



# The Berks, Bucks & Oxon Archæological Journal.

“Nicolas Fouquet.”

By Alan B. Cheales, M.A.

“NICOLAS FOUQUET, Viscount of Melun and of Vaux, Lord High Treasurer of France under Louis XIV., with some extracts from his work ‘*Les Conseils de la Sagesse*.’” We are glad to see

that this sketch of the life of Fouquet by Mr. Cheales has reached a second edition; and indeed it is an *edition de luxe*, beautifully printed, adorned with splendid illustrations, and elegantly bound. The book was, we believe, reviewed in these pages on its first appearance; so an extended notice is not necessary now to acquaint our readers with its many excellencies. The life of Fouquet commends itself to Berkshire readers, as a distinguished descendant of his recently lived in the County town, whose daughter is the wife of one of Reading’s foremost citi-



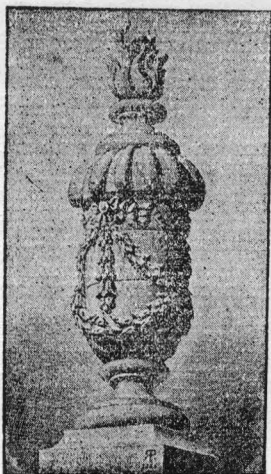
THE ANCIENT FOUQUET ARMS.

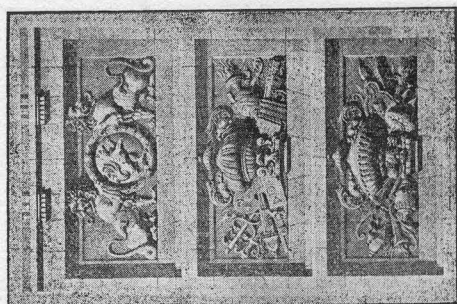
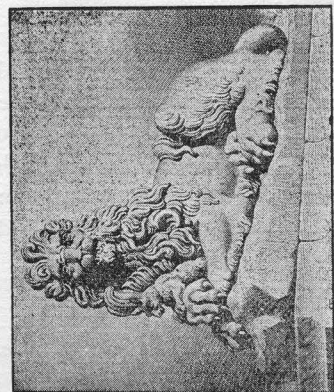
zens. By the grant of the Herald’s College, Mr. Martin John Sutton has the right to use the revived Fouquet device on his

coat-of-arms. Mr. Cheales has carefully consulted many authorities and given an able sketch of the life of the famous minister of Louis XIV. We regret that he still adheres to the fable that Fouquet was "the man with the iron mask," about the identity of whom there have been so many conjectures, when recent research in the State Papers of France has clearly revealed without any possible doubt that the victim of the Iron Mask was a somewhat uninteresting and unscrupulous scoundrel, one Matteoli. However, "that is another story," as Kipling says. Mr. Cheales' Sketch of Fouquet's life is full of interest, and not the least valuable part of the book is that containing extracts from the devotional work of the great minister. As we have said the illustrations are excellent, especially the portraits of Fouquet and Colbert and the pictures of the gardens of Vaux, some of which we reproduce.



THE SUTTON ARMS.





SCULPTURES FROM THE  
CHATEAU DE VAUX.

