

## The yale and KCBC 1<sup>st</sup> May Boat

Following visual and documentary searches and consultations with others as noted herein it is concluded:

- there is no known direct connection between King's College Cambridge and the yale,
- it is uncertain why and by whom a yale was selected for the 1<sup>st</sup> May rowing top in 1959 and tie in about 1961,
- it is also uncertain from whence that rowing-top and tie image was derived, but
- if the image is changed (as it now has been for the 2018 new tie) it is unlikely anyone will be upset.

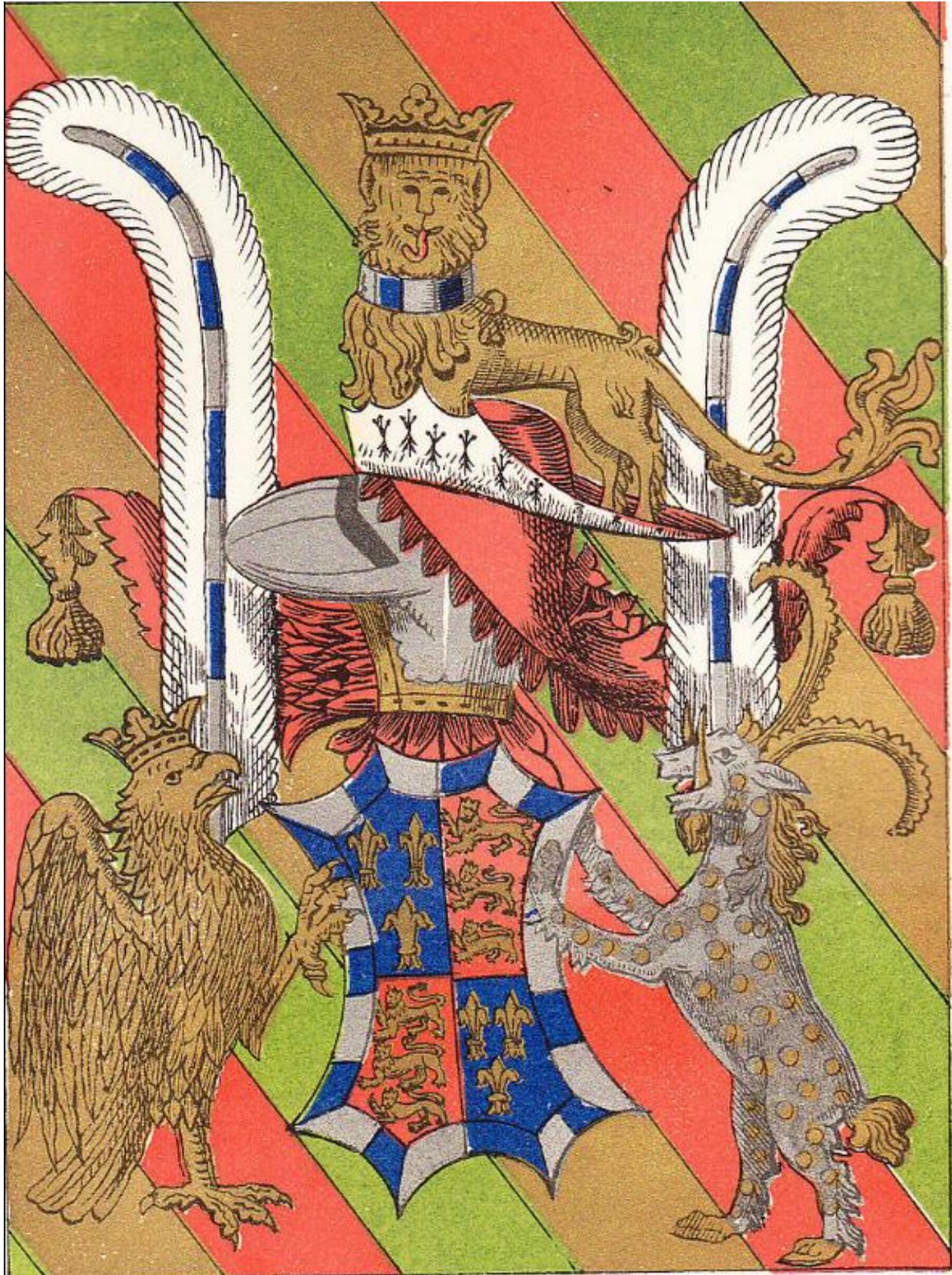
**I. The yale:** Pliny the elder recorded the first yale description, it being thought he had in mind the antelope Gnu<sup>1</sup>. A number of natural animals are quoted as the possible yale origin, but the most important feature of the mythical beast is it can swivel its horns in any direction. Pliny and a twelfth century bestiary describe it as being the size of a water-horse (i.e. hippopotamus) or alternatively a horse, with the tusks of a boar. Its extremely long horns were not fixed but could be moved according to necessity in fights; if the first horn got broken, the second could still be deployed; but in a very fierce battle, both horns could be used at once to meet aggression from any direction.

