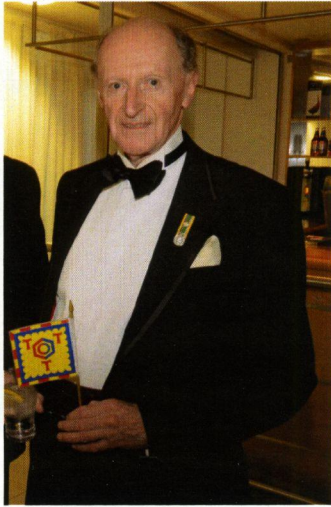


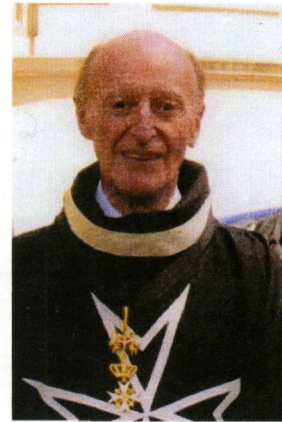
OBITUARY

Anthony Thomas James Ryan (1937 - 2016)



The heraldry world is sadder for the loss of Tony Ryan of Bath who died in March. Tony was a relative latecomer to heraldry which he first started to notice through his interest in classical architecture. What Tony lacked in years he made up for through keenness and an intense eye for detail. He first joined the City of Bath Heraldic Society and then also The Heraldry Society, both organisations benefitting from his many different lectures, the subjects ranging from the arms of the participants at Bosworth; the heraldry of the Blathwayte's of Dyrham Park and the Hungerford family of Wiltshire.. Tony had been working for a year or so on a lecture about Warrior Monks which he hoped to give to the Members of CBHS in April, sadly however, his sudden death from a heart attack meant he wasn't able to entertain us again. Tony was born in Wales to a family that had, for generations, been master mariners. His father joined the Irish Merchant Marines and went down with his ship when it hit a mine during the "Emergency" (the Republic of Ireland's term for the Second World War). Not long before he died, Tony received his father's Irish Merchant Marine Service Medal of which he was very proud. Tony's mother took him to the Republic of Ireland where he grew up. He chose to study Chemistry at University College, Cork, where he obtained his Master's degree. His research into the benzene molecule allowed him to use its symbol in his grant of arms (20th Dec 2000). His arms (still appearing on the Society's website) also include Tau crosses for his Christian name. His crest alludes to the Ryans of Ireland and his connections to the Hales family. Tony eventually became Chemistry Master at Prior Park College in Bath and retired from there in

1995. He was a man of many interests and took part in the life of many Bath based organisations including the Bath Abbey Guides and the Bath Shakespeare Society, all will surely miss his enthusiasm. Tony was also closely involved with the Catholic Church and last year (2015) was invested as a Knight of Magistral Grace of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta. Of this, I know, he was greatly proud.



The funeral was held at St. John's Catholic Church in Bath on 21st April and Tony's armorial banner was draped over his wickerwork coffin. Many friends from the heraldry world were there to make sure he had a truly heraldic send off. We will miss him.



Stephen Slater FHS

