

THE BRASS TO JOYCE TIPTOFT

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Enfield now lies on the borderline between suburbia and the green belt, about 9 miles to the north of London; it was once a famous hunting area, and old history books may still be found siting the Battle of Barnet "on Enfield Chace," the Chace being the open land lying between Enfield and Barnet. The town's parish church is now principally 14th century, though its origins are several centuries earlier; it is this church which houses one of the finest memorial brasses in the country—that of Joyce (Jocosa), mother of "the Butcher of England," John Tiptoft. A reproduction of a part of this brass is given on page 213 of Anthony Cheetham's "Richard III" where it is erroneously stated to commemorate Worcester's wife instead of his mother.

The plain altar tomb stands in the sancturay of the North chapel. It is covered by a slab of grey Purbeck marble, into which the brass is set. The stone canopy above the tomb is of the early 16th century and probably commemorates Isabel, Lady Lovell, Joyce's granddaughter.

The brass itself is a fine example of heraldic art. Lady Tiptoft is shown in an ermine-trimmed surcote, horned and jewelled headdress and a mantle displaying the lions of Powys and Holland. Within the spandrels of the triple canopy appear the words "Mercy, Jhu, ignosce." From the pillars supporting this canopy hang six shields:

Powys (or, a lion rampant, gules). Tiptoft impaling Powys.



BRASS TO LADY TIPTOFT IN ENFIELD CHURCH, A.D. 1446.

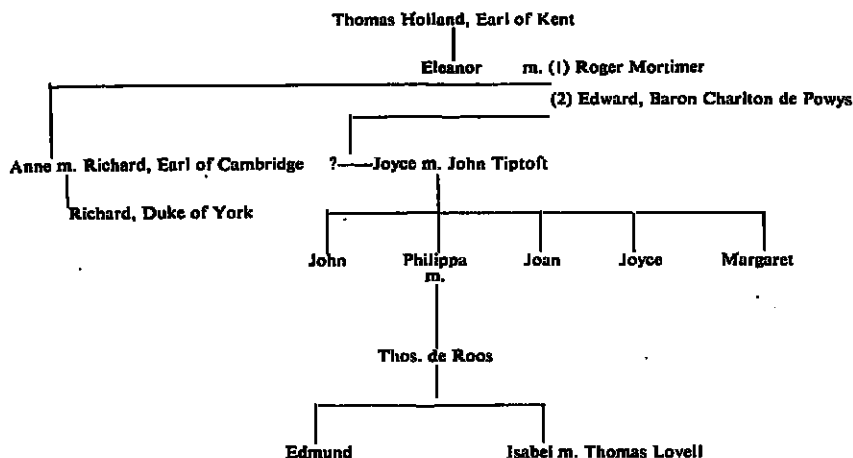
Tiptoft, impaling Powys, itself impaled by Holland. Powys and Holland quarterly.

Tiptoft (argent, a saltire engrailed, gules). Powys.

Round the edge of the marble slab is a brass fillet bearing in its corners the emblems of the four evangelists: only that of St. Matthew now remains. This fillet bears the following inscription, interspersed with leaves, flowers, birds and animals:

D'na Jocosa quondam filia et una hered' Caroli D'ni Powes ac etiam filia et una hered' honorabilissime D'ne Marchie et uxor famosissimo militi Johanni Typtoft, que obiit XXII die Septe'br A.D'ni mccccxvi, cujus anime, et omniu fidelium defunctor, Jhu pro sua sacratissima passione, misereat. [(Here lies) the Lady Jocosa, formerly daughter and co-heiress of Charlton Lord Powys and also daughter and co-heiress of the most honorable Lady March and wife to the most famous soldier John Tiptoft; who died 22nd September A.D. 1446. On her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed may Jesus, for the sake of his most holy passion, have mercy.]

As the inscription states, Joyce was the 2nd daughter and co-heiress of Edward, 4th Baron Charlton de Powys; her mother, Eleanor, was the widow of Roger Mortimer, and could trace her descent from Edmund, Earl of Kent, a son of Edward I. Joyce became the 2nd wife of John Tiptoft (1375?-1443) sometime around 1425, and bore him five children.



Joyce's only son John was created Earl of Worcester in 1449 and subsequently became Chancellor of Ireland and Constable of England. He was executed in 1470. This John had inherited a house in Enfield; known as Worcesters, it stood within the grounds of what is now Forty Hall, and is at present undergoing excavation. With the death without issue of John's son in 1485, the earldom of Worcester became extinct, and the manor of Worcesters passed eventually to Sir Thomas Lovell, Henry VII's Chancellor of the Exchequer.