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THE PSALMS IN HERALDRY

HERALDIC mottoes have been in general use for not much more than two centuries, during which period they have chiefly been selected from the Vulgate or from the great writers of Rome ; in particular, Virgil, Horace, Ovid and Cicero. The Old Testament is drawn on to a far greater extent than the New,¹ and of all the O.T. books the Book of Psalms is undoubtedly the favourite.

The mottoes listed in this paper (which, incidentally, include those appearing on unregistered as well as on registered arms) show how extensive are the borrowings from the Psalms and how many appertain to scholastic, academic and civic bodies. They also provide some indication of the relative popularity of different psalms and occasionally shed interesting light on the grantees. When a quotation occurs more than once in the Bible, the writer has tried to select what seems to him the most appropriate setting or the closest linguistic parallel. For the convenience of readers who do not possess a copy of the Vulgate, the psalms are numbered as in the Revised Version.²

PSALMS

- i. 3. *Folium non defluet* (Sir Andrew Noble). ' His leaf shall not wither.'
- iii. 3. *Tu, Domine, gloria mea* (the family of Leicester). ' Thou, O Lord, art my glory.'
- iv. 4. *Sin not* (punning motto of the family of Synnot). Compare Exod. xx. 20 ; 1 Cor. xv. 34 ; Eph. iv. 26, etc.
- iv. 9. *Singulariter in spe* (motto of Leacher). ' [For thou] alone, [O Lord, hast established me] in hope.'
- vi. 2. *Lord, have mercy* (the Earl of Perth).
- viii. 5. *Lord, crown us with glory* (The Craft and Incorporation of Shoemakers, Aberdeen).

¹ A paper on " Heraldic Mottoes from the Old Testament " appears over Mr. Huxley's name in *Theology*, June 1949. (ED.)

² Mistakes, even in a paper of this nature, inevitably creep in, if the author is not himself a theologian and for these indulgence is craved. Much of what is above suspicion in what follows is due to the generous help received from Mr. A. G. B. Russell (Lancaster Herald at the College of Arms), Mr. H. A. B. Lawson (Rothesay Herald at the Court of the Lord Lyon), Dr. E. MacLysaght (Chief Herald at the Dublin Genealogical Office), and lastly to Mr. H. Ellis Tomlinson, to whose expert knowledge of civic heraldry I am much indebted.

- viii. 7. *Omnia subjecisti sub pedibus ejus, oves atque boves* (Worshipful Company of Butchers, London). 'Thou hast put all things under his feet, sheep and oxen.' The English translation, with slight alterations, gives the motto of the Glasgow Incorporation of Fleshers.
- xi. 1. *In Domino confido* (the motto of Sir John Makgill). 'In the Lord put I my trust.' This motto is inscribed in an open book on the arms of McGill University, Montreal.
Je me fie en Dieu, the French version, is the motto of the Earl of Plymouth and Sir Ralph Black.
- xvi. 1. *Conserva me, Domine* (the families of Skirving and Wise). 'Preserve me, O Lord.'
- xvi. 6. *I have a goodly heritage* (Lady Margaret School for Girls, S.W.6).
- xvii. 8. *Sub umbra alarum tuarum* (the families of Lauder and Williamson). 'Under the shadow of thy wings.'
- xviii. 3. *Deus protector meus* (Humphrey). 'God is my shield.'
- xx. 5. *In nomine Dei nostri magnificabimur* (Royal Holloway College). 'In the name of our God, we shall be exalted.' In this and in the following quotation, the Vulgate differs from the Revised Version.
- xx. 9. *Domine, salvum fac regem* ('O Lord, save the King') is the apt motto of King Edward's School, Birmingham.
- xxiii. 1. (a) *Pastor meus Deus est* (Herdman). (b) *Deus pastor meus* (Sir Percival David). Both (a) and (b) mean 'God is my Shepherd.'
- xxv. 5. *Domine, dirige nos* (motto of the City of London and of the City of London School). 'O Lord, guide us.'
- xxvii. 1. *Dominus illuminatio mea* ('The Lord is my light'). A very popular motto, adopted by Oxford University, Ayr Academy, St. Dunstan's Abbey School, St. John's School, Invercargill (New Zealand), the families of Brightwen, Leicester and others.
Deus lux mea est ('God is my light'; cf. 1 John i. 5) appears on the arms of the Catholic University of America.
- xxvii. 5. *Me exaltabit in petra* (the family of Stanton). 'He shall lift me up upon a rock.'
- xxxvi. 9. *In lumine tuo videbimus lumen* (Columbia University). 'In thy light shall we see light.'
- xxxvii. 4. *Delectare in Domino* (the families of Bampfylde and Poltimore). 'Delight in the Lord.'