The yale of armory retains the swiveling horns and also the tusks of a boar, but is now more like an antelope than a hippopotamus and is a dainty creature with very long, thin horns. In the Bedford Book of Hours it supports the coat of arms of John of Lancaster (1389-1435), Duke of Bedford, KG., Henry IV's 3<sup>rd</sup> son<sup>2</sup>, and so became one of the English Royal Beasts<sup>1</sup>. It isn't, however, seen on the Duke's Garter Stall Plate (now S13) in St. George's Chapel Windsor<sup>3</sup>. The Bedford Yale has the build of an antelope with a lion's tail and a boar's snout with tusks in the lower jaw. It is black or very dark brown in colour and to distinguish it as a yale it has the swivelling horns<sup>1</sup>.



Sinister supporter of the coat of arms of John, Duke of Bedford and Earl of Kendal, K.G. – Bedford Book of Hours<sup>2</sup>

The great Duke died childless and in 1443 Sir John Beaufort (1403-44), K.G., Earl of Somerset (John of Gaunt's grandson) was made Duke of Somerset and Earl of Kendal. He adopted the Bedford supporters, the eagle and the yale, as are to be seen on his beautifully enamelled Garter stall-plate (also now S13); but here the yale has been slightly altered to become of stockier build, rather heavier and more ram- or goat-like, with curved and serrated horns and a short tail. The Beaufort Yale also differs in being white, powdered with gold bezants and having gold horns, tushes, hooves and tufts with one of the ram-like horns commonly shown swivelled forwards. John Beaufort, 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of Somerset, died without male issue and his daughter and heiress Lady Margaret Beaufort married Edmund Tudor, Earl of Richmond, her son later becoming King Henry VII<sup>1</sup>.



John Beaufort, KG, Garter stall plate (with artwork considered to be early 15<sup>th</sup> century), St George's Chapel, Windsor<sup>4</sup>

Lady Margaret used her father's eagle and Beaufort Yale supporters but, more frequently, two yales. Thus, in Cambridge, yales are seen at Christ's College, Lady Margaret's 1505 re-foundation (those shown below having just been meticulously restored); and also (after her death in 1509) at her 1511 foundation St. John's College.



Christ's College Yales - Coat of Arms (1623 Donor's Book); the Great Gate and Master's Gate ©Louis Sinclair<sup>5</sup>



St. John's College Yales – the Gatehouse (1516)<sup>6</sup> and (as replaced 2015/16) at the river entrance to Kitchen Lane<sup>7</sup>

Through Lady Margaret's marriage to Edmund Tudor, son of Henry V's widow, the yale descended to her son, Henry VII and grandson Henry VIII. In 1525 when Henry VIII made his bastard Henry Fitzroy Duke of Richmond and Somerset, he gave him a yale as one of his supporters. Of the Beaufort type, this was argent bezanty and distinguished from the royal beast by having about its neck a gold coronet and chain. It was expressly said to be for the dukedom of Somerset, no doubt because Sir John Beaufort had that title. Fitzroy dying as a mere lad, however, the dukedom of Somerset was afterwards conferred on Queen Jane Seymour's brother Edward, and, although so far as is known a yale has never been used for any of the Seymour peerages, it was concluded in 1909 that the yale on the Hampton Court moat bridge must have been set there for Queen Jane rather than for Henry VIII. The replacement yale on the bridge parapet<sup>8</sup> was consequently given a crown and chain as in Fitzroy's case. Its shield was carved with Queen Jane's coat of augmentation: Or, a pile of England between six fleurs de lis azure.<sup>1</sup>

When Queen Elizabeth I made her cousin, Sir Henry Cary, Lord Hunsdon he took a yale and a male griffin of Ormonde as supporters, alluding thereby to his descent from the Beauforts and Boleyns. His yale was of the familiar Beaufort type, but some sources have it that the roundels which bespatter it were of many colours instead of being all gold; to make a further difference from the royal beast it was given a collar and chain.<sup>1</sup>

The yale was one of the ten Queen's Beasts which stood outside Westminster Abbey for Queen Elisabeth II's Coronation; the plaster originals were later gifted to Canada and stone copies by the same artist were presented to Kew Gardens by an anonymous donor and installed in August 1956 outside the Palm House facing out over the pond.



