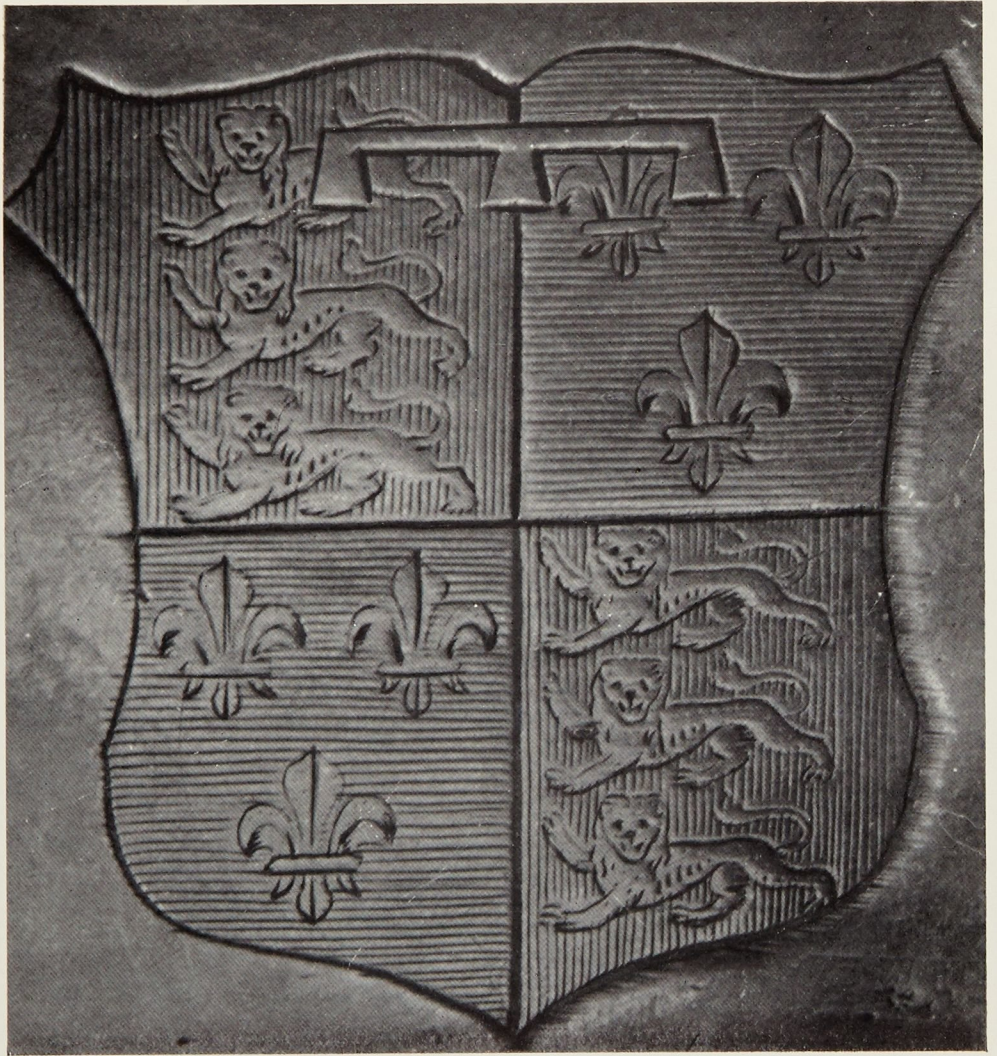


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The Presidential Badge of Office



The Presidential Badge of Office:
The Arms of Lancaster

THE PRESIDENTIAL BADGE OF OFFICE

THE Society's Honorary Treasurer, Mr. B. Cozens-Hardy, D.L., M.A., F.S.A., has presented an axe or hatchet to be used as a "badge of office" for our Presidents.

This axe, as may be seen from the illustrations, bears the arms of France and England quarterly with a label of three. Its date is probably about 1790 and until 1925 it was used by the Steward at the Courts of the Manor of Gimingham "parcel of the Duchy of Lancaster in Norfolk."

The arms of the Duchy should bear fleurs-de-lys on the label, but it is possible that these were omitted by the engraver in view of the small size. The length of the axe is $20\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Mr. Cozens-Hardy has presented this axe in memory of Mrs. Ivo Hood, F.R.Hist.S., for many years a member of our Council and our President in the years 1949-51. Many of our members will know of the learned and most interesting paper contributed to our Proceedings (Vol. XIX) by Mrs. Hood, then Miss Christobel Hoare, on *The Last of the Bondmen in a Norfolk Manor*, the Manor in question being that of Gimingham. The gift is therefore particularly appropriate.

The axe-head evidently revolves on the wooden handle so as not to be, or appear to be, lethal.

This badge was first used by our Society at the election in 1961 of Mr. D. A. J. Buxton, M.A., F.S.A., as President, when it was handed to him by his predecessor, Mr. W. W. Williamson, F.S.A.