
THE
MOST ANCIENT ORDER
OF
THE THISTLE.

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The Star and Collar of the
Order of the Thistle



THE MOST ANCIENT ORDER OF THE
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AS to the original of this ancient Order, John Lesly Bishop of Ross, in his History of Scotland, says, it took its beginning from a bright cross in Heaven, in form like that whereon St. Andrew the Apostle suffered martyrdom, which appeared to *Achaius* King of Scots, and *Hungus* King of the Picts, the night before the battle was fought betwixt them and *Athelstane* King of England, as they were on their knees at prayer; when St. Andrew their tutelary Saint is said also to have appeared, and promised to these Kings that they should always be victorious when that sign appeared; and the next day these Kings prevailing over King *Athelstane* in battle, they went in solemn procession, barefooted to the Kirk of St. Andrew, to return thanks to God and his Apostle for their victory, vowing that they and their posterity would ever bear the figure of that cross in their ensigns and banners; the place where this battle was fought retains to this day the name of *Athelstane's Ford* in Northumberland,

James the Fifth King of Scotland, in 1534, received the Order of the Golden Fleece from Charles V. Emperor, as also that of St. Michael from Francis I. King of France in 1535, and that of the Garter in 1536, from Henry VIII. King of England; and in memory of these Orders received, keeping open court, he solemnized the several feasts of St. Andrew, the Golden Fleece,

Fleece, St. Michael, and St. George of England, that the several Princes might know how much he honoured their Orders; he set the arms of the Princes (circled with their Orders) over the gate of his palace at Linlithgow, with the Order of St. Andrew.

About the time of the Reformation this Order was scarcely used, the Knights then being so very zealous for the Reformed religion, that they left their order; and it was not resumed till the reign of King James VII. who created eight Knights, and for their better regulation signed a body of statutes*, and appointed the royal chapel at Holyrood house, to be the Chapel of the Order as it still continues, (and by his direction it was repaired, having a fine Organ, with the Sovereign and Knights brethren stalls, and their respective banners hung over them :) but in 1688 the misfortunes of his reign preventing his compleating that noble design, it lay dormant till her late Majesty Queen Anne was pleased to sign another body of statutes, whereby it was restored to its ancient magnificence.

* Vide Nisbet's Systems of Heraldry, vol. II. p. 115.

STATUTES and ORDERS of the most Ancient Order of the THISTLE, revived by her Majesty Anne by the Grace of God, Queen of Scotland, England, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, Sovereign of the said Order, for the better regulating the proceedings and solemnities thereof in all the circumstances thereunto belonging.

“ IN the first place, we think fit to continue the ancient number of Knights, to wit, twelve brethren, with our self the Sovereign of the said most noble Order, to be the precise number of that Order in all time coming.

“ That the Sovereign's habit be such as they shall think fit at any time hereafter to appoint. That the habit of the brethren of this Order, be a doublet and trunk hose of cloth of silver, stockings of pearl coloured silk, with white leather shoes; garters and shoe-strings of green and silver; the breeches and sleeves of the doublet decently garnished with silver and green ribbons; a surcoat of purple velvet, lined with white taffata, girt about the middle with a purple sword belt, edged with gold, and a buckle of gold, at which a sword with a gilted hilt, whereof the shell is to be in the form of the badge of the Order, and the pomel in the form of the Thistle, in a scabbard of purple velvet: over all which a mantle or robe of green velvet, lined with white taffata, with tassels of gold and green, upon the left shoulder of which

“ which, in a field of green, St. Andrew the Apostle his
 “ image, bearing before him the cross of his martyrdom
 “ of silver embroidered, with a circle of gold round it,
 “ upon which the motto, *Nemo me impune lacessit* in
 “ letters of green; and at the lower part of it a
 “ Thistle of gold and green, the flower reddish; about the
 “ shoulder is to be worn the collar of the Order, con-
 “ sisting of Thistles and sprigs of Rue going betwixt;
 “ at the middle of which, before, is to be hung the St.
 “ Andrew of gold, enamelled white, or of diamonds con-
 “ sisting of the number of thirteen just, the cross and feet
 “ of St. Andrew resting upon a ground of green, (*see*
 “ *plate 4.*) the collar to be tied to the shoulder of the
 “ robe, with white ribbons; upon their heads on days of
 “ solemn procession or feasting, where the Sovereign is
 “ present, or has a commissioner for that effect, they
 “ are to wear (at the times of permission) a cap of black
 “ velvet, faced up with a border of the same, a little
 “ divided before, wide and loose in the crown, hav-
 “ ing a large plume of white feathers, with a black
 “ egret or heron’s tip in the middle of it, the borders
 “ of the cap adorned with jewels. That the jewel of
 “ the said Order is to be worn at a green ribbon over the
 “ left shoulder, cross the body, and tied under the
 “ right arm. The jewel to have on the one side the
 “ image of St. Andrew, with the cross before him ena-
 “ melled as is above said, or cut on stone, enriched
 “ with precious stones round it; on the back of which
 “ shall be enamelled a Thistle of gold and green, the
 “ flower reddish with the before mentioned motto round
 “ it, the ground upon which the Thistle is to be
 “ done

