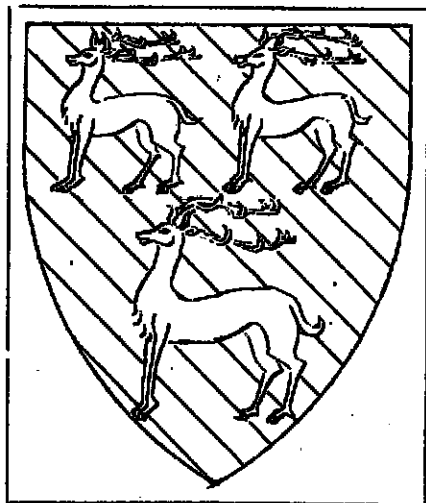
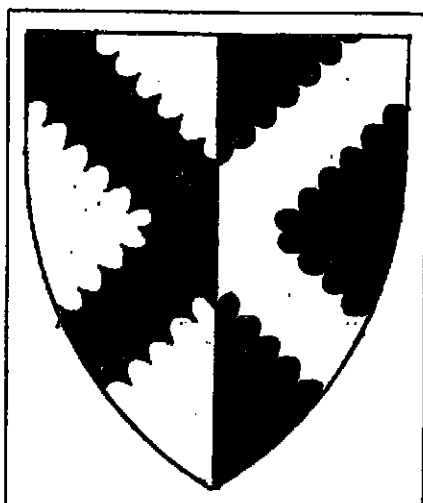


COATS-of-ARMS of some RICARDIAN CONTEMPORARIES

LAWRENCE T. GREENSMITH



ROTHERHAM



POLE

The STAGS OF THOMAS ROTHERHAM (1423-1500): CHANCELLOR AND ARCHBISHOP

Known also as Scot(t), Thomas preferred the name of his birthplace in Yorkshire. He bore the arms: *Green, 3 golden stags statant* (standing). If they seem not unfamiliar, it will be because they are part of the arms of Lincoln College, Oxford. There are three pales, and this is one of them: the others are arms of the Founder and of the See of Lincoln. Rotherham had both re-organized and re-endowed the College.

Chaplain to John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, he came to the notice of Elizabeth Woodville. Through her influence he had appointments from King Edward IV culminating in the Bishopric of Rochester in 1468.

Employed in diplomatic missions, he was much abroad. In 1472, he became Bishop of Lincoln; two years later, jointly with Alcock, he was Chancellor of England. In 1475, Rotherham was with the king in his expedition to France. In 1480, he was Archbishop of York; but by 1483 King Edward was dead.

Much beholden to Queen Elizabeth, he remained her friend but indiscreetly. Allowed to remain on Richard's council, he was deprived of the Chancellorship. He was also with the faction when Hastings was executed: he himself was imprisoned. Richard made his royal progress in the north while Rotherham

was in prison; and it was the Bishop of Durham who officiated at York Minster. To favour (but not the Chancellorship) Rotherham was restored. He is said to have died of the plague and was buried in his Minster.

Rotherham town owes much to its son and namesake for building both church and college (whose Lady Chapel remains). A guide-book says "He must have been a wily and astute politician of doubtful integrity": perhaps a fair epitaph.

MARGARET POLE (1473-1541); COUNTESS OF SALISBURY

She was the daughter of George, Duke of Clarence and sister of Edward, Earl of Warwick. Her father's arms were impaled with those of her husband, Sir Richard Pole: *Per pale, gold and black; a saltire engrailed counterchanged.*

Not much is known of Margaret's youth. Henry VII had her married to Sir Richard, a favoured gentleman. Margaret, at not much more than 30, was widowed with four children. When she was 36, Henry VIII was king. He had thought well of her, and desired to atone for his father's judicial murder of her brother: besides reversing his attainder, he granted her an annuity and created her Countess of Salisbury.

Margaret also became governess to the Princess Mary. They were devoted: too much so when Henry married again. Mary was not only her mother's daughter but regarded Margaret as her second mother. Henry, to separate them, dismissed Margaret; but she returned to court after Anne Boleyn's execution.

Reginald, her son, gave much offence to Henry, who had esteemed him, helped him and made him Dean of Exeter. He and Cromwell were discordant, and he returned to Italy where he had been before. Concerned with royal claims to church supremacy, he wrote to say so. Henry withdrew pension and preferments, and the Pope sent him as Legate to the Low Countries. He did not return to England until Mary Tudor was queen.

When it seemed that Charles V and Francis might jointly attack England Henry blamed Pole and vented his wrath on his relatives and friends. Agents examined Margaret and found no evidence against her; but she was badly treated and, complaining, removed to the Tower. It was contended that those even only accused of treason could be attainted and condemned without trial. There were executions; but some—including Margaret—were confined only. An insurrection was the pretext for her death. Stubborn, she refused to make false confession or to express reverence for the king: they had accused her of nothing. Her execution, at the age of 68, was a fearful one.

Contributions for the June, 1974 issue of the magazine should be sent to the Editor by 15th April, 1974. All material **MUST** be typed on one side only. The Editor reserves the right to cut or alter and, if necessary, to condense contributions at his discretion without reference to contributors.