

ROYAL HATCHMENTS IN CITY CHURCHES  
With some Remarks on the  
ROYAL HATCHMENTS  
IN THE CHURCH OF ST. ANNE, KEW,  
and on the Use at Funerals of  
HATCHMENTS, ESCUTCHEONS, HEARSEES,  
AND MAJESTY SCUTCHEONS

BY L. B. ELLIS, M.A.

THE churches of St. Mary at Hill, St. James Garlickhithe, and St. Edmund King and Martyr in the City contain some hatchments which are unusual in several respects. It is not unusual to find hatchments of dead parishioners in churches, but the persons represented by these hatchments were certainly not parishioners, as they were all royal. The hatchments are unusual for other reasons too. Some of them are rectangular, not lozenge-shaped; the surface on which the arms are painted is silk, not wood or canvas, and all but three display two separate coats of arms, *instead of showing the arms of husband and wife impaled in the usual way.*

All the persons commemorated belonged to the House of Hanover by birth or marriage. Three of the hatchments show the royal arms of a king of the Hanoverian dynasty, but they have nothing to do with the custom of setting up the King's Arms in churches to proclaim the sovereign's headship of the Church after the Reformation.<sup>1</sup> Four of them display the arms of a sovereign and consort, and the others represent princes and princesses. In every hatchment the man was a Knight of the Garter. This fact alone accounts for showing the wife's arms separately, surrounded with a wreath of laurel leaves or a border, as, according to the modern practice, the Garter can surround impaled arms only in the case of a Lady of the Garter,<sup>2</sup> and there were no Ladies of the Garter when these hatchments were set up.<sup>3</sup> All the hatchments are funerary, as in all the whole or part of the background is black.

The following passage in the Vestry Minutes of St. Mary at Hill satisfactorily accounts for a hatchment of a king of the

HATCHMENTS IN ST. MARY AT HILL.



FIG. 3.  
George IV and  
William IV.



FIG. 1. Queen Adelaide.

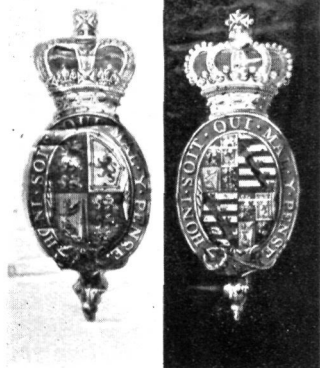


FIG. 4. Prince Consort.



FIG. 2. Duchess of Kent.

[Photos by Edward Yates

Hanoverian dynasty which still hangs in the church and, in so doing, explains them all.

At a Meeting of the Vestrymen of the Parish of St. Mary at Hill on Thursday the 22nd day of June 1837 in the Vestry Room of the said Parish. . . . The Churchwarden stated that he had called this meeting in consequence of the death of His Majesty King William the Fourth which happened on Tuesday last to take the directions of the Gentlemen of the Vestry for putting the Church into Mourning.

Resolved That the Pulpit Reading & Clerks Desks Altar & Organ Gallery be hung with black Cloth . . . and that the Escutcheon ordered upon the death of King George the Fourth be used for the Pulpit on the present occasion.<sup>4</sup>

The Churchwardens' Accounts for St. Mary at Hill for 1861-2 show that the church was put into mourning for Prince Albert, as £27 2s. od. was paid for "Hanging Church in Black prince." The prince's identity is given in another entry on the same page: "Tolling Bell for Prince Consort £1."<sup>5</sup>

The following extract from the Vestry Minutes of the same church shows that "putting the church into mourning" was not confined to royalty for, in announcing the death of the rector, it was arranged on 2nd December, 1843, that the communion table, organ loft, pulpit and desk were to be hung with black cloth.<sup>6</sup>

These hatchments are, therefore, survivals of a custom which has died out within the past eighty years or so and, as such, they merit some attention and explanation.

#### THE FOUR ROYAL HATCHMENTS IN ST. MARY AT HILL.

These are hung at the west end of the church, two in the north aisle and two in the south. They are arranged as follows, beginning at the south:

- (1) for Queen Adelaide of Saxe-Meiningen, widow of King William IV;
- (2) for Princess Victoria of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld, widow of Edward, Duke of Kent, the fourth son of King George III and the father of Queen Victoria;
- (3) for King George IV and King William IV (see *ante*);
- (4) for the Prince Consort.

(1) *Queen Adelaide's hatchment* (Fig. 1) is rectangular in shape. On it are two coats of arms: dexter, an oval within the

Garther, containing the royal arms for King William IV; sinister, a lozenge with a gold border containing the arms of Saxe-Meiningen<sup>7</sup> impaled with the royal arms. The oval and lozenge are surrounded by a mantling gules doubled ermine, surmounted by the royal crown, and supported by the lion and unicorn. The Queen's widowhood is indicated as follows: her arms are within a lozenge, which surmounts the King's oval, and the whole ground is black. Conspicuous over her many quarterings is an inescutcheon with the rue crown of Saxony.<sup>8</sup> Queen Adelaide died in 1849.

(2) *The Duchess of Kent's hatchment* (Fig. 2) is lozenge-shaped. It bears two separate achievements, surmounted by the Duke's coronet.<sup>9</sup> Within the Garther in the dexter oval are the royal arms, without, however, the inescutcheon with the crown of Charlemagne and the royal crown of Hanover,<sup>10</sup> and with the Duke of Kent's label for difference.<sup>11</sup> A gold border of irregular outline surrounds the Duchess's many quarterings, and an inescutcheon with the rue crown of Saxony is conspicuous over all.<sup>12</sup> She died in 1861, after a long widowhood, and the whole ground of the hatchment is black.

