

8. SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY GENEALOGICAL ARM-CHAIR (Pl. XLVI, 5).

A curious seventeenth-century oak arm-chair has been generously given to the Museum by W. J. Stuart, Esq., F.R.C.S.E. It is not known how long it has been in Mr Stuart's family. In style it corresponds to the latest date carved on it, 1665. The cresting above the panel back is defective, one of the legs and the seat are replacements and the front and side stretchers are missing; it is 44 ins. high. Interest in the chair, however, lies in the heraldry carved on the cresting and the genealogy on the panel-back, which show that it was made for Sir William Douglas, 2nd Baronet of Glenberrie, and his wife Anne, only daughter and heir of James Douglas of Stoneypath and Ardit.

A shield of arms is carved in low relief in the centre of the top cresting, with a savage brandishing a club and a stag as supporters, a salamander in flames as crest, and the motto "I AMES ARREIR" (Jamais arrière). The shield contains, 1st and 2nd quarters, two rampant lions (?); 4th, the top half of a heart and of (probably) a cross counter-embattled; the 3rd quarter is missing. To the left of the arms is WSD, for Sir William Douglas, over 1665, and to the right ADD, for Dame Anne Douglas, also over 1665. In the wing to the left of the centre portion is a heart charged with two small mullets over a larger one and the letters (inscribed) "CD"; in the wing to the right is a heart with three mullets in chief over the letters CM (also inscribed), the M appearing to cover another mullet.

The letters and dates of the first two lines of the genealogy have not been interpreted, with the exception of the date 1057, which Hume of Godscroft, in his *History of the Houses of Douglas and Angus*, published in 1648, gives as the date of the creation of the first Lord of Douglas. From the third line on there follows the descent from Archibald, 5th Earl of Angus and his wife Elizabeth, Countess of Angus, daughter of Lord Boyd. The letters underlined in the last sentence are those which appear on the chair. This illustrates how the genealogy is to be interpreted. The heart signifies marriage and the small "BC" under the E presumably refers to that Earl's nickname, "Bell the Cat." So the line may be traced down, father to son, to Sir William Douglas of Glenberrie, the owner of the chair, and his son Robert, unmarried in 1665. Letters have been carved in anticipation of the latter's marriage and of his son; unfortunately, he was killed at Steinkirk in 1692 and left no male issue. The smaller letters on the right side refer to the parentage of the wives—thus on line eight, Dame Janet Irvine was the daughter of Irvine of DRV (Drum). The dates do not always correspond with deaths, successions, marriages or births, but Sir William Douglas of Braidwood and 1st of Glenberrie died at Flodden, 1513, and William, 9th Earl of Angus, was married in 1552 and died in 1591.

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¹ In the Corbridge and Blackgate, Newcastle, Museums.



1. Pictish Chain from Walston. 2. Bauxite Bead. 3. Beaker from Knockando.
4. Seal-Matrix of the Earl of Arran. 5. Seventeenth-century Arm-chair.

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