



# IAAH Newsletter

International Association of Amateur Heraldry • Founded 1999

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Newsletter 4 • April 2021

## Welcome!

To the fourth issue of the IAAH Newsletter. The past three months have been rather quiet all round. We have not received any applications for membership, or any design assistance requests, and activity on our forum and Facebook discussion group has slowed down. Perhaps the global pandemic has put a damper on things for the time being.

## Who's who

### Obituary : Cecil Humphery-Smith OBE



We regret to announce the passing of our patron, Cecil Humphery-Smith OBE, aged 92, on 12 January. He was patron of the IAAH for eighteen and a half years, from July 2002 until his death.

As members may know, he was a leading figure in heraldry and genealogy in England, and was honoured with the OBE (Officer of the Order of the British Empire) for "services in education to genealogy and heraldry", in 2004.

Among other achievements, he developed certificate, advanced and diploma courses in genealogy, which he taught at London University and oth-

er institutions for many years. He also introduced the concept of Family History and the British Vital Records Index.

You will find a more detailed biography on the [IAAH website](#) and on [Wikipedia](#).

## Advancements

The Board is pleased to announce that Timothy Cart passed the Basic Heraldic Knowledge examination, and was advanced to Associate Fellow in February. Congratulations!

## New emblazonment of IAAH arms

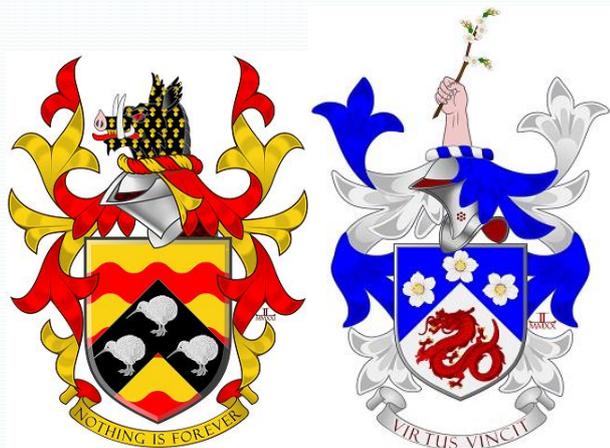


We have been given another emblazonment of the IAAH arms, this time by Lee Lumbley, who is a member of our design team. Thank you very much, Lee. We have added the emblazonment to our Design Roll on our website.

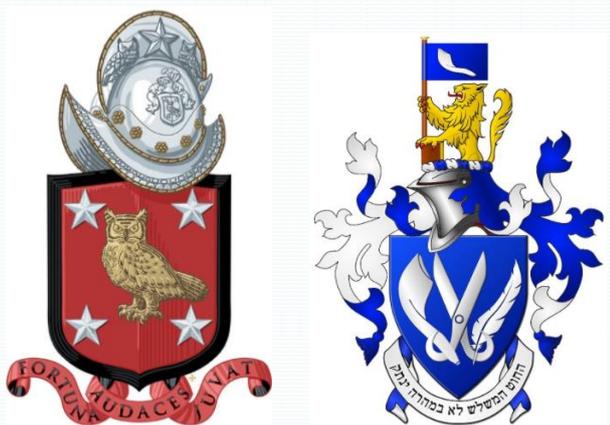
As a matter of interest, the arms were originally adopted in November 2000. They were later registered at the Bureau of Heraldry (in South Africa).