(3) *The hatchment of King George IV and King William IV* (Fig. 3) may be regarded as the hatchment which was used at the death of both these kings.<sup>13</sup> The arms on it are the royal arms borne by the Hanoverian kings from 1816 onwards.<sup>14</sup> They are within the Garther, surmounted by the royal crown, and supported by the lion and unicorn. All the ground is black. The hatchment is lozenge-shaped.

(4) *The Prince Consort's hatchment* (Fig. 4) is rectangular in shape. At the dexter side are Queen Victoria's arms in an oval within the Garther<sup>15</sup> and surmounted by the royal crown. At the sinister side, in an oval within the Garther and surmounted by a coronet of four arches rising from strawberry leaves are the quartered arms which were given to the Prince at Queen Victoria's wish.<sup>16</sup> In the first and fourth quarters are the royal arms differenced by a label of three points, charged with a red cross on the central point; in the second and third quarters are the arms of Saxony for Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, *barry of ten or and sable, a crown of rue in bend vert.*<sup>17</sup> Prince Albert died in 1861, the Queen in 1901, and only the background of the sinister side of the panel is black.



[Photo by Edward Yates

FIG. 5. George III.



[Photo by Edward Yates

FIG. 6. William IV.

## THE FOUR ROYAL HATCHMENTS IN ST. JAMES GARLICKHITHE.

But for recent war damage, all the four royal hatchments which A. J. Jewers saw, described, and illustrated in 1914 might still be hanging on the north wall of the church of St. James Garlickhithe.<sup>18</sup> Only Princess Charlotte's was in position at the time of writing, as the others had been put away with other casualties, but all could be saved. Taken in the order in which Jewers described them, the hatchments are:

- (1) for a Hanoverian king other than George I or II;
- (2) for George III;
- (3) for William IV;
- (4) for Princess Charlotte, who died in the lifetime of her father, the Prince Regent, afterwards George IV.

(1) This hatchment closely resembles in every detail the sovereign's hatchment (Fig. 3) in St. Mary at Hill and therefore needs no illustration. It has lost its glazed frame and it shows that the silk on which the arms are painted is mounted on cardboard.

(2) *George III's hatchment* (Fig. 5) is rectangular. There are two ovals on it. The dexter oval, which is within the Garter, is supported by the lion and contains the King's arms; it surmounts the Queen's oval, which is surrounded by laurel leaves and supported by the unicorn. Above the ovals is a royal vizor, and surrounding vizor, supporters and motto is a mantling gules doubled ermine. Above all is a royal crown surmounted by the lion crest. Only three of the Queen's six quarterings<sup>19</sup> are shown in their entirety, as the dexter part of her oval is partly covered by the King's. All the ground is black, as Queen Charlotte predeceased her husband, who died in 1820.

(3) *William IV's hatchment* (Fig. 6) resembles that of George III in general treatment,<sup>20</sup> but only the ground of the dexter half is black, and the sinister oval contains the arms of his consort, Queen Adelaide of Saxe-Meiningen, who survived him. The Queen's oval is surrounded with a wreath of laurel leaves. It is surmounted by her husband's, so that it was impossible to show all her nineteen quarterings. It is interesting to compare this hatchment with the Queen's own hatchment at St. Mary at Hill (Fig. 1), where the royal arms are impaled with her paternal arms within a lozenge, and where all the ground is black. King William's hatchment has lost its glass and frame.

(4) *Princess Charlotte's hatchment* (Fig. 7) still hangs from the north wall of the church. In general design it resembles those of her uncle and grandfather in this church, as the two ovals, the motto, and the supporters—a lion and the unicorn—are framed in the mantling, but the lion supporter is uncrowned. The arms contained in the oval which it supports are within the Garter; they are the arms of Saxe-Coburg<sup>21</sup> for Prince Leopold who, in 1816, married Princess Charlotte, second in succession to the throne. He was made a Knight of the Garter in that year. He was the brother of Queen Victoria's mother and was the "Uncle Leopold" of whom she was so fond. The background of the dexter side of the panel is white, as the Prince survived his wife. Princess Charlotte's oval surmounts her husband's and it has a border of laurel leaves. Her arms as wife of Prince Leopold show the arms of Saxe-Coburg impaled with the royal arms. The latter are without the inescutcheon with the crown of Charlemagne and without the crown of Hanover<sup>22</sup>; they are charged with her label<sup>23</sup> for difference, and her unicorn supporter is similarly charged. Resting on the top of her share of the mantling is the coronet of a sovereign's daughter,<sup>24</sup> though her grandfather was still on the throne; side by side with it over the dexter part of the mantling is her husband's four-arched coronet. On a scroll at the base are the words *La mort est inévitable*, which suggest acceptance of a great loss rather than hope for the future which is more usual in hatchment mottoes.<sup>25</sup> Princess Charlotte's early and lamented death in 1817 left the succession to the throne in danger and spurred her three unmarried uncles into matrimony.<sup>26</sup>

#### THE THREE ROYAL HATCHMENTS IN ST. EDMUND KING AND MARTYR.

These hatchments are now in the vestry; they were brought to the church from All Hallows, Lombard Street.<sup>27</sup> They are:

- (1) for a Hanoverian king, not George I or II, probably George III;
- (2) for Princess Charlotte, only child of the Prince Regent, afterwards George IV;
- (3) for Edward, Duke of Kent, father of Queen Victoria.

(1) The king's hatchment requires no description or illustration, as it resembles closely in every detail the king's hatchment



FIG. 7. Princess Charlotte.



