

The 2006 Christmas Quiz

Composed, with a sense of fun, for the erudite readers of the Baronage eMagazine

With prizes donated by

Family History Monthly, Heirloom & Howard, Huntley & Palmer,

Shipton & Heneage, and The Scottish Liqueur Centre

*~~~NEW~~~
Now with answers added!*



The Baronage Press

Instructions

IN accordance with a tradition stretching all the way back to 2003, we here present the 2006 Christmas entertainment. For some newcomers we may need to explain that this is a quiz, not an examination, which is to say that it is intelligence and lateral thinking which should produce most answers, rather than an encyclopædic knowledge of heraldry, genealogy and heritage. (The Internet search engines will be very helpful for many questions, but their effective use does require a basic familiarity with heraldry.)

As in previous years, we have tried to make it fun (one question excepted) — but it clings to heraldry, a subject ranging wider than armory, which, of course, together with a large slice of Christendom's history, heraldry includes. This may need emphasis because some questions (such as the second perhaps) might not appear immediately to be heraldic, while knowing there to be a hidden heraldic theme can be helpful.

We have changed to a multiple-choice structure to allow computer-assisted marking, and, as this year there are prizes to be won, we have included a tie-breaker. The answer sheet will be posted online on December 1st at <http://www.baronage.co.uk/2006answerpaper.html>, the Quiz will close on New Year's Eve, and the answers will be published during the third week of January when the prizewinners will be notified privately (their names being published online only if they wish).

Question 1

The coronation of a King of Arms in England anciently included the anointment of his head with:

- a) oil
- b) salt
- c) wine
- d) water



Question 2

You're sitting on the cold **earth** in a forest watching a **small animal** sniffing at a flower rather like the one you once knew as **Old Plainsman**. It's **December**, and it's dark early, and you're **melancholic** and you feel **decrepit**, but the animal recalls a memory of **this girl**, perhaps **near Rome**, and you **wrestle** with thoughts of virtues you ought to honour. But which virtue is most appropriate here?

- a) Hope
- b) Charity
- c) Prudence
- d) Temperance



Question 3

You are a Member of The Queen's Body Guard for Scotland, The Royal Company of Archers, and it is time for you to prepare for the annual shoot. In the gunroom you have a rack holding six arrows of each of three colours and you intend to select a pair of the same colour — eighteen arrows, three colours, but you don't mind which colour you take so long as the arrows are a pair. It is very early in the morning, it is still dark, and the light switch does not work, but that doesn't matter because if you grab a handful of arrows you must find a pair among them, mustn't you?

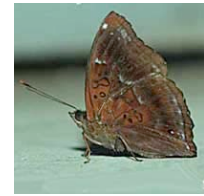
So how many arrows to ensure you have a pair of the same colour?

- a) four
- b) seven
- c) thirteen
- d) fifteen



Question 4

Whose memory was commemorated by those who named these?



- a) The Black Douglas
- b) The Black Prince
- c) The Red Comyn
- d) William of Orange



Question 5

You are an itinerant herald painter in the late sixteenth century and on your first visit to Aberdeen where, to your surprise, you see this uncommon exemplification. You make a few enquiries and decide you should:

- a) Sympathise with the family?
- b) Deliver a lecture on basic heraldry?
- c) Offer some silver paint to hide the dirty marks?
- d) Offer some other paint to complete the work?



Question 6

Rugby and cricket and hockey and lacrosse are games, not sports. Sports are quite different. A fine Scotch whisky, it is claimed, is linked by these arms and this building to a now much-neglected sport and an inn-keeper. Which was the sport?



- a) hunting?
- b) boxing?
- c) shooting?
- d) fishing?

Question 7

These are the arms of four cities, the faces of two great men, and the skull of thousands. Which of the cities is associated with the intellectual marriage of these two men and the symbolism of this skull? (Not really a question for Christmas perhaps — in its significance more a question for all time.)



(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)



Question 8

Is the otter in these arms:

- a) naiant?
- b) salient?
- c) issuant?
- d) naissant?



The Tie-Breaker

“**Heraldry is the shorthand of history,**” Arthur Charles Fox-Davies is reported to have observed, but shorthand has almost vanished into history and today few young people appear to know what it is.

