

The yale and KCBC 1st May Boat

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

- indirect connections exist but 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 1st May rowing top in 1959 and tie in about 1961,
- it is also uncertain 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 or have been upset.

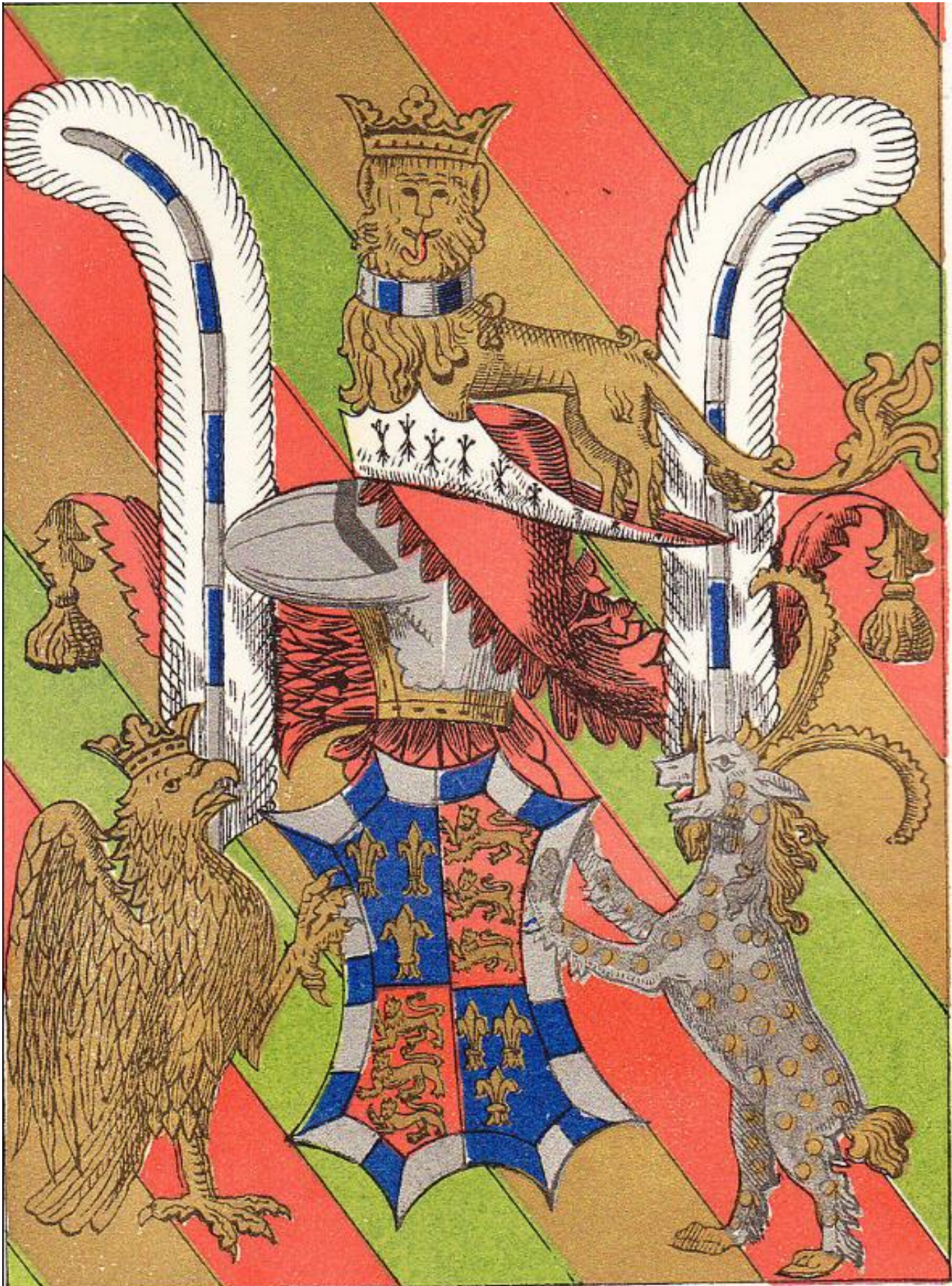
I. The yale: Pliny the elder recorded the first yale description, it being thought he had in mind the antelope Gnu¹. A number of natural animals are quoted as the possible yale origin, but the most important feature of the mythical beast is it can swivel its horns in any direction. Pliny and a twelfth 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 3rd son², and so became one of the English Royal Beasts¹. It isn't, however, seen on the Duke's Garter Stall Plate (now S13) in St. George's Chapel Windsor³. The Bedford Yale has the build of an antelope with a lion's tail and a boar's snout with tusches in the lower jaw. It is black or very dark brown in colour and to distinguish it as a yale it has the swivelling horns¹.