FIG. 8. Princess Charlotte

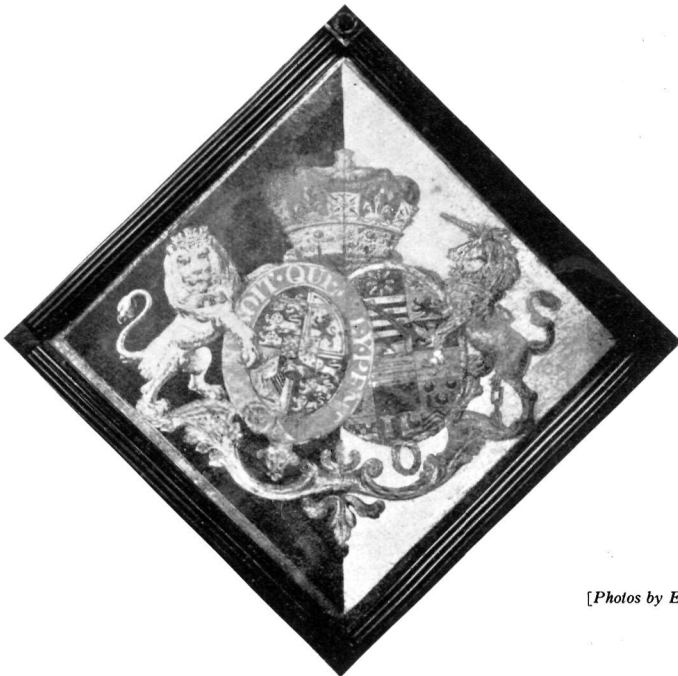


FIG. 9. Duke of Kent.

[Photos by Edward Yates



in St. Mary at Hill (Fig. 3). It seems likely from the Rough Minute Book of All Hallows in Lombard Street that it was used at the death of George III:

At a Vestry holden in the V.R. of AHL on Wedn<sup>y</sup>. 5 April 1820 . . . 3 Letters from Rev<sup>d</sup>. Mr. Gerard respecting the Black Hangings put up for His late Maj<sup>y</sup>. Geo. 3. were read, which were ordered to be entered.

Resolved that the said Hangings when removed be placed in the Vestry, and taken care of being the Parish Prop<sup>y</sup>.<sup>28</sup>

(2) *Princess Charlotte's hatchment* (Fig. 8) resembles in the main her hatchment in the church of St. James Garlickhithe (Fig. 7), though there is some difference in detail. Supporters and mantling are absent; her wreath of laurel leaves is looped at the base; and her coronet which surmounts both ovals by itself is that of a grandchild of the sovereign, with crosses pattee, fleurs-de-lys and strawberry leaves.

At a Vestry held on 26th March, 1818,

The Ch Wdns reported that the Church was hung in mourning for the lamented Death of Princess Charlotte Augusta the Expense of the same was ordered, by this Vestry, to be paid by the Ch Wdns unan<sup>ly</sup>.<sup>29</sup>

(3) *The Duke of Kent's hatchment* (Fig. 9) is lozenge-shaped. It differs from that of his duchess in St. Mary at Hill in that his oval surmounts his widow's, and only the ground of the dexter half is black; the husband's oval is supported by the royal lion and the wife's by the unicorn; the duchess's oval is surrounded by a wreath looped at the base. The Duke of Kent died in January, 1820, a few days before the death of his father, George III.

#### THE FOUR ROYAL HATCHMENTS FORMERLY IN CHRIST CHURCH, GREYFRIARS.

But for the destruction of the church, from which only the font cover and brass lectern were saved,<sup>30</sup> four royal hatchments might still be seen against pillars on the south side of the nave. It is fortunate that Jewers recorded them when he visited the church in 1911; he assigned them to the Duke of Kent, the Duke of Sussex, the Duke of Cumberland (sons of King George III) and the Princess Charlotte.<sup>31</sup>

It may be assumed that others have vanished by more normal acts of vandalism, as it seems unlikely that these four City churches were exceptional in putting themselves into mourning for royalty. None of them seems to have had any special

connection with the Crown. The fact that the advowson of St. George Botolph Lane was vested in the Crown could not have had any bearing on the custom, as the extracts quoted above belong to an earlier date than that of the union of this parish with St. Mary at Hill in 1904. After seeing these hatchments, the question arises: are there any outside the City, and was the custom general?

### THE ELEVEN ROYAL HATCHMENTS IN THE CHURCH OF ST. ANNE, KEW.

It is not surprising to find similar hatchments in the church of St. Anne, Kew, as George III, Queen Charlotte, and their family lived at Kew and worshipped in the Royal Gallery of its church. Their seventh son, Adolphus Duke of Cambridge, grandfather of Queen Mary, was buried there in 1850. His hatchment may be seen at the north-west end of the church, with the arms of his widow, Princess Augusta of Hesse-Cassel, in the sinister oval.

At the south-west end of the church, opposite the Duke of Cambridge's hatchment, hangs that of his elder brother, Ernest Augustus, Duke of Cumberland, who reigned as Ernest Augustus I of Hanover from the death of William IV in 1837 until his own death in 1851. At a cursory glance it might be mistaken for his father's hatchment, as his consort, like Queen Charlotte, was a Princess of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, and the distinguishing labels are inconspicuous. It is, however, unique among its fellows in that the crown, red ribbon and motto are foreigners (Fig. 10). The crown represents the crown of Hanover, which was carried for the last time at the funeral of a King of England at the burial of William IV.<sup>32</sup> The red ribbon with its motto, *Nunquam retrorsum*, in gold letters is for the Order of St. George,<sup>33</sup> which Ernest Augustus instituted on 1st January, 1840, as the family Order of the House of Hanover. He was Sovereign of the Hanoverian Order of the Guelphs,<sup>34</sup> Knight of the Orders of the Garter, St. Patrick, and the Bath, etc., but his hatchment indicates a preference for the Order which he founded himself.

