

THE HERALDRY OF MANCHESTER.

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TO the average citizen of Manchester, or indeed of any British community, the armorial bearings of the Corporation are simply a design to be seen upon tramcars or "crest china." There is a general feeling that heraldry is a study for the few, and that most people have no occasion to occupy themselves with a subject requiring special knowledge. The fact is that the heraldry of a Corporation of any kind is no mere collection of charges of no particular significance, but a symbolical statement of the history and activities of the Corporation, and a very little knowledge of the principles of heraldry will enable the observer to appreciate something of its meaning. This is even more surely the case with Corporation heraldry, which is invariably designed *ad hoc*, for the coat of arms of a person may have no significance at all. Nobody knows why the de Lacys chose a purple lion on a field of gold—they might just as easily have borne a golden eagle upon purple, or a green cross upon silver—but anyone who knows the de Lacy lion will recognise it in the arms of Haslingden, and will realise that the family had something to do with the history of the borough.

Two notable attempts have been made to familiarise people with the corporate heraldry of Britain, in A. C. Fox-Davies' *Book of Public Arms*, whose last edition included all authentic heraldry in the United Kingdom and much spurious matter, up to 1915; and in C. W. Scott-Giles' *Civic Heraldry of England and Wales*, which covers authentic and non-registered municipal devices up to ten years ago. The latter work describes the arms in non-technical language, and gives some explanation of the significance of the bearings; in his article on Manchester's arms, however, the author has been led astray by one or two popular misconceptions, and it seems opportune to deal with the City arms here, together with those of some other Manchester bodies which have obtained grants of arms since the publication of

these two valuable works. The City arms may be blazoned as follows :

Gules three bendlets enhanced or, on a chief argent a three-masted ship in full sail upon waves of the sea proper. Crest : A terrestrial globe charged with seven bees volant proper. Supporters : Dexter, an heraldic antelope argent, maned, armed, hooved, gorged with a collar and attached thereto a chain or, and charged on the shoulder with a rose of Lancaster ; sinister, a lion gardant or, murally crowned gules and also charged upon the shoulder with a like rose.

Motto : Concilio et Labore. (Plate 1, Fig. 1.)

The shield is very simply conceived, which is rather surprising, considering the overcrowded compositions that were granted to civic authorities in the nineteenth century. Scott-Giles connects the bendlets with the coat of Byron of Rochdale, which was "Argent three bendlets enhanced gules" and may be seen in the unauthorised device of Hucknall, Nottinghamshire. There seems no reason to bring Byron into the Manchester coat on the tenuous link of that family's holding a neighbouring lordship, when one has to look no further than the first lords of the manor of Manchester. The arms of de Greilley, Grelley, Greslet—there are various spellings—were "Gules three bendlets enhanced or," and there we have the basis of the City arms. This coat is recorded in numerous early rolls, and the unpublished files of the late Oswald Barron, F.S.A., collect all together the various references. I have found no mention of the Byron coat earlier than the Grelley shield, and am inclined to think that it was in fact derived from the latter.

The chief of the shield is particularly interesting, as it precedes the opening of the Ship Canal by some fifty years. The inclusion of this prophetic bearing in the arms shows at least how definitely the project had taken shape even then. One would like to know what the Mancunians thought of the ship in the arms at that time—if they paid it any attention at all. A similar situation to-day would be a symbolic Channel Tunnel in a grant of arms to Folkestone or Newhaven.

The heraldic antelope is described by Scott-Giles as one of

the supporters of the arms of the Duke of Manchester. This is a coincidence, and an unfortunate one, as it leads too easily to the conclusion that, as in the case of many other municipal coats of arms, the heraldry of a peer taking his name from the town has been included. The Montagues do indeed have this supporter, but they take their title from Godmanchester in Huntingdonshire, and cannot reasonably be expected to have provided a supporter for the City arms. The explanation may be deduced from an examination of the fine heraldic panels over the portico and upon the ceiling of the hall of the Central Reference Library. The antelope is there found as a Beaufort bearing, and appears as a Manchester supporter simply as a reference to the Duchy of Lancaster. Manchester was the first Lancashire town to have animal supporters (though Liverpool had acquired mythological characters in 1797), and it was no doubt considered appropriate to commemorate the event with an emblem of the Duchy. The antelope—which is not an antelope at all, but something between a stag and a wolf—was also granted as the sinister supporter of the arms of Salford, two years later (1844).

