

SUMMARY: The document below contains satirical verses composed, according to the statement with which they are prefaced, after Lawrence Dutton and John Dutton and their fellow players forsook Leicester's brother, Ambrose Dudley (c.1530-1590), Earl of Warwick, and became Oxford's followers.

For an explanation of the heraldic terminology in the verses, and an illustration of the satiric coat of arms, see May, Steven W. and Alan Bryson, *Verse Libel In Renaissance England and Scotland*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016), pp. 279-83 at:

[https://books.google.ca/books?id=T1\\_0DAAAQBAJ&pg=PA279&lpg=PA279&dq=%22a+Gybbet+crosse+corded%22&source=bl&ots=L32GbCPL9-&sig=MUaZCGajgXkNTVyOgYA3IZ0nrD0&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjt\\_tv1wJDTAhUBDmMKHUvnDTgQ6AEIJzAG#v=onepage&q=%22a%20Gybbet%20crosse%20corded%22&f=false](https://books.google.ca/books?id=T1_0DAAAQBAJ&pg=PA279&lpg=PA279&dq=%22a+Gybbet+crosse+corded%22&source=bl&ots=L32GbCPL9-&sig=MUaZCGajgXkNTVyOgYA3IZ0nrD0&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjt_tv1wJDTAhUBDmMKHUvnDTgQ6AEIJzAG#v=onepage&q=%22a%20Gybbet%20crosse%20corded%22&f=false).

May connects the verse libel to a fray which occurred 10 April 1580 at the Theatre in Shoreditch involving members of Oxford's company of players and the gentlemen of the Inns of Court which resulted in the imprisonment of Lawrence Dutton and a fellow actor in the Marshalsea.

The Duttons and their fellow players, forsaking the Earl of Warwick, their master, became followers of the Earl of Oxford, and wrote themselves his comedians, which certain gentlemen altered & made 'chameleons'. The Duttons, angry with that, compared themselves to any gentleman. Therefore these arms were devised for them:

The field, a fart dirty; a gibbet cross corded;  
 A dancing dame flirty, of all men abhorred;  
 A lither lad stampant; a rogue in his rags;  
 A whore that is rampant, astride with her legs;  
 A woodcock displayed, a calf & a sheep,  
 A bitch that is splayed, a dormouse asleep,  
 A viper in stench, la part de la drut,  
 Spell backwards this French, & crack me that nut.

Party per pillory, pierced with a rope,  
 To slide the more litherly anointed with soap;  
 A coxcomb cross-pate in token of wit,  
 Two ears perforate, a nose with [+a?] slit;  
 Three nettles resplendent, three owls, three swallows;  
 Three minstrel men pendent on three pair of gallows;  
 Further sufficiently placed in them  
 A knave's head for difference from all honest men.

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The wreath is a chain of changeable red  
To show they are vain and fickle of head;  
The crest is a kestrel whose feathers are blue  
In sign that these fiddlers will never be true,  
Whereon is placed the horn of a goat  
Because they are chaste, lo, this is their lot;  
For their bravery indented and parted,  
And for their knavery innebulated.

Mantled lousy with doubled drink;  
Their ancient house is called the Clink;  
This posy they bear over the whole earth:  
'Wilt please you to have a fit of our mirth?'  
But reason it is, & heralds allow well,  
That fiddlers should bear their arms in a towel.

FINIS