

## The Swan-Marks of Berkshire.

By N. F. TICEHURST, O.B.E., M.A., F.R.C.S. ENG.

THE practice of keeping the Mute Swan in a curious semi-domestic state has been current in England for at least seven centuries. It is a royal bird and all those, unmarked, at liberty on common waters belong to the crown by prerogative right. Until the end of the seventeenth century, since when the practice has gradually to a large extent died out, the privilege of keeping them was much sought after and was only granted to subjects of a certain standing, each one of whom was granted through the King's Swan-Master a private mark, whereby his birds should be known, while the usages of keeping were hedged about by a lengthy code of statutes, orders, and customs, which had to be strictly observed, and were enforced by prescribed penalties. These and other matters of more general interest connected with the subject have been dealt with by me in a series of articles in the Magazine *British Birds*,<sup>1</sup> to which readers may be referred. It is too large a subject to deal with generally in connexion with a paper on the marks of a single county; but one or two interesting matters of detail, that shed light on some of the ancient customs, crop up in dealing with the records of the Boroughs of Reading and Windsor. These I have discussed in some detail, by way of explanation, in the paragraphs where they occur.

In one of the articles above-mentioned I have shown that the custom of keeping can be traced back to before A.D. 1186 and I have suggested that the stock was primarily derived from an indigenous race of Swans that had its headquarters in the fens of East Anglia. Be this as it may, there is evidence that, at any rate later, the Thames supported an enormous population of the birds, while they were present in some degree prior to 1230, and probably a good while before. In that year we have a record from the Charter Rolls of the reservation of Swans in a grant in the neighbouring county of Buckinghamshire, while in 1231 we find Swans mentioned at Marlborough in the Close Rolls. It is

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<sup>1</sup> Vols. XVII., p. 174; XIX. pp. 186, 262, 294; and Vol. XXII., p. 74.

hardly a stretch of imagination therefore to conclude that at this early date they were being kept also on Berkshire waters.

The first positive evidence of this however is contained in the mandates for provisions for the feasts of the Court of Henry III. that were issued between 1247 and 1251 and are to be found in the Close Rolls. Writing from Guildford on December 1st, 1247, the King bids the Sheriff of Berkshire and Oxfordshire, as he values his body, to have on the Sunday, or at least on the Monday, next before Christmas, at the Castle of Winchester, to the King's use, 10 boars, 600 chickens, 10 swans, 12 peacocks, 50 hares and of wild geese and other wild-fowl as many as he can get.<sup>2</sup> Ten more Swans, amongst other things, were ordered in the same way, to be supplied when required, in the latter half of 1249.<sup>3</sup>

The earliest appointment of a King's Swan-Master of which we have any knowledge was made in 1361 and in this, as in the majority of subsequent appointments, the Thames is specifically mentioned as falling within his jurisdiction, to which is frequently added some such phrase as, "together with all other creeks and rivers running into it." From as early a time therefore as we have knowledge, Berkshire waters were always under the government of the Master of the Thames, or of a deputy acting for him. Three earlier orders suggest that such an official was functioning six years earlier still, but this is not quite certain. These are all identical in substance, though slightly different in wording, and as they apply in a considerable degree to Berkshire, one of them may be quoted. It is dated at Woodstock, November 12th, 1356:—

"To all sheriffs mayors bailiffs lords masters and mariners of boats passing along the water of Thames, and lords of all streams of waters descending into the Thames between London and Oxford for twenty miles on every side, and other ministers and lieges. Whereas the king's son Edward Prince of Wales has deputed Simon Byflet and Nicholas de Mideford to keep his swans in the said water and streams by the supervision of Thomas Gerveys, and the said Simon, Nicholas and Thomas have given the King to understand that many of those swans, flying, and not flying, are dispersed in various places in the water and streams and far removed from them,

<sup>2</sup> *Rot. Claus.* 31 Henry III., m. 17d.

<sup>3</sup> *Idem.*, 33 H. III. m. 8.

which they cannot recover without his assistance; he, for the indemnity of his son, now in parts beyond the seas on business of the King and realm, has appointed the said Thomas, Simon and Nicholas to make search for all such swans, to take them when found and bring them to places where they can best be kept for the prince's use, and to take boats for making the search with their mariners for the moneys of the prince, arresting and bringing before the Council for due punishment any mariners they find contrariant or rebellious herein.<sup>4</sup>

The order of 1355 though otherwise not quite so detailed mentions those swans marked with the prince's mark, or which can be proved to be his. This is an interesting and early allusion to the custom of marking and it would be still more interesting if the Black Prince's mark could now be identified. MS. Rawlinson D 949. contains a mark ascribed to "the Prince," (No. 6 *infra*), and of course this may be an hereditary mark of the Prince of Wales. The roll contains a good many marks that go back to 1430 or 1450, but it would be a hazardous proceeding to suggest without further evidence that this particular one goes back yet another hundred years.

The first appointment of a Swan-Master that definitely mentions Berkshire as coming within his jurisdiction is that of John Drayton in 1377.<sup>5</sup> The appointment of John Fenne in 1400, in the same way makes particular mention of the river Loddon.<sup>6</sup> At the end of Henry VII.'s reign a Berkshire man, James Braybrook of Brightwaltham, was holding the office, but there is no record of his actual appointment.

It is probable that the Swan-Master appointed a deputy to exercise his functions on the intra-county waters, just as was done in Surrey, or even separate deputies for each single river, but no trace of such an appointment can be found. We know however that in certain instances deputies were acting, but there is nothing to guide us as to the range of their jurisdiction.

As has already been remarked all unmarked swans flying at liberty belong to the crown, but the sovereign could, and did very rarely, as a special privilege, grant a subject the right of taking

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<sup>4</sup> *Cal. Rot. Pat.*, 30 Ed. III., pt. II., m. 16.

<sup>5</sup> *Idem*, 1 Ric. II., pt. I., m. 26.

<sup>6</sup> *Idem*, 1 Hen. IV., pt. VI., m. 14.

such swans, to his own use, within a certain area and for a certain limited time. Very few such grants seem ever to have been made. On June 20th, 1356, however, such a grant was made, under the privy seal, for seven years, "to the Warden and College of the King's Free Chapel of Wyndesore of all swans flying, not marked, within the water of Thames between Oxford and London Bridge, as fully as these should pertain to the King by reason of his right and prerogative."<sup>7</sup>

There was a re-grant of the same rights for a similar term in 1390 and, by implication, this must have been extended for a further period, for on July 16th, 1398, the privilege was extended by the inclusion of the right of search:—

"Grant to Thomas Butiller, dean of the King's Free Chapel of Wyndesore, and the College of that place, to whom the King lately granted all unmarked swans flying in the river Thames, that they may whenever and as often as they please search for the said swans throughout the said river and all streams flowing to and from it, between Gravesende and Oxford Bridge."<sup>8</sup>

A third time the grant was renewed in 1400 to Richard Kyngeston, Dean of the King's Chapel and William Loueney, Keeper of the great wardrobe, jointly, for a period of ten years.<sup>9</sup>

Prior to the first re-grant to the Dean and College a similar one was made in 1384 "to the King's Clerk Richard Medford of all the flying swans which he, or others on his behalf, should be able to take in the Thames between Shene and Redyng," between the end of May and Christmas.<sup>10</sup> There does not appear to be any record of the marks used by these early owners. Prior to the passing of the statute of 22 Edward IV. which restricted the ownership of Swans to those having freehold property of a clear yearly value of five marks, it is evident, as in fact the preamble of that act specifically alleges, that ownership had fallen largely into the hands of less worthy people, and that a great deal of what we should now-a-days call poaching went on. We find then that between 1463 and 1477 Commissioners were appointed to sit in

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<sup>7</sup> *Idem*, 30 Ed. III., pt. II., m. 20.

<sup>8</sup> *Idem*, 22 Ric. II., pt. I., m. 33.

