

## EXAMPLES OF MEDIÆVAL SEALS.

IN the Notices of Mediæval Seals which have appeared from time to time in this Journal, it has been our endeavour to supply a series of illustrations of Sphragistic Art, selected almost exclusively from the mass of valuable examples connected with our own country, and brought under our notice through the Meetings of the Institute. We are encouraged to continue these contributions to the history of seals, by the assurance that the examples given in our previous memoirs, and chosen either on account of their historical value or their artistic interest, have proved highly acceptable to many readers of the Journal.

In availing ourselves of the communication of one of the most interesting matrices of seals existing in Continental museums, and for which we are chiefly indebted to the kindness of the learned President of the Society of Antiquaries of Zurich, Dr. Ferdinand Keller, it might seem needless to advert to the value of an extended comparison between English seals and those of foreign countries, were it not to invite attention to that higher appreciation of Mediæval seals which appears to prevail on the Continent, as compared with the limited notice hitherto bestowed upon the subject in our own country. The monographs illustrative of the Municipal and other seals of Switzerland, produced in the Transactions of the Antiquaries of Zurich, may here claim special notice amongst contributions to this section of archæological literature which have recently appeared in foreign parts.<sup>1</sup> These memoirs display an extensive series of seals, represented with a degree of artistic skill and precision rarely equalled in England. Many valuable examples have also been published in Switzerland in the "Armorial

<sup>1</sup> Mittheilungen der Antiquarischen Gesellschaft in Zürich, 1841—58. The Memoirs relating to seals will be found in vols. ix. and xiii. Any portion of this valuable assemblage of archæological information, in every branch of research, may be obtained through Messrs. Williams and Norgate, or other booksellers. We

cannot omit to call the attention of the student of seals to the proposed publication, by subscription, at a most moderate cost, of a coloured fac-simile of the remarkable Roll of Arms of the Sovereigns and principal States of Europe, date about 1350. It will comprise not less than 578 coats.

Genevois," by M. Blavignac. In France, several admirably illustrated memoirs have appeared in the "Annales," edited by M. Didron, and a mass of curious information has been placed on record in the "Travaux de la Société de Sphragistique de Paris," of which the fifth volume is in progress. We may here also invite the notice of our readers to the "Essai sur les Sceaux des Comtes de Champagne," by M. de Jubainville, the "Notice sur les Sceaux des Comtes de Louvain et des Ducs de Brabant," by M. De Ram, with other results of the increasing interest with which the investigation of Mediæval seals has recently been prosecuted in various countries of Europe. No production, however, of this class has surpassed the volumes published by Vossberg, especially his collections on the seals of Poland, Lithuania, Silesia, Pomerania, and Prussia, or the commencement of a valuable work by the late eminent archæologist of Vienna, Eduard Melly.<sup>2</sup>

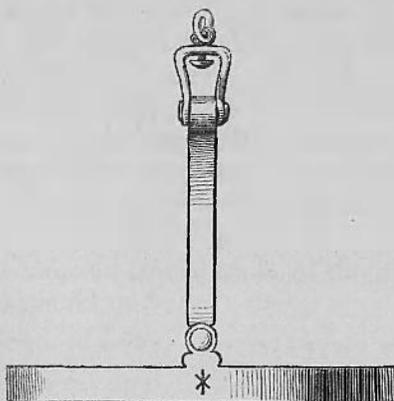
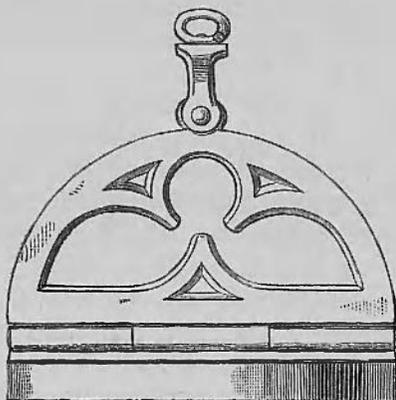
We may here mention with satisfaction, that, whilst in our own country no extensive collection of seals affords the facilities desirable for purposes of general reference and instruction, either at the British Museum or any other public depository, the liberal permission granted to Mr. R. Ready, especially by the authorities of our collegiate institutions, has brought within reach an invaluable assemblage of materials exemplifying the progress of the Sphragistic art in England. The facilities kindly afforded to that skilful artificer in several muniment chambers at Cambridge have been followed, as we learn with pleasure, by similar privileges at Oxford. We would record the thankful acknowledgment of the benefits which accrue to archæological science from such commendable liberality. It may be acceptable to some readers to learn, that Mr. Ready's most recent acquisition, through the kind favour of the Warden and Fellows of New College, and of the Rev. J. E. Sewell, the Bursar, comprises nearly 800 examples, among which will be found royal, personal, and official seals, of the highest interest and perfect in preservation.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Vossberg, *Siegel des Mittelalters*, &c., twenty-five plates, Berlin, 1854, 4to. *Beitrage zur Siegelkunde des Mittelalters*, von D. Eduard Melly. Part i. Vienna, 1850, 4to.

<sup>3</sup> Mr. Robert Ready, whose skilful reproductions in gutta-percha, and sulphur,

are now generally known, and also his electrotyped matrices, will supply any of the seals above mentioned, as well as some remarkable examples from Merton College. He is now resident in the High-street, Lowestoft.

EXAMPLES OF MEDIÆVAL SEALS.



