A succinct definition of *An Ordinary of Arms, Vol. II, 1902-1973* compiled in the Court of the Lord Lyon, Edinburgh, may perhaps vary according to the bent of the reader.

The book was to have been a combined operation with the Glasgow University Archivist and then Carrick Pursuivant of Arms, David Reid of Robertland, but he sadly and suddenly died eighteen months after work began, and I was asked to carry on.

This new Ordinary runs to 540 pages, and contains all the Coats of Arms assigned by the Lord Lyon King of Arms of the day during the seventy years specified. After classification by their first mentioned charge the Arms are listed alphabetically. Their owners are also listed alphabetically under the heading 'Index', the latter taking up 100 of the 540 pages. A list of the headings used for the classified text is also included.

There were two important reasons for rearranging the Arms in the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland from the order in which they are recorded into classified and alphabetical form. The first was to facilitate checking that no Arms were duplicated. The second was to enable unnamed Coats of Arms to be identified when found, be it on a silver salver, gable end, lintel or elsewhere.

Sir James Balfour Paul, Lord Lyon King of Arms from 1890 to 1926 and at least 29th holder of the office believed to date from 1318, compiled *An Ordinary of Arms* in 1893. A second edition published in 1903 contains all Arms recorded in Lyon Office from 1672 to 1902, and is now referred to as *Vol. I*.

Compilation of *Vol. II* necessitated extraction of all relevant material from some forty of the sixty volumes of *Lyon Register*, as it is commonly called. In other words, more Arms were devised and assigned between 1902 and 1973 than were recorded in the previous 230 years. Prior to 1672 when the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings was created by Statute, Arms were not legally protected as they have been since that date.

Each volume of the *Public Register* is leather bound and measures 17" x 11". The majority each contain 120 interleaved sheets of vellum. Every assignee—any 'virtuous and well deserving person' may petition for a Coat of Arms—receives an illuminated vellum depicting his/her Arms together with written genealogy and blazon. A duplicate is painted and written in the *Register* as and when the Arms are granted. Nowadays photostat copies are made as well.

Accuracy, together with easy, speedy perusal was therefore important for the new work. Efforts to discover the method used for the compilation of *Vol. I* were fruitless. The system devised for *Vol. II* incorporated as many cross-checks as practically possible. Consequently, it was a draft index which I typed first, extracted from the master index of *Lyon Register*.

The constitution of Coats of Arms

Readers may or may not be aware that in Scottish heraldry a Coat of Arms may be made up of several different Coats to form one individual Coat which belongs to that particular individual and no one else. For example, the present Duke of Edinburgh's second recording is a quartered Coat of Arms (the first one, I suspect, proved too complicated and costly to reproduce satisfactorily). It is made up of the Arms of Denmark, Greece, Battenburg and Edinburgh. The Duke of Buccleuch's 1929 matriculation was made up of eleven different Coats to show his lineage. Impaled Arms, i.e. the marshalling of two Coats side by side on the same shield, need also to be taken into account, especially since such marshalling is used, not only for armigerous married couples, but also bowling clubs, hospital boards, masons' lodges and similar organizations comprising an over-all body with self-contained but affiliated subsidiaries.

One of the earliest points to be decided, therefore, was the interpretation of the *unum quid*. If entries were long, it would hinder speedy perusal. At the same time it had to be borne in mind that if entries were excessively fragmented, readers might have difficulty in visualizing the Arms in their entirety. For the new Ordinary, it was decided to continue, so far as practicable, on the same lines as those used by Sir James Balfour Paul in his proven work. Crests, supporters and other heraldic additaments are likewise excluded.

Thus, continuing with the examples already quoted, there are four text reference numbers against the Duke of Edinburgh's name in the index, and eleven against the Duke of Buccleuch's, and the text entries are much the same length as in *Vol. I*. There is also the *Lyon Register* number against the name in the index and at the end of the text entry, a reference not included in *Vol. I*. Added
Mechanics of compilation

Maintaining Balfour Paul's definition of the *unum quid* meant that the relevant material for each entry could, with few exceptions, be included on a slip of paper 2' wide—five slips to an A4 sheet of paper. Sufficient indent was made on the first line for the classification was a most useful check for mistakes.

All the relevant material having been extracted, the draft index was in need of retyping by this time, which provided a relatively easy interlude before I embarked on the numbering of the slips. I did this in black on the slip itself; and in either black, or green to denote italics with its further connotation, both over the pencilled entry in the first index and in the retyped index. All numbers were prefixed with 'O' to differentiate entries from *Vol. I* should amalgamation of the two volumes be attempted at some future date. If the individual possessed a triple-barrelled surname and two titles of nobility in common use, five names could be involved in the index with, say, twelve sets of numbers against each. Subsidiary titles were ignored. Coats of Arms with grand quarters and even smaller divisions required several sets of numbers as well.