Another impression about heraldry is that a coat of arms can only be depicted in one way, and that if there exists an official painting such as that executed in the original patent, all other representations must follow that painting to the most minute detail, even to the convolutions of the mantling, the tufts on a lion's mane, or the exact shade of blue or red employed. Nothing could be more false or detrimental to the development of heraldic art. So long as the description of the official blazon is followed, the method of display is regulated entirely by the exigencies of the medium required and the individual technique of the artist. An achievement of arms may be fitted skilfully into a square panel in stone, a rectangular book-plate or a circular stained-glass window, and nobody would reasonably expect the proportions and method of arrangement to be identical in all three cases. A glance at a little book called *The Arms of the City of Leicester* will demonstrate this. This book contains examples of the City arms evolved by members of the Leicester College of Art and Crafts, designed for use in book-plates, windows, seals, panels, and on vehicles. It is usually upon the Corporation's vehicles

that the arms have their greatest publicity, and it is very regrettable that often the most unpleasing version of the arms is used for this purpose. The reason is plain to see—either for the sake of convenience or because of the belief that the original version must not be tampered with, a transfer of the painting upon the patent is made, and the original is propagated about the City. There is no harm in this, provided that the original painting is good heraldic art. One could dwell at length on the question of what *is* good heraldic art, but it must here suffice to say that it is generally agreed that the official paintings from the College of Arms during the last century were bad heraldic art, with their impossible helmets, deckle-edged shields, string-like mantling, and unheraldic-looking animals. It is unfortunate that the Manchester arms are displayed upon the Corporation transport vehicles in this nineteenth-century style, supposedly transferred from the official painting. The shield is of the florally decorated type ; the crest, which by its very nature looks rather precarious in any arrangement, is perched unsubstantially upon its wreath and suspended above the shield without the helm and mantling ; the lion follows the realistic type rather than the graceful heraldic animal, and the supporters are involved with the motto-scroll in the unsatisfactory ornament which one heraldic writer has aptly called the “ gas-bracket.” Since these arms were granted, the problem of the base for the supporters to stand on has been solved by the introduction of the compartment, which usually takes the form of a grassy mound, though some towns and institutions connected with the sea use a compartment of sand and water, or rocks. This again is left to the discretion of the artist, who has to consider not only the significance of the arms and the character of the body to which they belong, but the nature of the supporters. Thus, supporters such as lions or other quadrupeds look best upon a compartment of grass, while fishermen and animals terminating in a fish-tail look best upon sand and water. In the arms of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce (*q.v.*) and the British Overseas Airways Corporation, the supporters, a lion and a sea-lion, stand upon a compartment made of grass on the dexter and water in the sinister.

A reconstruction of the Manchester City Arms, then, for use

upon the trams and buses, would mean placing the crest upon the usual closed helm used by Corporations, furnished with red and gold mantling, which, curling up on each side of the globe, would give it a more stable appearance. The shield would be of the plain heater type now used, the lion would be truly heraldic, and the whole would be placed upon a compartment of grass. (See Plate 1, Fig. 1.) Such a rearrangement has in fact been made already for the Central Library book-plates, and a fine carved panel in the modern style may be seen over the door of the Woolwich Equitable building in St. Peter's Square. If anyone should doubt that the arms look better done this way, let him look at the Birmingham Corporation buses or those of Edinburgh and Lancaster, and compare them with the vehicles of Manchester and Salford, and decide which have the better heraldic display. Even in the case of arms with crests only and no supporters, the design looks much better with the helm, mantling and shield drawn in modern style—which is after all, merely mediæval style in modern draughtsmanship. The nineteenth-century arms of Oldham and Ashton are pleasingly displayed in modern style upon the Corporation vehicles, and look much better than those upon the buses of Rochdale, for example, which carry the arms as painted upon the mid-nineteenth century patent, with the distressing addition of a greenish growth upon the silver lining of the mantling. The arms of Stockport, granted in 1932, are shown without helm and mantling, though the crest is placed within a mural crown and looks less isolated than it would if placed upon a wreath without helm.

Is it too much to hope that after a hundred years of use in its original form, the achievement of arms of the City of Manchester may receive a new lease of life in modern dress? It is a good design, and a well-known one, and will stand re-fashioning, as the Library book-plates show. Perhaps a century of possession of this coat of arms could be signalled by the granting of a badge, carrying the right to a standard. No town in Lancashire has obtained a badge, though the Cities of Bradford, Nottingham and Exeter, by grants of badge and standard, have now acquired the maximum of heraldic insignia. The Boroughs of Hertford and Llanelli have also obtained badges, but the former has no crest and the latter no supporters.