Sinister supporter of the coat of arms of John, Duke of Bedford and Earl of Kendal, K.G. – Bedford Book of Hours²

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, KG, Garter stall plate (with artwork considered to be early 15th century), St George's Chapel, Windsor⁴

John Beaufort, 1st Duke of Somerset, died without male issue and his daughter & heiress Lady Margaret Beaufort (LMB) married Edmund Tudor, Henry V's widow's son and from whom LMB's son, after many years of her diplomatic efforts to promote his position, was the victor at the 1485 Battle of Bosworth to become King Henry VII¹.

LMB's position also changed, she becoming a femme sole (empowered to act without male assistance), taking the title of "My Lady the King's Mother", commanding considerable riches and becoming a great benefactress. She used her father's eagle and Beaufort Yale supporters but after 1485 more frequently two yales and, at several houses she occupied, new glass displaying her arms was installed⁵. In Cambridge yales are seen throughout Christ's College, her 1505 re-foundation and, after her 1509 death, also her 1511 foundation St. John's College. Although it has lost its horns (it is believed prior to 1675) there is also a yale at her feet in the Henry VII chapel of Westminster Abbey.



Christ's College Yales ©Louis Sinclair⁶ above the Great Gate

and the Master's Gate (with the Beaufort Motto);



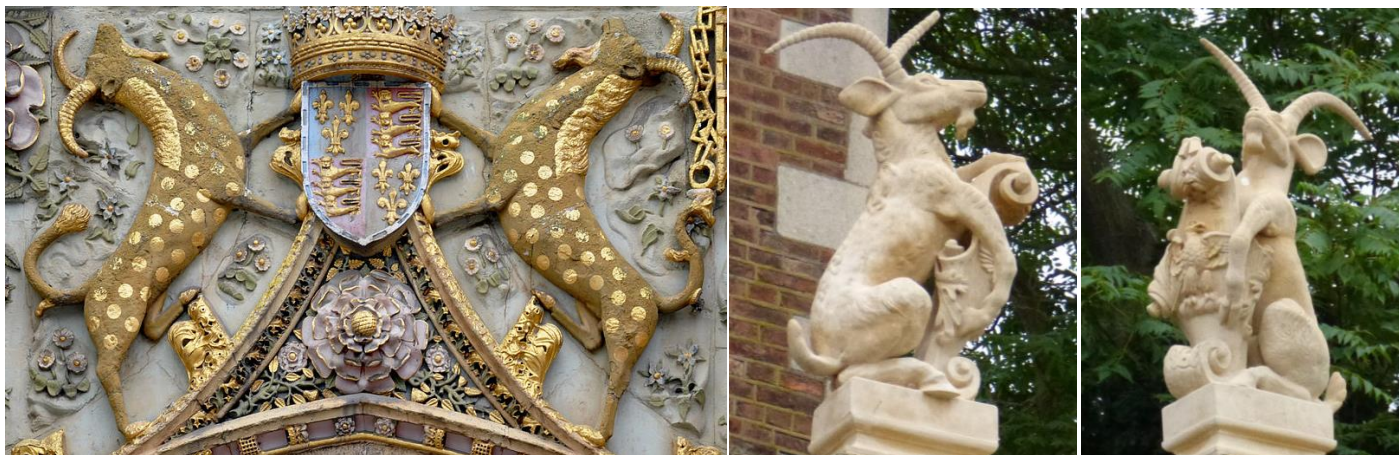
in the 1623 Christ's College Donor's Book),

in the Christ's College Senior Combination Room and



modern ones at the end of a library corridor.