<sup>9</sup> *Idem*, 1 Hen. IV., pt. VII., m. 37.

<sup>10</sup> *Idem*, 8 Ric. II., pt. II., m. 11.

Swan-mote in various places to enquire by the oath of good men of the county of Berkshire (among others) into the capture of swans and cygnets on the river Thames from Cirencester to its mouth by hooks, nets "lymstrynges" and other engines and the taking of swans' eggs, and to arrest and imprison the offenders. Three such bodies of Commissioners were appointed for the Thames during those years,<sup>11</sup> while others were appointed for other parts of the kingdom. Humphrey Forster of Harpsden, near Henley, the father of Sir George Forster of Aldermaston (*vide infra*) and Thomas Babham of Cookham sat on all three Commissions. It was part of the Swan-Master's duties to present offenders and act as prosecutor before the Commissioners. The "hooks" referred to were the long handled crooks, resembling those of the shepherds, that were always used by the swan-herds when engaged in upping.

It is about this same time that real knowledge of the names of private owners and the marks they used begins. This is in the main derived from the official rolls of the Swan-Masters, that have been here and there preserved, or from private copies of them. Most of these belong to some part of the sixteenth century, but all contain some names of owners that flourished at an earlier period, even up to a century prior to the date when the rolls themselves were written. As a matter of fact those that now survive are almost without exception in part copies of earlier documents. The remainder of this paper is in this way based on the names and marks found on certain of these rolls. The earliest of these is one that formerly belonged to the Mayor and Bailiffs of New Windsor and was probably compiled in the latter half of the fifteenth century. It is now only known from a seventeenth century copy by Ashmole, contained in his collections for a history of that town in the Bodleian.<sup>12</sup> MS. Rawlinson D 949, also in the Bodleian, seems to have been compiled between 1539 and 1547, but with later additions made between 1580 and 1600.

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<sup>11</sup> *Idem*, 3 Ed. IV., pt. I., m. 17d; 10 Ed. IV., m. 4d. and 16 Ed. IV., pt. II, m. 4d.

<sup>12</sup> MS. Ashmole 826, ff. 138, 139.

The roll in the Pepysian Library at Cambridge seems to be of about the same date. MS. 8021 in Chetham's Library, Manchester, is a little later, about 1575, while MS. Rawlinson B3, in the Bodleian, belongs to the seventeenth century.

These are all general rolls for the Thames, but all owners' marks, whether used on the Thames itself, or on one of its tributary streams, would be entered on them. There is very little to guide us therefore to a knowledge of where the Swans of any particular owner were kept. We know from a few scraps of evidence that the Borough of Windsor had at one time birds on the Colne as well as on the Thames, and in like manner the Borough of Reading had them on both the Thames and Kennet. Though pinioned the birds were at liberty to go by water where they willed, and no doubt in course of time many travelled great distances, so that any given owner's birds might be very widely scattered. One can only judge that it would be probable in most cases that each owner would have the bulk of his birds as near as possible to his own ground and so it would fall out that owners living nearer the Kennet, Loddon and Lambourn would be more likely to have had their birds on one or other of these rivers than on the Thames itself.

All the marks, so far as we know, in use on the Thames and its tributaries, were, like the majority used elsewhere, upper mandible marks. There is no record on any of the rolls of a lower mandible mark, or of a foot, or leg mark, such as were used with a fair frequency in several other areas. The only hint that a leg mark was ever used on the Thames is contained in one of the sections of the "Orders" of 1632, which are based on a code in use on the Thames before 1584. It has reference to swans which have become forfeit to the King and lays down that :—

"No swanne (other than Cleerebild) is to be marked for the King on the beake, but onely on the legge. For two markes on the beake are unlawfull."

A "clear-billed" swan was an unmarked one. There is no record of what the mark on the leg was.

Thames marks as a whole come, in point of character and complexity, between those of the other two most important swan-keeping areas, Broadland and Fenland. There are few on the Thames so simple as the majority of Broadland marks and there are hardly any so elaborate as many Fenland ones. Apart too from the use of the Abbot's staff, which is quite a characteristic component of the marks of the Thames religious houses, there is an almost total absence of marks derived from weapons, objects of the chase, trades and husbandry that form such a large group amongst those of the Fenland. Marks, either pure monograms, or based on the initial letters of the owners' name form about 7 *per cent.* of Thames marks, which is about the same frequency with which they are found elsewhere, except in Surrey, where this is much higher. True heraldic marks, founded on the owners' arms, never more than about 2 *per cent.*, are illustrated in the list below by those of the Hulses (Nos. 85 and 86) the Fettiplaces (Nos. 60, 61, 62 and 64) and perhaps by that of the Prince of Wales (No. 6).

In this list each mark has been assigned to the earliest owner that can be identified with reasonable certainty as a Berkshire man, while subsequent owners, where known, are mentioned in the same paragraph. The arrangement of the marks is similar to that found on most rolls, the royal marks being given first, followed by those connected with the religious foundations and the Guildhalls, those of members of the House of Lords and then those of commoners in alphabetical order.

1. 2. 3. 4. THE KING. The royal castle of Windsor, as one of the chief residences of the crown, being situated within the county renders it appropriate to include some consideration of the royal marks in this catalogue. All the four here given are taken from the Windsor roll and so in all probability were in use at least as far back as the reign of Henry VI. About Nos. 3 and 4 we have no further information, they are not to be found on any later rolls and so probably fell into disuse before, or early in, the sixteenth century. No. 1 remained the chief

royal mark down to the reign of Charles II. at least, but as to how much later it was used we have no knowledge. It was also used for the royal birds in Broadland from quite early times, and in the Fenland from the latter part of Elizabeth's reign, though probably not earlier. No. 2 seems to have been assigned by either Henry VII. or Henry VIII. for the separate use of their consorts, for we find it recorded in Rawlinson D949 for the Queen side by side with No. 1 for the King. In the seventeenth century it was again used by the King's consorts, being introduced into Broadland also for this purpose during the reign of Charles I., though in this area roundels were used instead of annulets.

5. THE PRINCESS.

6. THE PRINCE. These two marks are from Rawlinson D949 and are not to be met with elsewhere. The fact that No. 5 is given precedence in the roll over No. 6 suggests that this part of it was copied from an earlier one of the reign of Edward IV., in which case No. 5 would have been then used by his eldest daughter, the Princess Elizabeth of York (*b.* 1465) and No. 6 by his eldest son Edward Prince of Wales (*b.* 1470). In Henry VIII.'s reign when the roll was actually written No. 5 would have been the property of the Princess Mary while No. 6 would not have had a living owner until the birth of Prince Edward in 1537, at or about the time when the roll was written. Both marks probably passed out of use during the reign of Elizabeth. No. 6 is perhaps a badly drawn and garbled representation of the sinister plume in the prince's badge.

