

Victoria, McPherson Library MS Brown Eng. 1
Acc. 1989-069, Item #8
Statutes of the Order of the Garter
England 1553

as revised by King Edward VI. Complete manuscript on parchment with modern paper endleaves (x +2+16+2+x), currently unfoliated; parchment bifolia before and after the two main gatherings were once pastedowns and flyleaves, but codex is now rebound in modern (nineteenth century?) padded embroidered cover with four 280mm blue silk tie-ribbons. Binding is degrading such that first gathering is wholly detachable. Pages measure 220mm x 158mm; fols. 3-18 ruled in plummet, 26 lines to the page with ruled margins. Fol. 2v bears coat of arms of the Order of the Garter under Edward VI, blue and red with silver and gold illumination (silver has tarnished somewhat). Main text is written single-column by one hand in an ornamental secretary script; decorative initials at section heads alternate gold-on-blue and gold-on-red throughout, with the exception of the first initial, which is blue on gold leaf. Date of 17 March 1552, 7 Edward VI, noted in preface on fol. 4r (and embroidered on binding), indicates 17 March 1553 according to modern dating practices (Edward's seventh regnal year began 28 January 1553 while the new calendar year was reckoned from 25 March). Text and conclusion, including date and witnesses, match the ratification of the short-lived statutes issued as a reform measure under Edward VI shortly before his death; they were abolished within the following year by Philip and Mary. Manuscript appears to match nos. 772 and 774 in the Ashmole collection, Bodleian Library, University of Oxford, and thus to be related also to versions of the in Ashmolean manuscripts nos. 812, 820 (item 1), 1119 (item 13), as well as to a draft in William Cecil's hand included in the latter section of British Library MS Cotton Nero C.x.

Garter knights and officers named in conclusion (fol. 18v), present 17 March 1552 [1553]
Henry Grey (Duke of Suffolk), William Parr (Marquess of Northampton), John Dudley (Duke of Northumberland), Henry FitzAlan (Earl of Arundel), Edward Stanley (Earl of Derby), Frances Hastings (Earl of Huntingdon), William Paulet (Marquess of Winchester), William Herbert (Earl of Pembroke), Walter Deveraux (Viscount Hereford), Edward Clinton (Lord High Admiral), Thomas Cheney, Thomas Darcy (

Thompson, E.M., "The Revision of the Statutes of the Order of the Garter by King Edward VI."
54 (1894): 173-198.

Trigg, Stephanie.

U of Pennsylvania P, 2012.

. Philadelphia:

Transcription

[fol. 3r]

Edward the Syxte by the grace of god
kyng of Englande ffraunce and
Irelande defendor of the faithe and in
earthe of the Church of Englande and
also Irelande the Supreme hedde / To all that shall
see these presents / Gretyng /

Our moste noble auncestors king(es) of Engl-
and studyeng gretly and long considering
with them selues what deuoute Reuerence
towards god / what naturall love to their Countrey
what loving affection to their Subiects they owght to
bere / they sone fownde that nothing was eyther
fytter or more agreable with their office then to
advauce to high honor and glory good / godly
valiaunte well couraged wise and noble men and
to brede and manteyne a certeyne amytie fellowship
and mutuall agreement / in all honest thing(es) among-
ste all men but especially among equall(es) ffor
they iudged honor (as surely it is) the Rewarde of
vertu / and concorde / the fundacion and enlarger
of comen weales / when they had wysely weyd
these thing(es) they thought it beste to make a certeyn
fellowshipp and as it were a Colledge of those that
had very well and honestly borne them selues at
home in tyme of peace and had tryed them selues

[fol. 3v]

valiant and wise abrode in martiall feates wher-
fore they deuised (a)t such men in a token of concord and
vnyte / shuld weare aboute their legg(es) a certeyn
garter / whereby they shuld declare to all men that
for their country and gods cause they wold be redy
valiantly and manfully to spend / nat onely their
goods / but also them selues and their lyues and for
that cause they haue caulled this fellowshypp the
order of the garter / but that olde serpent Sathan