“ done shall be enamelled green. That the medal of
 “ the Order be all gold, being the St. Andrew bear-
 “ ing before him the cross of martyrdom, with a circle
 “ round, on which to be the motto of the Order, (*see*
 “ *plate 4.*) and at the lower part of the circle between
 “ the joining of the words, a Thistle, and to be worn in
 “ a green ribbon as the jewel, at times when the jewel
 “ is not worn.

“ That upon the left breast of the coat and cloak, shall
 “ be embroidered a badge of a proportionable bigness,
 “ being St. Andrew’s cross of silver embroidery, with
 “ rays going out betwixt the points of the cross, on the
 “ middle of which a thistle of gold and green, upon a
 “ field of green; and round the Thistle and field a circle
 “ of gold, having on it the motto of the Order in letters
 “ of Green. (*See plate 4.*)

“ That her Majesty and her royal successors, Sove-
 “ reigns of the said most ancient and most noble Order of
 “ the Thistle, shall in all time coming wear the said
 “ Order, on the ribbon of the Order of the Garter,
 “ or otherwise in any manner that her Majesty shall
 “ think fit, and shall wear the collar of the said
 “ Order on the day of the feast of St. Andrew, being
 “ the 30th of November yearly.

“ That the Knights brethren of the said Order shall
 “ wear their collars on all Collar days, wherever the So-
 “ vereign is, and within Scotland, by obligations, upon
 “ all days of publick solemnities, whether the Sovereign
 “ be there or not.

“ That the collar days be the same ordinary collar
 “ days, now observed by her Majesty. That the collar
 “ with

“ with the St. Andrew belonging to it, and the medal of
 “ the Order, given by her Majesty and successors So-
 “ vereigns of the said Order, to the Knights brethren
 “ thereof at their admiffion, be returned at their deaths
 “ to the Sovereign.

“ The Order is to have a great feal in the custody of
 “ the Chancellor thereof, having on the dexter fide St.
 “ Andrew’s crofs, and on the finifter the arms of Great
 “ Britain, as they are carried by us in Scotland, encir-
 “ cled with the collar of the Order, with the image of
 “ St. Andrew hanging at it, with the motto of the Order
 “ going round the feal. On the other fide the image of
 “ St. Andrew, bearing a crofs before him, with a glory
 “ round his head, written round, *Magnum figillum anti-*
 “ *quiffimi et nobiliffimi ordinis Cardui.*

“ That there be a Secretary of the Order, to tranfmit
 “ the Sovereign’s Orders to the Knights brethren, and
 “ that he attend her royal perfon for that effect. He
 “ fhall have, on days of folemnity, a mantle of green
 “ fattin, lined with white; on the left fhoulder of
 “ which the badge of St. Andrew’s Crofs; his ordinary
 “ badge is to be hung in a chain of gold, being a
 “ thiftle of gold and green, upon two pens croffed
 “ faltire ways, with the motto round about it, and an
 “ imperial crown upon the top. The Lion fhall have
 “ robes and badges upon the fhoulder, conform to the
 “ Secretary; in his hand his ftaff of office, and about
 “ his neck his badge, with the St. Andrew turned out-
 “ ward. The Usher conform to the Secretary in all
 “ things, except his badge, which is to be two fprigs
 “ of rue in form of St. Andrew’s crofs Vert, upon a
 “ ground

“ ground white, upon which a thistle of gold; and
 “ round, the motto, upon which an imperial crown :
 “ and in his hand the batton of his office.

“ Before any can be admitted to the most noble Order
 “ of the Thistle, he must be a Knight Batchelor.

“ Here follows the form of the oath to be taken by
 “ all, as shall be admitted into this Order as brethren.