When all the slips had been numbered, perusal and comparison of the two indexes revealed any omissions through pencil entries not being covered by an ink number, and such omissions were investigated.

Finally, when in doubt, at the end of the operation, I remarshalled the complicated Coats from the numbers. This ensured that some quartering or smaller fragment of a Coat had not got mislaid or wrongly positioned. I felt the checking was necessary because the omission or erroneous addition of an 's', or substitution of a semi-colon for a colon can render the interpretation of a written blazon wrong both in colour and design. Whereas 'Ermine' is depicted as a white fur with black spots, 'Ermines' is represented by white spots on a black field, for example.

The foregoing kept me busy on my part-time basis in Lyon Office for three and a half years. Publishing and printing problems then claimed my energies, although discussions had taken place at the outset.

Classified and checking

Detailed classification followed. This proved difficult. The order for minor priorities that suited a small group of entries was not necessarily the clearest for a large group. There were also the different styles of blazoning of the five different Lyons who had reigned during the period concerned; and the complication that, from an artistic point of view, the various heraldic charges require to be 'differenced' differently. The fact that erudite authorities appear to enjoy airing their knowledge by disagreeing was a further difficulty. However, after much juggling and resorting to considerable cross-referencing, classification was completed. The close scrutiny of each slip required for this classification was a most useful check for mistakes.

The Indexer Vol. 12 No. 4 October 1981
different fonts of the type face selected desirable, to avoid confusion and to aid speedy perusal. A page with lines right across it was appreciably slower to read than two columns with shorter lines, bearing in mind the length of the entries in the text. Furthermore, likely readers were accustomed to two columns from Vol. I. The size of type, as well as type face and format, all required careful thought. The difference in clarity between 10 pt. and 9 pt. in a double column work of this size was surprisingly great; 10 pt. proving too big for the column width.

The number of type faces I was shown, although I gather I saw but a fraction of them, I found bewildering, especially since the difference in some cases was minimal. The serif face seemed the most in keeping with the subject. In the end I asked for Times; this is so extensively used, and its italics seemed to show up slightly better than either Plantin or Bembo.

As there was an increase of 10% in the number of entries and costs had to be taken into account, a slightly bigger book to keep the material within one volume seemed the answer. Size was slightly adjustable by the paper used. When I came to proof reading I learned how much less tiring on the eyes it is to read print on a cream matt surface than on a white shiny one.

Even experienced printers were loath to commit themselves to the precise extent of the work in its slips-of-paper form. This complicated contract terms. The index posed a problem as well. Some names had but two numbers against them; an appreciable proportion ran to five or more. It was therefore difficult to gauge whether a single or double column layout would be the most economical. Bearing in mind the addition of the Lyon Register reference number, I chose a single column layout, unlike Vol. I. This would also avoid the foot loose page hazard, I was told. One of the many new phrases and words the project added to my vocabulary!

And so, a further eighteen months passed. Finally, almost exactly five years from the time work began, thisOrdinary saw the light of day; and I hope it will help fulfill Sir James Balfour Paul's apt definition of heraldry as being the handmaid to History.

---

Indexing and the Common Market

Anne Ramsay

FLA European Documentation Centre Librarian, Newcastle upon Tyne Polytechnic.

The following report was prepared for discussion at a Library Association Working Party on European Communities Publications.

‘Indexes. Arguably the single most pressing need is to improve the ease with which information may be extracted from Community publications. The general aim of Community publications is to transmit information: if they are to succeed in this objective and to reach the widest possible audience then considerably more attention must be paid to improving the means of access to their contents. It is the opinion of many British librarians that inadequate indexing constitutes a serious impediment to the effective use of Community publications. An adequate index is the key with which to open the door to a publication's contents; without it much of the value of the publication is dissipated. Too many Community publications appear without indexes. Where indexes exist their usefulness is diminished by long delays in their appearance and by the use of terminology which is often inconsistent in its application, too broad to provide rapid retrieval of information, or which assumes an unreasonable degree of familiarity with the structure and policies of the European Communities. The inevitable consequence is that to search for a specific piece of information is a time-consuming and often frustrating experience which serves only to prejudice the usefulness of Community publications and discourage their further use.

The Library Association hopes that the Joint Working Party will offer the opportunity for both sides to discuss specific problems relating to individual titles and to agree practical ways in which these difficulties may be resolved. In the meantime, it is sufficient to say that professional opinion in the United Kingdom strongly favours the development of specific subject indexes designed to provide the occasional and ill-informed user as much as the regular and well-informed user with rapid and easy access to the information contained in Community publications.'


1. Having contacted a number of colleagues in this country who frequently use European Community publications, the following general observations on EC indexing policy recur: