

EDWARD IV's FRENCH EXPEDITION OF 1475; THE LEADERS AND THEIR BADGES, BEING MS2. M16. COLLEGE OF ARMS.

Edited by Francis Pierrepont Barnard. Reprinted by Gloucester Reprints, 1975, £5.50.

First published by the Clarendon Press, Oxford, in 1925, this work has now been reissued by Gloucester Reprints. The eight pages of the manuscript in question are reproduced in facsimile, and are accompanied by a transcript. These make a useful exercise for the budding palaeographers amongst us. The manuscript is "*A declaracion Aswell of Capitegnes their Speires and Archers Reteigned wyth our Sou(er)eigne lord Kyng Edward the iijth in his s(er)uise of Guerre into his Duchie of Normandy and his Realme of ffraunce as of their wages for the second q(ua)rtter paid by John Sorell and John ffitzherberd tellers of the Kynges mony in his Receyt at Canterbury the moneth of Jun the xv yere of the Reigne of our said sou(er)eigne lord Kyng Edward the iijth.*" The list follows, under the headings of dukes, earls, barons, bannerets and knights, ending with heralds, pursuivants and tradesmen. The names are accompanied by description of the relevant badges as worn by each "capitegnes" men, and alongside is a small rough sketch of the cognisance. The Lord Scrope we are told, had 20 lances and 200 archers, and was entitled to four shillings a day. His badge was a "Cornyche chowe".

The bulk of the work takes the form of a 'Who's Who' of everyone mentioned in the manuscript, and a 'What's What' of the badges. The editor writes of the Duke of Gloucester thus: '*This distinguished soldier, as might be expected, was the only one among the leaders, from the king inclusive downwards, who preferred blows to bribes, and wished to fight.*' The sources cited, seven pages of printed books, manuscripts in footnotes to the text, constitute a formidable and, one presumes, an exhaustive list. There are separate indexes of Persons, Places and Matters. The book as a whole directs an interesting spotlight on one facet of the inglorious invasion of 1475, and is a useful work of reference.

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