“ *I shall fortify and defend the true Reformed Protestant*
 “ *religion, and Christ's most holy Evangel, to the utmost of*
 “ *my power. I shall be loyal and true to my Sovereign*
 “ *Lady the Queen, Sovereign of this most ancient and most*
 “ *noble Order of the thistle. I shall maintain and defend*
 “ *the statutes, privileges, and honours of the said Order.*

“ *I shall never bear any treason about in my heart*
 “ *against our Sovereign Lady the Queen, but shall discover*
 “ *the same to her. So help me G O D.*

“ The oath being taken by the elect Knights, before
 “ any whom the Sovereign shall appoint, they may
 “ actually wear the badge and other ornaments belong-
 “ ing to the Order; and in regard we have not as yet
 “ named a person to be Chancellor of the said Order,
 “ and that there is no great seal belonging thereto, we
 “ do therefore ordain that our signet of the said Order,
 “ which is to be in the custody of our Secretary to the
 “ said Order, shall serve for any warrant or order that
 “ we shall think fit to grant or emit, for the no-
 “ minating any of the Knights brethren or officers, or
 “ any other thing relating to the said Order.

“ The royal chapel of our palace of Holy-rood-
 “ house, to be the chapel of the Order in time coming.

“ That no alteration of the habit, jewel, collar, badge,

“ or other ornaments belonging to the said Order, or
 “ of the using or wearing of them, be offered to her
 “ Majesty by any of the brethren, without a concu-
 “ rence of the major part of them.—Given under our
 “ royal hand, and signet of our court, at St. James’s,
 “ the 31st day of December, 1703. Years of our
 “ reign the second. A. R.

“ By her Majesty’s command, CROMERTIE.”

The FEES appointed by her Sacred Majesty Queen ANNE, Sovereign of the most Ancient and most Noble Order of the Thistle, to be paid by those who shall be admitted as Knights Brethren of the said Order, at their admission thereto.

	Sterling Money.		
	£.	s.	d.
<i>Impr.</i> To the Secretary of the Order	55	11	1½
To the Commissioners Servants	8	6	7¾
Church Fees, viz. Ringer of Bells	5	11	1¾
To the Usher of the Order	8	6	7½
To the Lion’s Office, Herald, } Pursuivants, Trumpets, &c. }	27	15	6½
[It is said their present fees are now £. 72. Sterling]			
To the Queen’s Usher,	5	11	1½
	111 2 2½		

“ A. R.

“ We do hereby order and require all who are, or
 “ shall be admitted, as Knights Brethren of the most
 “ Ancient

“ Ancient and most Noble Order of the Thistle, to pay
 “ the fees according to the above distribution upon
 “ their being admitted to the said Order. Given under
 “ our royal hand, and signet of the said Order at our
 “ court of St. James’s the 29th day of October, 1705,
 “ and of our reign the fourth year. This is a true copy
 “ of the statutes and orders signed by her Majesty, ex-
 “ amined and compared with the originals by me,
 “ DAVID NAIRN, *Sec. nob. ord. Cardui.*”

King George the First, on the 17th of Feb. 1714-15,
 was pleased to confirm the statutes signed by Queen
 Anne, as above mentioned, with the addition of several
 more, amongst which, was that of adding rays of Glory
 to surround the whole figure of St. Andrew which hangs
 at the collar; and though from the time of the Refor-
 mation to the year 1714-15, both elections and instal-
 ments had been dispensed with, his Majesty was gra-
 ciously pleased to ordain for the future, that chapters of
 election should be held in his royal presence; to which
 end he ordered the great wardrobe to provide the Knights
 Brethren and officers of the Order, with such mantles
 as the statutes of the said Order appointed.

*The collar which the Knights of St. Andrew wear upon
 the day of their grand feast and other extraordinary occa-
 sions, is made of gold, consisting of Thistles, and sprigs of
 rue enamelled Vert (being the two ancient symbols of the
 Scots and Picts) appendant to which is the image of St.
 Andrew irradiated, bearing before him, the cross of his
 martyrdom. (See plate 4.)*

Their habit is their parliament robes, on the left
 breast thereof is a *Cross Saltire surmounted by a star of*

four points all of silver, adorned with a green roundle bordered with gold, and lettered of the same, containing this motto, *Nemo me impune laceffit* (no man provokes me without hurt); and in the centre is a Thistle proper, to which the motto alludes. (See plate 4.)

The ordinary symbols worn by the Knights are the star, which is embroidered on their left breast. A green ribbon over their left shoulder (like the Knights of the Garter); appendent to which is the image of *St. Andrew with his cross before him, in a circle of gold enamelled Vert, with the motto of the Order.* (See plate 4.)