LMB Effigy & Yale (without horns), Henry VII chapel, Westminster Abbey⁷



St. John’s College Yales – the Gatehouse (1516)⁸ and (as replaced 2015/16) at the river entrance to Kitchen Lane⁹

From Edmund Tudor the yale descended to LMB’s grandson Henry VIII and in 1525 when Henry 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 previously had that title.¹⁰

Fitzroy dying as a mere lad, however, the dukedom of Somerset was afterwards conferred on Queen Jane Seymour’s brother Edward, and, although a yale is not known to have been used for any Seymour peerage, it was concluded in 1909 that the Hampton Court moat bridge yale must have been set there for Queen Jane rather than Henry VIII. As illustrated on the next page, the replacement yale on the bridge parapet 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.¹¹

When Queen Elizabeth I made her cousin, Sir Henry Cary, Lord Hunsdon he took a yale and a male griffin of Ormonde as supporters, thus alluding to his descent from both the Beauforts and Boleyns. His yale was of the familiar Beaufort type, but to make a difference from the royal beast it was also given a collar and chain.¹

In 1951, stained-glass artist Joan Howson finished repairing and replacing Westminster-Abbey Chapter-House bomb-damaged windows and the new work includes a Beaufort coat of arms.



Henry Fitzroy, 1st Duke of Richmond and Somerset¹⁰



Sir Henry Cary, 1st Baron Hunsdon¹²



Beaufort Coat of arms, Abbey Chapter House¹³

As seen on the next page, the yale was one of the ten Queen’s Beasts set outside Westminster Abbey for Queen Elisabeth II’s Coronation; the plaster originals were later gifted to Canada and the same artist’s stone copies were presented to Kew Gardens by an anonymous donor and installed in August 1956 outside the Palm House facing over the pond. 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, Windsor. There are 3 yales on each of the N and S sides, only the latter in public view. An argument over rearward pointing of all horns was eventually settled by Queen Mary on advice of M.R James when he was Provost of Eton¹⁴.



King's Beasts, Beaufort Yale, Hampton Court¹¹



Queen's Beasts, Beaufort Yale, ©Trustees, Royal Botanic Gardens¹⁵



St. George's S lower tier 6: Yale with Lady Margaret Beaufort's arms and, as thought uniquely, with hind feet as lions paws¹⁴



S upper tier 6: Yale for Lady Margaret Beaufort, through whom the House of Lancaster's claim to the crown descended¹⁴

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 royal arms and indeed to have become totally unknown to heraldry-writers until G.C. Druce and Sir William Hope invited attention to it in 1911^{1,16}. Acknowledging confusion between Heraldic Antelope and Yale, in their separate notes they agree they are independent beasts with partially overlapping histories, each containing inconsistencies and errors and with images often distorted to fit available space. Materials and construction may also impose limitations. Based on much analysis, Mr Druce makes a valiant attempt to establish the combinations of characteristics that definitively identify the separate beasts, but his efforts seem to be inconclusive and thus for yale identification it appears necessary to rely much on tradition and historical rather than current heraldic opinion. It is thus unsurprising there can be confusion, a high-profile case being in glass at LMB's principle 1499 residence where a craftsman depicted a yale as an antelope and another craftsman had to be paid to correct the error⁵.

Yale University has borrowed the heraldic yale as a play on its 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.^{1,17}

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^{1,18} and, as also in heraldry, to represent proud defence¹.