The arms of the *See of Manchester* are a pleasing design, and indicate very simply that the diocese was carved out of the See of Chester and has Manchester for its seat. The blazon is "Or, on a pale engrailed gules three mitres gold, on a canton gules three bendlets enhanced or." The arms of the See of Chester are "Gules three mitres or," and this forms the basis of the Manchester episcopal coat. The City bendlets are placed on a canton. It is possible that this coat set the fashion for the heraldry of the younger dioceses, for most of those created subsequently show emblems from the arms of the parent see or province and of the cathedral town. The shield, ensigned with an episcopal mitre, will be found in *Burke's Peerage* under Lords Spiritual.

The arms of the *University of Manchester* are dealt with in Fox-Davies' *Book of Public Arms*. They are properly those granted to Owens College as the Manchester partner of the Victoria University, which had a separate coat of arms, showing a Lancaster and a York rose impaled, with the globe from the Manchester arms, the Liverpool cormorant and the Leeds fleece. This may be seen in the large window in the Whitworth Hall at the University.

The shield of the University arms is purely symbolic, but we find the well-known Manchester bendlets in the crest. This shows a shield hanging from a palm-tree; its description is "Argent a lion gules, on a chief of the last three bendlets or." The lion is probably a reference to the arms which John Owens is supposed to have used. These are "Gules a chevron between three lions or," attributed to one of the Welsh patriarchs, Awfa ap Cynddelw, and borne by his descendants, the Owens of Bodowen in Anglesey, and used without authority by the Anglesey County Council. This coat may be seen, together with the University shield, flanking one of the Oxford Road gates.

Four more coats with Manchester associations, all described in Fox-Davies (*op. cit.*) remain to be mentioned. They are the arms of the *Manchester Overseers*, the *Manchester, Liverpool, and District Bank* (now the *District Bank* tout court), the *Great Central Railway*, and *Williams Deacons Bank*.

All these coats recall their association with Manchester by

means of the bendlets. The Overseers have them in a little shield in chief, and the District Bank takes two of the bendlets and makes them red upon silver, possibly with the Byron myth in mind.¹ The Great Central was the first railway company to have a grant of arms, and the design—a very crowded and in-artistic composition—included, *inter alia*, the Sheffield sheaf of arrows, the Manchester bendlets, and the Lincoln fleur-de-lys. When the G.C. was absorbed twenty years ago into the L.N.E.R., this coat of arms was rendered obsolete, and the new company obtained its present armorial bearings. These contain emblems from the arms of England, Scotland, London, Edinburgh and York, and so the Manchester bendlets disappear from the coat. Incidentally, this is still the only railway company to possess a grant of arms. The G.W.R. very improperly impales the arms of London and Bristol, and the L.M.S. uses a device which includes the English rose, the Scottish thistle and the unregistered crest used by the City of London. The Southern Railway has been considering a grant of arms, but the question has been deferred during war-time.

We now come to grants of arms made subsequently to those entered in Fox-Davies, which show their association with Manchester in their armorial insignia.

Manchester College, Oxford, must surely be regarded as a Manchester institution in spite of its removal to Oxford. At any rate, those responsible for the design of its arms have thought it proper to make no small allusion to the City which saw the founding of this college in the late eighteenth century.

Arms : Gules two torches in saltire inflamed or, on a chief argent an open book proper between two roses of Lancaster. Crest : Out of a celestial crown or, a demi-heraldic antelope argent, maned, armed, hooved, gorged with a collar and attached thereto a chain or, and charged on the shoulder with a rose of Lancaster.

Motto : Veritas, libertas, pietas. (Plate 1, Fig. 4.)

Like the City arms, the college shield has a red field and a silver chief, into which come the roses from the City supporters. The antelope from the City arms does duty for a crest and is

¹ Williams Deacons Bank bears the three bendlets, red on a gold chief.

shown exactly as in the City achievement, allowing for the fact that it has been turned round to face the dexter and is only shown half-length.

The torches and celestial crown suggest the aspirations expressed in the motto. The grant is registered in the 1933-35 docquet book.

The Manchester Chamber of Commerce is the only one outside London to have registered arms. Certain points of similarity exist between this design and that of the London Chamber, whose arms were granted about three years previously.

Arms : Gules a balance within an orle of bees volant or.