You are asked to compose a similarly memorable description of heraldry more appropriate to the twentyfirst century. The judges will be seeking wit primarily, but brevity and perspicacity will win points.

Question 9

How many charges are there on this shield?

- a) two?
- b) three?
- c) four?
- d) six?



Question 10

The principal figure in this exquisite picture is, unsurprisingly, not the subject of our question. We are not asking either for the identity of the lady kneeling devoutly before her and her son, although doubtless most readers will readily deduce that from the ample armorial evidence on show, and will be aware that she was the grandmother of a British king named either:

- a) Henry, *or*
- b) James, *or*
- c) Charles, *or*
- d) William

— but which?

*The picture serves additionally as
a seasonal card for our readers
to whom we wish
a Very Happy Christmas
and a Prosperous and
Successful 2007.*



The Answers

The Christmas Quiz is not an examination: it is a quiz, which means that the questions are not intended to be difficult, but to tease. Great heraldic knowledge is not necessary — a fair grasp of the basics plus the ability to use the Internet should ensure that most readers score more than the pass mark. Of course, those who have read the pages on the Baronage website may find some questions very easy.

In previous years we took it for granted that the search engines might be used when a question appeared intractable, but this year we assumed they would be used anyway and accordingly framed many of the questions with this in mind. A basic knowledge of heraldry combined with Google should thus have ensured a fairly good score.

Answer 1

The coronation of a King of Arms in England anciently included the anointment of his head with:

- a) oil?
- b) salt?
- c) **wine?**
- d) water?

Perhaps the best known description of the coronation of a King of Arms is that recorded by Gregory King in the late 17th century when Sir Henry St George was installed as Garter. The wine was poured onto his head by the Earl Marshal, Henry, 7th Duke of Norfolk. (The picture was of the College of Arms where the coronation was performed.)

Answer 2

You're sitting on the cold **earth** in a forest watching a **small animal** sniffing at a flower rather like the one you once knew as **Old Plainsman**. It's **December**, and it's dark early, and you're **melancholic** and you feel **decrepit**, but the animal recalls a memory of **this girl**, perhaps **near Rome**, and you **wrestle** with thoughts of virtues you ought to honour. But which virtue is most appropriate here?

- a) Hope?
- b) Charity?
- c) **Prudence?**
- d) Temperance?

This was a fair example of basic heraldry guiding the use of a search engine. In a heraldic context a "small animal" in December could be the winter stoat, the ermine, but as this leads nowhere the next candidate is the "sable". Try that in Google with the word "wrestle" and up comes a pretty girl looking remarkably like the picture. Her name is Rena Mero – which is an anagram of "near Rome" – and she is a professional wrestler, which shows we are on the right track. Okay, so let's try melancholy and earth and December to see if there is a heraldic connection – and there it is: *The Blazon of Gentry* !!! This is the fantasy code that linked the components of heraldry for imaginative poetasters in early times, and for Sable the element was Earth, the month was December, the complexion was Melancholy, the age of man was Decrepitude, the flower was *Hymenopappus scabiosæus* which some know as Old Plainsman, and the virtue was Prudence.

Answer 3

In the gunroom you have a rack holding six arrows of each of three colours and you intend to select a pair of the same colour — eighteen arrows, three colours, but you don't mind which colour you take so long as the arrows are a pair. It is very early in the morning, it is still dark, and the light switch does not work, but that doesn't matter because if you grab a handful of arrows you must find a pair among them, mustn't you?

So how many arrows to ensure a pair of the same colour?

- a) four?
- b) seven?**
- c) thirteen?
- d) fifteen?

This is a variation on the simple question about a pair of socks (to which the answer is four). For any readers who might have been unaware that a pair of arrows is “two and a spare” the picture of the arms of the Royal Company of Archers was added as a hint. Obviously it would be possible to take two arrows of each colour and still not have a pair, and thus the answer is seven.

Answer 4

Whose memory was commemorated?

- a) The Black Douglas?
- b) The Black Prince?**
- c) The Red Comyn?
- d) William of Orange?

It was Christmas. With Google this question was a gift.

Answer 5

You are an itinerant herald painter in the late sixteenth century and on your first visit to Aberdeen where, to your surprise, you see this uncommon exemplification. You make a few enquiries and decide you should:

- a) **Sympathise with the family?**
- b) Deliver a lecture on basic heraldry?
- c) Offer some silver paint to hide the dirty marks?
- d) Offer some other paint to complete the work?