There are four other big hatchments which are arranged as follows: a Hanoverian king, probably George III, on the staircase wall; Queen Charlotte, in the Children's Chapel; a Hanoverian king, probably George IV, and William IV, both in the

Royal Gallery (north and south respectively). The remaining five are smaller hatchments. Four of them hang from the balustrade of the Royal Gallery, facing east and, according to their inscriptions, reading from north to south, they commemorate the Duchess of Cumberland, Queen of Hanover, abbreviated to "Qn.H.," William IV, George IV, and George III; the fifth, which hangs above the entrance doorway, facing the body of the church, is for Queen Charlotte. There was formerly a sixth, which is missing.

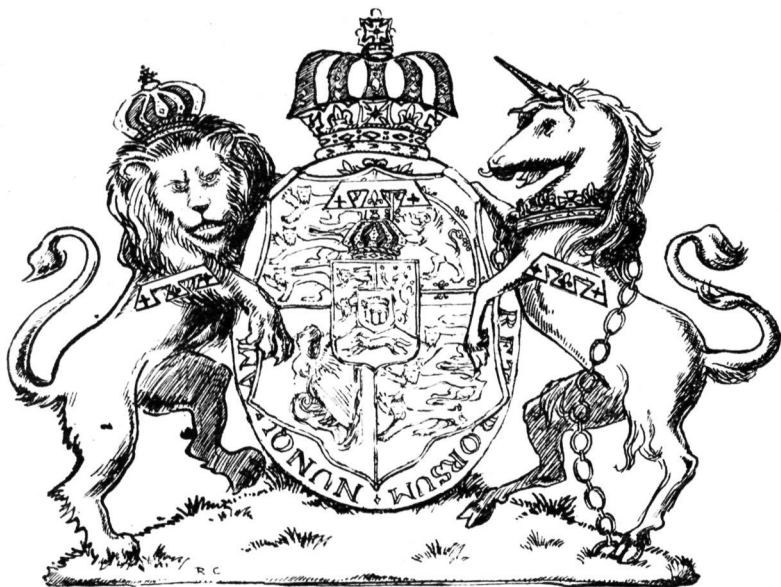


FIG. 10.

Arms of Ernest Augustus, Duke of Cumberland, as King of Hanover, drawn from his hatchment at Kew.

It seems likely that the big hatchments were placed outside the royal residences before they were brought into the church, and that the smaller ones may have been used for the pulpit.<sup>36</sup> The large hatchments are of canvas stretched on to a wooden framework; the small ones are on light wood.

As will be shown later, there was still a lavish use of funeral accessories in Hanoverian times. In 1758 there was an Agreement between the Dean and Chapter of Westminster and the Kings, Heralds and Pursuivants of Arms, that "the pall,

sheets, canopy, crown or coronet, cushions, stools, and escutcheons used at the Funeral of the late Princess Caroline Elizabeth [daughter of George II] shall be equally divided between the said two parties: & that those which shall at any time hereafter be used at the Funerals of any of the Royal Family shall (when the Ceremony is over) . . . be equally divided between the said two parties, as aforesaid."<sup>36</sup> In 1817 Princess Charlotte's coffin was "covered with a black velvet Pall, adorned with eight Escutcheons of her late Royal Highness's Arms."<sup>37</sup> When Queen Charlotte's body lay in state at Kew, "at the head of the coffin was affixed to the cloth a silk hatchment, with the late Queen's arms" and "on each side of the coffin were placed four silk escutcheons with the royal arms."<sup>38</sup> At the funeral "the Coffin was covered with a fine Holland Sheet and a black Velvet Pall, adorned with Ten Escutcheons."<sup>39</sup> At Queen Adelaide's funeral also the hearse was "adorned with ten escocheons."<sup>40</sup> William IV's body, "covered with a purple velvet pall, adorned with escocheons of the royal arms, and having the Imperial Crown of the United Kingdom, and the Royal Crown of Hanover laid upon it, was placed under a canopy of purple cloth, also having escocheons."<sup>41</sup>

### HATCHMENTS, ESCUTCHEONS, HEARSEES, AND MAJESTY SCUTCHEONS.

The word hatchment is a derivative of achievement. It is now used in a specialised sense for a diamond-shaped panel painted with armorial bearings, which used to be hung outside a house at the owner's death for a certain period and which was afterwards taken into the church. The custom has survived to a limited extent into this century.<sup>42</sup> The word had a less restricted application in the past, as it was often used instead of achievement for a funeral offering consisting of the dead man's helmet and crest, sword, gauntlets, spurs, tabard, and an escutcheon of his arms, which were usually carried by the heralds, offered at the altar, and afterwards hung in the church.<sup>43</sup> Some churches still contain one or more of these objects.<sup>44</sup>

The following account of the funeral in 1542 of Robert Radcliffe, Earl of Sussex, illustrates the former use of this word. His body was "conveid unto the place late the Dewke of Bokingham, in St. Lawrance Powntney, w<sup>ch</sup> place was all honge w<sup>t</sup> blacke cloth, hal and chambers, unto the gate howse,

garneshed w<sup>t</sup> scochins of his armes, . . . w<sup>t</sup> a ryche pall of nedle worke, and under y<sup>t</sup> a pall of blacke velvet w<sup>t</sup> vj scochins in the garter of his armse upon tuke [cloth] beaten in oyle." The church "was hong w<sup>t</sup> blacke cloth garneshed with scochins of his armys and mariage, and in the ile next unto the quere was perpared a goodly herche of v principalls and garneshed w<sup>t</sup> scochins and pencilles, ma<sup>te</sup> [majesty] and vallence, and theire the corps was set and the crosse set their on. The hachements placed, the banners at the iiij corners. The standart and the banner of his armes at the fete."