King's Beasts, Beaufort Yale, Hampton Court<sup>8</sup>



Queen's Beasts, Beaufort Yale, ©Trustees, Royal Botanic Gardens<sup>9</sup>

In addition, the yale was included among those King's Beasts which, after removal in 1682 on the orders of Sir Christopher Wren as dangerously decayed, in 1925 were reinstated on the roof of St. George's Chapel. There are 3 yales on each of the N and S sides with only the latter in public view. An argument over the rearward pointing of all the horns was eventually settled by Queen Mary on the advice of M.R James when he was Provost of Eton<sup>10</sup>.



St. George's S lower tier 6: Yale with Lady Margaret Beaufort's arms and, as thought uniquely, with hind feet as lions paws<sup>10</sup>



S upper tier 6: Yale for Lady Margaret Beaufort, through whom the House of Lancaster's claim to the crown descended<sup>10</sup>

A yale of the Beaufort pattern supports the royal arms on seals of the Court of Great Sessions for Carmarthen, Cardigan and Pembroke in the reigns of James I and Charles I, the dexter supporter being a dragon. The yale seems, however, not further to have been used to support the royal arms and indeed to have become totally unknown to heraldry-book authors until G.C. Druce and Sir William Hope invited attention to it in 1911<sup>1,11</sup>.

Yale University has borrowed the heraldic beast as a play on its own name. Neither the University's coat of arms nor most of its other heraldry feature the yale and the school's primary sports mascot is a bulldog named Handsome Dan. Yales can, however, be seen in chains flanking the portico of Davenport College, on the pediment of Timothy Dwight College and on the official banner of the president of the university, while the campus radio station uses a yale as a logo. The university was actually named in memory of Elihu Yale, a governor of the British East India Company. His name comes from Iâl, a place in north Wales, which name is from the Welsh word for a fertile or arable upland.<sup>1,12</sup>

In addition to reporting the yale to have the remarkable characteristic of being able to swivel its horns at will (laying one back in battle to keep it in reserve in case the forward attacking horn sustained damage) medieval bestiaries also reported the yale to have enjoyed wallowing in water<sup>1,13</sup> and, as also in heraldry, to represent proud defence<sup>1</sup>.

**II. King's College Cambridge and the yale:** It is intriguing the Beaufort Yale first appeared around the time the college was founded but, although antelopes - sometimes as supporters of Henry VI (the founder) and with which, despite the horn differences, yales are often confused<sup>13,14</sup> - and other heraldic beasts are seen around King's College Chapel, no yales are reported<sup>14,15</sup> and it is believed there are none anywhere in college. Lady Margaret Beaufort visited with her son Henry VII in 1506 when the Knights of the Garter held their St. George's Eve service in King's and "according to college tradition the King, at his mother's instance, gave his promise to see that the Chapel fabric was finished"<sup>15</sup>. The college accounts indicate that prior to his 21<sup>st</sup> April 1509 death the King had given substantial sums of money and he undertook that his executors would provide more as might be necessary for completion of the works. These had, however, re-started in earnest only in 1508 for completion in 1515, most of this seven-year third and final major construction phase thus dating from Henry VIII's reign. Lady Margaret may have visited again, the Chapel west end having been completed under her and her son Henry VII's patronage<sup>16</sup>, but she died on 29<sup>th</sup> June 1509 and so could have had no direct influence on the elaborate ornamentation of the antechapel with its extensive use of emblems of the Tudor dynasty; perhaps this explains why there are no yales in King's College Chapel. There's a connection between King's and Berkeley College, Yale<sup>17</sup>, but no evidence of this extending to the heraldic yale. Thus, no formal links between King's College Cambridge and the yale are known.