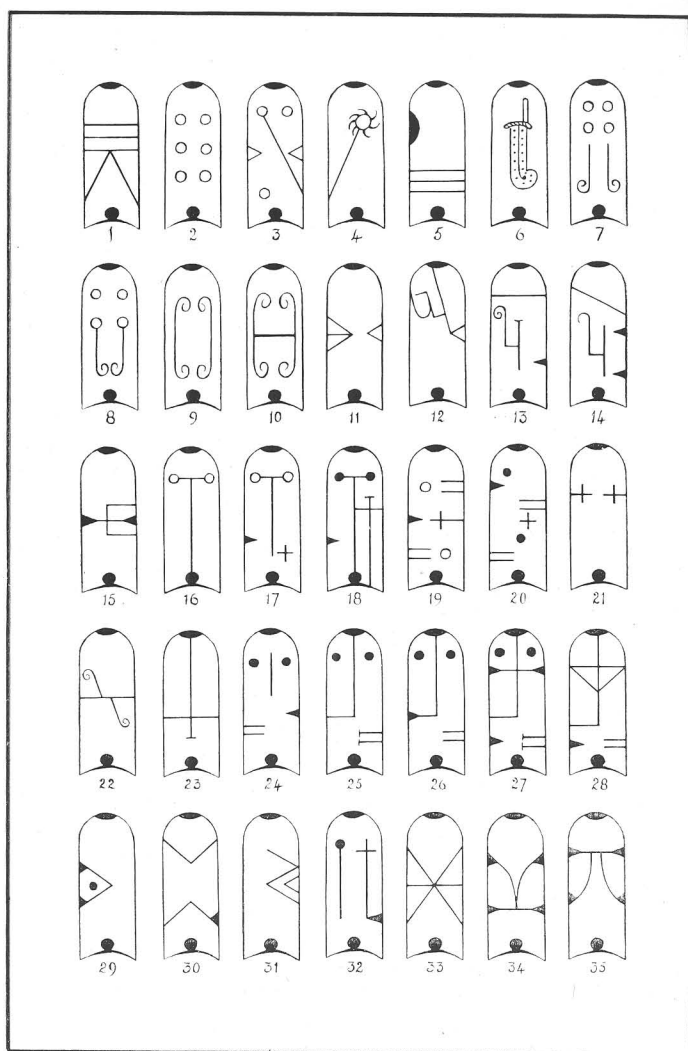
7. 8. THE ABBOT OF ABINGDON. No. 7 is probably the oldest phase of the mark, though there is no clue as to which of the Abbots differenced it by reversing the prior's staffs. These are a feature found as part of the marks of most of the religious foundations having Swans on the Thames, though curiously there are very few examples from other



areas. A third abbot differenced No. 7 by using roundels instead of annulets. The last three abbots were Alexander Shotisbrook, 1504-8, John Coventry, 1508-14 and Thomas Rowland, 1514-39, but the use of the mark probably long antedates the first one. After the dissolution No. 8 was owned by William Blacknill of Abingdon, alive in 1541, and his son William after him.

9. 10. THE PRIOR OF BISHAM. Here No. 9 is probably the oldest phase. A third prior differenced further by extending the cross-bar to the right edge of the bill. There is no record of a post-reformation owner.
11. "DUS DE CLEUER." This mark is from the Windsor roll and so dates from at least the latter half of the fifteenth century. As it is placed next to one given for "Dom<sup>s</sup> Pont<sup>s</sup> London" I take Dus to be short for Domus though it might equally read Dns as an abbreviation for Dominus. Neither reading however has led to a positive identification as I can find no Lord of Clewer or any trace of an early religious foundation there. The mark was afterwards used, differenced by reversal and the addition of a roundel in the left basal quarter of the bill, by Charles Rippon, whom I have not found.
12. 13. 14. THE PRIOR OF HURLEY. No. 12 is the oldest and probably fell into disuse before the end of the fifteenth century. No. 14 is clearly a later differencing of No. 13.
15. THE CONVENT OF READING. After the dissolution it was used by Thomas Garrard of Lambourn (*d.* 1583), who differenced it by omitting the gap on the left.
16. 17. 18. THE ABBOT OF READING. No. 16 is evidently the original mark, while 17 and 18 are later, differenced, phases of it. No. 16 may well have been the mark of John Thorne, abbot in 1446, though it is impossible to be sure, while No. 18 was probably the one used by the last abbot, Hugh Cook Faringdon (1520-1539).

SWAN-MARKS OF BERKSHIRE.



19. 20. THE ABBOT OF READING. Here again are evidently two variants of the same mark, pointing to a succession of owners, but it is impossible to decide whom they were. One of the variants of each group seems to have been in use simultaneously. Perhaps one mark was used on the Thames and the other on the Kennet.
21. THE PRIOR OF WALLINGFORD.
22. THE PRIOR OF WALLINGFORD. The two marks seem to have been in simultaneous use. No. 22 is also found differenced by the addition of a roundel in the right distal quarter. The two last Priors were John Thornton, prior in 1497 and 1503 and John Clare, prior in 1515. The house was one of those suppressed by Wolsey in 1529 in connexion with the foundation of Christ Church, Oxford, but the subsequent history of these marks is not recorded.
- No. 22 is hardly distinguishable from a mark that was used by a succession of owners in the Fenland throughout the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries.<sup>13</sup>
23. THE GUILD OF THE WHITE ROOD OF ABINGDON. The title is written on the roll " y<sup>e</sup> Gyld of Wht rode of Abendon " which seems to me to be a name analogous to that of the Guild of the Brown Rood of Great Yarmouth. The main (only) guild at Abingdon seems to have been usually known as the Guild of the Holy Cross, and whether there was a second, or whether this one had an alternative name, I know not, so for the present I hesitate to conclude that the Guild of the Holy Cross was this owner. It was incorporated in 1442. Westlake in his *Parish Guilds of Mediæval England* does not list any Guilds for Berkshire. After the suppression the mark was used by the Guildhall, i.e. the Mayor and Burgesses. Very few of the old parish guilds were possessors of swan-marks. One is recorded from Broadland and there were

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<sup>13</sup> cf. *Trans. Norfolk and Norwich Nat. Soc.* XII., p. 597, No. 54.

about eight in the Fenland. The present one is the only one outside those areas that I have met with.

24. 25. 26. 27. 28. THE GUILDHALL OF READING. These five marks represent the different phases of the mark of the Mayor and Corporation of Reading brought about by successive acts of differencing. No. 24 is the earliest, and is taken from the Register of the Acts of the Corporation under the date 1507, where it is thus recorded:—

“ The vew of the Game of Swannys belonging to the Maire and Burges of the Gilde Hall of Redyng after the marke above drawyn, browght in by Thomas Randall of Sonnyng on our Lady evyn th’ Assumpcion [August 15th] in the xxijth yere of Kyng Henry the vijth.”

The other four marks are taken from the swan-rolls and were evidently used at different times in pairs, perhaps for swans on two different waters.

The first knowledge we have of the keeping of Swans by the corporation is contained in an entry in the accounts of the Treasurers of the Common Chest for 1501-2.<sup>14</sup>

“ To Thomas Smyth for the mayor and burgeis game of swannes, in chaungynge of the name, and for tyth of the same . . . . . ijs.”

This suggests that the mayor and burgesses had then recently acquired their game of swans either by purchase or gift, though there is no mention of the customary alienation fee of 6s. 8d. for the acquisition of the mark. The fee entered seems to be fourpence, the fee for registering the mark in the swan-Masters roll (this was the usual fee on the Thames as laid down in the orders) and 1s. 8d. for tithe. Now this would only be paid on cygnets and we find that by an entry in the Windsor Corporation accounts (*infra*) that it was at the rate of two-pence a head, so that unless some charge for upping and marking is also included the Corporation must have started their game with one (or more) adult birds and

<sup>14</sup> *Hist. MSS. Com.* XI., App. pt. VII.

ten cygnets. These would have been bought as unmarked birds at the annual upping. Thomas Smyth was presumably the deputy acting for the Swan-Master, who was then James Braybrook.

By an entry three years later we learn that the Guildhall employed a swan-herd and paid him a fee of ten-pence a year. Thomas Randall of Sonning held the post in 1507 and Richard Deme from 1513 to 1521. In 1513 the stipend was increased to twenty pence a year and expenses. If one can judge from the single entry made in 1507<sup>15</sup> the Corporation Swans were then kept on the Kennet :—

“ Inprimis an Eyrer in Calcat broke [Calcot Brook] cowplid with my Lord of Redynge.”

which means that the Corporation owned a breeding bird in Calcot Brook mated with one belonging to the Abbot of Reading.

In 1513 the game consisted of seven white swans (*i.e.* adults) and one grey swan (*i.e.* one to three years old). By 1521 the numbers had increased to eight white swans, which the corporation appear to have considered their limit and to have maintained for the next thirty years or more. They were then distributed along the Thames between Hambledon and Cookham.

