



The Petrasancta Herald

Newsletter of the St Aloysius' College
Petrasancta Society

Office Bearers 2004-05

William Stratford- President

Andrew Gilbert- Chairman

Peter Kilbride - Secretary

Fiona Burns- Editrix

Clare Murphy- Herald

Ross MacAskill- Treasurer

Editorial by Fiona Burns

The Petrasancta Society exists to promote the study and practice of Heraldry in St Aloysius' College, Glasgow, Scotland. We do this by regular meetings, usually on **TUESDAYS** at lunch-time in the Music School as well as by

- ❖ Lectures and talks
- ❖ Internet research
- ❖ Annual excursions to the Lyon Court
- ❖ Regular excursions to other sites of heraldic interest.
- ❖ Maintaining a website at <http://www.petrasancta.co.uk>

The Petrasancta Society meets in the Music School, Mount Building, on Tuesdays at 1.20 p.m. during term time. All welcome.

Why "Petra Sancta"?

Father Silvestro Petra Sancta was a 17th century Jesuit priest who in his books "De Symbolis Heroicis" of 1634 and "Tesserae Gentilitiae" of 1638, laid the foundations for a comprehensive study of heraldry. He also invented a system of hatching on stone and monochrome versions of coats of arms to indicate the colour. This is still called the "Petrasancta System". Read all about it on page 3!

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Committee visits Lyon Court

Accompanied by Mrs P. Higgins and Mr Devlin, the Society outing to the Lyon Court took place on Tuesday, February 1st 2005. We enjoyed a characteristically sparkling talk from Mrs Elizabeth Roads, Lyon Clerk and Carrick Pursuivant, a good browse through the records and then an engaging question and answer session with our Scottish Patron, The Rt Hon. Robin Blair, Lyon King of Arms. The Chief Court Painter, Mrs Yvonne Holton also submitted herself to some good-natured questioning. Afterwards, we were treated to a most interesting whistle-stop tour of Parliament Hall by Mr Sean Murphy QC before enjoying a "Monstermash" lunch and heading back to the train.



College Heraldry

By Peter Kilbride

St Aloysius' College has been using "Vert an eagle crowned displayed Or" (or "Vert an Eagle displayed in chief point a crown Or" depending on whether one accepts the crown as being ON or ABOVE the eagle's head) as its badge for the best part of a century and is now petitioning the Lord Lyon to grant the College Arms, as well as house badges for Campion, Loyola, Ogilvie, Xavier, Sinclair and Ward.



The College Petition was presented to the Lyon Court in January 2005 and it is hoped that the grant of Arms will be made within the next 18 months or so. Here is the main text of the Petition:

UNTO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
THE LORD LYON KING OF ARMS

The Petition for and on behalf of ST ALOYSIUS' COLLEGE, 45 Hill Street, in the City of Glasgow.
HUMBLY SHEWETH

1. THAT St Aloysius' College was founded in Glasgow in 1859 by the Society of Jesus ("Jesuits"), to provide for the Catholic population of the City a classical education of the highest quality; in the words of the founder of the Jesuits, St Ignatius Loyola, to "create an improvement in living and learning to the greater glory of God."
2. THAT St Aloysius' College provides education for 1400 girls and boys aged from 3 to 18, from Kindergarten to university entrance.
3. THAT the College comprises four Houses, each dedicated to a canonised member of the Society of Jesus, namely: St Edmund Campion (1540-81) Jesuit priest, scholar and martyr; St Ignatius Loyola (1491-1556) founder of the Society of Jesus; St John Ogilvie (1580-1615), Scottish Jesuit priest and martyr; and St Francis Xavier (1506-1552) Spanish Jesuit missionary to India and the Far East.
4. THAT the Petitioners are desirous that the said College might bear and use in its lawful educational activities such Ensigns Armorial as might be found suitable and according to the Laws of Arms.