**III. The yale for KCBC 1<sup>st</sup> May Boat:** When Cambridge college crews wore white rowing tops, some had a crest, badge, emblem or logo and for the 1959 Henley Royal Regatta KCBC adopted a purple beast, later identified as a yale, for this purpose<sup>18</sup>. In the circumstances of no known connection to King's it is unclear why a yale was chosen. Something not already in use by another boat club would have been important; clearly there was need of an English regal connection and preferably Lancastrian rather than Yorkist and one can imagine the ten Queen's Beasts<sup>8</sup> (which exclude the antelope) might have been thought worth a look. The unicorn, however, is Scottish; the dragon Welsh; the white horse from Germany; the black bull of Clarence hardly suits the club colours; the Mortimer white lion and the Plantagenets' falcon both descended through Edward IV, not only a Yorkist but also allegedly involved in the plot to murder the founder; the lion and the griffin are used respectively by the University and Downing College; so that leaves the white greyhound of Richmond and the Beaufort Yale. Whilst either's colour scheme would have been suitable, the Beaufort Yale's enjoyment of wallowing in water<sup>13</sup> and representation of proud defence<sup>1</sup> (as useful in a bumping race?) might have been preferred and, even though yales are seen in Christ's and St John's Colleges and also in Yale University, there is no evidence of use by the respective boat clubs.

It is also unclear who organised selection and adoption of the purple yale but in 2018 tie correspondence 2 of the 3 surviving 1959 IV members agree with an independent suggestion that it could well have been David Chipp, a former KCBC President and 1<sup>st</sup> VIII oarsman who later, when not standing on Mao's Toe<sup>19</sup>, coached many KCBC Henley crews over 20 years. The editor of Mao's Toe and also, from two of the 1960's crews, this note's author fully agree that David Chipp is a very likely suspect. A history graduate, David joined Reuters in 1950 and moved up the ranks to become editor. It would seem possible in the lead-up to the Queen's coronation he may have become familiar with the Queen's Beasts but, if not, he could later have had ready access to Reuters' colleagues who were. Possible other links arise from i.) David having been born at Kew Gardens which since 1956 has been home to the beasts' stone copies and ii.) John Saltmarsh, who had probably been David's Director of Studies<sup>15</sup>, giving the keynote speech (although not alluding therein to either beasts or yale) at the 1958 KCBC 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner, i.e. after David's return from China and just before the first KCBC yales appeared. We may never know whether it was David Chipp who introduced the yale to the club, however, since having given a brilliant speech at the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner starting off saying he should be dead as a result of the many risks he had taken<sup>19</sup> sadly 3 months later he was dead (and most moving and packed memorial services were held for him in St. Bride's, Fleet Street and in King's College Chapel).



Yale on KCBC 1<sup>st</sup> May rowing top (although in reality it is King's purple) – AE Clothier, 1963

The above yale was hand embroidered on a piece of cloth which in turn was sewn onto a rowing top. It is unknown from whence the image was derived, certainly it is not much like any shown earlier in this note. It has been not uncommon, however, for a yale to be illustrated as a mixture of bits of other animals<sup>12</sup> and perhaps that was the case here. As indicated earlier yales i) are sometimes seen as goat-like, ii) have often been confused with antelopes<sup>13, 14</sup> and iii) were for a long time absent from heraldry books before 1911<sup>1</sup>. It is interesting therefore to make a comparison with heraldic antelope and goat images as below from an earlier guide to heraldry<sup>20</sup>. It is suggested that if the goat's body is substituted for that of the heraldic antelope the result will be remarkably similar to the rowing top image. Ryder & Amies say that at that time hand embroidery such as above was done by a seamstress working from memory.



1909 Goat passant



1909 Heraldic antelope passant

From about 1961 the rowing-top design was used in white on a purple tie, the procedure being to buy a plain purple tie which was then sent away to have a white yale (with a red tongue) embroidered onto it. Tie stocks had then been long exhausted and the yale forgotten about, however, until in 2002 the practice was revived with new ties being ordered, but again once that stock had been exhausted no more ties were sold until a new tie has now been produced for 2018.



Yale on KCBC 1<sup>st</sup> May tie - Ryder & Amies 1963



Yale on KCBC 1<sup>st</sup> May tie – AE Clothier 2002

The yale on the stall plate in St George’s Chapel, Windsor, as illustrated and described earlier<sup>4</sup> and copied by an artist as shown below, is believed to be the oldest surviving Beaufort Yale image. For the 2018 tie this has been preferred over the previous image not only because it is thought more authentic (particularly the horns) but also because the artist’s copy enables more effective exploitation of the image now being woven integral in silk with the tie. A bulk supply of the new ties has been received from Fox & Chave<sup>21</sup>, pre-orders have been confirmed and delivered and further purchases can be made from the club. Cuff links with the yale on a purple background are also available.



