

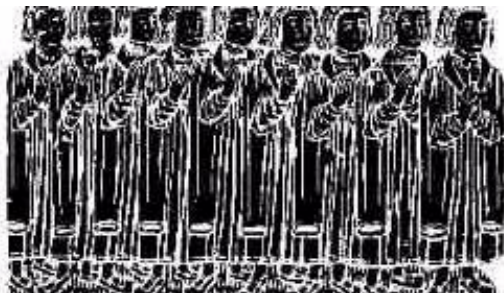
Sir Ralph and Lady Elizabeth Verney, 1547.



Sir Ralph was descended from the Whittingham family. His grandfather, Robert Whittingham fought on the Lancastrian side in the Wars of the Roses, and was killed in battle. His mother, Margaret Whittingham married the Yorkist, Sir John Verney, against her father's wishes. When Henry VIII became king, Parliament granted the Whittingham estates to the Verneys. Sir John was buried at Ashridge, as were his son and grandson Ralph, whose brass this is. Ralph and Elizabeth his wife are shown with their 9 sons and 3 daughters. The parents wear heraldic tabards showing the Coat of Arms of the Verneys and Whittinghams.



Lady Elizabeth, wife of Sir Ralph, was the daughter of Edmund, Lord Braye. Elizabeth outlived her husband and married three more times. The original Verney brass shows her with Sir Ralph, their 9 sons and 3 daughters.



John Croston's dog footrest, 1470.



This dog is a foot support brass. It was taken from the foot of John Croston's larger brass. He was a wool merchant who lived in Oxfordshire. Dogs symbolized loyalty and were most often found on the brasses of ladies in the lower folds of their gowns.

John Croston's brass is dated 1470. The Tudors came to power in 1485, so the dog is described as 'medieval'.

Foot Support Brasses.

Dragon: no date.



Dog: John Croston, wool merchant, 1470



Gryphon: Sir Thomas Bullen, 1538



Lion: Sir Robert de Bures, 1302



Sheep: John Taylor, wool merchant, 1490



Unicorn: Thomas Chaucer, 1426



Brass Rubbing Quiz

1. Look at the pictures of the footrest brasses. How many of them were made in Tudor times?
2. Look at the timeline of Kings and Queens and work out which king or queen was ruling England when each brass was made.
 - a) The dog was made in the reign of _____
 - b) The lion was made in the reign of _____
 - c) The gryphon was made in the reign of _____
 - d) The unicorn was made in the reign of _____
 - e) The sheep was made in the reign of _____

The Kings and Queens of England 1154—1603.

PLANTAGENETS

Henry II 1154-1189

Richard I 1189-1199

John 1199-1216

Henry III 1216-1272

Edward I 1272-1307

Edward II 1307-1327

Edward III 1327-1377

Richard II 1377-1399

HOUSE OF LANCASTER

Henry IV 1399-1413

Henry V 1413-1422

Henry VI 1422-1461

HOUSE OF YORK

Edward IV 1461-1483

Edward V 1483

Richard III 1483-1485

TUDORS

Henry VII 1485-1509

Henry VIII 1509-1547

Edward VI 1547-1553

Jane Grey 1553

Mary I 1553-1558

Elizabeth I 1558-1603

3. Now make a brass rubbing of one of the footrest brasses.

Dragon footrest.



There is no date for this footrest.

The dragon is a mythical creature thought to have magical or spiritual qualities. It was a symbol of independence, leadership and strength. Many dragons also represent wisdom. People thought of dragons as wicked, but on a family crest they stood for nobility and courage. Dragons were thought to have keen sight, power, and were fearsome. Dragons symbolized powerful, wealthy people who guarded their wealth well.

Uther Pendragon, the father of legendary King Arthur, was said to have had the symbol of the Western dragon, four-legged and winged, on his crest. The Tudor kings and queens also took the symbol of the dragon as part of their family crest, as Henry VII claimed he was descended from King Arthur.

Avice Tyndall



Avice Tyndall 1571.

Avice was a wealthy Tudor lady. She is wearing an embroidered petticoat under her overdress and has a ruff. Her sleeves are also embroidered and she is wearing a coif over her hair.

Brasses like this one help us to find out about Tudor people's clothes and fashions.

You may use two colours on this brass. The Petticoat in one colour and the overdress in another.

Sir Robert de Bures' lion footrest, 1302



Sir Robert was one of of Edward I's royal bodyguard. He was given the job of helping to govern Wales after Edward I conquered it. He is clad entirely in chain mail with a long fabric surcoat tied at the waist with a deep split up the front for ease in riding. Over this a belt supports a heavy sword in a plaited hanger. His thighs are covered by gamboised cuisses, a quilted protection for the thigh, with the decorated leather poleyns (knee caps) attached to them. The burrs on his shield are a pun (joke) on his name. They are made from a different sheet of metal than the rest of the brass.

He wears pointed spurs and he is standing on the lion. The lion stood for bravery, strength, ferocity and valour.

Sir Thomas Bullen's gryphon footrest, 1538



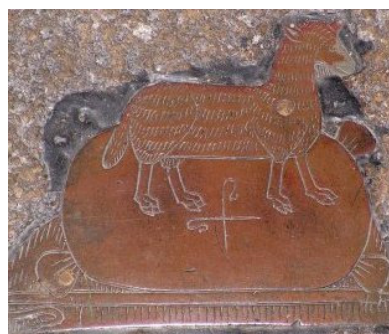
Sir Thomas Bullen, father of Henry VIII's second wife, Anne Boleyn, and grandfather of Queen Elizabeth I, is shown wearing full Garter robes and the regalia which was: the coronet, the collar of Tudor roses, the badge, and the garter below the left knee. Both the badge and the garter show the motto of the Order: 'Honi soit qui mal y pense'. His head rests upon a great tilting helmet with a crest. At his feet is a gryphon or griffen - a fabulous animal with an eagle's beak and wings and lion's body, symbolising watchfulness and strength.

John Taylor's sheep footrest, 1490



John Taylor was a wool merchant from North Leach in Gloucestershire. The Cotswolds were famous for the quality of their wool, and the wealth of England came mainly from the sale of wool. That is why the lord chancellor of England sits upon a 'woolsack' in the house of lords in London. Wool merchants are often shown standing on bags of wool, with their merchant's mark, or with a sheep as their footrest.

As John made his riches from wool, his family had a sheep and his mark engraved on his memorial brass, like this one.



Alice Hyde



This is a brass of a Tudor lady called Alice Hyde. She was the daughter of Sir Thomas Essex of Lambourne, Berkshire, and married William Hyde; they had five sons and five daughters. This brass is notable for the elegance of her dress. She wears the Paris hood, often called a Mary Queen of Scots headdress. Alice has a frilled partlet around her neck, which later developed into the ruff so typical of Elizabethan fashion. She also wears an embroidered petticoat displayed through the open front of her over-dress.

Alice lived during a very eventful period of history - the beginning of the turbulent reign of Henry VIII and the difficult years before Elizabeth I became Queen in 1558.