At no time is mention made in the register of any cygnets having been bred, and perhaps it was the persistent absence of such profits that induced the Mayor and Burgesses twenty-two years later to let their game on lease. Very few instances of such a thing being done have come to light. The Corporation of Oxford leased their game more than once and Christ's College, Cambridge, did so twice, but these are about the only other instances I have met with. In 1543 Thomas Benwell took the lease at a rent of three cygnets a year, to be delivered when the mayor should require them.

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<sup>15</sup> *Corporation Register, 1431-1654* (J. M. Guilding).

In 1544 the game was let to Nicholas Niclas, already a considerable private owner, for twenty years, at a rent of eight shillings a year. The full lease as recorded in the Register is given below under No. 105. On his death in 1548 Thomas Benwell was again granted a lease, this time also for twenty years, paying half a mark and one good cygnet a year. In each lease stipulation was made that the game should be maintained at eight white swans and delivered back at that figure at the end of the term. The cygnets paid by way of rent were no doubt consumed at the municipal banquets.

After 1548 the Registers are silent on the subject for over seventy years, but it is clear that, whether due to Benwell's neglect or otherwise the stock died out, for in 1619 we find the following entry :—

" At this daye [September 17th] it was agreed that the Game of Swannes aunciently belonginge to this Corporacion shalbe renued, and the number nowe marked for this towne by Mr. Wyatt, deputye to the Lord Chieffe Baron, and Mr. John Whistler, beinge 15 in number, shalbe paid for by the cofferers videlicet, the signettes at iiijjs. vjd. a peice, and the Sluggards at vjs. a peice, and that from hencefourth an yearly regard shalbe had of them."

Sir Lawrence Tanfield, Lord Chief Baron, was then the King's Swan-Master. Sluggards were the birds previously called grey swans.

So little was the " yearly regard " had of them that the Registers only chronicle one more entry, a resolution recorded on September 1st, 1624 that " The game of swans belonging to the Corporacion shall hencefourth be mayntayned and lookt unto." It had dwindled in that short time to one old swan and four young ones. The Corporation swan-herd was then Henry Salter. It is probable that much more information could be gleaned on the subject by a detailed examination of the Treasurer's accounts for the sixteenth and early seveneenth centuries and it is to be hoped that these will some day be transcribed and published in the same way that the Registers have been.

29. THE GUILDHALL OF WINDSOR. The Mayor and Burgesses had apparently owned a swan-mark from very early times, but by the beginning of the sixteenth century the game of swans had long died out and no one then on the Council had any recollection of the mark used and the town possessed no record of it. In 1505 it occurred to some one, perhaps Andrew Bereman (*vide infra*), that it was desirable to revive the custom of keeping swans, so search was made, the mark found and duly registered, and the game of Swans refounded as the following extract from the Corporation Books records :—

" This is the merke whiche was of olde tyme geuyn to the Gylde hall of Wydesore, and is of an old aunciente belongs to the Game in Tamyse whiche game is lost wastid and werne away But neuthelasse by diligent labour and serche made in the Kings standing Roll of the said game is founden the seid Merke. And at the labour of the Meier and Burgeises of the seid Borowgh wth the Comunalte of the same the seid mke is restored now ageyn to the foresd Gylde haule and is entred in the Swanherdes Boke the Saturday the 9th day of August in the 20th yere of the reigne of or Souaigne Lord K<sup>e</sup> Henry the 7th. In the tyme of John Scott alias Cony then being Meyer, Willm Pery and Richard Passlue, Baillifes." <sup>16</sup>

The mark drawn accompanying this record is as depicted here. In the seventeenth century the roundel was omitted.

Seven months previously John Scott of Dorney, Bucks, had restarted the Borough Game with a present of one of his male swans. The annual upping evidently took place on August 9th, when this bird, who now had two cygnets with him as his share of his family, was registered for the town, which further augmented its game by the purchase of four more :—

" This Merke was Mastir Scottes of Dorney wch is Steward of the Towne and Borough of Wyndesor whiche of his gode mynde gaf vnto the Gylde haule of Wyndesor on Cok of his Game the 12th day of Januar in the 20th yere of the reigne of Or Souaigne Lord Kyng Henry the 7th at ye instance and request of the afor seid Meyer and his Brethern wth al the comunalty of the same Towne. Whervvpon at Vpping season next folowinge the seid Meior and his Brethern wth the

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<sup>16</sup> Bodl. MS. Ashmole 1126, f. 22d.

Comunalitie was admitted to the seid Cok by Harry Wykes Mr deputie for y<sup>t</sup> tyme being of the hole game w<sup>th</sup> in Tamise aforeside. Which gaf us an addicon to the same Cok y<sup>t</sup> is to wete this Merke O callid an Oylithole, the 9th day of August and the yere aboue seid. At whiche tyme was paid by the hande of Andrew Bereman, wh<sup>ch</sup> was a singular benefactor in the seide cause, thise fees following

	s.	d.
First paid to the owner of the henne for 2 signettes	4	8
It. to Mountague for the ground birde ... ..	2	0
It. for halfe a birde ... ..	0	10
It. for the tithe of 2 birds and a halfe ... ..	0	5
It. to Harry Wykes for his reward ... ..	0	8
It. for Vpping ... ..	0	2
It. for mking ye Cok and 6 signettes ... ..	0	1
It. for Montagew ... ..	0	1
It. spent at parishes house vpon the Swanherdes	0	6
Sum	9s.	5d. <sup>17</sup>

The mark drawn with this record is the same as that given for John Scott on the swan-rolls. The addition to it of the annulet ("Oylithole") allowed by the Swan-master, to distinguish this bird from the remainder of the Scott game is an interesting confirmation of the custom, that I have called differencing, and which was deduced from an intimate study of the marks on different rolls.

In the first item of the account the hen of the unnamed owner was without doubt paired with the Scott cock and the brood evidently consisted of six cygnets. Two of these would have been allotted to the owner of the cock (now the Guildhall) and two to the owner of the hen, according to the ancient custom. The hen owner's share was then purchased for the Guildhall. The ownership of the odd bird in a brood was determined in different ways in different areas. Here it was evidently the custom (as at Oxford) for the two owners to come to an amicable agreement, the one taking the odd bird paying half its value to the other, hence the expression in the third item "for halfe a birde." Such cygnets were generally spoken of as "half-birds." It will be noted that it was valued at 1s. 8d. as against 2s. 4d. each for

<sup>17</sup> *Idem*, f. 36d.



the others. This probably indicates an inferiority in size or vigour, such as is not infrequently seen in one member of a brood. It is clear however that each owner paid his own tithe, so perhaps the higher price paid for the other two is partly accounted for by including the tithe. The sixth bird of the brood was the "ground birde" of the second item in the account. This was the bird that was customarily allotted from every brood to the owner of the ground on which the nest had been built. This was one of the ancient customs of swan-keeping and is included in every code of "Orders." That of 1584 has it thus:—

"Itm. the ancient cvstome of this Realme hath and doth allow unto euery owner of such ground where any such swan shall heiry to take one land bird and for the same the Queenes Maiestie must have of him that hath the land bird xijd."

In the "Orders" of 1632 the reason for this is given:—

"then the owner of the grasse where they breed must have the third, for the spoyle of his grasse: and must pay the King Twelve pence for the same Land bird."

If the owner of the ground was himself a gamester he could add the ground-bird to his own game, or if he did not wish to do so, or if he was not a gamester, the bird was sold, as in the present instance, to any one of the qualified owners present, the owner of the ground of course taking the proceeds. In this particular case the Mountague mentioned was without much doubt Robert Mountague of Boveney, Bucks, whose land bordered the Thames between Dorney and Windsor and who was a gamester at this time, his mark being recorded on the rolls.

The eightpence paid to Harry Wykes, the deputy swan-master, was made up of two fees of four-pence, the amount authorised on the Thames for registering a swan-mark on his roll, one for the Guildhall mark and one for the differenced Scott mark.