- xl. 17. *God is my help* (motto of the Duke of Edinburgh).
- xlii. 1. *Sicut cervus anhelat ad fontes aquarum* (the motto of Hertford College, Oxford, once known as Hart Hall). 'As the hart panteth after the water brooks.'
Ut aspirat cervus (the family of Stavely). 'As pants the hart.'
 The motto of the family of Huntley is *As the hart the water brooks*.
- xl.iii. 3. *Emitte lucem tuam* (Kent College). 'Send out thy light.'
- xliv. 6. *In Domino et non in arcu meo sperabo* (motto of the Rt. Hon. Sir Thomas Molony, whose arms reveal six arrows in saltire between two bows erect). 'In the Lord and not in my bow will I trust.'
- xl. v. 13. *Tota gloriosa filia regis intrinsecus* (the family of Jewell). 'The King's daughter is all glorious within.'
- xlvi. 1. *Deus noster refugium et virtus* (the old motto of Dewsbury, Yorkshire). 'Our God is a refuge and strength.' This is a verse which in Latin and English supplies many mottoes both of families and corporations.
- xlvi. 4. *Fluminis impetus laetificat civitatem* (Chicoutimi, Quebec). 'The stream of the river maketh glad the city.'
- li. 10. *Cor mundum crea in me, Deus* (punning motto of O'Crean). 'Create in me a clean heart, O God.'
- li. 12. *Spiritu principali* (motto of Everard Green). '[Uphold me] with a princely spirit.' Here again Vulgate and Revised Version differ.
- li. 17. *Sacrificium Deo cor contritum* (motto of Corker). 'The sacrifice of God is a contrite heart.'
- lii. 7. *Deum posui adiutorem* (motto of Kingston). 'I have made God my helper.'
- lv. 14. *In domo Dei ambulavimus cum consensu* (St. Bride's School for Girls, Helensburgh). 'We walked in the house of God in concord.'
- lv. 17. *Vespere et mane* (motto of Pierre and Purie). 'In the evening and in the morning.'
- lxi. 3. *Turris fortissima Deus* (punning motto of the family of Torr). 'God is a strong tower.'
- lxii. 6. *Mon Dieu est ma Roche* (Lord Roche). 'My God is my rock.' Another punning motto.
- lxvi. 12. *Per aquam et ignem* (motto of Wexford, Eire). 'Through water and fire.'

- lxvii. 1. *Benedic nobis, Domine* (motto of Bain). 'Bless us, O Lord.'
- lxxi. 1. *In te, Domine, speravi* (the Earl of Strathmore). 'In thee, O Lord, have I trusted.'
- lxxii. 8. *A mari usque ad mare* (the Dominion of Canada). 'From sea to sea.' Compare Ecclesiasticus xlv. 23.
- lxxiii. 26. *Jehovah portio mea* ('Jehovah is my portion'). This is the motto of the family of Mercer on whose arms is seen a right hand holding an open Bible.
- lxxviii. 20. *E rupe erumpet aqua* ('Water will burst out from the rock'). The Vulgate is here paraphrased in order to produce the internal pun. These words are found on the arms of the Grimsby, Cleethorpes and District Water Board. Compare Numbers xx. 11 and Deuteronomy viii. 15.
- lxxxiv. 1. *Templa quam dilecta* (Sir Richard Temple). 'How amiable are thy Temples'(!).
- lxxxiv. 11. *Sol et scutum Deus* (Nicholson). 'God is a sun and shield.'
- lxxxvii. 1. *Fundamenta eius super montibus sanctis* (Durham University). 'Its foundations are upon the holy hills.'
- lxxxix. 1. *Misericordias Domini in aeternum cantabo* (Abingdon School). 'I will sing of the mercies of the Lord for ever.'
- xc. 4. *His truth shall be thy shield* (motto of Hannen).
- xc. 11. *Angelis suis praecipiet de te* (Power). 'He shall give his angels charge over thee.'
- xcii. 12. *Ut palma justus* (punning motto of the family of Palmes). 'The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree.'
- xcvi. 12. *Gaudebunt campi et omnia quae in iis sunt* (punning motto of the family of Campi). 'The fields shall rejoice and all that therein is.'
- c. 2. *Servite in laetitia* ('Serve with gladness'). The Latin phrase is the motto of the Maria Grey Training College for Women Teachers and the English translation is the motto of Romford, Essex.
Inservi Deo et laetare (motto of the Earl of Wicklow). 'Serve God and rejoice.'
- ciii. 5. *Renovabitur ut aquilae juvenus tua* (Mungret College, Limerick). *Renovabitur sicut aquilae juvenus tua* (St. Patrick's College, Thurles). Both mottoes mean 'Thy youth shall be renewed like the eagle's.' Sir Alan Barlow's motto is *sicut aquila juvenescam* ('I shall grow young as an eagle').