This is an example of adumbration in which “the dirty marks” represent the shadow of a charge that has been removed, sometimes because the family has lost an estate the charge represented. These were the arms of Kennedy of Kermucks who lost the Constabship of Aberdeen represented by the crossed keys.

Answer 6

Which was the sport?

- a) hunting?
- b) **boxing?**
- c) shooting?
- d) fishing?

This was another easy to solve with Google. The heraldic achievement featured the canting arms of Bell’s whisky and thus directed attention towards St Stephen’s Tower in the famous palace Monet painted in the second picture, the tower that houses perhaps the world’s most famous bell, Big Ben – named, it is claimed, for Benjamin Caunt, the British heavyweight boxing champion of the mid-19th century.

Do you play *Regency* ?

Answer 7

These are the arms of four cities, the faces of two great men, and the skull of thousands. Which of the cities is associated with the intellectual marriage of these two men and the symbolism of this skull? (Not really a question for Christmas perhaps — in its significance more a question for all time.)



(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)



The theme for this question came to mind when, while developing the Quiz, I heard BBC Radio Three begin a broadcast of the 13th Symphony of Shostakovich. It seemed that with Google it should not be too difficult for anyone who knew of Babi Yar, the deep fissure outside Kiev into which the SS threw over 100,000 murder victims, mostly Ukrainian Jews but also some Russian Jews and some Christians of both nations, whose monstrous fate persuaded a poet, Yevgeny Aleksandrovich Yevtushenko (the left picture), to write, against severe political opposition, his most famous work. Here is an extract —

To me it seems I am Anna Frank,
Transparent, as the thinnest branch in April,
And I'm in love, and have no need of words,
But only that we gaze into each other's eyes.
How little one can see, or even sense !

Leaves are forbidden, so is sky,
But much is still allowed – very gently
In darkened rooms each other to embrace.

– “They come!”

– “No, fear not – those are sounds
Of Spring itself. She's coming soon.
Quickly, your lips!”

– “They break the door!”

– “No, the river ice is breaking ...”.

Wild grasses whisper over Babi Yar,
The trees look grim, give judgement.
Silently, screams are everywhere. Hat in hand,
I feel my hair transmuting grey.

And I myself, as one long soundless scream
Above the hundred thousand interred.
I'm every old man murdered here,
As I am, too, every child butchered here.

The poem moved Dmitri Dmitrievich Shostakovich, not a Jew, to write his 13th Symphony. The device on the shield on the extreme right was the badge of the SS whose élite troops committed the massacre. The four cities whose arms formed the basis of the question are, left to right, Archangel (recently on the Baronage pages), Kaliningrad, Kazan, and Kiev.

Answer 8

Is the otter in these arms:

- a) naiant?
- b) salient?
- c) issuant?
- d) naissant?**

Google was not needed for this question on basic heraldry. An otter *naiant* would be swimming horizontally, if *salient* it would be leaping, if *issuant* it would be emerging from the edge of the shield or from the lowest edge of a charge. Here the otter is rising from the centre of the fess, and is blazoned as *naissant* (from the French *naître*, to be born), the term always used for emergence from the centre of a charge.

Answer 9

How many charges on the shield?

- a) two?**
- b) three?
- c) four?
- d) six?

This is basic heraldry again. The blazon is *Or two bars gemel wavy Sable* (for Logie of Middlefield) — the term *gemel* meaning that each bar consists of twin *barrulets*.

Answer 10

The kneeling lady was the grandmother of a British king named:

- a) Robert?
- b) James?**
- c) Charles? — or
- d) William?

The arms portrayed in the centre of the base of the the picture identify the lady as Catherine of Cleves, Duchess of Guelders, whose daughter Marie married James II, King of Scots and was the mother of James III. The arms in the four corners clockwise from dexter chief are those of the Counts of Cleves and of Mark, and the Dukes of Liegnitz and of Bavaria, four of her great-great-grandfathers.

Christmas 2006 — The Sponsors and the Prizes

Shipton & Heneage, purveyors of footwear for ladies and gentlemen, have donated a pair of velvet slippers as stylishly and comfortably worn in the Victorian era, lined with crimson satin and embroidered with the crest or badge of the winner's choice.