[fol. 4v]

the soverayne being all gentillmen borne and without Reproche

The Soverayne / Caput .ij.^m

The Kyng of England his heyres (and) successors king(es) shalbe souerayne of this order, as he hath euer ben heretofore / To whome also the declaracion interpretacion / definicion / and as the matter shall requyre / the correction of the statutes / shall allweys belong hauyng therto the consent of .vj. of thorder at the leaste

When so euer the Soverayne shall understand that one of the knights of thorder is ded and wolde haue another apoynted in his place / he shal sende by his l(ett)res to the reste of the knightes of thorder being in the Realme, or to so many of them as to his Ma(ies)tie shall seeme expedient, being nat vnder the nomber of syx at the leaste, com(m)auyng them to attend vpon his highnes at such place and tyme as he shall apoynte for the election /

The Souerayne shall haue this pryvelege that he may dispence with ceremonyes belonging to this order and as cause requyred geue lycense to omytte the same ~ ~

[fol. 5r]

The Knights of Thorder / Cap(u)t iij

None shalbe admitted into this fellowshypp except he be a gentillman of bludd of the fathers syde from thre discents and bearyng Armes and shalbe of thorder of knighthod before his election w(i)t(h)out dew reproche of all maner of shamefull actes and deades

When so euer a Rome or moo shalbe voyde and the knightes of thorder ether all or at the leste syx of them besyde the souerayne hauyng on their accustomed Robes / shalbe assemblid w(i)t(h) the soverayne euery one of them shall wryte the names of Nyn worthy p(er)sonag(es) / ffirst of pryncys / that is to saye of Emperors / kyng(es) / Archidukes / Dukes / Marquyses or Erles / and thre of viscountes / barons or lordes / and thre of banneretts / knightes or knightes comenly caulled bachelor knightes / which being so wrytten

and presented, to the sou

[fol. 7r]

ments shalbe presented / shall enter in wryting
the same to be entryd by the Register / and then
shall Garter sett vp the new hachements ~

Also every knight of the saide order within
syx monethes after he is appoynted by the so-
verayne to his stall at wyndesor shall cause
a plate in convenyent proportoin of some kynd
of metall hauyng therin his Armes graven
to be sett vp in his proper stall

Every Whitson euen yerely / Garter the prin-
cipall kyng of armes, shall cause scuchions
of the armes of euery knight as well p(rese)nte as absent
to be paynted with metall and couler and sete vp
in the proper seates / at such place where the
kyng(es) Ma(jes)tie shall kepe or celebrate / the feaste that
yere / at the cost of the Soverayne ~ ~

If any Duke / Marquys Erle viscounte Baron
Banneret or bachelor knight / being of htis order
shall chaunse to dye / he that succedith hym of what
estate so ever he be / shall haue onely that stall which
his predecessor before had nether shall he change
it / without speciall apoyntment of the soverayne
unles he be an Emperour or kyng or the prynce of

[fol. 7v]

some Realme / or of the bludd Roiall / who shall haue
allweys the stalles / accordyng the estate next to
the soverayne /

Every one of the Compagnions of this order
shall haue allweys remayning at wyndesor
colledge in a redynes A mantle for thorder to be
ever redy for such busynes as dyuers tymes
chaunseth to be don aboute thorder

No knight of this order shall departe the Sove-
raynes domynion without leve firste had of /
the Soveraigne ~ ~

No knight of thorder shall come into counsell
of this order or go abrode openly without his

garter / except it be when he rydeth booted / and
as ofte as he shall mysse herof he shalbe blame
worthy, and being admonyshed shall paye vnto
the mynisters of the church of wyndesor a Noble

**Sum(m)es of monny payable by the
knightes of thorder at the time of
their election ~ ~**

order shall disburse / And the reste of the Som(m)es
of mony that shalbe dew by the knight(es) of this order
being no straingers / euery of the saide knights shall
paye for them selues / and if any of them refuse
so to doo /