MAY IT THEREFORE please Your Lordship to Authorise the Lyon Clerk to prepare Letters Patent granting unto the said ST ALOYSIUS' COLLEGE such Ensigns Armorial as Your Lordship may find suitable and according to the Laws of Arms.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.

In our next issue we will have coverage of our visit to Bruges, and the Chief Herald's Office in Dublin as well as articles on the heraldry of St Aloysius' Church and Jesuit Colleges worldwide. DON'T MISS IT!

Petra Sancta's System



Fr Petra Sancta SJ devised a way of telling different colours on a stone Tablet. It is shown on the left.

Images of the "Tesseræ Gentilitiæ" by courtesy of Glasgow University Library Special Collections

Armigerous Jesuits I

To please Fiona and Clare, we are starting this series of armigerous Jesuits (i.e. Jesuits entitled to bear Arms) with a lady!

Princess Juana von Hapsburg SJ (1535-1573)



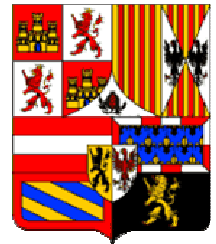
Juana of Austria, daughter of the Emperor Charles V and sister of the later King Philip II of Spain. married Prince John of Portugal, who died two years after the wedding in 1554. She was compelled to return to Spain to act as Philip II's regent, leaving her infant

son, the later King Sebastian, behind in Portugal. She wanted to become a Jesuit, although

the Pope had forbidden a female Jesuit organization.

Out of respect for her royal position, and after much manoeuvring upon the part of Ignatius and his advisers, she eventually and secretly became a Jes-

suit with simple vows, a secret held bound by all parties under a false name.



Australian schools rush to protect badges

By Ross MacAskill

Some high-profile Catholic schools are registering their trademarks, even before the result is known of a protracted court battle between the Sydney private school Cranbrook and a schoolwear retailer, for ownership of the school's brands on clothing. Xavier College in Melbourne,



run by the Jesuits, has its name, Arms and motto registered

for books, clothes, educational services and religious services, including retreats.

But leading Sydney Jesuit school St Ignatius College, based in Riverview, is not protected by trademark, nor is its motto: *Dare to do your Best*. Headmaster Shane Hogan says the Cranbrook story had spurred the school to action. "The last thing you want to do is fight for the heart of the school – the crest, (sic)" Hogan says.



Schools and Heraldry

Scotland

By Clare Murphy

Thousands of schools across the United Kingdom who have uniforms featuring their school's coat of arms of badge could be breaking the law. Schools all over Scotland are being urged to check to see if their coat of arms or crest has been registered with the Lord Lyon, Scotland's guardian of ancestry and heraldry.

The warning comes after there were problems at Milngavie Primary School, near Glasgow. The school had been attempting to change its motto from "Each Aids the Other" due to its association with the disease, however, it soon emerged that the school badge

was a coat of arms which had not been registered and was therefore illegal under the Lord Lyon King of Arms Act 1672.

Local authorities were busy checking records to determine whether any other schools under their control were outside the law.

If schools bearing an unregistered heraldic shield could face an injunction on future use, or a fine. Or, they can pay out £870 to register their badge.

Our Patrons



**His Grace the Duke of Norfolk,
Earl Marshal of England &**

**The Rt Hon The Lord Lyon,
King of Arms**



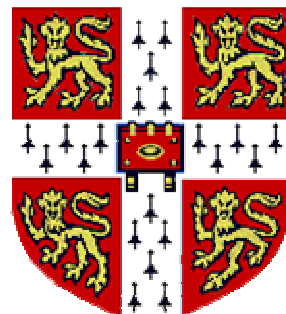
**The Society meets every Tuesday
Lunch time in Music Room 1. All
Welcome Bring Food!!!**

St Aloysius' College Petra Sancta Society is a corporate member of the following societies:

The Heraldry Society of Scotland



The Cambridge University Heraldic and
Genealogy Society



Visit our website at <http://www.petrasancta.co.uk>