The Flow Chart Method and

HERALDIC ENQUIRIES

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In a general article on the use of flow charts for teaching reference work[1] it was suggested that charts might be devised to illustrate routes to be followed in solving specific problems of some complexity, or at least to indicate promising lines of attack. Such charts could be used with library school students and possibly in in-service training, and for undergraduate instruction in library use. They might also be useful to practicing librarians working in specialized and unfamiliar fields.

It is evident that the method would be most likely to have applications in fields where the successful and expeditious answering of enquiries depends upon taking a number of logical steps in a preferred sequence and where each enquiry is likely to present itself as an organic whole. While such enquiries can be reduced to a number of subsidiary questions, these are not discrete and self-contained but are merely interlocking parts of the larger question. Several subject fields were considered and that of genealogy and heraldry was chosen for a first experiment since it exhibits these characteristics to a high degree.

The chart now presented deals with the type of enquiry which requires the librarian to identify the bearer of a given coat of arms and this type was chosen as a model because it is one of the most specific, most complex and most suited to a systematic approach, as well as being of frequent occurrence.

Such an enquiry is specific because in origin coat armour was a means of identifying in battle individuals who were otherwise unrecognizable by reason of being completely enclosed in armour which covered even the face. It was therefore one of the earliest devices for attaching a symbolic notation as opposed to a verbal one to a very limited concept: that of the individual man. This form of notation was later extended to corporate bodies as well as families and individuals and has persisted until the present day. In order to provide unique identification of such limited concepts the system is necessarily both complex and regular and its complexity and regularity not only permit a systematic approach but actually impose it.

Heraldic enquiries of this type can arise when the librarian is asked to identify arms on bindings, book-plates, manuscripts, porcelain, badges (both metal and embroidered), buttons, banners, carved furniture and stonework, engraved plate, jewelry and so forth. They occur quite frequently in large reference libraries and only one or two members of the staff of any one

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[1]Stych, F. S., "Teaching Reference Work: The Flow Chart Method." *RQ*, 5:14-17, Summer 1966.

library may be equipped to deal with them, while very few readers can be left to conduct a search for themselves. It is hoped that the chart may assist students already possessing an essential minimum of background knowledge to attack simpler heraldic enquiries systematically with some hope of success, as well as serving to illustrate in some detail the kind of choices and decisions which confront the reference worker at every step.

It is of course apparent that an enquiries assistant experienced in this field would not necessarily follow any one line of approach consistently from the start. He would try one or two until he found one that seemed promising, but a student only gradually learns to adopt this probing method of attack.

An obstacle to the complete beginner in heraldic work is the language, with its specialized vocabulary and its grammar of blazon and marshalling. A student without previous knowledge will need to read the more fundamental sections of a general work, such as Fox-Davies' *Complete guide to heraldry*, 1902 etc., and will find useful Sir F. J. Grant's *Manual of heraldry*, 1914, arranged on dictionary principles, as well as C. Boutell's *Manual of heraldry*, 1863 and *English heraldry*, 1867 for reference purposes.

To keep the chart relatively simple a number of topics have been omitted. These include ecclesiastical arms, the bearing of coat armour by ladies, peeresses in their own right, the possible significance of an inescutcheon, illegitimacy, and points which may lead one to suspect that arms are foreign. For this reason it might be necessary to let students use the chart to work through carefully chosen examples not involving any knowledge of the complicating factors. Where several students were beginning heraldic work from scratch, each might prepare rough drawings of impaled and quartered coats representing well-documented marriages and descents and these drawings could then be exchanged and used as practice material with the chart at a later stage.

Appended are a key to abbreviated names of works used in the chart and a classified list of works referred to in the chart with a few other similar works.

I am obliged to two colleagues, Mr. P. N. Allen, of Birmingham Reference Library, and Mr. G. R. Pendrill of the Sheffield Postgraduate School, for working through a number of examples with the chart. Mr. Pendrill was able to indicate, as a result of his test, a point at which an additional loop was necessary to make the procedure clear in all cases.

KEY TO ABBREVIATED NAMES OF WORKS USED IN THE CHART

Anson = Anson, W. S., *pseud. Mottoes and badges of families, regiments, schools*, etc. [1904].

Burke's General Armory = Burke, J. *A general armory of England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales*, etc. 1842. etc.

Later editions are by Sir J. B. Burke and the title reads: "The general armory," etc.

Fairbairn = Fairbairn, J. *Fairbairn's book of crests of the families of Great Britain and Ireland.* 4th ed., 1905. 2v. repr.

Harleian Guide = Whitmore, J. B., *ed. A genealogical guide . . . in continuation of Marshall,* etc. 1953.
Originally published as vols. 99, 101, 102 and 104 of the Harleian Society Publications.

Marshall = Marshall, G. W. *The genealogist's guide.* 1903.

Papworth = Papworth, J. W. *An alphabetical dictionary of coats of arms belonging to families in Great Britain and Ireland,* etc. 1874. repr.

Renesse = Renesse, J.L.T.F.A. de, *Comte. Dictionnaire de figures heraldiques.* 1892-1903. 6v. and supp. with index to vols. I-VI.

Robson = Robson. T. *The British Herald.* 1830. 3v. vol. III.

Scott-Giles = Scott-Giles, C. W. *Civic heraldry of England and Wales.* 2nd ed., 1953.

CLASSIFIED LIST OF WORKS REFERRED TO IN THE CHART, WITH A FEW OTHERS OF SIMILAR TYPE

Armories

Burke, J. *A general armory of England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales, etc. 1842 etc.* Earlier editions are not superseded by later ones. Later editions are by Sir J. B. Burke and the title reads "The General Armory," etc.

Baronetages

Betham, Wm. *Baronetage of England.* 1801 - 05. 5v.