- civ. 15. *Vinum exhilarat animum* (the motto of the Vintner's Company). 'Wine maketh glad the heart.'
- cx. 10. *Initium sapientiae timor Domini* ('The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom'). This well-known verse, found also in Proverbs and Ecclesiasticus, is the motto not only of Aberdeen University, but also, either in Latin or in English, of a number of schools, among which are Tettenhall School (Wolverhampton), Hull Girls' High School, St. Albans Girls' High School, Sunderland Girls' High School and Solway Girls' College (New Zealand).
- cxii. 9. *Cornu exaltabitur honore* (Smyth). 'His horn shall be exalted with honour.'
- cxv. 1. *Non nobis, Domine* (Willis). 'Not unto us, O Lord.' *Non nobis* (Woodd). 'Not unto us.'
- cxvi. 12. *Pro tanto quid retribuamus?* (City of Belfast). 'What are we to render for so great a benefit?' *Domino quid reddam?* (Blofield). 'What shall I render to the Lord?'
- cxviii. 22. *Lapis reprobatus caput anguli* (Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales). 'The stone which was rejected is the head of the corner.'
- cxix. 12. *Benedictus es, O Domine: doce me statuta tua* (Bradfield College). 'Blessed art thou, O Lord: teach me thy statutes.'
- cxix. 105. *Lucerna pedibus meis verbum tuum* (motto of the ancient Free Grammar School of Sheffield). 'Thy word is a lamp unto my feet.' Similarly *Lucerna meis pedibus* (Mant)—'A lamp unto my feet'; also *Verbum Dei lucerna* (Dean Close School, Cheltenham)—'God's word is a lamp.'
- cxix. 144. *Intellectum da mihi, Domine* (St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra). 'Give me understanding, O Lord.'
- cxxi. 1. *Levavi oculos* (Lord Schuster). 'I have lifted up my eyes.' Also *I to the hills* (Lord Amulree); from the first line of the metrical version of the psalm as found in the Scottish Psalter of 1750. *Montes unde auxilium meum* (Keswick, Cumberland). 'The mountains whence cometh my help.'
- cxxi. 2. *Auxilium meum a Domino* (Sir Piers Mostyn). 'My help cometh from the Lord.'
- cxxi. 3. *Non dormit qui custodit* (motto of the Baron Glentanar and Sir Marmaduke Coghill). 'He sleepeth not who keepeth thee.'

- cxxiii. 3. *Have mercy on us, good Lord* (Sitlington).
- cxxvi. 5. *Qui seminant in lachrimis, in exultatione metent* (Kempe).
 'They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.'
- cxxvii. 1. This familiar and well-loved verse, which on coats of arms is generally abbreviated to these three words, *Nisi Dominus frustra* ('Except the Lord . . . in vain'), is more prolific of mottoes than any other in the Bible. As quoted, it appears on the arms of Bristol University, the City of Edinburgh (and on the crest of its regiment, the King's Own Scottish Borderers), Wellington School, Canford School, Kendal Grammar School, the Royal Wolverhampton School, St. Elphin's Girls' School, Normanton Girls' High School and numerous other schools and corporations. Other mottoes derived from this verse include *Nisi Dominus* (Compton), *Custodi civitatem, Domine* (City of Westminster), *Sine Deo frustra* (Sir Richard Gull) and *Except the Lord keep the city* (on the new arms of Halifax, Yorks.).
- cxxx. 7. *Copiosa apud eum redemptio* (Redemptorist Schools, Eire). 'With him is plenteous redemption.'
- cxli. 8. Many mottoes express the placing of one's trust in God. Among them are those of Sutton Valence School (*My trust is in God alone*), Owen's School (*In God is all our trust*), the Grand Lodge of Argyll and the Isles (*In the Lord is all our trust*) and the Saddlers' Company (*Our trust is in God*).
- cxliv. 12. *That our daughters may be as the polished corners of the temple* (Francis Holland School, London).

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