Supporters : On the dexter a winged lion, and on the sinister a winged sea-lion, the interior wing of each expanded and elevated, the other inverted, or ; each supporting a staff flying a banner, that on the dexter sable fretty wavy argent and that on the sinister sable three bendlets enhanced argent.

Motto : Vigilans et utilis. (Plate 1, Fig. 2.)

These arms are registered in the 1937-38 docquet book.

The colours of the shield are red and gold, the livery colours of the City arms. The balance is the emblem of scrupulous dealing, and appropriately forms the central charge. The main feature of the London Chamber's coat is the Great Beam of London, the mediæval weighing-machine that played a large part in the commerce of the capital. The balance is surrounded by golden bees, emblems of industry and communal effort, and familiar as part of the City crest.

No crest is used, and a novel arrangement of the supporters fills up the space above the shield. The wings of the lions sweep up almost to meet over the shield, a device which may have been suggested by the London Chamber's arms, which show two seagulls as supporters, their interior wings rising above the shield in the same way. The Manchester Chamber's supporters are two British lions, one of them a sea-lion, and both winged ; these typify the spread of British commerce, not only by land and sea, but by the increasing volume of air traffic.

As mentioned previously, these supporters are shown upon a compartment half of grass and half of water. It is interesting

PLATE 1.



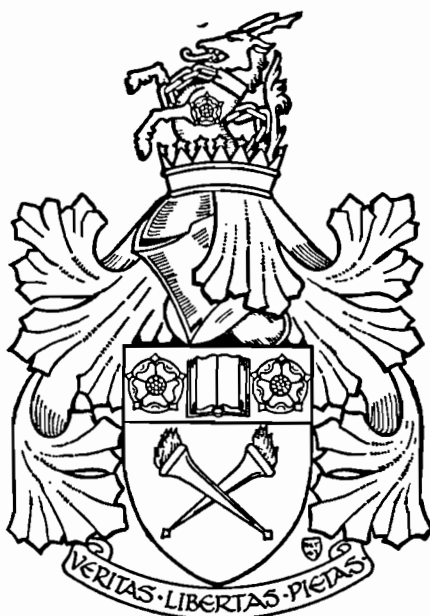
1. MANCHESTER.



2. MANCHESTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.



3. MANCHESTER PORT HEALTH
AUTHORITY.



4. MANCHESTER COLLEGE, OXFORD.

to compare these supporters with those of the British Overseas Airways Corporation, which are similar, except that they wear green collars and do not carry banners.

The Manchester Port Health Authority registered arms in 1940, after improperly using the City arms for many years. This is the only English port authority to bear arms, except the Port of London.

Arms : Party per pale or and azure, a fess indented and in base a beehive counterchanged, in dexter chief three roses of Lancaster and in sinister chief three bees volant or. Crest : A terrestrial globe charged with a ship of the sixteenth century, with three masts in full sail proper, flying three flags of St. George.

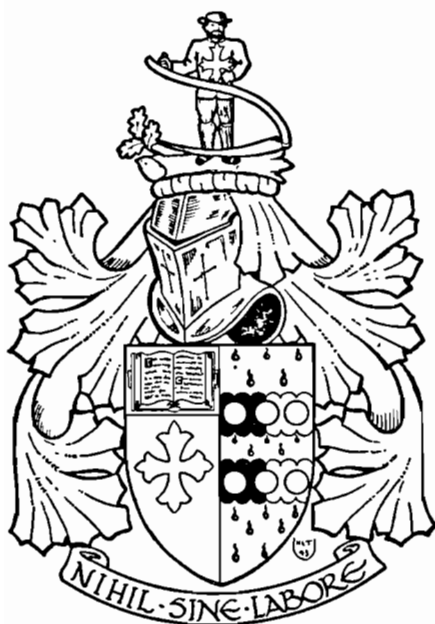
Motto : Omnia pro bono. (Plate 1, Fig. 3.)

The colours are those of the City of Salford, in which the Authority's headquarters are situated. The fess indented may be a reference to Manchester through the arms of the de la Warre family, though it may be taken from the arms of Sir Frederick West. The familiar bees of the Manchester and Salford arms are accompanied by a hive and three Lancaster roses. The globe from the Manchester arms is charged with a more precisely specified version of the sailing ship in the City arms.