Beaufort Yale, St. George’s Chapel, Windsor<sup>22</sup>



Yale on KCBC 2018 1<sup>st</sup> May tie – Fox & Chave<sup>21</sup>

**IV. References:** Assistance from many parties for the preparation of this note is gratefully acknowledged, notably from KCBC members & alumni, the King's College Archivists and the College Development Office, the Cambridge University Heraldic and Genealogical Society and various individuals and bodies as indicated below.

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The Coat of Arms (Heraldic Quarterly), Vol. III, No 19, Jul 1954, Minor Monsters, H. Stanford London, F.S.A., Norfolk Herald Extraordinary
- <sup>2</sup> Medieval Manuscripts in the British Library: The Bedford Hours, Janet Backhouse, New Amsterdam Books, 1991, ISBN 1-56131-021-2, original British Library MS18850, Image f.256v ©British Library Board
- <sup>3</sup> 11/ 6/18 visit by this note's author to St George's Chapel Windsor
- <sup>4</sup> GarterPlateJohnBeaufort.jpg, Wikimedia Commons: Source; Planche, J.R., Pursuivant of Arms, 1851, frontispiece & blazon p.xx
- <sup>5</sup> Reproduced by kind permission of the Master and Fellows of Christ's College Cambridge with gate images ©Louis Sinclair
- <sup>6</sup> Original File: Cambridge St John's College Main Gate 02.jpg, Wikimedia Commons, Andreas Praefcke
- <sup>7</sup> Yales by Corin Johnson, Original File: P1130941.jpg, Professor Nicholas & Jane Kingsbury, self photo from the river, Jul 2017
- <sup>8</sup> The\_Kings\_Beasts\_(Beaufort\_Yale)\_Hampton\_Court\_Palace\_Wikimedia\_Commons.jpg
- <sup>9</sup> <https://www.kew.org/blogs/library-art-and-archives/the-queens-beasts>, copies of plaster originals in Portland Stone by James Woodford, 1956, ©The Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
- <sup>10</sup> Kings Beasts, Sanders Phillips & Company SW9, forward F.A. Minter (restoration contractor), Baynard Press, 1925; Copy images, descriptions & other information courtesy the Chapter Office and Archivist & Chapter Librarian of St George's Chapel
- <sup>11</sup> A Note on the Jall or Yale in Heraldry, W.H. St.John Hope, Archaeological Journal, Volume 68, 1911 – Issue 1
- <sup>12</sup> <http://www.worldwidewords.org/weirdwords/ww-yal1.htm> ©Michael Quinion
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- <sup>14</sup> The Architectural History of the University of Cambridge, R. Willis & J.W. Clark, King's College, Cambridge University Press 2009, Appendix: The Heraldry of King's College Chapel, C.J. Evans, I Stonework p580 and III Woodwork pp585-6
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- <sup>16</sup> King's College Chapel 1515-2015, Art Music and Religion in Cambridge, Edited J.M. Massing & N. Zeeman, Harvey Miller 2014, p19
- <sup>17</sup> A Century of King's, L.P. Wilkinson, University Press 1980, p98
- <sup>18</sup> 2018 correspondence with Professor Anthony Seaton CBE, Dr. Roger G Street and James R Peers, KCBC Henley IV, 1959
- <sup>19</sup> Mao's toe, Memoirs of the Life of David Chipp, A Serious Correspondent, Edited Damien Freeman, Privately printed Dolman Scott Ltd, 2009, p101, p20
- <sup>20</sup> Arthur Charles Fox-Davies, A Complete Guide to Heraldry, Chapter XII Beasts, Fig. 393 and Fig. 401, TC & EC Jack, Edinburgh, 1909
- <sup>21</sup> FOX & CHAVE, Old Stable Block, The Bury, Church Street, Chesham, Bucks, HP5 1HH, UK, T: (44) 1494 725056, [www.foxandchave.com](http://www.foxandchave.com)
- <sup>22</sup> A.C. Cole, F.S.A., Fitzalan Pursuivant, 1953-57, by kind permission of his son, Giles Cole; from Sir John Beaufort's Garter Stall Plate (now S13) – see <sup>1,4</sup>