

INTRODUCTION.

THE publication of this volume has been made possible by the generous co-operation of the chairman (Alderman R. S. Dalglish) and committee of the Newcastle Public Libraries with the Society of Antiquaries, who have jointly borne the cost of its production.

It comprises, as the title shows, a list of the mayors, lord mayors and sheriffs of Newcastle upon Tyne; the former from their beginning in 1216, the latter from Michaelmas 1399 when the town became a county in itself. Both are continued to the present year.

PART I contains the names of the mayors or chief bailiffs based upon the definitive list of them, by the late Town Clerk (Sir Arthur M. Oliver), printed as an appendix in volume 137 of the publications of the Surtees Society. Without this careful and scholarly work, the list here published could not have been made. The present writer has added a short account of each whenever any record exists, but many remain a name and nothing more; he has also added a blazon of their heraldic shields if it is known. The armorial seals of those who used them are illustrated on plate VII, nos. 9-19.

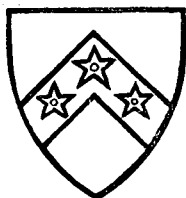
PART II is a copy of the Carr Manuscript. This contains the names and emblazoned armorial shields of the mayors and sheriffs of the town from Michaelmas 1431 to 1634. The origin of this manuscript is thus stated by Henry Bourne on page 121 of his history of the town, when describing the castle yard. He quotes from a document of earlier date than in his possession.

" when I (i.e. the writer of the document) was young . . . there was in the Garth a House . . . wherein William Robinson dwelt

who was Deputy Herald under Norroy King at Arms. This man wrote in a Book the Arms of all the Mayors of this Town from *Laurentius Acton* until his Time. And when I was Chamberlain of the Town, which was about the Time of *Sir Nicholas Cole's* being Mayor in the Year 1640, it was in the Town's Chamber; when Trollop built the Town-Court, he borrow'd it but would never restore it."

I am told by Mr. Anthony Wagner, Portcullis Pursuivant, that there is no record of William Robinson at the College of Arms and that no commission appointing him Norroy's deputy now exists, but that is no reason for doubting his official position, as many such commissions have been lost.

There seems no doubt that the manuscript here printed is that made in the first quarter of the seventeenth century by Norroy's deputy herald in the north. Its history after its removal from the Town's Chamber by Robert Trollope c. 1655, is unknown until it belonged to Robert Carr of St. Helen Auckland in 1730. He added numerous folios of new paper to the original and had it bound in panelled calf, with



his signature on the first folio and his name and shield of arms stamped in colour upon the covers—*gules on a chevron silver three molets sable*. The names of the mayors and sheriffs, with shields left blank but some blazons filled in, to 1802 were added by later hands. When the manuscript next

appeared it belonged to Alderman John Hedley (Brand, preface v) who was sheriff of the town in 1766 and mayor in 1777/78. He lent it, in 1784, to Ralph Waters the younger, the well-known Newcastle artist and herald-painter. Later it passed by purchase at an unknown date and from an unknown source to our late secretary, J. H. D. Longstaffe, who printed a copy of it, with a few notes, as appendix IV in volume 41 of the Surtees Society's publications. It passed from him to Dr. J. Cresswell of Heaton, whose Bewick bookplate is now upon the inside of the cover; from him it came into the possession of Mrs. T. C. H. Carr-Ellison from whom it was purchased by the Society of Antiquaries in 1939.

Plate A, facing p. 17, is a collotype reproduction of folio 3; from it can be seen the style of the script and of the shields of arms. Plates I-VII contain examples of all the shields in the manuscript, omitting duplicates, of which there are very many.

When the original manuscript was in the hands of Ralph Waters junr. he made a copy of it and also continued it to the year 1786. This copy, strongly bound in rough calf and labelled on the cover in red letters—RALPH WATERS, PAINTER, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE—belonged, at one time, to John Fenwick of Newcastle, attorney at law (1787-1867), whose pretentious armorial bookplate is now upon the inside of the cover. This volume was purchased in 1903 by the Public Libraries committee from Thomas Thorne, bookseller.

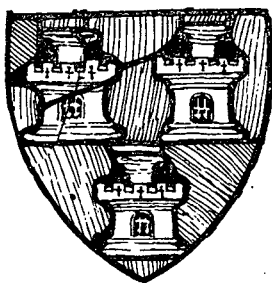
PART III contains the work of Ralph Waters, and plates VIII-XI illustrate his drawings. Plate B, facing p. 67, illustrates a folio to show his style. After 1786 the good work was carried on by William Garrett, bookseller and bibliophile (1793-1857) to about the year 1845; from that date to 1878 more names were filled in and a few shields drawn, probably by Joseph Crawhall and an unknown person.

PART IV contains this work, and plate XII reproduces some of William Garrett's and Joseph Crawhall's drawings.