A criticism of the arms as a design would be that the bees, hive and roses are not placed to the best advantage, for the intrusive red of the roses cuts asymmetrically into the counterchange. A better arrangement, possibly, would have been to part the field fesswise indented, following the line of the fess, so that the latter would be counterchanged. The red roses, horizontally in line, above the fess, and the hive between two bees, all gold, in base, would give the same charges and significance without disturbing the symmetry demanded by the counterchange. Alternatively, the dexter half of the fess and of the hive could have been made red to agree with the roses, thus effecting a striking three-colour counterchange.

From an analysis of the foregoing coats, it will be seen that no fewer than ten institutions have based their authorised heraldry to a greater or a less extent upon the arms of the City of Manchester. Seven use the de Greilly bendlets as the most familiar component

PLATE 2.



1. JOHN RYLANDS LIBRARY.



2. HARTLEY VICTORIA METHODIST COLLEGE.



3. SWINTON AND PENDLEBURY.



4. RADCLIFFE.

of the City coat. (The Chamber of Commerce shows them emblazoned silver on black, not only to difference them from their prototypes, but also to match the colours of the other banner, on the black field of which, representing coal, is placed a network of silver or white frets, indicating cotton-weaving and spinning.) Two authorities show the bees, two show the globe, one borrows the antelope supporter and one uses the ship. A ship is used for the crest of the District Bank, but this is probably the vessel displayed on the banner upheld by the sinister supporter of the arms of Liverpool.

No other town or city south of the Scottish border can claim such wide use of its armorial bearings, excepting always London, which, by its peculiar position as the centre of a county entirely constituted by municipal boroughs and as the headquarters of so many institutions, has lent its red cross and sword to scores of other coats of arms. It is noteworthy, however, that any part of the Manchester arms is capable of inclusion in a new design, whereas the crest and supporters used by the capital have, incongruously enough, never been registered at the College of Arms, and will not therefore be seen in other coats based upon the City arms, though griffin supporters are sometimes seen as an approach to the unauthorised dragons. Liverpool's liver-bird is borrowed by the University, Martin's Bank and the Clyde and Mersey Investment Trust, and its ship by the See and possibly by the District Bank. Other places can show their emblems in two or three other coats of arms, but these two Lancashire cities have, so to speak, the widest circulation for their heraldry, and it is fitting that Lancashire should be England's most thoroughly armigerous county, at least as regards corporate heraldry. Only three of its many boroughs have no coat of arms—Clitheroe and Preston, which use the emblems of the borough seal placed upon a shield, and Colne, which displays a home-made device. Even the County of London has more unauthorised borough coats than Lancashire, though it has, to compensate, a very large number of non-municipal armigerous bodies situated within its borders.

Manchester also has two other institutions bearing arms, though they do not borrow any of the City's emblems. They are

PLATE 3.



1. FARNWORTH.



2. PRESTWICH.



3. DENTON.



4. URMSTON.

The John Rylands Library and The Hartley Victoria Methodist College.

John Rylands bore no arms during his lifetime, but Mrs. Rylands obtained a grant of arms for use by herself "as his widow, and by his descendants," and obtained authority in the grant for the arms "to be placed on a monument or otherwise to the memory of the said John Rylands." These were granted in 1893, and the blazon runs :

"Azure a cross patonce or, on a chief of the last an open book proper. Crest : Upon the trunk of a tree eradicated fessewise and sprouting, a Mower vested, in his hands his scythe, all proper, charged on the breast with a cross patonce or."

The Rylands coat impales that granted at the same time to Mrs. Rylands :

". . . we do further grant the arms following for Tennant, that is to say, Argent gutté de poix two Bars invected per pale sable and gules, each Bar charged with three Bezants." (Plate 2, Fig. 1.)

The book, of course, is a very apt charge, and the cross was a happy choice, for there has always been a very prominent place in the Library's work for the study of Biblical manuscripts. The mower in the crest may represent the idea of humble but honest labour, but it also provides a link with Manchester, perhaps unconsciously, for the crest of the de Traffords was also a mower, referring, if we are to believe the legend, to an early de Trafford who escaped capture by disguising himself as a farm worker and joining in the labour of some peasants while his pursuers went by. This is commemorated in the arms of the borough of Stretford by the flail and scythe in the shield. The tree-trunk uprooted and felled may be a symbol of the failure of the Rylands line, there being no descendants, but the Garter of that period, Sir Albert Woods, was very much addicted to tree-trunks and sprigs of flowers in his grants of crests, and this may be no exception to his habit. The motto used is "*Nihil sine Labore*," which links up suitably with the worker in the crest.

