

BOOK NOTES

A Treatise on Heraldry British and Foreign. By JOHN WOODWARD and GEORGE BURNETT. (Rutland, Vermont: Charles E. Tuttle Company, 1969. Pp. 858. English Glossary, French Glossary, Appendices, Index. New Introduction by L. G. PINE. \$17.50.)

This beautiful book bound in crimson silk, on the highly technical subject of heraldry (actually the "science of armorial bearings," according to the Random House *Dictionary*), has been written so that the lay person may enjoy it. He could spend hours in poring over the colored plates alone. From reading the book he could learn who are really "noble," how to use the terms "Gentlemen" and "Esquire" properly, and how the Crusades and tournaments influenced the development of coat armor, and how personal devices finally became hereditary arms.

The use of color and the varied shapes of the shields are fascinating. There were so many categories from which to select the symbols for armorial bearings: crosses, the human figure, beasts, birds, reptiles, insects, griffins and dragons, the stars; plants, for example the *fleur-de-lis* of France, the rose of England, the thistle of Scotland; military and ecclesiastical symbols.

Heraldry deals with knotty problems such as the adoption of a wife's arms, the quartering of a shield, the indication of illegitimacy. Badges, too, were early heraldic devices, using knots, or the *planta genista* from which the Plantagenets derived their name, and the red and white roses of England. The authors give special consideration to external ornaments, such as crowns, and coronets, flags, banners, and standards.

The book goes beyond the average book on heraldry, giving original evidences derived from representations of arms which exist, for example, in windows or in carvings. It is not limited to England or Scotland, but is European in scope.

The Origin and Signification of Scottish Surnames. By CLIFFORD STANLEY SIMS. (Rutland, Vermont: Charles E. Tuttle Company, 1969. Pp. 122. \$3.25.)

What's in a name? To the Scotch and Scotch-Irish of Western Pennsylvania, a great deal. For these people, then, is *The Origin and Signification of Scottish Surnames*, a reprint by the Charles E. Tuttle Company of a book first published in 1862.