

A NOTE ON THE JALL OR YALE IN HERALDRY.

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Mr. Druce's researches into what may be called the natural history of the heraldic jall or yale have established clearly that the yale and the heraldic antelope are independent beasts, and after his examination of certain authorities, to which I was able to refer him, he has come to the same conclusion that I had previously. This is that practically the main difference between the yale and the antelope in mediaeval representations is in the curious disposition of the yale's horns. It is also clear from the contemporary evidence of seals and monuments that the yale and the antelope were simultaneously borne as badges or supporters by several important persons in the fifteenth century.

The yale comes first into view heraldically as the sinister supporter of the arms of John Beaufort, duke of Somerset, on his stall-plate as knight of the Garter in St. George's chapel at Windsor. Since the dexter supporter is an eagle,¹ which was also borne as a badge on his seal and with his monumental effigy by the duke's father, another John Beaufort, earl and marquis of Somerset, and son of John of Gaunt, the yale might reasonably be regarded as derived from the duke's wife, Margaret, daughter of Sir John Beauchamp of Bletsho, and widow of Sir Oliver St. John. But there is no evidence yet forthcoming that the yale was a Beauchamp badge. As moreover it cannot be traced to the duke's father nor to his grandfather, John of Gaunt, the adoption of the yale must at present be regarded as starting with the duke of Somerset.

The yale was undoubtedly used as one of her beasts

¹ Was it because his name was John ?

by the duke's daughter and heiress, the Lady Margaret Beaufort, and appears as the supporters of her arms in both of her beautiful seals, and on the contemporary gate-houses of her foundations of St. John's College and Christ's College at Cambridge. There is also at the feet of her gilt bronze effigy on her tomb at Westminster a couchant beast that is probably meant for a yale. It is not unlike a deer, but the horns, which are unfortunately lost, were fixed in a round hole on the top of the head. This would be an unusual contrivance for any pair of horns, but serve well for horns like a yale's that were capable of being revolved, as these apparently were, so as to bring one at a time to the front.

As the Lady Margaret survived her son, Henry VII, the yale is not likely or known to have been used by him, but there is no doubt as to its appropriation by Henry VIII, and it was granted by him in 1525 to his natural son, Henry Fitzroy, duke of Richmond, as one of his supporters, probably because he was likewise duke of Somerset, a fact also referred to in the gobony border of part of his singular arms. After the duke's death in 1536, king Henry used the yale at Hampton Court as one of his own "beasts."

So far as the antelope is concerned I cannot remember any instance of its use by either Henry VII or Henry VIII, as one of their "beasts,"¹ nor is there any reason for their so doing. The antelope was distinctly a Lancastrian badge, and although the Tudor kings claimed Lancastrian descent, it was through the Beauforts from John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaster, and not from Henry of Monmouth and Henry of Windsor.

The antelope was certainly used as a badge by Henry V, and appears on his chantry chapel at Westminster gorged with a crown and chained, and on the vault of it with a napkin tied about its neck with the ends flying upwards and decorated with "flowers of the French" and the leopards of England. The king's brother, Humphrey, duke of Gloucester, also used for supporters a pair of

¹ In Mr. Ernest Law's *History of Hampton Court Palace* (i, 124), "antelopes" are included by the author among the heraldic beasts wherewith the building was embel-

lished by Henry VIII, but they do not appear by name in the printed accounts to which Mr. Law refers as his authority.

antelope-like creatures, but with ringed instead of serrated horns. King Henry VI bore antelopes with serrated horns like those of his father, but having their white bodies powdered with gold spots like the yale on the duke of Somerset's stall-plate.¹ The king's ill-fated son, Edward, has the antelope for one of his supporters on the painted wainscot in St. George's chapel at Windsor, but unspotted. With him the Lancastrian line ended, and the antelope badge seems to have died.

¹ In stained glass at Ockwells, etc.