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 other heraldic beasts are seen around King's College Chapel, no yales are reported^{19,20} either there or elsewhere in college. When in 1506 the Knights of the Garter St. George's Eve service was held in King's, LMB as an honorary Lady of the Garter⁵, attended with her son Henry VII and "according to college tradition the King, at his mother's instance, gave his promise to see that the Chapel fabric was finished"²⁰. The college accounts indicate that prior to his 21st April 1509 death the King had given substantial sums of money and undertaken that his executors would provide more as necessary to complete 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. LMB may have visited again, the Chapel west end having been completed under her and her son's patronage²¹, but she died on 29th June 1509 and so could have had no direct influence on the elaborate ornamentation of the antechapel with its extensive use of Tudor dynastic emblems rather than any relating to the Founder - which perhaps explains the lack of yales in King's Chapel. There's a connection between King's and Berkeley College, Yale²², but no evidence of this extending to the heraldic yale. Thus, no formal links between King's College Cambridge and the yale are reported.

A possible indirect link between college and yale was, however, revealed in May 2020 when the origins and heraldry of the back gates were questioned, particularly in respect of the arms of the Founder and its supporters above the central gate. The college archivist established that the gates had been donated by a college fellow, Sir Charles Walston, to replace the much plainer originals, with a 1924 presentation ceremony being reported in the Cambridge Daily News²³. Although the News article misreported the heraldry designer's name, when an opinion on the supporters was sought from the College of Arms, the York Herald (Peter O'Donoghue) was able to establish it was probably "George Kruger Gray, a well-known designer of coins and medals. He did quite a lot of heraldic work but was not necessarily a great heraldic scholar". He then went on to say that if indeed the arms were meant for Henry VI the supporters were "probably intended to be heraldic antelope but they have been somewhat poorly rendered". It is unknown, however, if there was any 1924 college or KCBC interest in establishing whether they are antelope or yale.

III. The yale for KCBC 1st 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 yale for this purpose²⁴. In the circumstances of no reported King's connection it is unclear why a yale was chosen. Something not used by another boat club would have been important; clearly an English regal connection was needed, preferably Lancastrian rather than Yorkist, and one can imagine the ten Queen's Beasts¹⁵ (which exclude the antelope) might have been considered. 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 be suitable, the Beaufort Yale's enjoyment of wallowing in water¹³ and representation of proud defence¹ (as good in a bumping race?) might have been preferred and, even though there are yales in Christ's and St John's Colleges and also Yale University, they have no known boat-club use.

Who organised purple yale selection and adoption is also unclear, but in 2018 tie correspondence 2 of the 3 surviving 1959 IV members agreed with an independent suggestion that it could well have been David Chipp, a former KCBC President and 1st VIII oarsman who later, when not standing on Mao's Toe²⁵, 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 being born at Kew Gardens, since 1956 home to the beasts' stone copies and ii.) John Saltmarsh, probably David's Director of Studies¹⁹, giving the keynote speech (although not referring to heraldry) at the 1958 KCBC 100th 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 2008 150th anniversary dinner, starting off saying he should be dead as a result of the many risks he had taken²⁵, 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 King's College Chapel).

The Founder's shield above the central back gate²³



In 1963 this note's author acquired a white rowing top with a purple badge, asked what the badge depicted and was told it was a yale as can be seen

on the college back gate and above St John's gate house, but at the time he didn't go and look at either location and forgot about the first until being reminded about it by the May 2020 investigations described above. It is now clear, however, that in 1963 and probably also in 1959 KCBC believed the back-gate Henry VI supporters to be yales.

Another possible indirect link between college, KCBC and yale was revealed in May 2021 by examination of a 1964 photograph showing there had been a college coat of arms in the middle of the original boathouse's balcony. The clearest image it has so far been possible to obtain suggests there are white beasts either side of the bottom of the shield and on their knees so they can fit between the shield and its external rectangle²⁶. It is thought these are quite likely to be the same beasts as on the back gate. The boathouse was completed in 1894, an early photograph shows the shield to be absent but a 1936 one shows it in place²⁶. If it had been there in 1924 it would seem possibly to have been the source for the back gate but otherwise it would seem the back gate might have been the source for the boathouse. If at the relevant time the beasts were also believed to be yales there would thus be evidence of a college connection from 1924 and a KCBC connection from 1936.