The upping and marking fees appear to be extraordinarily low, but there is but little information on this point at this period. A century later they were a penny for every white swan and two-pence for each cygnet.

Expenditures on "treating" the swan-herds are features of all similar accounts.

A passage from the same source some sixty years later shows that the game had in the meanwhile been maintained and then stood at fourteen birds, exclusive of cygnets :—

"The Game of Swanes belonging to the Towne Hall upped by Raimond Redding a° 6 Eliz. [1564].

Whit game.

Vpon Coulney streame	...	...	2	one being a breeder.
Putney	...	...	1	
Cheswyk	...	...	1	Cobb.
Kew	...	...	1	Cobb.
Ditton	...	...	1	hen the brood destroyd.
Sunbury	...	...	1	
Leyton	...	...	1	
Chertsey	...	...	1	hen the brood destroyd.
Eghame meade	...	...	2	one hen a breeder.
Old Wyndsor	...	...	1	
Datchet ferry	...	...	2	one hen, the brood left.
Sum of the Swans—14."				

30. THE EARL OF SALISBURY. This owner must have been Richard Nevill, who was created Earl of Salisbury in 1442 and died in 1460, or his son, Richard, Earl of Warwick, who succeeded to his father's title on his death and himself died in 1471. It is not at all probable that either of the two later holders of this title can be identified as the owner of this mark. The first, George, Duke of Clarence, who was created Earl of Salisbury and Warwick in 1472 and died in 1477, already possessed one, which is entered on the rolls under his primary title. If the present one had also been his it would have had a similar heading. At the same time it is of course possible that he may have inherited it, in right of his wife, Isabel, one of Richard Nevill the younger's daughters and co-heirs. This however is improbable as Richard died under attain.

The other, Edward Plantaganet, son of Richard, Duke of Gloucester, created Earl of Salisbury in 1478, need hardly be considered, as he was only a child of five, and died six years later.

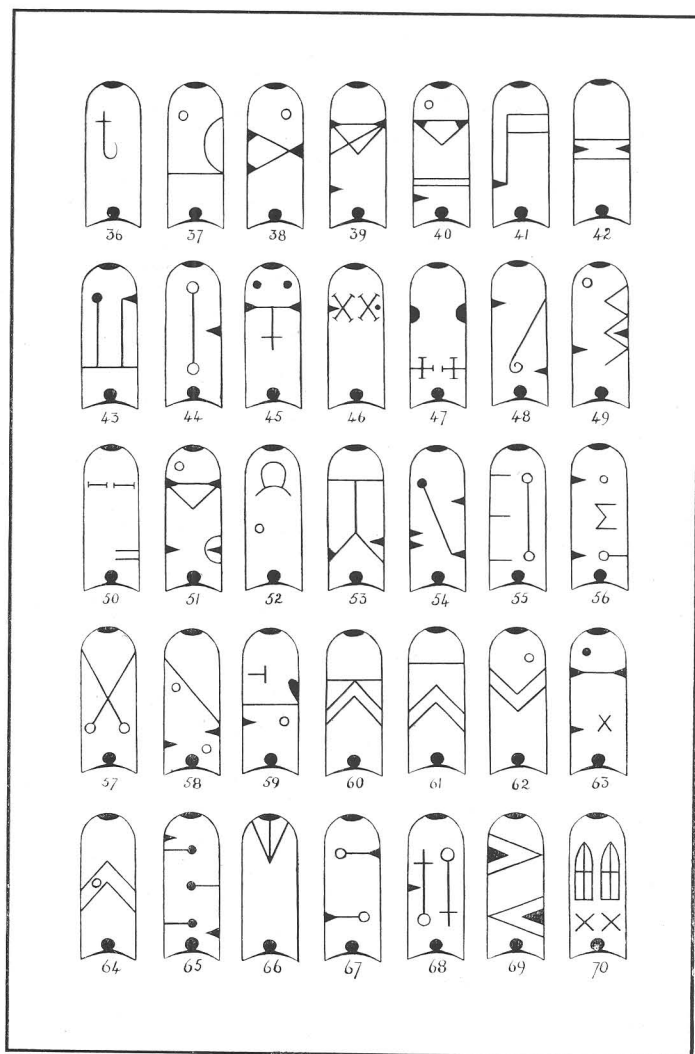
The manor of Bisham had long been connected with the Montacutes and Nevills, Earls of Salisbury, and both the above Richards were buried in the Priory Church there.

The mark is also recorded, without the gap, for Thomas Kemay whom I cannot identify.

31. LORD NORREYS. Sir Henry Norreys of Wytham and Rycote, Oxon, son of Henry Norreys of Yattendon (No. 108) was M.P. for Berkshire in 1547 and Constable of Wallingford Castle. He was knighted in 1566, created Baron Norreys of Rycote in 1572 and died in 1601. This is his uncle, Sir John Norreys' mark (No. 109) differenced.
32. JOHN ADEANE, of Wallingford.
33. RICHARD BABHAM, of Babham End, Cookham, *d.* 1527. Thomas Babham, who died about 1490 and presumably Richard's father or grandfather, was appointed a commissioner of Swan-mote for the Thames in 1463, 1470 and 1477.  
In the seventeenth century the mark was owned by a Mr. Palmer, perhaps Richard of Wokingham, who was alive in 1646.
34. ANTHONY BARKER, of Sonning, *d.* 1546. He was the second son of John Barker of Wokingham (No. 35) and brother of William (No. 36). This is of course his father's mark differenced by inversion.
35. JOHN BARKER, of Wokingham.
36. WILLIAM BARKER, of Sonning, *d.* 1549. His son William Barker of Sonning (*d.* 1575) differenced the mark by adding a gap at the middle of the left edge of the bill. This is the old mark of the Bishops of Llandaff, differenced by reversal.

37. WALTER BARTON, of Reading, *d.* 1538. After his death the mark was used by Edward Whistler of Gatehampton, Oxon, who died in 1577, and then by Richard Palmer of Wokingham.
38. THOMAS BEAKE, of White Knights, M.P. for Reading 1451 and 1461, Mayor in 1458-9, 1462-3 and 1476-7. His grandson Thomas differenced the mark by omitting the annulet.
39. THOMAS BEAKE, *idem.* Thomas the younger differenced by adding a gap at the left end of the diagonal line.
40. THOMAS BEAKE. This owner is probably Thomas the grandson and the mark a derivative of No. 39. It was afterwards used by Christopher Litcott of Ruscombe who made a further alteration (*cf.* No. 97).
41. THOMAS BESTNEY, M.P. for Reading 1483.
42. WILLIAM BISLEY, of Abingdon, *viv.* 1508.
43. BOOTHE. No christian name is given on the roll. This is frequently an indication that the original owner was dead when the roll was written, so it is possible that in this case he was Charles Boothe of Barkham, whose son Francis was alive in 1566.
44. JAMES BRAYBROOK of Brightwaltham, *d.* 1590. His grandfather James, who was Swan-Master for the Thames and died before May 23rd 1509, may have also owned the mark, but this is uncertain.
45. HARRY BRYGGES, of Shefford and Newbury, high sheriff of Berks, and Oxon 1520 and 1530, *viv.* 1532. His son Sir Richard Brygges of West Shefford, high sheriff in 1539 and 1555, knighted in 1553, died 1558, differenced by using annulets instead of roundels.  
Curiously enough this mark is almost identical with one used in the Fenland about the same period by Henry Lacey of Stamford, Lincs.
46. WILLIAM BROCAS, of Cookham, high sheriff of Berks, and Oxon 1458. It was later used by James Verrey, whom

SWAN-MARKS OF BERKSHIRE.



PL. II.

I have been unable to find. He differenced by using an annulet instead of a roundel.

