

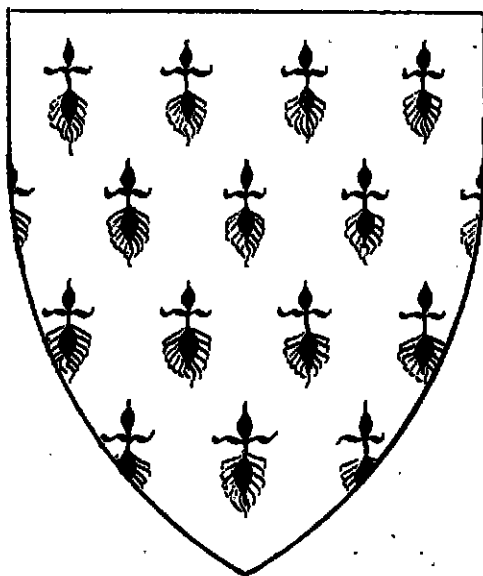
JOURNAL ARTICLES: I am pleased to be able to thank two members, Mrs. Gwen Waters of Gloucester, and Mr. William White of Chesham, for working through the Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucester Archaeological Society and Gloucester Notes and Queries (Mrs. Waters), and the Journal of the Buckinghamshire Architectural and Archaeological Society and History (Mr. White). They have both found many useful articles, copies of which are now in the Society's Library, and will be listed in the next catalogue.

COATS-of-ARMS of some RICARDIAN CONTEMPORARIES

LAWRENCE T. GREENSMITH

THE ERMINE SHIELD OF FRANCIS II, DUKE OF BRITTANY (1458-1488)

Arms of only one colour, or metal, or fur (collectively they are called tinctures) are both ancient and rare. Brittany's *ermine* is one of them. The arms of the Yorkshire borough of Richmond include an ermine bend for the historical reason that in Norman times the Counts and Dukes of Brittany held the Honour of Richmond. One of Speed's 1610 maps shows not only the ancient existing arms of the town but also those of four earls of Richmond who had borne *ermine* somewhere on their shields. That Henry Tudor was also an Earl of Richmond is sheer coincidence.

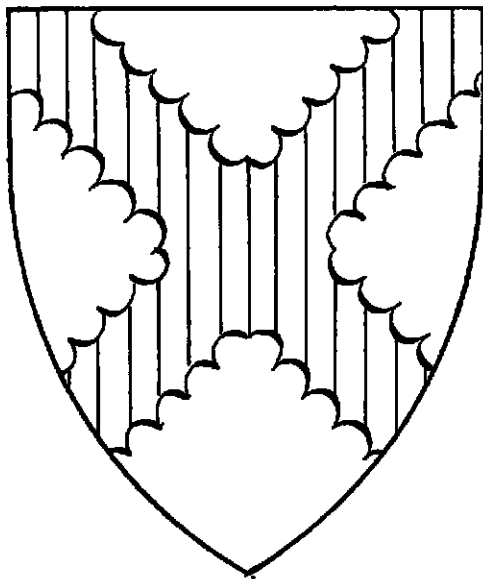


It is not necessary, even were it possible, to disentangle that complication of bribery, deceit, expediency, pretended peace, trickery, and sometimes actual war, at the centre of which was Louis XI of France; but one needs to be aware of it.

Louis was contemporary with Francis, last Duke of Brittany and with Charles the Bold, last Duke of Burgundy and brother-in-law of Edward IV. He would have liked to absorb both independent Dukedoms, and, indeed, did seize Burgundy after the death of Charles. Into these power games both Edward and our Richard were often drawn. Edward had a rather fragile alliance with France against Louis which in a fashion was maintained by Richard; but this did not prevent Francis from harbouring the young Henry Tudor (then Earl of Richmond) in exile and giving his followers both encouragement and actual financial help. Later, when Henry had been king for fifteen years, he helped the heir of Francis—his daughter, the Duchess Anne—to maintain Brittany's continued, but precarious struggle against France until she wearily married king Charles VIII (Louis's heir) and ended it; but Brittany was not finally absorbed for another 40 years.

THE ENGRAILED SALTIRE OF JOHN TIPTOFT, EARL OF WORCESTER (?1427-1470)

He was born in Cambridgeshire, the son of another John, Baron Tiptoft. Educated in Oxford at Balliol, he had a reputation as scholar, traveller and collector of fine manuscripts—some of which he translated from the Latin and were printed by Caxton. In his early twenties, he was created Earl of Worcester in the reign of Henry VI. He seemed to have every grace. He was Treasurer



of the Exchequer when he was perhaps only 25. Two years later he was one of the Joint Commission to keep guard by the sea and by 1457 he was Deputy of Ireland.

On the accession of Edward IV (1461) he was made Chief Justice of North Wales, and later there were other high offices including that of Constable of England: all these by his mid-thirties; but he had an unsaving disgrace, that of ruthless cruelty. Not for nothing did he earn the title of "Butcher of England." He was unpopular with the people, both in Ireland and at home. The temporary victory of Warwick and the flight of King Edward allowed for a truly popular execution: that of Worcester. Sentenced to the Tower and to death, he had, by his guards, to be diverted to the Fleet prison on the way, such was the fury of the mob against him. He died with much courage.

On his Garter Stall Plate at Windsor, his arms are shown as quartered with those (not here shown) of the Lords of Powis, Tiptoft's mother having been co-heir of the last of them. His own quartering was *silver with a red saltire engrailed*: except for the tinctures and the parting of the shield they were identical with those of Margaret Pole (*Ricardian* 44). The Powis arms were *gold with a red lion rampant*.

YORK AND LANCASTER, 1588

MARY C. CLAWSEY

Those in the know about such matters like to point out that the last battle of the War of the Roses was not Bosworth Field in 1485, but Stoke in 1487. In a certain sense, however, the last battle of the War of the Roses was fought a full century after either of these and involved a usually overlooked line of heirs in the York-Lancaster conflict.

After John of Gaunt's descendants by his first marriage became extinct in 1471, Henry Tudor assumed the role of Lancastrian claimant on the basis of his descent from the Beauforts, legitimized children of John's third marriage. However, the Beaufort claim was weakened not only by their doubtful legitimacy, but also by the prior rights of John's indisputably legitimate daughter by his second marriage. This daughter, Catherine, married Henry III of Castile and was the great-grandmother of Isabella of Castile, who in turn was the great-grandmother of Philip II of Spain.

Thus Henry VII's claim to being the Lancastrian heir was as flimsy as his claim to the throne itself. But the claims of his descendants were another matter, thanks to Henry's policy (continued by his son, Henry VIII) of systematically eliminating nearly every possible Yorkist claimant other than the daughters of Edward IV. Although Elizabeth of York's legitimacy was at best questionable itself, by the time she died she and her children were the best Yorkist claimants available, simply because anyone still alive with a better claim was in no position to do anything about it. In short, the later Tudors could more reasonably have called themselves Yorkists than Lancastrians.

Oddly enough, then, in the second half of the sixteenth century, the house of York was represented by the children of Henry VIII and that of Lancaster by Philip of Spain. In this light, it becomes evident that the marriage that united York and Lancaster was that of Philip to Mary Tudor, and the last battle of the War of the Roses was the defeat of the Spanish Armada.