

The 2007 Christmas Quiz

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

~~~NEW~~~

*Now with answers added!*



The Baronage Press

# Welcome!

**I**N accordance with a tradition stretching all the way back to 2003, we here present the 2007 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.)

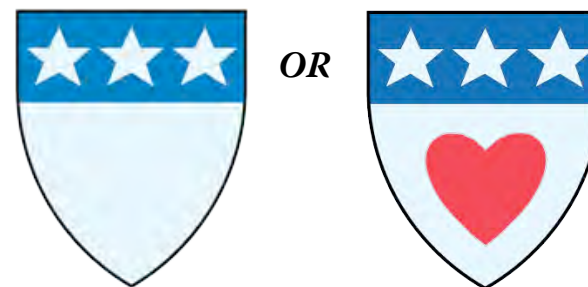
As in previous years, we have tried to make it fun — but it clings to heraldry, a subject ranging wider than armory, which, of course, together with a large slice of Christendom’s history, heraldry includes. This year, responding to readers who wrote to complain that the questions were too difficult for the average heraldry enthusiast, we have attempted to ease them without diminishing their interest.

We have continued with the multiple-choice structure even though this year we have not arranged for prizes to be won. The answers will be posted online at <http://www.baronage.co.uk/2007answerpaper.html> at the end of January.

## Question 1

It has been claimed that a famous warrior whose arms were either killed four “kings” in one afternoon. If true, then this would have been in:

- a) 1314 at Bannockburn
- b) 1388 at Otterburn
- c) 1402 at Homildon Hill
- d) 1403 at Shrewsbury



## Question 2

A famous judge in a famous judgement said:

“And yet time hath his revolutions; there must be an end to all things temporal, *finis rerum*, an end of names and dignities and whatsoever is terrene; and why not of de \*\*\*\*? — for where is Bohun? Where is Mowbray? Where is Mortimer? Nay, what is more, and most of all, where is Plantagenet? They are entombed in the urns and sepulchres of mortality. And yet let the name and dignity of de \*\*\*\* stand so long as it pleaseth God.”

Of which great “name and dignity” was he speaking:



## Question 3

When King Edward VIII approved this Royal Air Force badge, the squadron for which it was designed was based in Malta — as symbolised by the inclusion of the Maltese Cross. Its more famous days were when it flew, first, the FE2b reconnaissance/bomber aircraft, and then later the Bristol Fighter, as part of the 7th Wing of the Royal Flying Corps (whose HQ the squadron overflew on take-off). In a single month, in May 1918, with its Bristol Fighters the squadron destroyed 81 enemy aircraft. What was the number of this squadron:



- a) 1?
- b) 3?
- c) 9?
- d) 22?

## Question 4

This rare animal, even rarer in heraldry, was first seen by Europeans in which country:

- a) India?
- b) Borneo?
- c) Sumatra?
- d) Australia?



## Question 5

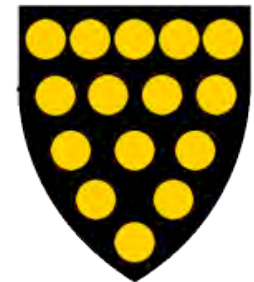
On Christmas Day 2007 the world's largest heraldic flag, believed to be 200 metres long, belongs to:

- a) Iran?
- b) Iraq?
- c) India?
- d) Israel?

## Question 6

In these famous arms, used as a badge by a famous man, the gold roundels represent:

- a) Gold coins?
- b) Golden peas?
- c) Golden balls?
- d) Centres of archery targets (bulls)?



## Question 7

Which branch of the Armed Forces had a famous heraldic badge ruled unheraldic by the College of Arms until the monarch intervened to decree that if indeed it had not been heraldic, henceforth it would be:

- a) Royal Navy?
- b) Royal Marines?
- c) Royal Air Force?
- d) Territorial Army?

## Question 8

Since the known forerunners of heraldry were first described in writing, heraldic display has been used to symbolise loyalties and hence, when those loyalties are reliable, to symbolise power. The early selection of charges also has been interpreted as expressions of power, the lions of Scotland, Flanders and Brabant being obvious examples. What is occasionally forgotten is that some historians claim one of the common plants to be an explicit emblem of power, and that is the:

- a) leek for Wales?