But sometimes they wear encircled after the same manner a Thistle crowned with an imperial crown.

Note, according to the statutes of King James II. the Knights Brethren on their daily apparel, were to wear the before mentioned image of *St. Andrew*, appendent to a blue watered tabby ribbon, which by *Queen Anne* in 1703, was changed to green, as now worn.





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A LIST of the Knights Companions of the most Ancient Order of the Thistle since the revival by King James II. in 1687.

Those markd with a * are the present Knights.

JAMES II.

James, Earl of Perth,	June 6, 1687
George, Duke of Gordon,	— 6, 1687
James, Earl of Arran,	— 6, 1687
John, Marquis of Athol,	— 6, 1687
Kennet, Earl of Seaforth,	— 6, 1687
John, Earl of Melfort,	— 6, 1687
George, Earl of Dunbarton,	— 6, 1687
Alexander, Earl of Murray,	— 6, 1687

QUEEN ANNE.

John, Duke of Argyll,	Feb. 7, 1703-4
John, Marquis of Athol,	— 7, 1703-4
William, Marquis of Annandale	— 7, 1703-4
James, Earl of Dalkeith	— 7, 1703-4
George, Earl of Orkney,	— 7, 1703-4
James, Earl of Seafield,	— 7, 1703-4
William, Marquis of Lothian,	Oct. 30, 1705
Charles, Earl of Orrery,	— 30, 1705
John, Earl of Mar,	Aug. 10, 1706
John, Earl of Loudon,	— 10, 1706
John, Earl of Stair,	March 25, 1710
David, Earl of Portmore,	Jan. 17, 1712-13

G E O R G E I.

John, Earl of Sutherland,	June 22, 1716
William, Lord Cadogan,	— 22, 1716
Thomas, Earl of Haddington,	March 1, 1716-17
Charles, Earl of Tankerville,	— 28, 1720-21
Francis, Earl of Dalkeith,	— 2, 1724-5
William, Earl of Effex,	— 2, 1724-5
Alexander, Earl of Marchmont,	— 2, 1724-5
James, Duke of Hamilton and Brandon,	Sept. 23, 1726

G E O R G E II.

Charles, Earl of Tankerville,	May 16, 1730
Charles, Earl of Moray,	Dec. 10, 1731
* Charles, Earl of Portmore,	Jan. 2, 1732
James, Duke of Athol,	Feb. 11, 1733-4
William, Marquis of Lothian,	— 11, 1733-4
James, Earl of Morton,	July 10, 1738
John, Earl of Bute,	— 10, 1738
Charles, Earl of Hoptoun,	— 10, 1738
Augustus, Earl of Berkeley,	June 7, 1739
James, Earl of Moray,	Feb. 23, 1740-1
John, Earl of Hyndford,	June 22, 1742
Lyonel, Earl of Dyfart,	March 29, 1743
Cosmo, Duke of Gordon,	Feb. 10, 1747
William, Earl of Dumfries,	March 11, 1752
Francis, Earl of Warwick,	— 29, 1753
John, Earl of Rothes,	— 29, 1753
James, Duke of Hamilton and Brandon,	— 18, 1755

G E O R G E

GEORGE III.

Charles, Lord Cathcart,	April 13, 1763
* William, Earl of March, now Duke of Queensberry,	— 13, 1763
John, Duke of Argyll,	Aug. 7, 1765
* Henry, Duke of Buccleugh,	Dec. 23, 1767
John, Duke of Athol,	— 23, 1767
* Frederick, Earl of Carlisle,	— 23, 1767
William, Marquis of Lothian,	Oct. 26, 1768
* David, Viscount Stormont,	Nov. 23, 1768
* John, Duke of Roxburgh,	— 23, 1768
* Prince William-Henry,	April 5, 1770
* Niel, Earl of Roseberry,	March 4, 1771
* Robert, Earl of Northington,	Aug. 18, 1773
* Alexander, Duke of Gordon,	Jan. 11, 1775
* James, Earl of Galloway,	Nov. 1, 1775
* William, Marquis of Lothian,	Oct. 11, 1776

Dr. Robert Hamilton, *Dean of the Order.*

George Dempster, Esq. *Secretary.*

Campbell Hooke, Esq. *Lion King of Arms.*

Robert Quarne, Esq. *Gentleman Usher of the
Green Rod.*

Note, since this last mentioned revival, the Order hath continued to flourish, without any alteration being made, either in the collar, badge, jewel, or motto.