PART V continues the list to the present year and is non-armorial.

The names and dates of the mayors and sheriffs in the Carr manuscript are generally accurate and few corrections have been required. Its heraldic value is also considerable as it contains some shields otherwise unknown and there are but few errors.

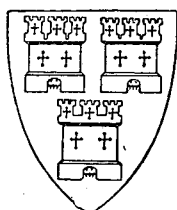
The complete armorial achievement of Newcastle upon Tyne is vaguely sketched in pencil, and partly coloured, upon the first folio of the Carr manuscript. It is too incomplete to be reproduced here, so in its place Mr. W. B. Edwards of King's College has kindly drawn these armorials in outline as illustrated on p. xx, with the motto which is of course not in the original. The shield *gules three castles*



silver dates from the last quarter of the fourteenth century; there is therefore no grant of it.

The earliest example is the beautiful and effective shield in a rich deep red glass of striated texture now in the north window of the chancel in St. John's church, as depicted in outline in the margin.

It will be noted that the castles differ from the modern form in that each castle has only one turret in place of three



—*triple turreted* is the blazon—now used. At the herald's visitation, held by William Flower, Norroy king of arms, and Robert Glover, Somerset Herald, in the year 1575, a crest and supporters were granted to these "ancient armes." The arms from then have therefore been:

Shield—gules three castles triple turreted silver.

Crest—out of a castle silver a lion rampant guardant gold holding a banner of St. George, the staff gold, headed sable.

Supporters—two sea-horses silver finned gold.

To this about the middle of the seventeenth century the motto FORTITER DEFENDIT TRIUMPHANS was added, referring doubtless to the brave defence of the town against the Scots in the year 1644.

Figure number 18 on plate vii is a reproduction of the interesting fourteenth-century seal of the mayoralty—*ad causas*—that is for business in the mayor's court. It is non-armorial in motive but illustrates in one fine composition the reasons for the importance of the town in mediaeval times—the river, the bridge, the castle; the leopards of England ramping up each side denote that the castle was the king's. This fine seal was lost or destroyed in the confusion following the capture of the town by the Scots. It was succeeded in 1645 or thereabouts by an armorial seal bearing three

castles, which in its turn in 1731 was superseded by one showing the complete achievement of the town with shield, crest and supporters, this in 1902 was followed by the inferior and poor design now in use.¹

Robert Curthose, duke of Normandy, in the year 1080 raised the timber and earthwork castle then named the New Castle upon Tyne. Henry II, between the years 1172-77, built the present great tower or keep. It was therefore in origin a royal castle and so remained during its long eventful history: a guard over bridge of Tyne, a citadel of which the castles of the marches towards Scotland formed the outposts and a mustering place for the armies against the Scots. The castle and its liberties were always outside the jurisdiction of the town, its governors, keepers or constables being appointed by the king. When Henry II in 1156 recovered possession of Northumberland from the Scottish earls he appointed Roger son of Richard its constable; in later years the sheriff of Northumberland was its usual keeper. This, however, was not always so, and appendix I contains a list of those who, whether sheriffs or not, are specially mentioned as having it in their charge. By the middle of the fifteenth century the castle had practically ceased to be a fortress, but between the years 1433-1500 there are numerous grants of the separate office of constable. From the early years of the seventeenth century it was leased or farmed out by the Crown for a rent to various persons or companies whose names are also given in appendix I.

From the days of William Rufus (1087-1100) the defence of the castle was provided for by the system of castle-guard, certain baronies in the north being held by performing this service at the New Castle upon Tyne; they also maintained houses within its walls. Appendix II gives an account of those barons who were so liable according to the inquests of 1334 and 1336, though for a century previous to then a money rent had been paid in lieu of actual service.

It remains only for me to give my "great thanks" to

¹ See *Arch. Ael.*³ xix, 171.

Mr. W. H. Gibson, chief city librarian, also to Mr. I. Briggs and Mr. R. N. Appleby Miller of the reference department of the Public Library, who have given me much help by hunting through local tracts and pamphlets and dusty newspaper files to find information about the lives of the mayors and sheriffs from 1830 onwards. I am also indebted to Mr. I. A. Richmond, who has read the proofs—a dull and dreary task—and made useful emendations and corrections.

C. H. HUNTER BLAIR.

57 HIGHBURY,
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE.
2nd February, 1940.

Note.

1. In blazoning the shields the small changes used for differences have been put in brackets at the end of each blazon.
2. The plate references are given in large roman numerals at the end of the blazon. The figure numbers on each plate are in arabic numerals.
3. Throughout the text, for the sake of brevity, *merchant* is used for Merchant Adventurer, and *Merchants' Co.* for the Company of Merchant Adventurers of Newcastle upon Tyne, likewise *Hostman* means a member of the Company of Hostmen of Newcastle upon Tyne.

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