

**ORIGINAL INSTITUTIONS  
OF THE PRINCELY  
ORDERS OF COLLARS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649320905

Original Institutions of the Princely Orders of Collars by Sir William Segar

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

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**SIR WILLIAM SEGAR**

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**ORDERS OF COLLARS.**

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**OF THE**  
**PRINCELY ORDERS**  
**OF**  
**COLLARS**  
**BY**  
**SIR WILLIAM SEGAR.**



**EDINBURGH:**

PRINTED FOR W. H. LIZARD 8. ST JAMES'S SQUARE.  
AND D. LIZARD 51. PRINCES STREET EDINBURGH.  
AND LONGMAN, BURGESS, REES, ORME & BROWN LONDON.

**MDCCKXIII.**

1813.

## NOTICE.



SIR WILLIAM SEGAR, KNIGHT, GARTER PRINCIPAL KING-AT-ARMS, during the reign of James the First, is well known as the author of a valuable work entitled *Of Honour, Military and Civil; treating of Jurisdiction Military, Knighthood, Combats, and Precedency*;<sup>1</sup> and also of *Baronagium Genealogicum*—a manuscript collection which formed the basis of Edmonson's work which bears the same title. He was of Dutch extraction, and his origin is supposed to have been low. He was bred a scrivener, and held a subordinate situation under Sir Thomas Heneage, Vice-Chamberlain to Queen Elizabeth. The office of Garter King-at-Arms, was bestowed upon him early in the reign of James the First; and in this capacity he was frequently employed by that Monarch. Whilst Portcullis, he attended the splendid Festival of St George, held at Utrecht in 1586; and his account of it was afterwards published by Stow. In 1608, he was sent with the Garter to

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<sup>1</sup> Dedicated to Queen Elizabeth, and printed at London in 1602.

Christian the Fourth, King of Denmark; and in 1612, King James made him the bearer of the Insignia of the same Order to Maurice, Prince of Orange. He received the honour of Knighthood on the fifth of November, 1616. Soon after this period he incurred the royal displeasure, in consequence of having incautiously given the Arms of Arragon, with a Canton of the Arms of Brabant, to George Brandon, the public executioner of London, for the trifling sum of twenty-two shillings. He was delivered into the custody of the Marshalsea, but after undergoing a short imprisonment, it was ascertained that he had been deceived by a Herald of the name of Brookesmouth, who had drawn Arms for Brandon not dissimilar to those of Arragon, expressly for the purpose of imposing upon the easy credulity of Segar. He was accordingly liberated upon a petition from the College of Arms; "and, in the most honourable manner, restored to all the privileges of his situation."<sup>1</sup>

Segar was twice married; first into the family of Sir — Somers of Kent, Knight; and afterwards to a daughter of Robert Browne of Evington, in Herefordshire, Gent. He died on the 3d of December, 1683, leaving a numerous issue. As a distinguished Member of the College of Arms, it may be worth mentioning, that he bore, first and fourth, Azure, a Cross-moline Argent, for Segar; and second and third, a Chevron, between three Mulletts Azure, for Crakenthorp,—the surname of his mother's family, who must have been an heiress.

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<sup>1</sup> Noble's History of the College of Arms, P. 231.



Among his other Heraldic Manuscripts, Segar left a short Account of the ORIGINAL INSTITUTIONS OF THE PRINCELY ORDERS OF COLLARS, dedicated to his patron James the First. This Work, which has not hitherto been published, and from which the present impression has been printed, now belongs to the Library of the Faculty of Advocates at Edinburgh. It is written upon vellum, and is in the highest state of preservation. The volume must have been formerly in the possession of Sir James Balfour, Lord Lyon King-at-Arms, in the reign of Charles the First; as it bears the following autograph of that eminent Herald:—EX LIBRIS JA: BALFOURII KYNARDIE, MIL: BARONETI LEONIS AR: REGIS. The Work was probably executed soon after James the First ascended the Throne of England.

The historical notices which accompany the emblazonings of the different Collars, although short, are curious. The only Order of which Segar does not assign the origin, is that of the Thistle. The following account of it is extracted from a Charter of King James the Second, entered in the seventy-first Book of the Register of the Great Seal, by which that Monarch, on the 29th of May, 1687, restored the Order to the state in which it had flourished till the time of the rebellion against his great grandmother, Queen Mary:—

“ Quum serenissimus decessor noster, Scotorum Rex, ACHAIUS, *Ordinem Cardui*, ex summo principe et duodecem equitibus fratribus constantem, ad Salvatoris et Apostolorum suorum numerum alludens, sub protectione Andreæ Sootie patromi instituisset, in memoriam insignis victorie ejusd: Achaj adversus Athelstanum, Saxonum regem, post

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prelium cruentum ubidam pugnaetur, in coelis effulsit crux alba decusata, ad formam illius quae Sancti Andreæ Martyrio est sacra, quo fausto portento animati Sooti hostes in fugam dedere."

Nothing can be more beautiful than the colouring and emblazonings of the Collars by Segar. They have been minutely copied for the present impression by Mr Lisars, who, with his usual ingenuity, has succeeded in producing an effect nearly equal to the originals.

EDINBURGH:  
FEB. XXV. M.DCCC.XXII.

To the Most High,  
Mighty, and Right Excellent  
Prince James, by the Grace  
of God, King of Great  
Britain, France, and  
Ireland, Defendor of the Faith,  
and Soberain of the Most Noble  
Order of the Garter.