

From the *Transactions* of the  
Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society

**Monument to and Heraldry of Sir John and Dame Yonge (Young)  
in Bristol Cathedral**

by F. Were  
1912, Vol. 35, 93-95

© The Society and the Author(s)

MONUMENT TO AND HERALDRY OF SIR JOHN  
AND DAME YONGE (YOUNG) IN BRISTOL  
CATHEDRAL.

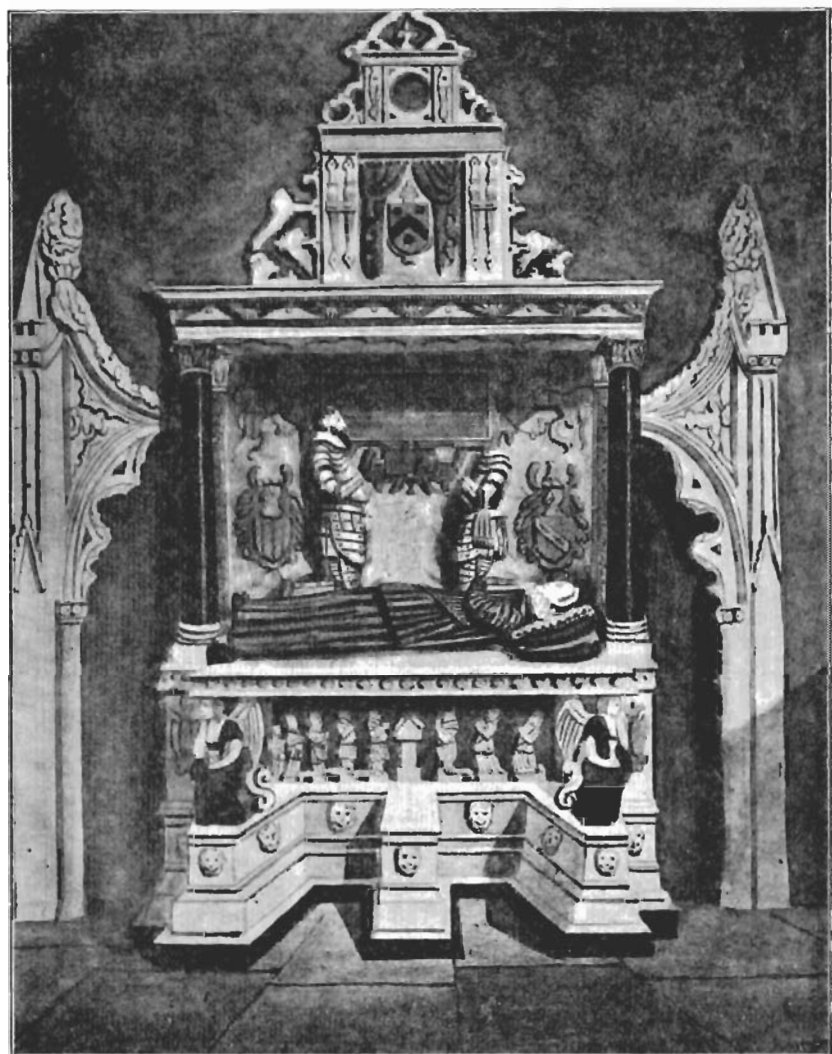
By F. WERE.

Not very long ago, I read before the Council a protest and notes about the heraldry on this tomb; but the matter has been now more prominently brought before us by Miss Roper's expert account of it in vol. xxxiv, p. 127-8 of the *Transactions*.

To my mind there is something uncanny about the whole, which no doubt is largely due to the vicissitudes the monument has gone through, and the loss of the two kneeling figures and the faldstool. The question arises was it all built and equipped at the same time, as there was a gap of about fourteen years between his and her death, so that all with the exception of her effigy might have been erected during her widowhood; for heraldry would say that the shape of the escutcheon, a square heater on the pediment, could never have borne a woman's coat except it was impaled with her husband's, so that the Wadham coat was wrongly inserted when her effigy was placed in position.

Miss Roper has kindly given me a photographic copy of the sketch in the Braikenridge Collection, which it would have been well to have had alongside the illustration in vol. xxxiv, p. 127, for the sake of comparison, in that it proves that the monument was erected to the memory of Sir John, and not only to his widow Dame Joan, as styled in the illustration.

In the sketch you will observe that the monument was on the south side of the lady chapel, against the sedilia; now it is on the north side of the nave, so that Dame Joan's head



SKETCH

IN THE BRAIKENRIDGE COLLECTION.

Sir G. STRANGWAY.

*Achievement :*  
5 CHILDREN.

(*Headless*) Sir J. YONGE.

*Achievement :*  
3 CHILDREN.

is where her feet used to be, and the achievements of her two husbands at the back have also been changed. In the sketch Sir Giles Strangway's achievement is in its proper position, as her first husband, and plainly names him ; whereas at present Sir John Yonge's occupies that place, and that of Sir Giles is over her feet. That this is wrong is well proved by the children below, as Sir John is represented by five and Sir Giles by three, whereas it should be the reverse ; so that the "right and left," when facing the monument as given on p. 128, should be altered to "left and right."

I turn now to the heraldry, and I think you will agree with me that it ought to picture or sculpture the pedigree of the persons it is intended to commemorate ; therefore I will begin with the wrongly-placed premier shield at the back, which is blazoned, "Lozengy argent and vert on a bend azure two ibex heads erased or." Sir John Maclean in vol. xv. of our *Transactions* says the field is "argent and gules." I cannot find any authority for this, and it must, I think, have been a variation only, for it is certain that Sir John, Lord Mayor of London 1460, second son of Thomas, and grandson of John Yonge, who heads the pedigree, and from whom Sir John was lineally descended, bore the one on the present shield ; yet it is still doubtful whether this is the correct coat, as the Yongs of Bristow bore, "Fusily (*i.e.* elongated lozengy) argent and vert on a bend azure three griffins' heads erased or." Now helmets are given on an achievement to bear the crest and denote the style of the bearer ; yet here, and on Sir Giles' as well, they are esquire's, whereas the bearers were both knights, and should have had ones with open visors. Is this really to be accounted for by the sculptor having copied from perhaps their seals before they were knighted, or from those of their ancestors ?

The other achievement of Sir Giles bears a correct coat, is placed in the wrong position, bears the wrong helmet, and is over Sir John Yonge's children. Now we revert to the top

shield in the pediment, which I think I have sufficiently anathematised before ; it bears the coat of Wadham alone, so that without the achievements below, heraldically it would mean that a Wadham was father instead of mother of the children below ; and here Miss Roper has recorded that I thought it should contain the fourteen quarterings of Wadham, with an unfortunate little apology that there was no room for them, yet I can show an example of sixty in about six inches square. But what I maintained was that these quarterings should be painted on a lozenge escutcheon inside the square heater one, not a desirable thing regularly to do, but it would prove she was a widow, and therefore mother of the children below. This would enable a reader to identify her in the pedigree.

This shield, although it is Wadham in the sketch—no doubt painted when the effigy of the Lady Joan was added—should have been blazoned : “ Baron ” per fess, in chief the Strangway’s coat, in base the Yonge’s, impaling the “ Femme ” and the Wadham quarterings. (I need not give the blazons) Chiselden — Popham — Zouch — St. Martin — Nevill—Walrond ancient—Walrond—Hender really Lorty—and Hele ; and then the five brought in by her mother, Tregarthian—Hendour — Cornwall — Chamberlain — Pever. These last five would prove Joan’s place in the pedigree ; either blazon would satisfy heraldry, if only the “ Femme ” and not the whole shield was Wadham.