

Edward Coke, early in the seventeenth century, and Sir William Blackstone, a hundred years later, summarised the purport of the Act, it was never in fact applied after 1437, and has lain forgotten for several centuries.

NOTES AND REFERENCES

This article is based on a paper by R. A. Griffiths (see Note 2 below), a copy of which is now in the Society's Library.

1. See for example P. M. Kendall, *Richard III*, London (1955), p.157.
2. Ralph A. Griffiths, Queen Katherine of Valois and a missing statute of the Realm, *Law Quarterly Review*, Vol. 93 (April, 1977), pp.248-58.
3. The statute is 6 Hen.VI, ch.7, in the Leicester collection, which is a manuscript of about 1430.
4. *Great Chronicle*, quoted in Kendall, p.157.
5. F. Devon, *Issues of the Exchequer, Henry III to Henry VI*, Record Commission (1837), p.435.
6. *Ibid.*, p.443.
7. Griffiths, *op. cit.*, p.255.

Coats of Arms of some Ricardian Contemporaries

LAWRENCE T. GREENSMITH

BARONS OF THE EXCHEQUER

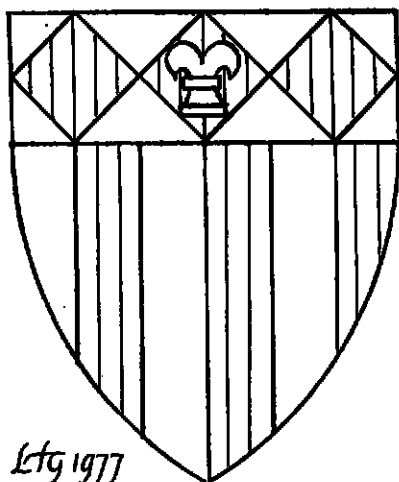
Sir Piers Arderne fl. ?1420-?1470

Sir Brian Roucliffe d. 1494

THESE TWO knights had very much in common. Both were Barons of the Exchequer and therefore Judges, Roucliffe apparently succeeding Arderne¹ in office. They were also close friends and, as will be seen from wills² of members of both families, had much to do with each other. They may have been related: Arderne refers to 'cousyn' Roucliffe in his will.³ They also had a link in their heraldry, not evident in the drawings: more will be said about this; curious but coincidental is the fact that their arms had the same tinctures.

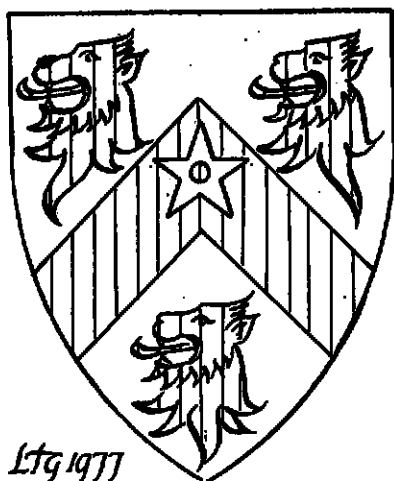
Sir Piers (or Peter) ARDERNE was probably son of John Arderne who had also been (early Henry VI) a Baron of the Exchequer. His name had appeared in the yearbooks as an advocate before he became King's Serjeant. Raised to the Chief Barony of the Exchequer in 1448, he was also Justice of Common Pleas. Although he was replaced as Chief Baron on the accession of King Edward IV it seems possible that he remained 2nd Baron.⁴ He was granted a ton of wine—presumably annually—for life. With his wife, he founded a chantry in the church of Nettleswell, Essex. Another was endowed in the neighbouring Latton where there is both heraldic glass and a monumental brass, which will be mentioned again.

Sir Brian ROUCLIFFE was the eldest of four sons of Sir Guy Roucliffe of Cowthorpe, Yorkshire, who became Recorder of York. Although the



Ltg 1977

ARDERNE



Ltg 1977

ROUCLIFFE

yearbooks do not seem to confirm this, Brian probably practised in the Court of the Exchequer. In 1458⁵ he was raised to the bench as 3rd Baron of the Exchequer. At the same time he did much other work, notably as counsel of Sir William Plumpton. He received livery before the coronation of King Richard III and was promoted to 2nd Baron at the same time. It is not clear just when he became 1st Baron.

It was through his mother that he inherited the manor of Cowthorpe, which now became his seat as it had been his father's. In 1458 he had founded and built the parish church there, where he was buried. A monument to Sir Brian and his wife was by 1840 much defaced, but Sir Brian's effigy is still to be seen.

The arms of both men can conveniently be taken together. **ARDERNE:** Paly of 6, gold and red. On a silver chief, 3 red lozenges; and on the centre lozenge a golden chessrook. **ROUCLIFFE:** Silver, a chevron between 3 lions' heads erased all red; and on the chevron a molet⁶ for difference. Neither shield has unusual features but both must look well in colour. In Burke's *General Armory*⁷ against one of the five entries for the name (variously spelled and on two pages), the molet is replaced by a chessrook: that was Sir Brian's badge and the Cowthorpe brass shows its frequent use as decoration only. One cannot certainly decide in just which family the use of the chessrook started. An effigy in the church at Pickering, Yorkshire, of a previous Roucliffe (Sir David (d. 1406), Chief Constable of Pickering Castle) shows the 'rook' on his arms on the chevron. The use of the chessrook may merely be a cant on the name (probably pronounced 'Rook'lift). Those who know the origin of the word 'exchequer' will see the significance of the chessrook to both men, but there would be another one for Arderne in that the brass at Latton shows the arms of his wife Katharine Sywardby, whose father bore a chevron engrailed between three chessrooks!

NOTES AND REFERENCES

Court of the Exchequer: this was originally a revenue court developed out of the judicial branch of the Exchequer, and acquired a general common-law jurisdiction. It became a division of the High Court of Justice in 1875, and is now merged in the King's (Queen's) Bench Division.

1. A. Colin Cole, *Two Barons of the Exchequer, Coat of Arms*, Vol. 8, No. 64 (October, 1965), p.318.
2. *Testamenta Eboracensia*, Vol. 4, Surtees Society (1869), pp.102-7.
3. Cole, *op. cit.*
4. Edward Foss, *The Judges of England*, London (1848-64), Vol. 4, p.408.
5. Cole, *op. cit.*, states that this occurred in 1461.
6. The illustration in Cole of the Cowthorpe brass shows the Roucliffe molet as invariably pierced, and despite the blazon I have so drawn it.
7. Bernard Burke, *The General Armory*, London (1884), p.865 Roccliffe and Rockcliffe; p.875 Rowcliffe. The Roucliffe spelling does not appear.

I thank Dr Bernard Juby, one of our Birmingham members, for not only interesting me in Roucliffe, but also sending me a photocopy of information including that in Ref. 2. He also supplied much else besides. Much of it was confirmed in different ways in the many notes to the long and illustrated article referred to in Ref. 1, which was a useful find.

Research Notes and Queries

P. W. HAMMOND

THE JOURNAL OF ELIZABETH WOODVILLE

Many members of the Society will have heard of this Journal, and wondered if such a thing existed and, if so, what it was. They will therefore be interested in the following notes.

It seems best to say at the outset that a Journal, or Diary, of Elizabeth Woodville does not, as such, exist, and probably never has done. That is not, however, the end of the story. Readers of Strickland's *Lives of the Queens of England* will have seen a note in the Life of Elizabeth Woodville that there existed a 'well known and amusing paper' called the Journal of that queen (Vol. 3, London, 1841, p.310) which dealt with her life just before she married her first husband John Grey. Strickland was in no doubt that this 'paper' was not genuine, nor was MacGibbon in his *Life of Elizabeth Woodville* (London, 1938, p.18, note 2). MacGibbon describes it as pure imagination. Neither author quotes from it, however, so that to find out more it was necessary to follow up the references given by the latter. The relevant ones are to the *Church Times* (11th February, 1898, p.159) and *The History and Antiquities of Charnwood Forest*, by T. R. Potter (London, 1842, pp.108-9). Both of these sources have quotations from the Journal, oddly enough virtually the same quotation, differing only very slightly from each other, for a 'Thursday morning.' Potter adds the information in brackets that it was 10th May, 1451, but this was in fact a Monday. Reading the quotations confirms that