"The order of the offering of the hachements" at this funeral is given as follows: "Then garter toke to the lorde of Fitz water and S<sup>r</sup>. Humfray Ratclyff his cote of armes . . . and so came to the herce. S<sup>r</sup>. Thom<sup>s</sup>. Arundell and Mr. Turwytt [all mourners] offred the targe in manner as afore. Mr. Harvey and Mr. Warner [mourner] offred the sword in mann<sup>r</sup> as aforesaid. Then the fyrst ij morners offred the helme and crest. Then the chef morner w<sup>t</sup> the other offred for themselfs . . . So the masse and all the other seremoneyes. The hachements, as banner of armes, standert, iiij banners of saynts was offred by the berers at 'Verbum caro factum est.' . . . The dynner done, the offycers of armes went to the foresaid church and set up his hachements according unto their deutytes, in order as they ought to be."<sup>45</sup>

The two examples following illustrate the use of the word hatchment in the 17th century: the funeral certificate of Sir Thomas Whorwood, Kt., 1634, states that "his body was buried in ye South side of ye Chauncell in Halton church where his Hatchments are sett up"<sup>46</sup>; the funeral certificate of Sir Robert Dicer, baronet 1667, states that "his said funerall was decently solemnized according to his degree with Standard Pennons, etc., three Officers of Armes carrying his Hatchments."<sup>47</sup>

Rules and orders were last drawn up in 1668 for the office of the Earl Marshal with particular directions for the funerals of all estates and degrees.<sup>48</sup> All ranks of the nobility and gentry were entitled to use escutcheons<sup>49</sup> as funeral accessories, though the material of which these were made varied according to the dead man's rank. Thus the escutcheons of baronets, knights, esquires, and gentlemen might only be of buckram. Mere gentlemen might not have pennons, but they might have as many escutcheons as were desired.<sup>50</sup>

A special use of escutcheons is recorded in Machyn's *Diary* (1550-63): "The xxv day of January toke ys gorney in-to Franse inbassadur to the Frenche kyng the yerle of Bedford, and he had iij dosen of logyng skochyons."<sup>51</sup> ("It was a practice (and which was kept up until recent times) for ambassadors to leave scocheons at the houses where they slept."<sup>52</sup>)

There was a similar complimentary gift at the funeral in 1533 of Mary Tudor, the French Queen, daughter of Henry VII, and wife of Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, when "the Deane of the Chappell and the Awlmoner did see delyu'd to eu'ye parrishe that mett w<sup>t</sup> the corps & did suche ceremoneyes as to them belongid ij torches iij Scoocheons of armes and in money w<sup>c</sup> was delyu'd by one John Schotter."<sup>53</sup>

A hearse such as the "goodly herche of v principalls" which was prepared for the funeral of the Earl of Sussex in 1542 (p. 321) is frequently mentioned in accounts of ancient funerals. Unlike the modern hearse it did not carry the body to burial, but was set up within the church with an effigy of the deceased.<sup>54</sup> There are several records of these hearses in Machyn's *Diary*, whence the following two passages are taken. In 1555

the xj day of Juin be-gane they to sett up the frame for the herse at Powlles for the quen of Spayn, the wyche was the goodlest that ever was sene in England.

On 13th December, 1558, the body of Queen Mary Tudor, niece of this Queen (elder sister of Katherine of Aragon) was taken to Westminster Abbey in a "charett,"

and then was gentyll-men rede to take the quen owt of her charett, and so erles and lordes whent afor her grace to the herse ward . . . and so she lay all nyght under the herse, and her grace was wachyd.

The "majesty" (canopy) over the hearse of the Earl of Derby (1572) "had thereon, most curiously wrought in gold and silver, the atchievements of his arms, with helm, crest, supporters and motto; and four other buckram escutcheons in metal, the top garnished with escutcheons, and . . . six great burial paste-escutcheons at the four corners."<sup>55</sup>

In *Heraldry in England*<sup>56</sup> Mr. Anthony Wagner, Richmond Herald, illustrates at Plate XIII Maximilian Colt's design for the hearse of Queen Anne of Denmark, wife of James I, who died in 1619. Several escutcheons decorate its canopy and there is a large achievement of arms on its under side. "To supply the place of a Tomb" for Prince Henry, her eldest son, who died in 1612, Sandford "exhibited the Figure of his Herse"<sup>57</sup>

set up at his Funeral in" Westminster Abbey; twelve escutcheons may be seen in detail on the "majesty" in this illustration. Suspended from Oliver Cromwell's hearse "waved 72 penons one yard in length, and 240 penoncils one foot in length, with five majesties."<sup>58</sup> The remains of Queen Mary II "lay in State in Whitehall in a bed of purple velvet all open" for two days in February, 1695; in her funeral procession "came the open chariot made as the bed was, . . . this chariot was drawn by the Queens own 6 horses." At Westminster Abbey there "was a sermon, in which tyme the body of the Queen was reposed in a masulium [mausoleum] in form of a bed."<sup>59</sup>

