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HERALDRY

Not long ago an irate gentleman wrote from South Africa to enquire the significance of the device at the top of this page. We wrote and told him. Angrier still, he demanded an explanation of the vandalism that could dare to substitute a meaningless hieroglyph for his revered black-and-white, and threatened further action. We looked him up in the book, and were surprised to find that it was a bare ten years since he qualified and left these walls!

Now the controversy about the Hospital Arms has been current at least since 1933, when many letters on the subject appeared in these pages. There was a recurrence in 1938, and the decision to use the present Arms on the title page was made in 1947. Since then, a few fresh facts have come to light, and in view of the use of these Arms (in their correct heraldic tinctures) to decorate the cover of the new edition of *Round the Fountain*, it may be useful to recapitulate.

The coat of PARTY PER PALE ARGENT AND SABLE A CHEVRON COUNTERCHANGED, which we will call the "Hospital" Arms, has been in use for several centuries, and is lavishly displayed today. But it was never really the property of the Hospital. Sir Norman Moore traces its origin to a seal first used by John Wakeryng in 1423, the first year of his Mastership of the Hospital. There the shield appears surmounted by a crucifix, with a tree at each side, and an *Agnus Dei* at the apex. The document on which this seal was first used, an agreement with the Prioress of St. Helen's as to a drain and waterfall in Mugwell Street in the Parish of St. Olave, has since disappeared; but the use of the seal throughout the 39 years of Wakeryng's

Mastership may indeed have led to the adoption of those Arms for the Hospital. They are shown alone, above the illuminated capital in Cok's *Cartulary* which depicts Brother John Cok, his arms, and three angels supporting a crucifix. The painting appears to be contemporary, and the *Cartulary* was in progress from 1456 to 1468. But John Wakeryng's family device was a Pelican and his Arms so different from the "Hospital" Arms that there is no clue to the reason for his use of the latter in his seal as Master of the Hospital. The usual Hospital Seal, in use from 1308 to 1534, bears the lions of England on two small shields on either side of a figure which presumably represents one of the Kings or Queens of England.

The earliest known use of the "Hospital" Arms is on a thirteenth century tomb of the Lillebone family in Winchester Cathedral, and under the same name in an Arms Roll of the reign of Henry III. But this family seems to have died out shortly afterwards, nor is there any record of any connection between it and the Hospital.

The Arms also appear in a fifteenth century book of Venetian Arms in the College of Arms as those of a Venetian family named Renier; this is probably the source of their display on a castle in Cyprus. But once again, no connection of the family with the Hospital is known.

In the year 1558, Norroy King of Arms granted the "Hospital" Arms to Lawson, of Usworth, Co. Durham. The family still exists, and a memorial window to one of its sons in the Church of St. Cross at Winchester displays these arms.

The family of the Earl of Caledon, beginning with a Barony created in 1770, also