KCBC 1st Mays Yale (in King's purple) – AE Clothier, 1963



The yale as on the left was hand embroidered on a piece of cloth which in turn was sewn onto a rowing top. It is unclear 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 animals¹⁷ and maybe that was the case here. As indicated earlier yales i) are sometimes seen as goat-like, ii) have often been confused with antelopes^{18,19} and iii) were for a long time absent from heraldry books before 1911¹. It is interesting therefore to make a comparison with heraldic antelope and goat images as on the next page from an earlier guide to heraldry²⁷. 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 and it is notable that some 1960's oarsmen on occasion referred to the image as "the old goat". Ryder & Amies say the hand embroidery was done by a seamstress working from memory.

KCBC original (1894) Boathouse with college shield on its balcony²⁶



1909 Goat passant²⁶1909 Heraldic antelope passant²⁶

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 almost 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 was produced for 2018.

Yale on KCBC 1st May tie - Ryder & Amies 1963Yale on KCBC 1st May tie – AE Clothier 2002

The yale on the stall plate in St George's Chapel, Windsor, as illustrated and described earlier⁴ and copied by an artist as shown on the next page, is believed to be the oldest surviving Beaufort Yale image. For the 2018 tie this was preferred over the previous image not only because being 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. Bulk supplies of Yale long ties together with cuff links and also Members', i.e. white Tudor Rose on a purple background, in both long and bow ties as well as cummerbunds have been received from Fox & Chave²⁸ and can be purchased from the club.

Beaufort Yale, St. George's Chapel, Windsor²⁹Yale on KCBC 1st May tie – Fox & Chave²⁸

IV. References: Assistance from many parties for the preparation of this note is gratefully acknowledged, particularly 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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² 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

³ 11/ 6/18 visit by this note's author to St George's Chapel Windsor

⁴ GarterPlateJohnBeaufort.jpg, Wikimedia Commons: Source; Planche, J.R., Pursuivant of Arms, 1851, frontispiece/blazon p.xx

⁵ Nicola Tallis, Uncrowned Queen, The Fateful Life of Margaret Beaufort, Tudor Matriarch, Michael O'Mara Books, 2019, ISBN:978-1-78243-992-9, pp174, 178-80, 204, 233, 262-263

⁶ Reproduced by kind permission of the Master and Fellows of Christ's College Cambridge, with the librarian's assistance, gate images ©Louis Sinclair & Combination room by Professor Nicholas & Jane Kingsbury self photo IMG_20190124_215327.jpg

⁷ , Lady Margaret Beaufort effigy with hornless yale, Henry VII (Lady) chapel, Copyright:Dean and Chapter of Westminster

⁸ Original File: Cambridge St John's College Main Gate 02.jpg, Wikimedia Commons, Andreas Praefcke

⁹ Yales by Corin Johnson, Original File: P1130941.jpg, Professor Nicholas & Jane Kingsbury, self photo from the river, Jul 2017

¹⁰ http://www.thetudorswiki.com/page/HERALDRY_of_the_Tudors Henry Fitzroy, 1st Duke of Richmond and Somerset

¹¹ The_Kings_Beasts_(Beaufort_Yale)_Hampton_Court_Palace_Wikimedia_Commons.jpg

¹² Hunsdon heraldic achievement dexter supporter, St John the Baptist chapel, Copyright:Dean and Chapter of Westminster

¹³ Quarry from Post-WW2 replacement glass by stained-glass artist Joan Howson , Copyright:Dean and Chapter of Westminster

¹⁴ 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

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- ¹⁵ <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
- ¹⁶ *Archaeological Journal*, Volume 68, 1911 – Issue 1; A Note on the Jall or Yale in Heraldry, W.H. St.John Hope; and Notes on the history of the Heraldic Jall or Yale by George C. Druce
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- ²⁶ KCBC original boathouse photos: Author's 1964 photo; 190? <https://capturingcambridge.org/chesterton-2/old-kings-college-boat-house/>; and 1936 [KCAS/5/4/1/1936/8]
- ²⁷ Arthur Charles Fox-Davies, *A Complete Guide to Heraldry*, Chapter XII Beasts, Fig. 393 and Fig. 401, TC & EC Jack, Edinburgh, 1909
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- ²⁹ 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 ^{1,4}