it also serves as a crest, being placed behind a fess raguly and framed by two laurel branches, fructed proper. The motto 'Virtute Vivo' translates as 'I live virtuously'.

For those interested in the genealogy implied by the ewer's marshalled arms, the following (somewhat convoluted) explanation is offered: The Alsagers of Alsager Hall appear to have possessed manorial rights in Cheshire from an early period, and were settled here at least as early as the reign of Henry III, c.1258. William, 'Lord of Alsager', was granted a licence to extract turves (peat) in the

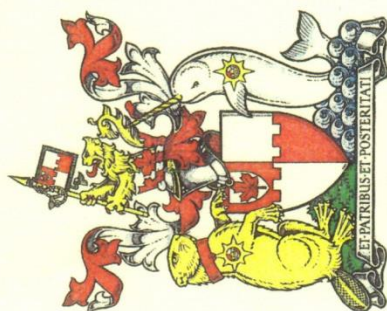
Liberties of Alsager (temp. Edward II), 1324. The direct male line of this family terminated with John Alsager, Esq. (High Sheriff of Cheshire in 1763), who died in 1768, leaving five sisters his co-heiresses.

Under the wills of the two survivors of these (Judith and Mary), the manor and demesne of Alsager passed to the descendants of their great-uncle, the Rev. Samuel Alsager, of Standon, Staffordshire, whose only daughter and heiress, Mary Alsager, married Roger Wilbraham, Esq., of Dorfold Hall, Nantwich, Cheshire. They had an only daughter and heiress, Ann Wilbraham, who married James Williams Esq., of a Flintshire family. To the four daughters of this marriage, the manor and demesne of Alsager passed by the wills of the two last surviving sisters of John Alsager Esq., above mentioned (Judith and Mary Alsager). The eldest of these ladies, Ann Williams, assumed the name of 'Alsager', and died in London on December 6th, 1815, aged 75 years. Her sister Catharine (the only one who married) married James Sheridan Esq., barrister-at-law of the Middle Temple, who died in 1799. Mrs Sheridan died in London, January 6th, 1823, aged 73, leaving two daughters, co-heiresses, to whom the Alsager manor and property passed.



The younger daughter, Mary Alsager Sheridan, in 1819 married Lieut.-Col. Charles Tryon of the 88th Connaught Rangers and Assistant Adjutant-General in the Peninsular and American Wars. Their only son, the Rev. Charles Alsager Tryon, a Lord of the Manor of Alsager, was Incumbent of Christ Church, Alsager, for 29 years, and died at Scarborough, August 5th 1877, aged 56 years, leaving no issue. Their daughter, Caroline Harriet Tryon, married John William Sheringham, afterwards Archdeacon and Canon Residentiary of Gloucester. By co-incidence, their son, the Rev. William Archibald Sheringham, was also a Lord of the Manor of Alsager and Incumbent of Christ Church, Alsager from 1877 to 1885. He in turn married, in 1880, Elizabeth Frances, eldest daughter of the Rev. Henry G. von Bunsen, eldest son of Karl, Baron von Bunsen, sometime Prussian Ambassador to the Court of St. James.





ROYAL HERALDRY SOCIETY OF CANADA

SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE HÉRALDIQUE DU CANADA

TO ALL AND SINGULAR who shall read the present letters
We the Directors and Fellows of the Royal Heraldry
Society of Canada send Greetings.
BE IT KNOWN that, in recognition of the outstanding
contributions to the goals of the said Society made by

À TOUS ET À CHACUN qui ces présentes lettres verront,
De nous les directeurs et fellows de la Société royale
héraldique du Canada, salut.
SAVOIR FAISONS qu'en reconnaissance des contributions
exceptionnelles aux buts de la Société effectuées par

SHIRLEY KNOWLES GREENWOOD F.R.G.S.

We have elected her to the dignity of
HONORARY FELLOW

Nous l'avons élu à la dignité de
FELLOW HONORAIRE

of the said Society, granting to her thereby all of the
rights, privileges, and honours thereunto pertaining.
GIVEN in the City of Victoria,
under our signs manual and our common seal,
this 23rd day of May in the Year of Grace 2015.

de ladite Société, et de ce fait lui avons conféré tous
les droits, privilèges et honneurs à cette dignité
appartenant. **DONNÉ** à la ville de Victoria,
sous nos seings manuels et notre sceau commun,
ce 23e jour de mai de l'an de grâce 2015.

President of the Society
Président de la Société



Registrar of the College of Fellows
Greffier du Collège des Fellows