The Hartley Victoria Methodist College obtained arms in 1937.

Arms : Azure a hart courant between three fleurs-de-lys argent. Crest : A hart charged with an antique lamp of flaming proper.

Motto : Ubi spiritus ibi libertas. (Plate 2, Fig. 2.)

The shield is simply conceived upon a pun, made by the "hart" and the "lys," on the name of the college. The hart is repeated in the crest, with a lamp of enlightenment, and the motto indicates the sincerity of belief of the free churches.

It is a pity that three of Manchester's most familiar coats of arms are borne without authority. Manchester Grammar School not only appropriates the arms of Hugh Oldham, but also the arms of the See of Exeter—which he was alone competent to impale with his own during his tenure of the bishopric—and the Bishop's mitre ensigning the shield. A foundation of the fame and antiquity of Manchester Grammar School is worthy of genuine arms based on those of the founder—but innocent of the emblems of the See of Exeter, which may only be borne by the Bishop. The undesirability of displaying a founder's arms *in toto* is shown by the concurrent use of the coat of William Hulme both by Hulme Grammar School and Hulme Hall, Manchester, and also by the Hulme Grammar School, Oldham, with very slight modification in the case of the latter. Chetham's Hospital and Society use the quartered coat of Humphrey Chetham, and the Moseley arms are "borrowed" by Burnage High School.

The last decade before the present war was a period of great progress in local government. Many urban districts obtained charters of incorporation as municipal boroughs, entailing a right to "assume armorial bearings which shall be duly enrolled in the Heralds' College." The majority of these are situated near populous centres of industry, where incorporation as a borough is in the nature of a defence against absorption by the neighbouring big cities. About a score of these boroughs grew up in the London area, five in the region of Birmingham, and nine in Lancashire and Cheshire. Seven of these are neighbours of Manchester, the others being in the Liverpool-Birkenhead area.

Five of these seven boroughs are in Lancashire and their heraldry provides an interesting collection. A point to notice is that all, with the exception of Stretford, have used the privilege of municipal boroughs to have supporters. Urban districts may have arms and crests, but not supporters, which may be added on incorporation. Stretford obtained arms while still an urban district, but did not add supporters when it became a borough in 1934. There was for a long time some confusion as to which towns were entitled to supporters, and a general impression that only cities should have them is undermined by the fact that several towns had grants of supporters while still below that status. In the latter half of the nineteenth century, many industrial towns received charters of incorporations and grants of arms, but most of them did not have supporters. In fact no Lancashire town obtaining arms in the period of industrial development (1850-1900) received a grant of supporters. Liverpool had them in 1797, Manchester in 1842, and Salford in 1844. It was nearly sixty years, however, before supporters were seen again in Lancashire, this time in the grant made in 1903 to the County Council, which was the first to have supporters. Lancaster followed in 1907, and except for the grant to Wigan in 1922, another quarter century elapsed before the "incorporation peak" of 1934-39 brought supporters into common use in the county.

Stretford obtained its arms in 1933, and these are described in Scott-Giles' *Civic Heraldry*. This was the first of the new series of municipal arms in Lancashire, and a notable item in the blazon is the coronet in the crest, described as "a crown of 8 roses gules (of which five are visible) set upon a rim or." This takes the place of the more conventional mural crown, and may conveniently be described as a coronet of Lancaster. It has had something of a vogue in Lancashire municipal heraldry, and it is interesting to see that a corresponding crown of York roses has been invented for Bridlington. The crown of red roses has been granted to Swinton and Pendlebury, and also to Farnworth (*q.v.*).

Swinton and Pendlebury received its charter on 29th September, 1934.

Arms: Gules a cockatrice or, on a chief per pale or and argent a leopard between two roses gules. Crest: On a coronet of Lancaster a boar's head erased argent, armed azure. Supporters: On either side a lion or, holding in the interior paw a pickaxe gules.

Motto: *Salus populi suprema lex.* (Plate 2, Fig. 3.)

The cockatrice is from the Langley arms. Robert de Langley acquired Agecroft in Pendlebury in 1416. The chief seems to indicate the Worsleys, several branches of whom bore variously "Gules a chief argent" and "Argent a chief gules." Richard, second lord of Worsley, held a moiety of Swinton. The leopard may be a reference to the fact that the manor was for some time attached to the Crown, though it may be taken primarily from the arms of the Duchy and county. The lions may have the same significance; they hold picks as a reference to the industries of the borough. The motto is very popular in civic heraldry, and is used with slight variations by Lytham St. Annes and Urmston in Lancashire, also by Tipton, Tonbridge and Willenhall. The words are actually a quotation from the public laws of Rome: "*Salus populi suprema lex esto*"—"Let the welfare of the community be the highest law."