Funeral accessories continued to be much used throughout the 18th and well into the 19th centuries, as the work-books of the firm of Bishop<sup>60</sup> and other herald-painters show. These contain many entries for an "atchievement" measuring an ell (45 in.), a yard and a half, or two yards in size, with frame and boards. Facing folio 101 in Bishop's work-book for 1788-96 is a record of 10s. 6d. "to 2 men putting up the Atchmt at Streatham," which leaves no doubt that these were hatchments in the modern sense. For the funeral of the Earl of Bessborough in March, 1793, there was "1 large Pulpit Escut.<sup>n</sup>" (cf. St. Mary at Hill, p. 314), but many more might be wanted: for Earl Edgcumbe's funeral (folio 163) there were "2½ [dozen] Buckram, 2½ Crests for Pulpit & Reading Desk," and in May, 1792, "12 Silk Pall 6 Do. Pulpit" were supplied for a commoner's funeral. Another herald-painter entered "18 Buckram Pulpit, 24 Buckram House" in 1756, and Bishop's orders for the pulpit included "3 Doz<sup>n</sup>. Crests" and "24 cyphers." For the funeral "of the Lady of Sir Matthew Featherstonehaugh Bart" in August, 1788, Bishop supplied "an atchievement yd. & ½ square frame & Boards 12 Silk Escutcheons Pall 12 D<sup>o</sup>. Buckram Delivrd with a Bill to Mr. Bailey Ironmonger Cow Lane 6.10.6"; a sketch of a lozenge at the side shows the "Lethulier" arms on the sinister side. In February, 1791, Bishop had a large order for the funeral of a Mrs. Gale, in which "a large Majesty Escutcheon, 18 Buckr. 18 Cyphers" come under the heading, "Heraldry for Church at Hackney" and "D<sup>o</sup> Church at Lancaster D<sup>o</sup> Whitehaven." There were also "12 Silk for Pall, 12 Silk Pendants for the feather Lid" and a "Full dressed Hearse." The "Heraldry for 1st Coach 17 Buck 15 Cyphers 6 Shaffrns [shaffrons for the horses] 12 Pendants D<sup>o</sup> 2nd Coach D<sup>o</sup> 3rd Coach D<sup>o</sup> 4th Coach.

There are many other entries for "Majesty Escutcheons." Generally there was only one, "on Black Sattin verg'd with white Sattin," but occasionally there are two. Sometimes it is stated to be a "Large Majesty Escut<sup>n</sup>," sometimes it was a yard square; it was always of silk, satin, or sarcenet.

In "the expences brought in by the painters for emblazoning the arms &c." of the Protector at his funeral all the twenty-seven "majesties" mentioned were "wrought on rich taffaty with mantle, helmet, and crest, supporters and mottos at £3.10s. a piece, and gilt with fine gold and silver."<sup>61</sup> There were also "three large atchievements in oil, two yards long, gilt with fine gold at £15 a piece" and many dozens of escutcheons of "taffaty," "satten," and buckram for the church, horses, and chariot, Somerset House, Westminster Abbey, etc.<sup>62</sup>

The *N.E.D.* gives "a canopy over a hearse" as one of the meanings of the word majesty, and explains a majesty scutcheon as apparently an escutcheon bearing the royal arms. The escutcheons on the hearses of Queen Anne of Denmark and Prince Henry naturally bore the royal arms, but whenever Bishop's entries for a majesty scutcheon are accompanied by a sketch, the arms shown are the personal arms of the deceased. It seems reasonable, therefore, to suggest that a majesty scutcheon was originally one that was used on a majesty and that, when funeral procedure had changed, the term was transferred to an escutcheon bearing the arms of the deceased which was placed on what Bishop termed the "feather lid" of a "full dressed hearse."

The following details concerning the funerals of Princess Charlotte, the Duke of Kent, and George III are taken from the two work-books of Bishop which cover the years 1813-26 and 1848-52 respectively. Four clients each had one majesty scutcheon for Princess Charlotte. The orders for George III's funeral were more numerous: one of the same clients (Mr. Page) had two pulpit escutcheons and one escutcheon; two of the others (Mr. Batt and Mr. Hazard) each had one escutcheon. A fifth client had two pulpit escutcheons, two escutcheons, three G.R.s and crowns, and a sixth had three pulpit escutcheons, two escutcheons and one achievement. These clients were evidently regular customers, as only their names are given; they were, presumably, "upholders" or undertakers. Only three entries add any detail to the customer's name and order: Mr.(?) Cautley jnr., Ratcliff Highway, had one pulpit escutcheon;



Mr. Walker, 21, St. Martin's Lane, one escutcheon, and Mr. Bright, churchwardens (? or churchwarden<sup>63</sup>) of St. Benet's, one escutcheon. Another customer had "1 Pulpit Escutcheon King" and "2 Do. D. of Kent." Mr. Batt had "1 Pulpit Escutcheon Supporters for D. of Kent," and there were "2 yd Atcts, 7 Pall Escutcheons, 1 Majesty do., 3 Hearse sides and end" on 10th July, 1850, for the funeral of the Duke of Cambridge.

Except in the case of Mr. Bright there is no indication for whom these customers were ordering. The pulpit escutcheons were presumably for churches, to judge from the passage quoted on p. 314, but some of the others may have been for display on buildings. In any case, however, the herald-painters' workbooks reveal a lavish use of heraldry at funerals in the past century, and it is hoped that the publication of this article may elicit further evidence which will help to solve the various problems raised. It would be interesting, for instance, to have confirmation of the suggestion made above to explain a majesty scutcheon, and to know more about setting up hatchments for royalty in churches. Meanwhile, the royal hatchments that survive in three City churches and at Kew have been placed on record. They are interesting examples of heraldic art, and the information which they convey in heraldic language well repays a little study.