- b) rose for England?
- c) thistle for Scotland?
- d) fleur-de-lys for France?
- e) shamrock (or the associated trefoil) for Ireland?
- f) strawberry (fraise, or the associated cinquefoil) for the powerful Clan Fraser?

## Question 9

These arms may be found displayed in north-eastern England — to be precise: in Durham. Despite its rampant posture the horse is swimming — but to where:

- a) across the River Wear?
- b) to the mainland coast from the Scilly Isles?
- c) to the mainland coast from Lindisfarne?
- d) across the River Tyne?



## Question 10

These arms are most readily associated with:

- a) Attributions to the Magi, the “Three Kings of Orient”?
- b) Bruce claims to the Kingdoms of Scotland, Ireland and Man?
- c) Careless Carlos and his friends?
- d) Royal tree-huggers?



Well, that’s it until next Christmas. Readers who have found these questions far too easy, or less teasing than in previous years, or less amusing, should complain to us at <http://www.baronage.net/baronet/letterxx.html>

*We Wish all our Readers  
a  
Very Happy Christmas  
and a  
Prosperous  
and  
Successful  
2008*



# 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

It has been claimed that a famous warrior killed four “kings” in one afternoon. If true, then this would have been in:

- a) 1314 at Bannockburn
- b) 1388 at Otterburn
- c) 1402 at Homildon Hill
- d) 1403 at Shrewsbury**

The two shields feature the famous arms of Douglas, the one with the heart being the later of the two and that borne by the 4th Earl of Douglas at the Battle of Shrewsbury in 1403. He had been a hostage of Sir Henry Percy, Hotspur, but on release, instead of returning to Scotland, he elected to join the great warrior in his rebellion against King Henry IV. Of the battle of Shrewsbury, where Hotspur died with an arrow in his mouth, Holinshed reported Douglas complaining of having killed four kings. “I marvell to see so many kings thus suddenlie arise one in the necke of another!” The cause was the prudent King’s decision to give Sir Walter Blount and other knights copies of his surcoat to wear.

## Answer 2

Lord Chief Justice Sir Randolph Crew was speaking of:

- a) de Grey
- b) de Lacy
- c) de Lucy
- d) de Vere**

“And yet time hath his revolutions; there must be an end to all things temporal, *finis rerum*, an end of names and dignities and whatsoever is terrene; and why not of **de Vere**? — for where is Bohun? Where is Mowbray? Where is Mortimer? Nay, what is more, and most of all, where is Plantagenet? They are entombed in the urns and sepulchres of mortality. And yet let the name and dignity of **de Vere** stand so long as it pleaseth God.”

The dignity of de Vere, the Earldom of Oxford whose destination was decided by this judgement, ended only a short time later with the death of the 20th Earl, the son of the victor in this case.

### Answer 3

The Squadron is:

- a) 1
- b) 3
- c) 9
- d) **22**



Pi ( $\pi$ ), the familiar component of arithmetical problems concerning circles, is usually remembered as 3.14159 but at school it is commonly taught as 22/7 and described as “22 over 7”.

Accordingly, for 22 Squadron which overflew No. 7 Wing HQ on take-off it was judged appropriate to place the Pi symbol  $\pi$  on the Maltese cross.

### Answer 4

Europeans first saw the Thylacine in:

- a) India
- b) Borneo
- c) Sumatra
- d) **Australia**



This would not have been a difficult question for those readers who recognised the Thylacine as the Tasmanian Tiger, not because they have one as a household pet, but because it featured as the badge of The Thylacine Press, famed publisher of heraldry books.