Radcliffe was incorporated on 21st September, 1935.

Arms: Argent two bendlets engrailed sable between a cross potent voided and a rose gules. Crest: On a mural crown or a leopard or resting the dexter forepaw on a pheon sable. Supporters: On the dexter a bull argent, armed and hooved and gorged with a mural crown attached thereto a chain all or, and charged on the shoulder with a fleur-de-lys sable; on the sinister a lion sable, similarly gorged and chained, and charged on the shoulder with a fleur-de-lys argent.

Motto: *Industria ditat.* (Plate 2, Fig. 4.)

The basis of the design is the arms of the Radcliffe family. To their bendlets are added the voided cross of the Pilkingtons and a rose of Lancaster. The mural crown is a symbol of a town or community, and upon it stands a royal leopard. This, and the fleur-de-lys which is seen on each of the supporters, are taken from the old device of the Urban District Council, which used

the arms of the Earl of Wilton impaled with those of the City of Lancaster. The broad arrow is also retained from the Egerton arms.

The bull is from the Radcliffe crest, which is a bull's head, and several branches show it chained, hence no doubt the chains with which the supporters are furnished, though they are also used to indicate orderly government. The lion is probably that from the Egerton arms—"Argent a lion gules between three pheons sable." The colours of the supporters are silver or white and black, the livery colours of the shield, and these tinctures were deliberately chosen to indicate cotton and coal, to which, as the motto indicates, the borough owes its prosperity.

Farnworth was incorporated on 30th September, 1939.

Arms : Azure, on a chevron between three hornets or, two cotton cops of the field. Crest : Out of a coronet of Lancaster, a stag's head and neck caboshed or between two branches of fern proper. Supporters : a stag and a lion each azure and gorged with a collar or charged with three roses of Lancaster.

Motto : *Juste nec timide.* (Plate 3, Fig. 1.)

The shield is indicative of the borough's industries, paper-making and cotton-spinning. "Hornets are nature's paper-makers," says a note issued by the corporation, and these are certainly unique in civic heraldry. The stag's head is the crest of the Hulton family, and was formerly used by the Urban District Council. The branches of fern are a reference to the name of the borough—"the settlement among the ferns." The Hulton arms included a lion, and this gives the sinister supporter, while their stag's head crest provides the other. Although the blazon does not say so, the stag is shown without his head of antlers, as a symbol of the community's banding together, for the stag relinquishes his antlers when living in an organised herd. The stag is shown thus in the painting with which the Corporation's Charter Celebrations book is decorated, and presumably upon the letters patent also. The motto is a Latinised version of that previously used by the U.D.C.—"Be just and fear not."

Prestwich was raised to the status of a borough on 14th October, 1939.

Arms : Argent, on a pile between two roses gules, two swans' heads erased ermine and a fleur-de-lys argent. Crest : A lozenge azure charged with a fleur-de-lys argent, between two roses gules. Supporters : A wyvern regardant or, and a lion regardant argent, both gorged with a riband suspended therefrom a lozenge azure charged with a fleur-de-lys argent.

Motto : Recte fac, noli timere. (Plate 3, Fig. 2.)

The "white field" of the arms refers, unconsciously perhaps, to the district of that name, and between the Lancaster roses is a pile carrying the heads of the swan supporters of the arms of the Cokes, Earls of Leicester, and also the fleur-de-lys which is often used as the symbol of St. Mary and here indicates the Parish Church which bears her name. The colours attributed to her in mediæval hagiology were blue and white, and these are shown in the lozenges in the crest and hung about the supporters' necks. The lozenge, of course, is used instead of the shield to display the arms of a lady, and it is therefore appropriate to show the fleurs-de-lys upon lozenges here. The lozenge is also used, because of its resemblance in shape to the spindle, to represent the cotton industry, as in the arms of Blackburn.

The supporters are the wyvern and lion of the Egertons, Earls of Wilton, who were seated at Heaton Park. These are differenced with the lozenges and fleurs-de-lys seen in the crest, and they also look over their shoulders, as if reviewing the past. The motto "Do rightly and fear not" recalls that of Farnworth.

