

NOTES ON TRANSCRIPTION:

*Text in quotes is transcribed; other text may be paraphrased or descriptive.
The text usually abbreviates "Company" as "Comp:a"; here transcribed as "Co."
Item numbers added by present cataloguer.*

*"Brief annals" used by cataloguer to indicate short statements of events, and of
bylaws and resolutions by the Company, etc., arranged chronologically.*

*"Mich 1667-1669" means "Michaelmas 1667-Michaelmas 1669". Dates have not been
changed to N.S.*

*An 18th-century text is often added to the foot of a leaf containing a 17th-
century text; this partly explains subject/temporal irregularities.*

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NB. [i] and [vi] are each actually a pair of leaves pasted together, and now separating: handle with care.

NOTES ON PROVENANCE

[Sources: primarily Burke's *Landed Gentry*, 1952 (LG1952) sub De Lisle. Also LG1836 sub Phillipps; LG1863; Bateman's *Great Landowners*, 1883; Fairbairn's *Crests*; Burke's *General Armory*, 1884; *History of Parliament 1790-1820*; *History of Parliament 1715-1754*; *Catholic Encyclopedia* sub De Lisle. Since these sources contradict each other to some degree this account may not be wholly accurate.]

The arms on the bookplate show the 1819 amalgamation of the families of Phillipps of Garendon, Lisle (or De Lisle), and March; the plate probably belongs to Ambrose Lisle (March-)Phillipps (1809-1878) who was called "Ambrose Lisle Phillipps, Esq" by his contemporaries; he took the name "Ambrose Lisle March-Phillipps de Lisle" in 1863. [In reference books he and members of the family may appear under March Phillipps, Phillipps, Phillipps de L'Isle, Lisle, or De Lisle.]

The members of these three families were prosperous and prolific landed gentry, powerful in their areas, owning extensive properties, serving as JPs, MPs, High Sheriffs, cavalry officers, etc. They often married into the nobility, and intermarried with each other over the centuries.

Both the Phillipps and March families had early 18th-century connections with the Levant Company (see below), and the MS may possibly have been compiled originally by or for a family member.

The notes below omit all but relevant family members.

PHILLIPPS FAMILY.

In 1683 the lawyer Sir Ambrose Phillipps (1637-1691) bought Garendon Park and Grace Dieu, both just west of Loughborough, Leicestershire, on the northern edge of Charnwood Forest.

His heir William (d. 1729) was a rich "Turkey merchant" and Jacobite. (A daughter, Mary, m. Edward Lisle (d. 1727) of the Isle of Wight).

William's sons were Ambrose (1707-1737; an MP and amateur architect), and Samuel, who d. 1774, ending the Phillipps male line.

MARCH-PHILLIPPS.

The March family of the Isle of Wight had been connected with the Levant Company before the 18th century, owning property in Smyrna.

Mary (Phillipps) Lisle's daughter Jane (d. 1764) had m. Thomas March (d. 1754). In 1777 their son Thomas March (d. 1817) assumed the name March-Phillipps and joined the March and Phillipps coats-of-arms; in 1777 he also m. his cousin Susan Lisle (1756-1838), Edward Lisle's grand-daughter.

In 1797 Samuel Phillipps' widow died, and Thomas March inherited Garendon, Grace Dieu, and other Phillipps properties.

MARCH-PHILLIPPS-LISLE.

Thomas d. in 1817. Thomas and Susan's eldest son was Charles March-Phillipps (1779-1862) of Garendon, Grace-Dieu, etc. In 1819 Susan's brother -- the last male Lisle -- died, and she and her issue assumed the name and arms of Lisle.

Charles was the first to bear the combined Phillipps-March-Lisle arms. The names of his descendants normally include the element "Lisle".

AMBROSE LISLE MARCH PHILLIPPS DE LISLE.

The Phillipps family contains numerous Ambroses.

The first with a claim to the full arms is Charles' heir, Ambrose Lisle March-Phillipps, 1809-1878, who was known by his contemporaries as "Ambrose Lisle Phillipps, Esq.", as late as 1857 (source: pamphlets directed to him). He sought to reunite Christianity under the Catholic Church, and founded a Cistercian abbey in Charnwood; he restored Garendon Park and built a Tudor mansion out of the Grace Dieu nunnery ruins. When he inherited the estate in 1862 he changed his name to "Ambrose Lisle March-Phillipps de Lisle". [His "Life and Letters" was published by Edmund Purcell in 1900, but I have not seen it.]

His heir was Ambrose Charles [Francis] Lisle [March] Phillipps (1834-1883), who added De Lisle after 1863. He seems to have been known as "Ambrose Charles", so the bookplate is probably not his.

By 1952 the head of the family was John Adrian Frederick Phillipps de Lisle, b. 1891, and the heir of Garendon and Grace Dieu was John's brother Ambrose Paul Jordan Phillipps de Lisle, b. 1894.

LISLE FAMILY.

The founder of this family was a Norman knight who settled in the Isle of Wight at the time of the Conquest. His descendants were "De Insula" until 1400; then "De Lisle" until 1505; thereafter "Lisle". Notable among them was the regicide John, assassinated 1667, whose wife Alice sheltered some Sedgemoor fugitives and was beheaded by Judge Jeffries in 1685.

END OF DESCRIPTION OF LEVANT COMPANY HANDBOOK