

THE TRUE USE OF ARMORIE

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649356553

The True Use of Armorie by William Wyrley

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

WILLIAM WYRLEY

**THE TRUE USE OF
ARMORIE**

THE
TRUE USE OF ARMS.

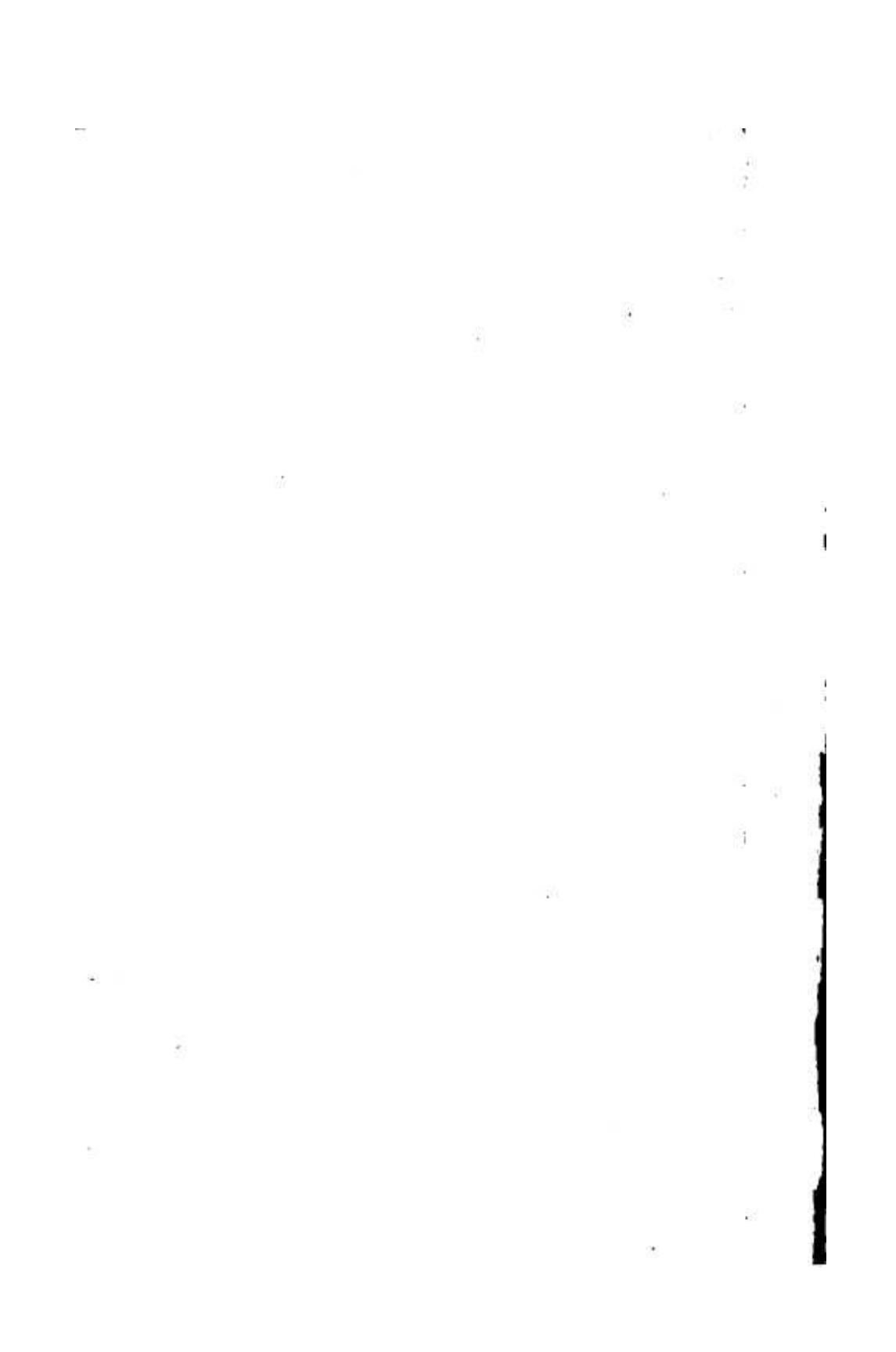
By WILLIAM WYRLEY.

REPRINTED FROM THE ORIGINAL EDITION, 1592.

LONDON :
JOHN GRAY BELL, BEDFORD ST. COVENT GARDEN.
MDCCLIII.

TO
William G. Curnbull, Esq., *Q.S.A. Scot.* ;
Advocate, and of Gray's Inn ;
Hon. Memb. of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle,
and
Roy. Soc. of Northern Antiquaries of Copenhagen.
etc. etc.

THE FOLLOWING REPRINT
IS INSCRIBED.



P R E F A C E.

THE volume, whence "The True Use of Armorie" has been re-printed, consists of 162 pages, and is among the very scarcest books of the 16th Century. The first 28 pages are occupied by the following Treatise, which is the only important portion: the remaining ones contain two drawing poems: "The Glorious Life & Honorable Death of Sir John Chandos, Lord of St. Saluour," &c., and "The Honorable Life and Langvishting Death of Sir John de Galhy, Capitall of Buz." Neither of these appear to merit re-publication.

The author, William Wyrley, was a native of Staffordshire, descended from an ancient family seated in that County, as early as the reign of King Edward the 2nd. Austin, Garter, says, "he published at London 1592, a learned Treatise of the True Use of Armory, in 4to., which some say was originally written by Samson Erdeswike, with whom he lived, which hath been re-printed by Sir William Dugdale. Anthony Wood acquaints us that Wyrley died about February 1617, but that seems to be a mistake, since John Guillim, Portesmouth Pursuivant

Extraordinary, had this office by a Signet dated in 1613, though his Patent is not dated 'till 26th February, 1618, 15 Jac. I, wherein the salary is granted to him from Michaelmas in the XI of King James, and he is to hold this office in as ample manner as William Wyrley, late Rouge Croix, and before him. Thomas Knight enjoyed the same, so that Wyrley either died sooner or surrendered his Patent. Gwillim received his share in the partition of certain Fees as Rouge Croix, 1 January, 1613."

The assistance which Wyrley received from Erdeswicke, as above mentioned, may account for the supposition of Burton, the Historian of Leicestershire, that Erdeswicke was the real author. A considerable portion, but not the entire work, was re-printed by Dugdale in his "Antient Usage of bearing Arms," wherein this suggestion of Burton's occurs.

Wyrley was appointed Rouge Croix Pursuivant of Arms, by Patent, dated 15 May, 1604. While in office he made numerous Collections, some of which are in the College. He died in February, 1617, and was interred in St. Bennet's Church, Paul's Wharf.

Dallaway has observed that "when this very judicious little tract was first published, a considerable addition was made to the stock of Heraldic Literature. Leaving the more fanciful and abstruse points, which relate to the analogy between arms and the qualifications of their

bearers, our author confines himself to a very accurate history of the more ancient differences, and of the variety and modes in which they were applied. He treats rather of their primary and simple differences, which are of early introduction, than of those which were afterwards in use, when the labels, bordures, &c., were surcharged so as to become indistinct."—*Inquiries into the Origin and Progress of Heraldry*, p. 220.

The Publisher is indebted to Sir CHARLES G. YOUNG, Garter, for his kind loan of the original very scarce volume, of which the present portion is a faithful reprint, as well as for many friendly suggestions.

October, 1853.