## Answer 5

The world's largest flag on Christmas Day belonged to:

- a) Iran
- b) Iraq
- c) India
- d) Israel**



## Answer 6

The roundels represented:

- a) Gold coins
- b) Golden peas**
- c) Golden balls
- d) Centres of archery targets (bulls)

The gold roundels (or bezants) are an example of canting heraldry because they represent golden peas – in French *pois* or *poix* – and these were originally the arms of the Count of Poictou. Richard, Earl of Cornwall, second son of King John, bore them in right of his possession of the county of Poictou, and added to his arms as King of the Romans *Argent a lion rampant Gules* a black border charged with the golden peas. Thereafter they became associated with Cornwall and today, as Duke of Cornwall, the Prince of Wales features the arms on his heraldic achievement as a badge beneath his shield.

## Answer 7

The service whose heraldry had been questioned was:

- a) Royal Navy
- b) Royal Marines
- c) Royal Air Force**
- d) Territorial Army



While discussing the new RAF Ensign with King George V, His Majesty's Inspector of Royal Air Force Badges commented on the red-white-and-blue roundel not being an heraldic charge, but the King decided the badge had been earned in battle.

## Answer 8

The plant emblem of power is the:

- a) leek for Wales
- b) rose for England**
- c) thistle for Scotland
- d) fleur-de-lys for France
- e) shamrock (or the associated trefoil) for Ireland
- f) strawberry (fraise, or the associated cinquefoil) for the powerful Clan Fraser

As a symbol of power the rose antedates heraldry, being known as such in the Egypt of the Pharaohs and in Omar Khayyám's Persia (the rosette being a symbol of royalty throughout the Muslim territories). In England it appears to have first been used heraldically as a badge by both the sons of Henry III, the elder of which, as Edward I, was seemingly the first English King to wear one as a badge, his being of gold. For the Church the rose has always been its symbol of spiritual power (implying immortality).

## Answer 9

The horse is swimming:

- a) across the River Wear
- b) to the mainland coast from the Scilly Isles**
- c) to the mainland coast from Lindisfarne
- d) across the River Tyne

These arms are seen in Durham at its University for they are those of Trevelyan College, and as Trevelyan is a Cornish name the swimming horse should bring to mind the legend of Lyonesse, the land between the western tip of Cornwall and the Scilly Isles. The legend relates that as the sacred territory broke apart and sank beneath the waves, a man of the name of Trevelyan was rescued by a white horse and brought safely ashore. This must be true, of course, because the horse has been borne in the Trevelyan arms from the birth of time.


## Answer 10

The arms are most readily associated with:

- a) Attributions to the Magi, the “Three Kings of Orient”
- b) Bruce claims to the Kingdoms of Scotland, Ireland and Man
- c) Careless Carlos and his friends**
- d) Royal tree-huggers



These are the arms granted to Penderel of Boscobel (on the left) and to Colonel Carlos (on the right) following their assistance in hiding King Charles II in an oak tree while the Roundheads searched for him after the Battle of Worcester. The surname of the gallant Colonel at his birth was Careless, but the King thought that most inappropriate and insisted he take the name of Carlos (a royal name).



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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, 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 recognized and yet least understood of all titles. Men who justify the use of the word baron as a description exist today in all structured nations, 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 there means either a free – in Latin Latin there means slave or servant – but especially to the owners of the greater manor, or the title of feudalism tended to be young men from noble families. As the feudal system became entrenched in Europe, introducing 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 noble who held his lands of the king. He could not be a king, he could be a noble; the source is that he is sovereign in his possession. In the early feudal centuries this was extended to allow the king's baron, the tenant-in-chief, to have their own barons through a process of subfeudalism, but the continuation of this process has been restricted in England when King Edward I recognized the danger it represented to centralized power and local efficiency. In Scotland, where the geographical factors and local wishes 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, when requiring the Privy Council, extending the principle to bring to their Parliament much larger numbers of barons together with representatives of the Church and the burgesses and the knights of the shire. The concept of privilege 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 on territorial matters holding their lands of the king in accordance with a feudal relationship, but in another sense they were not feudal lords, for that sense of the word was not used until the late 13th century.

After the coronation of Edward I, the English nobility, particularly the barons, began to create new peers of rank, but 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 equal of peers and those who were simply barons by tenure. Until the Statute of 1400, which recognized the Barons created by these peers barons with the smaller estates, all were expected to attend Parliament, but thereafter they were classified either

[The Baronage Press accepts commissions for illustrated family histories and charts.](#)