47. WILLIAM BROWNSOPP, of Bray, dead before 1566.
48. THOMAS BUCKLAND, of Reading. This mark is probably a derivative of one of the old marks of the abbots of Chertsey.<sup>18</sup>
49. THOMAS BULLOCK, of Arborfield. His son Richard, who was alive in 1566, differenced by substituting an annulet for the roundel and by moving the gap close up to it.
50. WILLIAM BURLEY, of Wokingham.
51. STEPHEN CAWOOD, of Wokingham. The original owner of this mark was Nicholas Niclas of Reading (*d.* 1548), who himself differenced it in several ways. One of these variants (No. 107A) then became the property of Thomas Welden of Shottesbrook (No. 134) who differenced it by changing the roundel into an annulet. It then passed to the present owner who at first used it as he received it, but afterwards added the gap within the semi-circle at the right base, as here drawn.
52. JOHN CHEYNEY, of West Woodhay. His son John changed the annulet into a roundel.
53. JOHN DUNWICHE, or Dunche, of Rodbroke.
54. WILLIAM DUNCHE, of Little Wittenham, *d.* 1597. This is one of the old marks of the Abbots of Newark, differenced by the addition of the two gaps on the left side. (*vide loc. cit.* No. 34).
55. SIR THOMAS ENGLEFIELD, of Englefield, knighted 1501, died 1513. His son, Sir Thomas, who was a Justice of the Common Pleas and died in 1537, used the mark with roundels instead of annulets.
56. MISTRESS ENGLEFIELD. The initial "M" as part of the mark suggests that this lady was Dame Margery (Danvers) the wife of Sir Thomas the elder.

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<sup>18</sup> *Surrey Arch. Coll.* 38, p. 42, No. 31.

57. **SIR WILLIAM ESSEX**, of Lambourn, high sheriff of Berks and Oxon 1509, 1524 and 1540, knighted 1513.  
This is the mark of John Roger of Benham (No. 122), differenced by the substitution of an annulet for the triangle on the left hand side of the device, and came to Sir William through his marriage with Elizabeth, the daughter and heir of Thomas Roger of Benham, John's grandson. The full pedigree is given under the earlier owner.
58. **THOMAS EVERARD**, of Reading, mayor in 1521-2, 1525-6, 1529-30 and 1534-5, died 1535.  
Thomas his son, alive in 1566, differenced the mark by substituting roundels for annulets and by moving the gaps opposite to one another.
59. **THOMAS FERRERS**, of Cookham Lowabroke.
60. **JOHN FETTIPLACE** of East Shefford and Besselsleigh, high sheriff of Berks and Oxon, 1523, died 1524.
61. **SIR RICHARD FETTIPLACE**, of Besselsleigh, knighted 1603.  
He was a great-great-grandson of John (No. 60), to whose mark he had succeeded, differencing it by separating the chevrons from the cross-bar.
62. **SIR THOMAS FETTIPLACE**, of East Shefford, high sheriff of Berks and Oxon, 1435, died about 1450.  
All these three marks are derived from the family arms:—gules, two chevrons argent.
63. **WALTER FETTIPLACE**, of Buckland, alive about 1490. The mark was afterwards used by Alexander Fettiplace of Swinbrooke, Oxon, who died in 1564.
64. **WILLIAM FETTIPLACE**, of Maidencote, *viv.* 1566. He was a great-grandson of Sir Thomas (No. 62) to whose mark he had succeeded, differencing it by inversion and by altering the position of the annulet.
65. **SIR GEORGE FORSTER**, of Aldermaston, knighted 1501, high sheriff of Berks and Oxon, 1516, died 1526. His father, Humphrey Forster of Harpsden, Oxon, was one of the

Commissioners of Swan-mote for the Thames in 1463, 1470 and 1477.

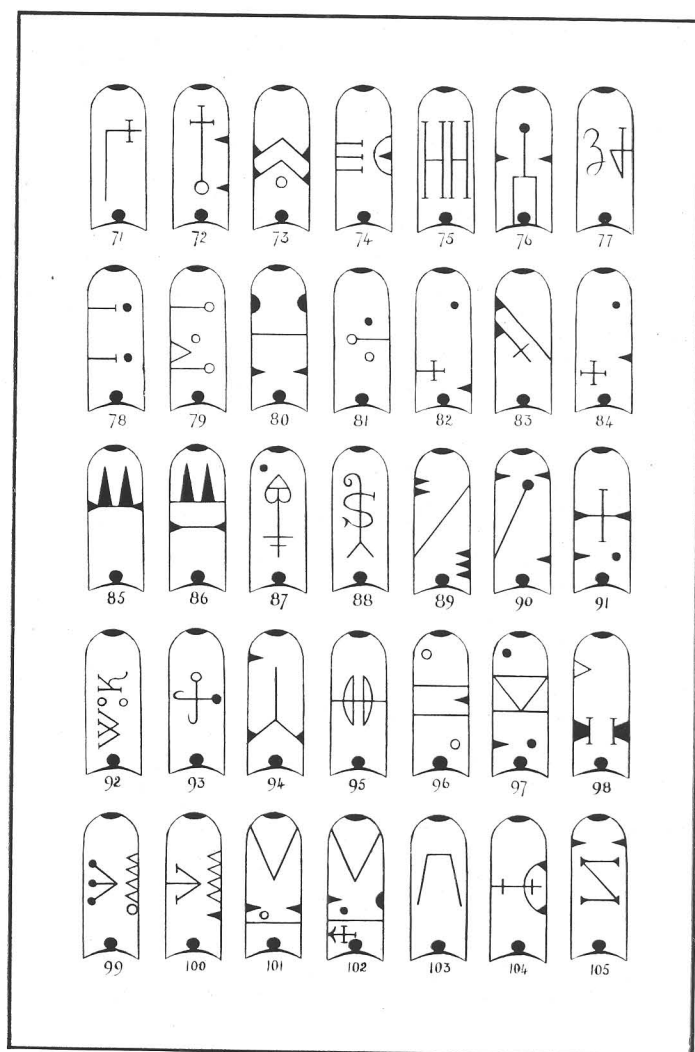
His son, Sir Humphrey Forster of Aldermaston, high sheriff in 1532 and 1545 differenced the mark by omitting the gaps.

66. ROBERT FORSTER, of Bray.
67. HENRY GAPE, of Reading, admitted a Burgess in 1555, served the office of Constable in 1558 and is described as "Gent" in 1573.  
The same mark is catalogued for a Mr. Tatnall and Dr. Hovenden but I cannot identify either of them.
68. WILLIAM GIFFORD, of Reading, mayor in 1511-12, 1520-21 and 1524-5, and Burgess of Parliament in 1512.
69. WILLIAM GIFFORD, *idem*. This mark was also owned by John Cockys, who was Town Clerk of Reading in 1510. It is a difficult point to decide as to which of the two was the original, but I am inclined to think it was John Cockys.
70. SIR JOHN GOLAFRE, of Fyfield, high sheriff of Berks and Oxon 1397, 1398, 1414 and 1424, died 1442. He left a single daughter and heir, but no later owner of the mark is recorded.
71. JOHN HACHE, of White Waltham, alive about 1550.
72. 73. 74. 75. THOMAS HARRISON, of Finchampstead, alive in 1566.
76. JOHN HERLE, of Lambourn.
77. HENRY HIDE, of Abingdon.
78. JOHN HIDE, of Denchworth. The mark is not recorded as being used by his son, Oliver, but his grandson William, of Denchworth and Kingston Lisle, who was high sheriff of Berks and Oxon in 1551, and died in 1557 differenced it by substituting annulets for roundels. His son, William (*d.* 1567) reverted to the original mark.
79. 80. JOHN HIDE, *idem*.