Heirloom & Howard, the internationally acclaimed authority on armorial porcelain and heraldic treasures, has supplied us with an antique engraving of the only Countess of Dorchester, witty mistress of James II until he became King, an early life peeress.



The Scottish Liqueur Centre, promoter of Scotland's finest and most famous exports, has donated a box of liquid delights which include bottles of its splendid Columba Cream Liqueur, Islay Malt, Highland Malt, Blaeberry Liqueur and a single cask malt.



Huntley & Palmers, a great British enterprise that achieved international fame as a manufacturer of the world's most wanted biscuits, and has been recently lauded for its resurrection of the Chocolate Bath Oliver, has given us one of its Christmas Hampers.



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Before photography, which means before cinema and television were invented, portrait engravings were the only means we had to distribute the images of your ancestors – and of the diplomats and politicians, the distinguished scientists and eminent physicians, and notable musicians, artists, poets and authors. Most of the portraits were engraved from oil paintings, but some were based on sketches from life. For historians they offer valuable insights into the contemporary interpretation of character, but for ancestor hunters they are often the only tangible item they can own of their origins. The Baronage Press has a computerised database listing twenty thousand of these engraved portraits produced between the late 17th and early 20th centuries, and may be able to find your ancestors among them..

Burke's Peerage



The change to modern printing technology made redundant the skilfully chiselled printing blocks Burke's had used for the Peerage and the Landed Gentry directories since the early 19th century. Some were sold to the heads of the families represented in those books, and the remainder are now available for any family members who wish to preserve this unique memento of their history. The blocks may be kept for their original purpose, which was to print the full armorial achievement by which the family is known, or the metal may be removed from the wooden block and then polished, mounted on black linen or velvet, and framed as a picture for display. [Click here for details.](#)

The block illustrated here (at greatly reduced size) is that of H.R.H. The Prince of Wales.

Feudal Titles in Scotland



The title of Baron is the most widely recognised and yet least understood of all titles. Men who justify the use of the word baron as a description exist today in all structured societies, for the word, originally refers to a powerful man. This has been true since its introduction into the British Isles in the eleventh century, but there are also other more specific meanings for the word baron – and these can confuse.

In classical Latin *baro* means *clerk* or *free*. In Low Latin *baro* means *slave* or *serf* – but usually in the houses of the greater nobles, as the title of feudal tenantry to be young men from noble families. As the feudal system became entrenched in Europe, integrating its three essential components (the concepts of land ownership, of hereditary rights and of service), a *baron* became a man, one on whom a superior relied – he was the superior's man and had sworn fealty.

The feudal system allowed the baron to hold land as a tenant-in-chief of his prince, a prince being a ruler who held his lands of no-one. He need not be a king, he could be a noble; the essence is that he is sovereign in his province. In the early feudal centuries this was extended to allow the king's baron, his tenant-in-chief, to have their own barons through a process of subfeudation, but the continuation of this practice was restricted in England when King Edward I recognised the danger it represented to centralised power and fiscal efficiency. In Scotland, where the geographical factors and Gaelic writers created a different political environment, it continued for longer.

The English king ruled in Council, first assembling some of the greater barons (i.e. the more powerful

barons) to attend and advise them, and then, following the Privy Council, extending the principle by bringing to their Parliament much larger numbers of barons, together with representatives of the Church and the nobility and the knights of the shires. The concept of *paragium* did not develop immediately in Britain (with France and Flanders), and its subsequent evolution was haphazard and irrational. Those barons who first attended the Norman kings in Council came as territorial magnates holding their lands of the king in accordance with a feudal relationship system, and

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After the coronation of King Edward I, England's early Parliaments were parliamentary barons by title. Later kings created new peers of England when they considered would make useful contributions to their government, and on whom they believed they could rely when others rebelled, and these became barons by patent. Letters Patent subsequently became the usual way to create new peers or to promote existing ones. England's feudal baronial titles were abolished in 1706, Scotland's still survive.

In Scotland, in the early days, it was quite impossible to distinguish clearly between those barons who were the equivalent of peers and those who were simply barons by tenure. Until the Statute of 1408, which recognised the barons created by these power barons with the smaller estates, all were expected to attend Parliament, but thereafter they were classified either

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