## Designs for clients

Our design team works quietly behind the scenes, designing coats of arms for the IAAH's clients. Here are the latest completed arms, and a small selection from our archives :



- Major Shay Bassett (2021), by Geoff Kingman-Sugars (herald), and Lee Lumbley (artist); the kiwi birds are, of course, a New Zealand symbol;
- Patrick Chu (2020) – by Chris Green (herald) and Lee Lumbley (artist); the plum blossoms and Chinese dragon allude to the armiger's ancestry;



- Michael Copley (2015) – by Terry Baldwin (herald) and Danilo Martins (artist); note the use of a Spanish morion instead of the usual tilting helmet;
- Rabbi Israel Schneider (2019) – by Isaac Meir Schneider (herald) and Mark Henderson (artist); the scissors are a cant on the surname (which means 'tailor'), the shofar (ram's horn) is a religious symbol;



- Maria Elena Tsilimigkra (2018) – by Terry Baldwin (herald) and Mark Henderson (artist); the Greek cross in the crest and the Greek motto allude to the armiger's ancestry;
- Michael Woodson (2012) – by Daniel Gill (herald) and Kenneth Mansfield (artist) – a rare example (in the IAAH archives) of a bat as crest.

You'll find full-size images, and further details, on the [Design Roll](#) on our website.

## Forum and Facebook

Please support [our Forum](#) and [our Facebook discussion group](#). They are the lifeblood of our association. As we don't hold meetings, they are our only means of discussing our favourite topic – heraldry.

There are currently more than 200 members and registered users on the forum, and 70 members of the Facebook group.

Unfortunately, for technical reasons, we cannot register any more users on the forum. However, current and archived discussions can still be read, without needing to log in.

## Origins of heraldry

I suspect that few heraldists give much attention to the early origins of heraldry. It's the coats of arms themselves that are most interesting. But I sometimes wonder how the earliest coats of arms came about. Did heralds actually have anything to do with the design of coats of arms in the first years of the 12th century?

We know that heralds existed long before what we know as heraldry. They were responsible for making formal announcements on behalf of their lord (as indeed the English and Scottish Kings of Arms are still today). They were responsible for delivering formal declarations of war to opposing sovereigns and even for some diplomacy, though they tended to be side-lined by lords and bishops for the more prestigious assignments. Herald's responsibilities for organising and managing tournaments seems to have come about when heraldry was already established.

So how did heralds get responsibility for coats of arms? In 1128 King Henry I of England decided to give his daughter Matilda's future husband Geoffrey of Anjou a shield with a coat of arms on the occasion of the wedding. Did he task one of his heralds with the design or was it his own idea, or indeed Matilda's? I think we can be reasonably sure that Geoffrey's arms were not the very first ever designed, so perhaps there was already a herald who had volunteered (or been volunteered) for the task.

He would have needed to have been both of the knightly class and literate, which would have been a rarish combination back then, and to have at his beck and call an artist and someone to look after his archives – so a prototype College of Arms, though it would take over 350 years for such a body to be founded.

Sadly it seems unlikely that we shall ever know for certain whether heralds invented heraldry or whether they were tasked with regulating something that had simply sprung up.

*Chris Green*

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## Online heraldry videos

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You may be interested in these videos on heraldic topics, which are available on Youtube :

[Canterbury Cathedral Cloister Heraldic Tour](#) (Dr Paul A. Fox) : a series of 15 videos about the numerous coats of arms displayed in the cathedral;

[Institute of Heraldry](#) : a 1967 publicity film about the Institute and its work (8 minutes);

[Introduction to Heraldry in America](#) (Nathaniel Taylor / New England Historic Genealogical Society) (1 hour and 5 minutes);

[Irish Civic Heraldry](#) (Stan Z. Moore / Genealogical Society of Ireland) : an exploration of Irish municipal coats of arms and their origins (48 minutes);

[Manuscript Collections of the Genealogical Office](#) (Clara Kerrigan / Genealogical Society of Ireland) : a tour of the records held by the Irish heraldry authority (32 minutes).

The IAAH does not necessarily endorse any opinions or information presented in these videos.

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## Geoffrey of Anjou's arms

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This is a 19th(?)-century portrait of Geoffrey of Anjou, showing him with the shield of arms referred to in Chris Green's article : *Azure, six lions rampant Or*. Since 2013, the anniversary of the grant of arms has been observed as International Heraldry Day.