**The othe of a Stranger chosen
into thorder ~ ~**

[fol. 9v]

I N. do promyse and sweare that I shall
trewly obserue in all poyntes from article

treason or heresy at wyndSOR accordyng to thaccou-
stumed maner one of the heraulds of armes shall
throwe downe his hachements hanging over his
seate there and contemptuously sporne them with
his feate (as he may) owt of the chappell by w(hi)ch
facte he shalbe taken euer afterward for a p(er)son
degrated / and quyte depnyed of this order /

The Name of a knight of thorder condemned
of treason being entred into the Register
booke of thorder / shall afterwards haue this note
in the mergent ouer agenst the place where

[fol. 10v]

where the name shalbe wrytten / Vah traytor / the
name nevertheles remayning vnputowte

**The publishing of a knyght degra
ded from thorder to be prononced by
Garter kyng of Armes in these words
folowing**

Be it knowen to all men that N. late a knight
and Compagnion of the noble order of the garter
is accused and atteynted of treason / wherefore
he hath deserued to be remoued and put from the
saide order and fellowship wherefore the king(es)
most exellent Ma(jes)tie Souereyne of this order
caullyng a Chapter of the Compagnions of
the same hath willed and commaunded that
these unworthy Armes / of that traiterous p(er)son
shalbe throwne downe and defaced as a manyfest
argument to depnyue hym of this order / That
by his ensample all men herafter may beware
to com(m)ytte lyke offence ~ ~

Of the feaste and Ceremonyes <Caput vj>

The feaste of this order shall yerely be celebra-
te and kept on whitson euen whitsondaye

[fol. 11r]

and whitson monday / except it shalbe the kyng(es)
Ma(jes)t(es) pleasure by reason of sicknes or some other
greate cause to dyferre the same vntill some
other tyme which thing shall allweis be refer-

red to the kyng(es) Ma(jes)t(es) order ~

It is also ordered, that all the knights of the saide order shalbe present at whitsontyde at the place where the kyng(es) Ma(jes)tie shall then be except they shall haue his Ma(jes)t(es) license to be then absent / And there wearyng the Robes of this order, shall gyve their attendaunce during the saide feaste as they haue hitherto don

Furthermore at this tyme of the feaste the companions of thorder shalbe p(rese)nte with the

left legg ~ ~

The Coller shall weye xxx ownc(es) of Troye
weight / or thereabouts / and be made by

[fol. 12r]

pec(es) or lynkes of golde coupled together lyke the
fascion of garters with Roses Red as hath ben
of late accoustumed ~

At the end of the Coller or Cheyne or a small
lace of sylke black / which shalbe sumetymes vsed
in stede of the cheyne, shall hang the cognisaunce
of thorder, that is a Massy golden Image of a
armed knight, syttyng on a horseback with a
drawen sworde in his right hand all compassed
within the Garter /

The Garter shall haue this sentence wrytten
wrought or embrodered on the owte syde /
aboute it in ffrench with golden l(ett)res / Hony
soit quy maly pense / ~

In the Rest of thapparell of thorder let the olde
fascion bothe of the makyng and wearyng of the
same be kept and obserued ~ ~

Be it also ordered that tharmes of Thorder
shall still be as heretofore they haue ben, that
is a Red Crosse geulles paynted in a siluer feld
or Scuchion ~ ~

[fol. 12v]

The hachments also shalbe such as they haue
ben heretofore / that is to saye / a banner a
healmet / a Crest / the ornament of the hellmytt
which is caulled, the Mantell and the Sworde ~

The mynisters of Thorder Cap(u)t / viij

Forasmuch as it is very me ate that sume myni-
sters of honor shulde serve this so honorable
an order it is ordered / that fowre shalbe appoynted
for the same porpose / that is to wete / the chauncelor
first the Register second the vssher or provest
thirde / and the kyng of Armes fowrth which shall

be caulled garter whose offices be herafter p(ar)ticularly declared

The Chauncellor Caput , ix /

Forasmuch as thoffice of the Chauncellor

other apoynted by the Soverayne ~ ~
The Prynte of the Seale and Signett shalbe in
this sorte / the Armes of England and ffraunce
together with tharmes of thorder shalbe therin
grauen with this brefe sentence aboute hit
Hony soit quy mal y pense /