Besides these boroughs, there are two urban districts near Manchester which have obtained grants of arms without waiting for incorporation. *Denton* and *Urmston* are, in fact, the only urban districts in Lancashire to possess arms.

Scott-Giles, in dealing with the device used by Denton up to the granting of the present arms, draws attention to the fact that in impaling the arms of the families of Denton and Haughton, the U.D.C., instead of thereby representing the union of the two townships that bear those names, really indicated a marriage between the two families. A comparison between the old device and the new arms will show that the essential features of both

coats have been combined without offending the laws of armorial marshalling.

Arms : Party per pale argent and sable, two bars per pale gules and argent, in chief three pierced cinquefoils ermine. Crest : A beaver proper, charged with two mullets of five points in pale or.

Motto : Persevere. (Plate 3, Fig. 3.)

These were granted in 1936. The beaver, which is retained from the previous design, represents Denton's famous hat-making activities.

Urmston obtained a grant of arms on 10th June, 1942. The application was a direct result of the adoption of *H.M.S. Express* by the town in the "Warship Week" held earlier in the year. All over the country, towns and their adopted ships were exchanging tokens which usually took the form of plaques decorated with the towns' arms and the ships' badges. Unfortunately, many towns had no armorial bearings, and were content to let their ships accept expensive plaques decorated with spurious devices which, in some cases, present a lamentable display of heraldic solecisms which were better left in the Council Chamber than paraded round the world. However, *Urmston* is one of three Urban Districts—the others being *Brierley Hill* (Staffs.) and *Knottingley* (Yorks.)—which were public-spirited enough to obtain a genuine coat-of-arms for this occasion.

Arms : Party per chevron azure and barry wavy argent and azure, on a chevron ermine between in chief a griffin and an oak-tree eradicated or and in base a bezant charged with an anvil sable, a rose of Lancaster between two martlets or. Crest : A squirrel sejant proper, holding a balance or.

Motto : *Salus populi suprema est lex.* (Plate 3, Fig. 4.)

The griffin is that of the *Traffords*, who bore it gules on argent. *Richard de Trafford* had the whole Lordship of *Trafford* granted to him by *Hamo de Masci* and his daughter *Margery*, widow of *Roger Payne* of *Ashbourne*, c. 1200. In the time of King *John*, he divided his lands between his sons, *Henry* and *Geoffrey*. *Henry*, the elder son, inherited *Trafford*, *Stretford* and all his father's lands in *Manchester*.

The chevron was suggested by the arms of the *Hydes* and

Ashawes. Ralph de Hyde, who was living in 1357, had Urmston in right of his wife, who was daughter and heiress of Adam de Ormeston, from whose arms the squirrel in the crest was taken. Lawrence Ashawe had Shawe Hall in Flixton in right of his wife, Jane Valentine, who died *sine prole* in about 1558. He bequeathed his estates to his nephew Leonard Ashawe, who was buried at Flixton in 1594. The Valentines held lands in Flixton as early as the reign of Edward II, as is shown by the survey of the manor and barony of Manchester in 1320. The martlets are also taken from the Ashawe arms. The oak tree stands for the preservation of the rural aspect of the district, though one must hope that, being shown uprooted, it does not presage the opposite. An elm would have supplied a punning charge upon the name, though the oak is of course more well known as an English tree. The industries of Urmston are obviously symbolised in the base, the waves representing the Mersey and the Ship Canal. The squirrel holds the scales, the emblem of St. Michael, to whom the parish is dedicated. The motto has already been noticed as that of Swinton and Pendlebury (*q.v.*).

One often hears sad forecasts that heraldry will have no further place in modern life as time goes on. Usually this opinion accompanies the theory that the aristocracy, or at any rate, the distinction between social strata, will shortly disappear, as if the aristocracy were the only people who bear arms. Whatever the result in the case of personal heraldry—and judging from the increasing popularity of personal grants of arms since the same forebodings were voiced during the last war, one wonders whether there will be any adverse effect at all—there is little doubt that as long as corporations, whether municipal or otherwise, are required to have a common seal, there will be grants of arms. To those who argue that heraldry is a thing of the past and has no place in modern commercial life, there is the inescapable fact that during the period from the end of the last war to the present day—a mere quarter-century or so—over six hundred grants of arms have been issued to corporate bodies of all kinds—civic, scholastic, commercial and others—by the College of Arms, Lyon Office and Ulster's Office. The significant point is not the number of grants only, but the fact that they easily outnumber such grants made in all the previous centuries of heraldic administration.