Burke, J. *and Sir J. B. General and heraldic history of the extinct and dormant baronetcies of England.* 1838 etc.
For baronetcies still existing, Burke's and Debrett's Peerages will be the first-line works.

Cadency

For the marks of cadency used in England see Grant's "Manual" p. 24-25 and for those used in Scotland the illustration facing p. 26 in the same work.

Civic and other public arms

Scott-Giles, C. W. *Civic heraldry of England and Wales.* 2nd ed. 1953.
Arms are described in non-technical language, not blazoned heraldically. Not always accurate.

Another work useful for the same purpose is:

Fox Davies, A. C. *The book of public arms.* 1915.

Crests

Fairbairn, J. *Fairbairn's book of crests of the families of Great Britain and Ireland,* 4th ed., 1905. 2v. repr.

Dictionary of coats

Papworth, J. W. *An alphabetical dictionary of coats of arms belonging to families in Great Britain and Ireland, etc.* 1874. repr.

Dictionary of foreign coats

Renesse, J.L.T.F.A. de, *Comte. Dictionnaire de figures heraldiques.* 1892-1903. 6v. and supp., with index to vols. I-VI.

Genealogical guides

Marshall, G. W. *The genealogist's guide.* 1903.

"Harleian Guide" = Whitmore. J. B., *ed. A genealogical guide . . . in continuation of Marshall, etc.* 1953.
Originally published as vols. 99, 101, 102 and 104 of the Harleian Society Publications. 1947-1953.

Mottoes

Anson, W. S. W., *pseud. Mottoes and badges of families, regiments, schools, etc.* [1904].

Robson, T. *The British Herald.* 1830. 3v. List of mottoes in vol. 3.

Other works on mottoes

The book of mottoes of the nobility and gentry. etc. 1851.

Elvin, C. N. *Handbook of mottoes borne by the nobility,* etc. 1860.

Fairbairn, J. *Fairbairn's book of crests of the families of Great Britain and Ireland.* 4th ed. 1905. 2v. repr. List of mottoes at the beginning of vol. 1, pt. ii.

Scott-Giles. C. W. *Civic heraldry, etc.* 2nd ed. 1953. List of mottoes at p. 425-430.

Peerages

Banks. T. C. *Dormant and extinct baronage of England.* 1807-1837. 4v. and supp.

Collins, A. *The peerage of England.* Rev. ed. by Sir E. Brydges. 1812. 9v. For peerages still existing, Burke and Debrett will be the first-line works.

START.

END OF SEARCH.

CHECK SCOTT-GILES, ETC. ARMS FOUND?

IS THERE A CORONET OR BARONET'S BADGE?

ARE SUPPORTERS PRESENT?

CHECK SIMPLE OR PATERNAL COAT IN PAPWORTH. FOUND?

CREST PRESENT?

CHECK FAIRBAIRN. CREST FOUND?

CHECK FAMILIES LISTED BY FAIRBAIRN IN BURKE'S GENERAL ARMORY, ETC. ARMS FOUND?

IDENTIFY BEARER FROM THESE SOURCES.

CAN EXEMPLIFICATION BE DATED?

IS THERE MORE THAN ONE POSSIBLE FAMILY?

ANY MARK OF CADENCY PRESENT?

CAN EXEMPLIFICATION BE DATED?

CHECK FOR GENEALOGIES IN MARSHALL & HARLEIAN GUIDE. FOUND?

CHECK PEERAGES OR BARONETAGES FOR PERIOD. ARMS FOUND?

CHECK ALL AVAILABLE PEERAGES OR BARONETAGES. ARMS FOUND?

IS COAT IMPALING OR QUARTERING ANOTHER OR OTHERS?

COAT IDENTIFIED?

IS THERE A MOTTO?

CHECK ARMS IN RENESSE. FOUND?

IS COAT IMPALING OR QUARTERING ANOTHER OR OTHERS?

CHECK THESE SOURCES FOR MARRIAGE ALLIANCES ANY FOUND?

CHECK FOR GENEALOGICAL SOURCES FOR FAMILIES IN MARSHALL AND HARLEIAN GUIDE. ANY FOUND?

CHECK THESE COATS IN PAPWORTH. FOUND?

PATERNAL COAT IDENTIFIED?

CHECK IN ANSON, ROBSON, ETC. FOUND?

ENGLISH MOTTO?

CHECK THESE IN RENESSE. FOUND?

PATERNAL COAT IDENTIFIED?

CHECK GENEALOGICAL SOURCES FOR FAMILY IN MARSHALL & HARLEIAN GUIDE. ANY FOUND?

CHECK FAMILIES LISTED IN ANSON, ETC. IN BURKE'S GENERAL ARMORY. ARMS FOUND?

SUGGEST ENQUIRER CONSULTS RELEVANT NATIONAL AUTHORITY.

CHECK ANY REMAINING FAMILIES IN BURKE'S GENERAL ARMORY, ETC. ARMS IDENTIFIED?

CHECK THESE SOURCES FOR NAMES OF ALLIED FAMILIES. ANY FOUND?

COATS IMPALED ONLY.

CAN BEARER ALREADY BE IDENTIFIED?

SUGGEST ENQUIRER CONSULTS THE COLLEGE OF ARMS.

MATERNAL COAT (S) IDENTIFIED?

CHECK ANY REMAINING FAMILIES IN BURKE'S GENERAL ARMORY, ETC. ARMS IDENTIFIED?

IS THERE ANY MARK OF CADENCY?

DOES THIS SUFFICE FOR IDENTIFICATION BY ITSELF?

CAN EXEMPLIFICATION BE DATED?

IDENTIFY BEARER FROM GENEALOGICAL SOURCES.

YES   NO