81. JOHN HILDESLEY of Benham, alive in 1566.
82. JOHN HOLCOTT, of Burcote, in Buckland, alive about 1530.  
The mark is given also, without the gap, for Richard Holcott. Only a very small scrap of Holcott pedigree seems to be available, giving John's wife and children, and I cannot connect Richard with them. The fact however that this mark and No. 84 occur side by side on the same roll, pointing to simultaneous use, suggests that John and Richard were brothers and I would hazard a guess that their father may also have been Richard and used the mark without the gap, while the sons divided his game between them, John differencing by adding a gap behind the cross and Richard one in front of it. (Cf. also the Hulse marks, Nos. 85 and 86).
83. JOHN HOLCOTT, *idem*. No later owner is recorded.
84. RICHARD HOLCOTT, of Burcote, in Buckland (see remarks under No. 82).
85. MR. HULSE. No christian name is given, but the mark is derived from the family arms:—argent, two piles sable. The occurrence of this mark on an earlier roll than the one which gives No. 86, a more elaborate mark, for Andrew Hulse suggests that this one was used by Andrew's father, William Hulse of Sutton Courtenay, who was dead before 1566.
86. ANDREW HULSE, of Sutton Courtenay, alive in 1566. This is evidently No. 85 differenced by the addition of the cross-bar and the shifting of the gaps. Side by side on the same roll this same mark is given, but differenced by inversion, for Richard Hulse, an owner I have failed to find in any of the pedigrees. He was without much doubt a contemporary of Andrew's and, I should suggest, his brother, but unfortunately there is no proof. Altogether the case seems to be parallel to that of the Holcott marks (Nos. 82 and 84) and I may add that I have found several similar instances of succession and differencing among Fenland marks.

SWAN-MARKS OF BERKSHIRE.



Pl. III.

87. WILLIAM JUSTICE, of Reading, merchant, M.P. for Reading 1509-10 and mayor in 1513-14. He had no male heir, but no later owner is recorded.
88. SIMON KENT, M.P. for Reading 1447 and 1449. The family appears to have belonged to Hungerford.
89. SIR JOHN KENTWOOD, of Childrey.
90. JOHN KNIGHT, of Newbury, alive about 1580. The mark had earlier belonged to Geoffrey Kidwelly, whom I cannot find.
91. ROBERT KNOLLYS, of Stanford, M.P. for Reading 1584-86 and for Berkshire 1588. This is the mark of his father Sir Francis Knollys of Rotherfield Greys, Oxon, differenced by the addition of the basal gap and roundel.
92. WILLIAM KNOLLYS, of Caversham Park, *b.* 1544, Treasurer of the Household to Queen Elizabeth, created Baron Knollys 1603, Viscount Wallingford 1616 and Earl of Banbury 1626, *d.s.p.* 1632. The mark was in use many years before his elevation to the peerage.
93. EDWARD LANGFORD, of Bradfield, high sheriff of Berks and Oxon, 1446 and 1447. Sir John Langford (presumably his grandson), knighted in 1497, high sheriff in 1508, inherited the mark and differenced it by converting the annulet into a roundel. At his death in 1508 it passed to Sir William Stafford the husband of his only daughter and heir Anne (see No. 129).
94. THOMAS LATTON, of Upton, *viv. temp.* Edward IV.
95. WILLIAM LATTON, of Kingston Bagpuise, grandson of Thomas (No. 94).
96. CHRISTOPHER LITCOTT, of Ruscombe, gentleman pensioner to Henry VIII. and train-bearer to Anne Boleyn, *d.* 1554. This is possibly the same mark (differenced by the addition of the annulets) as was used by Henry Fitzroy, Duke of Richmond, who died without issue in 1536.
97. CHRISTOPHER LITCOTT, *idem.* This is Thomas Beake's mark (No. 40) differenced by moving the bar forward and

- adding the basal roundel. It afterwards belonged to Sir Christopher Litcott of West Hannay, knighted in 1591, *d.s.p.* 1599, who further differenced it by adding a gap at each end of the distal bar.
98. ROBERT LOGGINS, of Bray and Staverton.
  99. ROBERT LOGGINS, *idem.* This is the Stafferton mark (No. 126) differenced, which he inherited, together with the manor of Staverton, by his marriage with Eleanor, the daughter and heir of Humphrey Stafferton of Staverton.
  100. SIMON LOGGINS, of Staverton, *viv.* 1566, son of Robert, No. 99. This is a further differencing of the Stafferton mark (*cf.* Nos. 126 and 99). It was later still used by Anthony Blgrave of Bulmarsh Court, Sonning,
  101. 102. LOVEDEN. These two marks occur together on the same roll, but no christian names are given. The second is obviously a differenced edition of the first, and both were in simultaneous use. It seems quite probable I think that they belonged respectively to Thomas Loveden of Lambourn and his son Walter of Fyfield, who were both alive in 1566.
  103. RICHARD LYFORD, of Peasemore, alive about 1580-1615.
  104. SIR THOMAS DE LA MARE, of Aldermaston, high sheriff of Berks and Oxon, 1459, 1476, 1481 and 1489, died 1489. The mark should normally have passed on to Sir George Forster (No. 65) who married his daughter and heir and acquired the manor, but there is no record of it.
  105. NICHOLAS NICLAS, of Reading, Alderman in 1546, died 1548. He seems to have been one of those owners to be met with in every swan-keeping area, who exploited the commercial aspect of the privilege. He evidently owned a large number of birds and began operations with three marks (Nos. 105, 106 and 107). Then as his stock increased in numbers he probably moved some to other waters and increased his number of marks by successive differencing, so that the various colonies could be

separated. In this way he increased his marks to seven, but not content with this in 1544 he took a twenty years lease of the game belonging to the Guildhall of Reading, under which, so long as he maintained the game at eight white swans, he had all the profits in the way of cygnets and could mark these with one or other of his own marks. The lease as recorded in the Register of the Corporation is as follows :—

" At this day [October 6th, 1544] is graunted to Nicholas Niclas the game of Swannes, that is to witt, viij Swannes, to have to hym from the feast of Saynt Michael th' Archaungell last past unto th' end and terme of xx yeres, if the seid Nicholas so long do lyve, yeldyng and payng therfor yerely to the seide Mayour and Burgeses viijs. sterling at ij<sup>o</sup> termys in the yere, that is to witt, at the feastes of th' Annunciacion of our Lady and Saynt Michael th' Archaungell, by yeven porcions ; the seide Nicholas to maynteyn and kepe the stock, that is to witt, viij Swannes in the merke of the Hall contynowally, and in the end of the seid terme, or after the decease of the seid Nicholas shall delyver and yeld upp unto the seid Mayour and Burgeses or to their successours viij good white Swannes in the merke of the Hall."

106. NICHOLAS NICLAS, *idem*. After his death the game of this mark became the property of John Marston of Horton in Epsom, who was alive in 1563.<sup>19</sup>

107. NICHOLAS NICLAS, *idem*. This mark was differenced as above mentioned in four stages :—

107A. a gap was added at either end of the transverse bar and a roundel at the left side of the tip of the bill. After Nicholas's death this game was acquired by Thomas Welden of Shottesbrook (No. 134), who further differenced the mark by changing the roundel into an annulet. Later still it passed to Stephen Cawood of Wokingham, who used it at first without alteration, but later made a further addition as drawn in No. 51.

107B. two gaps were added just as in A., and a third on the right edge opposite the basal one. This variant afterwards became the property of the

<sup>19</sup> Surrey Arch. Coll. 36, p. 46, No. 43.

Stafferton's of Warfield, who substituted an " S " for the basal gap on the right and added an annulet at the left tip of the bill. (No. 128).