The Chauncellers garment w(hi)ch he shall weare at the
celebracion of e feste, (and) all other solempne assembl-
ies of e companions of the said order, shalbe a syde
gowne w(i)t(h) sleues made of blew satyn, and for token
(a)t he is an officer of thorder he shall weare about his
neck hanging by a lace or cheyne a crosse of thorder w(i)t(h) a
Red rose in a white of gold all compassed w(i)t(h) a garland
as Red and white Roses ~
ffynally (e) saide chauncelor shall haue besyde his fee belon-
ging to his office a howse at wyndSOR w(i)t(h) allowance of
mete and drynk after tholde Custome

The Register / **Caput x.^m**

If he (a)t occupieth thofice of e Register be an eccl(es)iasticall
p(er)son he shalbe then ether a doctor of dyunitie or of e
ciuill lawe but if he be a temporall man he shall then be
a knight (and) a gentill(man) of blud of experience also (and) lerning
com(m)endable ~

[fol. 14r

Moreouer he shall cronycle and put in wry-
tyng the Martiall feates and valiant actes
of the Souerayne and knightes of thorder with

and shall weare aboute his neck hangyng by a
lace a Redd Rose and a white of gold one within the other

his yerely fee accoustumed

Also he shall clayme and haue, as often as any Duke, Marquys Erle viscount Baron or knight are made knightes of this order thup-
permost garment, that they so elected shall weare vpon them ~ ~

He shall weare thapparell that he hath

[fol. 17r]

ben accoustumed to wear / and shall haue mete and drynke and a howse at wyndesor as the vse hath ben in tymes paste

**Thoffice of all Mynisters Ioyntly
Caput xiiij /**

The Mynisters that shall wayte on the Soueraigne and knightes at the feste of the order and other metyng(es) touching the same shall kepe this order in their goyng ~ ~

First of all the provest and the kyng off Armes shall go together next before the Soverayne and so then before them the Chauncellor and the Register

When the knightes of thorder shall sytt in their stalles in the quyer of wyndesor / the saide officers of thorder shall sytte on two formes sett overthwart in the same place vpon the one whereof shall sytt the Chauncelor and the Register

of their offices

Euery one of the said Mynisters before they be chosen into office shall sweare they shall dily- gently in all thing(es) discharge their office and the maner of their othe shalbe such as foloweth

**The com(m)en Othe to be Mynistred to
to the Mynisters ~ ~**

Thow shalt first sweare, that thou shalt obeye the Souerayne in all thing(es) and after hym the knightes of this moste noble order especially in those thing(es) which shall aperteyne to the and agree with thy offyce

Thow shalt sweare that when thou arte called to Chapter and shalbe made pryuye to secrets there thou shalt kepe counsell and shall nat

[fol. 18r]

vtter nor disclose that which thou shalt there here in Counsell ~ ~ ~

Thou shalte sweare that thou shalte defend (and) manteyne the dignite of this order and all the com pagnions of the same / and if anything shalbe attempted agenst the same / thou shalte to thy power withstand and resiste it

Finally thou shalte sweare that thou shalt execute / discharge and faithfully doo all thing(es) that shall aperteyne or belong to thyne office w(i)t(h)out any maner affection / favor / hate / or feare of any man

[fol.18v]

Be it Remembred that at the Chapter mentioned
in the begynnyng of this booke were present with
the Soverayne these knight(es) of thorder folowing

Duke of Suffolke ~	Marquys of Northampton
Duke of Northumb(er)land ~	Erle of Arrundell
Erle of Derby ~	Erle of Huntynghon
Marquys of wynchest(er) ~	Erle of pembroke
Vicount Hereford ~	