

## ARMORIAL INSIGNIA OF THE BOROUGH OF EYE, SUFFOLK,

COMMUNICATED BY THE LATE  
G. A. CARTHÉW, Esq., F.S.A.

In Sir Bernard Burke's "General Armoury" it is stated that "the Town of EYE has no armorial ensign, the seal (he says) has the word 'Eye' under an antique ducal coronet." Now, I have before me an abstract from a grant of arms made to this Borough, and signed by William Dethick, Garter, in the time of Queen Elizabeth, shortly after its incorporation; but where I took it from I find no note of—probably in the Corporation Records. And although in these reforming days it is not unlikely that the Borough itself, as such, will ere long cease to exist; and it will be too late for it to use a new Seal, yet as an archæological fact it is worthy of preservation, and I send you a copy of my imperfect note in the hope it may lead to the discovery and care of the original Document.

This was in Latin, engrossed on Vellum and begins "OMNIBUS &c. INSPEXIMUS"—a charter of Queen Elizabeth incorporating the Borough of Eye, in which was recited one of Edward son of Ethelred of divers franchises to his men of Eye, and that Eye passed out of the possession of the Lord Malet formerly Lord of *Heya seu Eye* into the hands of William the Conqueror and Kings William II, Henry, Stephen, and John, and that King Henry III granted divers liberties &c. to Richard his brother, Earl of Cornwall, and Lord of the Honor of Eye, and the said Lordship came to King Edward, son of King Edward; but in the Reign of Edward III, Robert Ufford

Earl of Suffolk was Lord of the Honor of Eye and temp. Edward IV., *William de la Poole* Duke of Suffolk, on whose fall Kings Henry VII, Henry VIII, Edward VI and Queen Mary, successively held it. Queen Elizabeth by letters patent 14 Novr. A.D 1574 reg. 17, made it a corporation as the "Bailiffs Burgesses and Commonalty of the Town and Borough de Heya vel Eya" and they should enjoy certain rights and privileges and have powers to make laws *ac etiam habeant communem aulam vocatam ex antiquo syppeyway et quod non alicubi placitamtem insi sibi solebant scilicet apud sypeweyam* and have a common seal. Whereupon Garter, at the request of the Bailiffs &c. granted them a shield of the ancient ensigns and the arms of S<sup>t</sup> Edward King of England viz.—*In campo coeruleo crucem floridum aureum quatuor merulatis avibus interpositam unacum insuperiori aquilam albam alis distensam rosarum ramicualis cum rosis simillariis suffultam &c. Et ulterioris supra cassidem pro crista vel Trophæo E corona solis imperiali auro gemmis intante stellam Innocentiae Jovis oculo pervigeli munitam clamydeque seu palludiment, cour layniis abutraque ventillantibus et hoc symbolo supra Scripto "occulus in coelum"* with the arms blazoned in the margin Dated or Given in the College of Arms 23 April A<sup>o</sup> 34 Elizth. A.D. 1592, the official seal of Garter is appended and his autograph signature. The initial letter O is in gold and within it is suspended a shield bearing argent a fess vair gules & or between 3 Water bouquets sable which is the coat of Dethick and over that are the Royal Arms with white and red roses.

On either side under the Arms of the Borough are rows in a double column of Shields with the names of their owners, containing

On the left those of

SIR GEORGE REVE Knt & Bart

THOMAS DEY Esq<sup>re</sup>

THOMAS LANGLEY Esq<sup>re</sup> viz.

(argent a cockatrice sable, crested  
beaked and membered gules)

On the right those of

THOMAS CORNWALLIS, Miles

NICHOLAUS BACON, Miles

————— WISEMAN

MILES EDGAR, GENT

{ GRIMSTONE (arg. on a fess sable 3  
mulletts pierced or and in dexter  
chief, an ermine spot

FRANCIS BLAND GENT  
(argent on a bend sable three  
pheons of the field)

HEMMINGE Quarterly vert and  
gules, over all a lion rampant  
sable.

CUTLER. Quarterly, 1 and 4 on a fess cotised or between three dragons heads erased of the second a Cock and two doves volant gules. 2 and 3 wanting.

There is one other coat the bearings of which were almost obliterated but seem to have been Quarterly 1 and 4 per pale ..? and gules on the dexter side a lion rampant of the second, 2 and 3 gules five barulets and a canton.

These ten or eleven shields were doubtless the arms of the then Bailiffs and chief inhabitants of the Town.

GEORGE A. CARTHEW, F.S.A.

[Sometime previous to his lamented death in 1882, the late Mr. Carthew placed this paper at the disposal of the Suffolk Institute, with a view to its publication in the printed proceedings. An opportunity of inserting it has only just been found: it is therefore printed without undergoing revision of any kind, which a painstaking antiquary, like Mr. Carthew, would in all probability have desired.

In an old MS from among the Town Records of the Borough of Ipswich (*temp. Eliz.:*) I find the following:

Arms of Eye

Az. a cross flory between 4 martlets, arg., in chief a bird between 2 branches arg. crowned

Crest

On a Crown Or a Sun in its glory of the 1st in the centre an eye.

Seal.

The Word 'Eye' under an antique ducal coronet.

The Grant of Arms to which reference is made, does not appear to exist among the Borough Records of Eye.

C. H. E. W.]