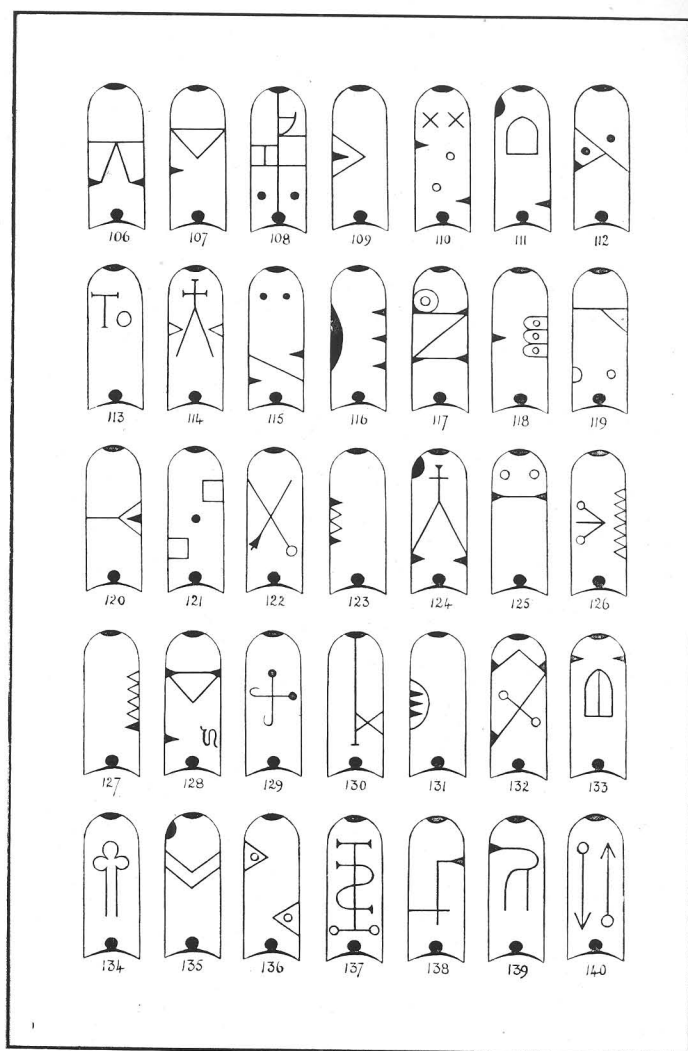
107C. the same alterations were made as in B. with in addition a semi-circular gap on each side of the tip of the bill and an annulet between the left hand one and the transverse bar.

107D. the same alterations were made as in C., but the annulet was situated centrally at the tip of the bill and the gaps at each end of the transverse bar were omitted.

There are no later records of the use of the last two variants.

108. SIR HENRY NORREYS, second son of Sir Edward Norreys of Yattenden, gentleman of the privy chamber and keeper of the privy purse to Henry VIII., executed 1536. It will be noted that since he died under attaint his son, afterwards Lord Norreys (No. 31), did not use this mark, but that of his uncle Sir John (No. 109).
109. SIR JOHN NORREYS, of Yattenden, esquire of the body to Henry VIII., *d.s.p.* 1564. The mark ante-dates his knighthood as he is entered on the roll without any title. He was succeeded by his nephew Henry, afterwards Lord Norreys, who differenced the mark as shown in No. 31.
110. JOHN NORRIS, of Fyfield. The same mark was also used by Sir Richard Fowler of Rycote, Oxon, who died in 1527, but I am unable to determine which was the original owner.
111. SIR JOHN NORREYS, of Ockholt in Bray and Yattenden, high Sheriff of Berks and Oxon—1442 and 1457, *d.* 1467.
112. SIR WILLIAM NORREYS, of Yattenden, knighted 1460, high sheriff in 1468-9, 1482-3 and 1486, *d.* 1507.
113. THOMAS ORPWOOD, of Abingdon, mayor in 1562, 1569 and 1575.

SWAN-MARKS OF BERKSHIRE.



Pl. IV.

114. MR. ORPWOOD. No christian name is given, but he was probably Paul of Abingdon, son of Thomas (No. 113) and mayor in 1585 and 1593.
115. JOHN PALMER, of Woolhampton, alive in 1566.
116. RICHARD PERKYNS, of Ufton, *d.s.p.* 1560. The mark was afterwards used by his brother and heir, William.
117. NICHOLAS PAYNE, of Wallingford, comptroller of the household to Queen Elizabeth.
118. WILLIAM PEKE, or Peck, of Maidenhead, alive about 1480. The mark is also given for Gilbert Peck, but I cannot find him.
119. JOHN PUDSEY, of Abingdon, Town Clerk in 1566.
120. THOMAS READE, of Barton, near Abingdon, *d.* 1575.
121. JOHN RICHARDES, of Burghfield, *viv.* 1545.
122. JOHN ROGER, of Benham, high sheriff of Berks and Oxon 1445 and 1452. Though nowhere recorded for his son, or his grandson Thomas, it must have passed through their hands for we next find it the property of Sir William Essex, who had married Thomas's daughter and heir Elizabeth. He differenced it as drawn in No. 57. Later still it belonged to John Roysse of Abingdon, who died in 1571. He inverted the mark and substituted roundels for annulets.  
It had originally belonged to an owner named Foxley, perhaps connected with the Sir John Foxley, who was buried at Bray in 1378.
123. ROBERT SAMPSON, of Binfield, clerk of the council to Henry VII. and VIII.
124. WILLIAM SEY, of Denchworth, *d.* 1493. A William Sey was usher of the chamber to Henry VI., but whether the same man or not is uncertain. The fact that the mark is found on another roll without the gap at the tip of the bill rather suggests that there were two men of the same name, father and son.



125. RICHARD SPIER of Scarletts in Wargrave, alive about 1580.
126. HUMPHREY STAFFERTON, of Staverton, He left a daughter and heir, Eleanor, who married Robert Loggins (No. 99) who thus became possessed of both the manor and the mark, which he differenced as drawn above.
127. RICHARD STAFFERTON, of Warfield. He was first cousin, once removed, to Humphrey. I am inclined to think that this mark, or one slightly different, must at one time have been used by their common ancestor Rafe Stafferton, Humphrey's grandfather, and that the broad arrow in No. 126 was added as a difference mark either by Humphrey or his father Richard. This however is pure speculation.
128. RICHARD STAFFERTON, of Warfield. There were three generations of Richard Staffertons ; this owner must have been the second one, son of No. 127.  
This is Nicholas Niclas's mark (No. 107B) differenced by the substitution of the "S" for a gap. The third Richard Stafferton differenced again by adding an annulet at the tip of the bill on the left side.
129. SIR WILLIAM STAFFORD, of Bradfield, high sheriff of Berks and Oxon 1529, knighted 1545, dead before 1564.  
This is Edward Langford's mark (No. 93) as differenced and used by Sir John Langford, whose daughter and heir, Anne, was the wife of Sir William Stafford.
130. JOHN STANSHAW, of Reading, alive in 1566. The mark originally belonged to John Danyall one of the commissioners of Swan-mote for the Thames in 1463, but I cannot identify him more particularly.
131. SIR ALEXANDER UNTON, or Umpton, of Wadley, near Faringdon, knighted 1546, died 1547. The original owner of the mark was named Ferley.
132. THOMAS VACHELL, of Coley, M.P. for Reading 1536, 1545, 1553 and 1556. He was supervisor of the possessions of the late abbey of Reading remaining in crown hands.

133. THOMAS WARDE, of Winkfield, Bailiff of the Liberties of Hurley 1536, alive in 1566. A later Mr. Warde, presumably his son, Richard Warde of Hurst, differenced the mark by omitting the gaps.
134. THOMAS WELDEN, of Shottesbrook. For his second mark see No. 107A.
135. OLIVER WELLESBOURNE of West Hanney, dead before 1566.
136. JOHN WILLIAMS, of Burghfield, high sheriff of Berks and Oxon 1544, *d.s.p.* before 1566.
137. JOHN WINCHECOMBE, alias Smallwood, of Newbury, clothier, *d.* 1519. Familiarly known as "Jack of Newbury."
138. SIR THOMAS WOOD, Justice of the Common Pleas, 1495, Chief Justice 1500, Knighted in 1501, *d.* 1502, is buried in Reading abbey.
139. JOHN YATE, of Buckland, *d.* 1578.
140. WILLIAM YOUNGE, of Basildon, dead before 1599.