## NOTES

1. Most of the Royal Arms which survive were set up for monarchs of the Stuart and Hanoverian dynasties. The deliberate removal of those of Charles I is shown by the following extracts: "In 1650 Thomas Andrews, Lord Mayor, sent the vestry an order to take down the King's Arms from the church, The Royal Arms were ordered to be put up in the church in 1660." (C. B. Boulter, *Brief Notes on the History of Allhallows Church, Lombard Street*, p. 23.) In 1651 two shillings was paid "for the putting out of the Church ye late King's armes" (Church accounts of St. Mary Woolnoth, quoted in a framed notice on the south wall of the church).
2. *Times Lit. Suppl.*, "Heraldic Treasures," 23rd January, 1937, p. 54.
3. The first Queen Consort to be made a Lady of the Garter in modern times was Queen Alexandra. King Edward VII was determined to give her the most exalted rank it was in his power to bestow, and one of his first acts after his accession was to convene a special chapter of the Order of the Garter and to revive in favour of Queen Alexandra a custom instituted by Richard II, which had fallen into disuse since Henry VII "Gartered" his mother (*D.N.B.*, 1922-30, p. 16). The only Ladies nominated since Queen Alexandra have been: Queen Mary (1910), Queen Elizabeth (1936), the Queen of the Netherlands (1944), and Princess Elizabeth (1947).
4. *Guildhall MS.* 1240/3, S.R. 17.6.
5. *Guildhall MS.* 1239/6, S.R. 14.5, fol. 119.
6. Same reference as in note 4. For the lavish use of black cloth see the accounts of the funerals of the Earl of Sussex (1542) and of the French Queen (1533) on p. 321 and note 53, respectively.

7. For the description and illustration of these arms see A. C. Fox-Davies, *The Book of Public Arms*, 1915, p. 700.
8. *Ibid.*, p. 704.
9. A circlet with crosses pattee and fleur-de-lys alternate for a younger son of the sovereign.
10. See note 14.
11. A silver label of three points, charged on the central point with the cross of St. George and with a blue fleur-de-lys on each of the other two.
12. See Fox-Davies, *op. cit.*, p. 700, for the arms of Saxe-Coburg.
13. See p. 314.
14. The accession of George I brought the Hanoverian coat into the fourth quarter of the royal arms, where it remained until 1801. The following changes took place in the reign of George III. In 1801 the formation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland caused the removal of the lion of Scotland from the first quarter to the second, leaving the leopards of England in sole possession of the first. The lilies of France, which had previously occupied the second quarter, were then discarded, and the arms of Hanover taken from the fourth quarter and placed in a shield of pretence. In 1816, when Hanover became a kingdom, the electoral bonnet, which had surmounted this inescutcheon, was replaced by the four-arched crown of Hanover. (This crown and the inescutcheon with the crown of Charlemagne do not appear in the arms of the sovereign's family.) A further change took place at the accession of Queen Victoria, in 1837, when the throne of Hanover passed to her uncle, the Duke of Cumberland, and the arms of Hanover consequently disappeared from the royal arms.
15. Queen Victoria's arms were within the Garter as the sovereign is Sovereign of the Order.
16. A. C. Fox-Davies, *The Art of Heraldry*, 1904, p. 350.
17. A. C. Fox-Davies, *The Book of Public Arms*, 1915, p. 704.
18. A. J. Jewers, *Monumental Inscriptions and Armorial Bearings in the Churches within the City of London*, Vol. 2, pp. 564-5 (*Guildhall MS.* 2480).
19. See Fox-Davies, *Public Arms*, p. 502, for the arms of Mecklenburg-Strelitz.
20. The general similarity between hatchments (5) and (6) must have misled Jewers, who attributed both to George III, even though the dexter ground in (6) is black. He thought this was an error, but the error was his. He was also mistaken in thinking that the royal arms were impaled with the arms of each queen in the sinister ovals, and he failed to show their wreaths of laurel leaves.
21. See note 12.
22. See note 14.
23. A label of three points, charged with a red rose on the central point.
24. Like the Duke of Kent's (note 9). For royal coronets see A. C. Fox-Davies, *Art of Heraldry*, 1904, p. 274.
25. Hatchment mottoes such as *Resurgam*, *In coelo quies*, *Mors janua vitae*, are usually in Latin; they are not, as a rule, the family motto.
26. The Duke of York had no heir; the marriage of the Duke of Sussex had been declared invalid in accordance with the Royal Marriages Act of 1772; and the Duke of Cumberland's only child was not born until 1819. The Dukes of Clarence, Kent, and Cambridge all contracted marriages "for the succession" in 1818.
27. "There are three Hatchments in the Church, the Royal Arms of King George III, Queen, Princess." (C. H. Boulter, *op. cit.*, p. 23.)
28. *Rough Minute Book, Allhallows in Lombard Street, commencing 31 March 1815*, pp. 54-5. (*Guildhall MS.* 4050.)
29. *Ibid.*, pp. 26-7.
30. Information from Rev. T. R. Hine-Haycock, vicar.
31. *Guildhall MS.* 2480, Vol. 1, pp. 112-14. In addition to these Jewers recorded the royal hatchments in St. James Garlickhithe (in Vol. 2, pp. 564-5), but he seems to have missed those in St. Mary at Hill and All Hallows Lombard Street (now in St. Edmund the King).
32. *Gent. Mag.*, N.S., 1837, Vol. 8, p. 202.
33. The insignia of this Order are illustrated by Auguste Wahlen in *Ordres de Chevalerie*, pl. xl, nos. 10 and 11.

