



<http://kentarchaeology.org.uk/research/archaeologia-cantiana/>

Kent Archaeological Society is a registered charity number 223382

© 2017 Kent Archaeological Society



THE LAMBARDE CUP.

## THE LAMBARDE CUP

THERE is no doubt that the Lambarde Cup is the most interesting and valuable possession of the Drapers' Company. Although neither large nor massive, standing only  $12\frac{1}{2}$  inches high, it is of beautiful workmanship and proportions, and its association and history render it especially remarkable.

The cup is described in the Company's ancient records of 1578 as "a small standing cup with a cover all gilt weying 25 oz  $\frac{1}{4}$ , having the Armes of England, the Armes of the Company of Drapers, the Armes of Sir William Cordelle<sup>1</sup> Knight sometymes Master of the Rolls engraven on the topp." Round the rim of the cup is the following posy:—"A proctour for the poore am I \* remember them before thow dye. 1578.", and between each Coat of Arms is the engraved portrait of a man's head—one represents a broad-featured bearded man, with four birds standing round it; another is of a man with whiskers, beard, and moustache, between two flying birds, and the third is of a youth in a flat cap and a small ruffle, flanked by two winged figures terminating in a scroll instead of legs and feet. The hall-mark is the London mark of the year 1578, and the maker's mark is a bird in a shield. It is probable that the maker was John Bird, who was a well-known goldsmith of the period, and of whose work several examples are known. But until April 1697, when the New, or Britannia, Standard of Silver was introduced, there is no record at Goldsmiths' Hall of the names of makers. After this date the names, addresses, and dates of entry at the Hall, together with an impression of the actual stamps adopted by the makers, are carefully recorded.

The cup was purchased by William Lambarde<sup>2</sup>, the antiquary (and the author of *The Perambulation of Kent*),

<sup>1</sup> Sir William Cordelle was Master of the Rolls from 1557 to 1581.

<sup>2</sup> For his life, see *D.N.B.*

in 1577-8, as the following extracts from a book of accounts kept by him will show :—

“ 1577 Mychael [Michaelmas].  
 Paide for a moalde to cast the  
 Badges of the poor <sup>iijs</sup> & for the  
 Bishop seales to theire praiers X<sup>s</sup>  
 & towards a cuppe for the Drapers  
 X<sup>li</sup> & more for the said cup & case  
 for it.”

} X<sup>li</sup>

“ 2 October 1578

Extraordinary  
 Charges

I spent this yeare 14<sup>li</sup> (or thear-  
 abouts for the pardons of Alienacon  
 of Criels etc. & for the pleading  
 thereof : Ten poundes for the cuppe  
 to the Drapers : and ten poundes I  
 forgave Mr. Low.”

He was not himself a member of the Drapers' Company, but his father, John Lambarde,<sup>1</sup> had been Master in 1547, 1550, and 1552, and his brother Giles, who died without issue, was a Freeman. William Lambarde was the founder by Royal Charter of the 25th November, 1575, of the almshouses in Greenwich known to this day as Queen Elizabeth's College, of which he appointed the Master of the Rolls to be President and the two upper Wardens of the Drapers' Company to be Governors. Hence we get the three coats of arms on the cup—those of England for the Charter, those of Sir William Cordelle for the President, and those of the Drapers' Company for the Governors.

On Monday, the 4th August, 1578, the Drapers' Company went as usual to St. Michael's Church for their annual Election Service, and “at their Retorne ffrome Church Mr. William Lambard, gent: dyd present the Mr. Wardens with a cup of Silver and gilt with a cover, having the Armes of England the Armes of the Mr. of the Rowles and the Armes

<sup>1</sup> The name is spelt “Lambert” in the Company's records of 1544, “Lamberd” in 1547 and 1550, and “Lambard” in 1550 and 1552. In his will at Somerset House it is spelt both “Lambarde” and “Lambard.” The signature on his will is “Lambard.”

of this Company ingraved thereon to Remyne to this Company for Ever and also he dyd present the Mr. Wardens with a small Rundelet of 4 gallons of Ipocras with Request further that the last draught at the Election of the new Mr. and Wardens might be owt of that Cupp which thing was performed accordingly ”.

From this extract from the Records (+257, p. 102) it will be seen that the cup was to belong to the Drapers' Company for ever, although it was described by Lambarde as “ the Colledge cup ” in his Ordinances for the government of the Colledge.

The following extract (+356, p. 18) shows how the cup was to be handed down from Warden to Warden through the ages :—

“ First I ordayne that the said two elder or upper Mr. Wardens of the said Company of the Drapers beinge for the tyme Governors of the said Colledg shall receave all the revenues of the landes of the said Colledge and the same shall bestowe and keepe in the Chest pertayninge to the said Colledge and remayneinge in the Common Hall of the said Company untill they shall have cause to disburce the same upon the reparacons pensions fees etc. or other affaiers of the said Colledge, And shall at thend of each yeare give a true accompte of their receiptes and expences in that behalfe to the Mr. and Assistentes of the said Company, and shall then also in their presence deliver over into the handes of their successors beinge upper or elder Mr. Wardens All such somes of money as shall there remayne undisburced together with their severall keyes of that chest, the Colledge cup which I gave to the said Company of the Drapers, the one parte of the Colledge seale and all the evidences bookes and wrytinges pertayninge to the said Colledge and remayninge in the said Chest.”

On several subsequent occasions the Company were obliged to melt down all their plate in order to meet the demands of the Crown and the Government for money, and the Lambarde Cup is the only piece that escaped destruction. In the years 1640 and 1641 it is described in the Accounts as “ the Colledge Cup,” and from 1642 to 1860 as “ It belongs to

Queen Elizabeth's College, East Greenwich." It is possible that these entries were made in order to indicate that the Cup belonged more to the College than to the Company, so that, when the Company's own property was sacrificed, they might be able to keep the Cup, and so carry out Lambarde's wish that it should remain to the Company for ever. However that may be, it certainly is a fact that the Cup is the only piece of plate now in the possession of the Company that belonged to them before the Commonwealth.

The days of ipocras are no more, but the members of the Drapers' Company still drink in a Loving Cup at the Election Dinner, and still go to Church on the afternoon of the same day. Nor is William Lambarde forgotten. Queen Elizabeth's College is still a harbour of refuge for the aged poor, and still the Lambarde Cup graces with its beauty the board where sit the descendants of those Wardens who nearly 350 years ago, first drank from it with William Lambarde.

## ~~THE ARMS OF THE DRAPERS' COMPANY.~~

~~BY MISS M. A. GREENWOOD.~~

~~(Librarian to the Drapers' Company.)~~

~~The Grant of Arms of 1439 to the Drapers' Company is the earliest existing document of its kind. Only two Companies, the Mercers and the Goldsmiths, were granted Arms before the Drapers' Company, and neither of them has preserved its Grant. Most of the Coats of Arms of other Companies bear some indication of the particular trades the Companies represented, but that of the Drapers' Company is one of the exceptions, their Crest alone referring to their trade.~~

~~From very early times, the Drapers of London were organised in a Fraternity, and a special district of London became known as The Drapery.~~

~~In 1364, the Drapers succeeded in obtaining definite recognition from the Crown, and were granted a charter by Edward III, which is still in their possession. They received~~