34. *Gent. Mag.*, 1852, N.S., Vol. 37, p. 85. The Royal Guelphic Order was instituted by the Prince Regent (afterwards George IV) in 1815; its motto was *Nec aspera terrent*.
35. This suggestion was made by Miss M. S. Johnston, F.G.S.
36. *Catalogue of Heralds' Commemorative Exhibition*, 1484-1934, No. 129 (College of Arms, Box 25, No. 41).
37. *Gent. Mag.*, 1817, Vol. 87, pt. 2, p. 453.
38. *Ibid.*, 1818, Vol. 88, pt. 2, p. 561.
39. *Ibid.*, p. 564.
40. *Ibid.*, 1850, N.S., Vol. 33, p. 82.
41. *Ibid.*, 1837, N.S., Vol. 8, p. 200.
42. Miss M. S. Johnston, F.G.S., remembers as a child seeing hatchments fixed to houses in Grosvenor Square in 1885. The writer saw Sir William Bull's hatchment outside his house in Cadogan Gardens in 1931. In a letter in the *Sunday Times* of 16th February, 1947, Mr. David C. Rutter, of Exeter College, wrote that "hatchments have been in continuous use by the University of Oxford since the seventeenth century. . . . In modern times, however, their use has been restricted to Heads of Houses, and even then to those who are themselves entitled to bear arms. The last hatchment, I believe, to be seen in Oxford, was hung outside Exeter College after the death of Dr. R. R. Marett, Rector from 1928 to 1943."
43. At the Earl of Bedford's funeral on 20 March, 1554/5 "there officiated (besides master Garter) five heralds, who bore (1) his helmet, mantles, and crest; (2) his banner of arms; (3) his target with the garter; (4) his coat armour, and (5) his sword. With the exception of the banner and garter those several articles will be found mentioned on every occasion and, in place of the banner, the standard or the penon were substituted for inferior ranks." (*Machyn's Diary*, p. xxxi.)
44. F. H. Cripps-Day, "Arms and Armour in Churches in England," in *Arch. Journ.*, 1934, XCI, p. 59, note 1.
45. This account of the funeral of the Earl of Sussex is taken from the Appendix (proof sheets), pp. xxiv-xxvii, which is bound up in a copy of Rev. H. B. Wilson's *History of St. Lawrence Pountney*, in Guildhall Library. The account there given is extracted from a MS. in the College of Arms, entitled "I. ii, p. 62 Burials."
46. *Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica*, N.S., 1884, Vol. IV, p. 38.
47. *Ibid.*, Third Series, 1902, Vol. IV, p. 189.
48. *College of Arms MS.* I.25, 105-116.
49. In the section "Note upon Funerals" preceding *Machyn's Diary* (Camden Society, 1848), J. G. Nichols states (p. xxxii) that "these scocheons were the prototypes of our modern hatchments. Originally made of some perishable material, and fastened up in the churches, they were required to be painted on panel, in order to last longer; and from these small achievements on panel (still to be found in some country churches) they have grown into the large and unwieldy frames of canvas now spread on the front of modern mansions, or stretched on the roof of the chancel or aisle, the walls of which scarcely offer sufficient space for their accommodation." On p. 291 *Machyn* mentions scocheons of metal, of silk, of buckram, of paper royal, and of pasted paper.
50. *Machyn's Diary*, p. xxxi.
51. *Ibid.*, p. 248.
52. *Ibid.*, p. xxxi, note †. A rectangular panel at the George Hotel, Crawley, Sussex, with the royal arms and the initials V.R. painted on it, may be regarded as a variety of lodging escutcheon, as it was put up by the landlord of the time to commemorate Queen Victoria's visit there in the early days of her reign after her carriage had broken down.
53. Francis Ford, *Mary Tudor, A Retrospective Sketch . . . with an Account of Mary Tudor's Funeral from the Archives of the Royal College of Arms*, 1882, p. 40.  
 Much black cloth was used at this funeral as "from the ottre gate of the manasterye to the highe Awlter bothe sides was hanged w<sup>t</sup> blacke clothe & garnysshed w<sup>t</sup> Schocheons of Armes And the pillors of the Churche also garnysshed w<sup>t</sup> the Armes of England & france" (p. 43).

54. See J. G. Nichols, *op. cit.*, p. xxix, on these hearses and the references there given.
55. Dallaway, *Heraldry in England*, 1793, p. 250.
56. King Penguin, 1946.
57. Prince Henry's hearse is illustrated at p. 529 of Sandford's *Genealogical History of the Kings of England* and described at p. 530.
58. Malcolm, *Londinium Redivivum*, 1, pp. 262-3.
59. *The Journeys of Celia Fiennes*, ed. by Christopher Morris, 1947, pp. 294-5.
60. The writer has had access to three Bishop work-books: one, for the years 1788-96, is at the College of Arms; the others, for the years 1813-26 and 1848-52 respectively, are in the possession of Miss M. S. Johnston, F.G.S. The latest book bears the imprint of G. & C. Bishop, Herald Painters to the Queen, 3, Bennets Hill, Doctors Commons.
61. Dallaway, *op. cit.*, pp. 281-5.
62. Two escutcheons have survived from Oliver Cromwell's funeral. One of these is in the London Museum, a "painted escutcheon on black satin said to have been stolen from the hearse bearing the body of Oliver Cromwell on its way to interment in Westminster Abbey." The other has been preserved as an heirloom by the descendants of Dr. Robert Uvedale who, as a scholar at Westminster School, witnessed the state burial of the Protector in the Abbey on 11th November, 1658, and snatched from the bier the little satin banner known as the "Majesty Scutcheon." It measures 16 in. x 20 in. and shows the arms of Oliver Cromwell impaled with his wife's and surmounted by the royal crown, but without supporters. On the back of its frame is a Latin inscription written by Robert Uvedale stating that this ensign was snatched from the bier of the tyrant when his waxen effigy, adorned with royal state, was being magnificently displayed in the church in a mausoleum therein constructed. The earliest account of this trophy is in *Genl. Mag.*, 1792, Vol. 62, part 1, p. 114, where it is described as "of the common size used at funerals." (See E. A. Fry, "The Majesty Scutcheon," in *Notes and Queries for Somerset and Dorset*, March, 1927, pp. 14-17.)
63. The word might be either churchwarden or churchwardens. If the latter, Mr. Bright must have been ordering for them. There was no churchwarden of this name at St. Benet Paul's Wharf or St. Benet Fink for the year 1820, and there do not seem to be any Churchwardens' Accounts or Vestry Minute Books in existence for St. Benet Gracechurch for this year.