Seal of Anthony, Bastard of Burgundy.

Date about 1452. (Original Size.)

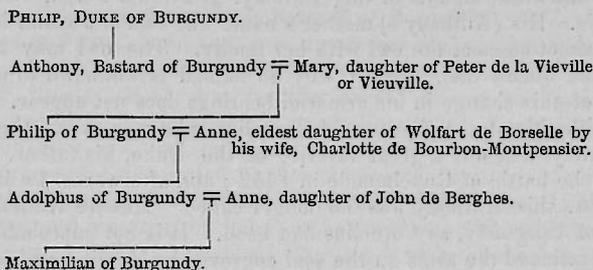
The Matrix of silver-gilt is in the Public Library at Zurich.

1. PERSONAL SEAL OF ANTHONY, BASTARD OF BURGUNDY, Lord of Beveres, and Count de la Roche, from a silver-gilt matrix, preserved at Zurich. He was one of the illegitimate sons of Philip, Duke of Burgundy, surnamed the Good, and was a man not only of great courage and skill in military exercises, but also of noble deportment and considerable intelligence and ability. So much did he distinguish himself, that he was generally called the Great Bastard of Burgundy. Highly esteemed by his father, and also by his brother the succeeding Duke, Charles the Rash, he was employed by them in divers honourable services. According to our English chroniclers, he was sent in 1467, by the Duke his father, as ambassador to this country, to negotiate the marriage of his brother, afterwards Duke Charles, with the Lady Margaret, sister of King Edward IV., and being minded to display his prowess and knightly accomplishments on that occasion, he challenged Lord Scales, the brother of the Queen, and fought with him in Smithfield in the presence of the King and a large assemblage of the nobility and chivalry of England. Those writers, however, are singularly incorrect, considering how extensively the principal facts must have been known at the time. The challenge, which led to that celebrated deed of arms, was sent by Lord Scales and accepted by the Bastard of Burgundy above two years, and the negotiation for the marriage had commenced upwards of one year, before the combats took place; which was on the 11th and 12th June, 1467. The marriage nevertheless was not solemnised till more than a year after (10th July, 1468). The death of Duke Philip happened on the 15th June, 1467, during the festivities that immediately followed the encounters in Smithfield, and before the negotiation for that alliance had been concluded. The cause of the feat of arms having been so long delayed after the acceptance of the challenge was a rebellion in Liege and Dinant, which the Bastard and others were sent by Duke Philip with a considerable force to suppress; a mission that was not easily accomplished. We have stated that the challenge proceeded from Lord Scales; but there seems reason to believe, that some little time before there had been a challenge sent by the Bastard to him, and that the unsettled state of affairs in this country at that time prevented the meeting. See *Excerpta Historica*, p. 172. So far from the affair in Smithfield having been the unpremeditated occurrence which the chronicles might lead us to believe, it was preceded by much deliberation and preparation. The preliminary articles and correspondence are printed in the *Excerpta Historica*, pp. 176, et seqq., and much other information relating to the subject is there brought together. The particulars of the combats, as given by the chroniclers, appear to be less accurate than might have been expected, when we consider how numerous were the eye-witnesses. The Bastard's horse did not fall, as stated by them, in consequence of a spike on either the chanfrein or the saddle of Lord Scales's horse having run into its nostrils; but it, by some accident, struck its head with great violence against a part of Lord Scales's saddle, designated by Oliver de la Marche the *haue*, and thereupon, according to his testimony, who was an eye-witness attending on the Bastard, fell quite dead and stiff (*se tua tout roide*). Having recently seen what a piece of furniture a tilting-saddle was (p. 37, *supra*), this is quite intelligible. Though Lord Scales had the advantage in two of the three encounters, the Bastard came off without any loss of reputation. In the course with sharp

spears neither of them was hit. The combat which immediately followed with swords was terminated by the accident just mentioned; and that on foot with pole-axes the next day was proceeding vigorously, when it was suddenly stopped by the King throwing down his staff, and calling out "Who!" and there is reason to believe this was, as the chronicles state, in consequence of the point of Lord Scales's pole-axe having entered the sight of the Bastard's helm. He had his vizor down, but Lord Scales fought with his up; which the English herald, from whom we derive these particulars, thought "jeopardous." Among the weapons proposed to be used were two sharp-pointed lances for throwing, which, when presented for the King's inspection, were withheld as too dangerous. The Bastard, according to his own chronicler, Oliver de la Marche, who, we have seen, was present, wore his coat of arms, Burgundy with a bar travers, to show that he was a bastard (estoit paré de sa cotte d'armes de Bourgogne à une barre de travers pour monstrier qu'il estoit Bastard); the same arms doubtless that are on this seal.

He was born, according to the preponderance of authorities, in 1421; and therefore was about forty-four years of age when he accepted Lord Scales's challenge. It seems a little singular that the latter, who was then about twenty-four years old, should, for the chivalrous display of his valour and military skill, have challenged a man so much older than himself; but if the Bastard, as has been mentioned, had previously challenged him, that may be sufficient explanation. In 1453 he, with his father and other princes and nobles, made a vow to perform some feat of arms against the Turks, before whose victorious sultan Constantinople had recently fallen. This vow does not appear to have led to any results of the kind intended, and was probably in some way commuted. In 1456 he was created a knight of the Golden Fleece. At the instance of the pope, and perhaps in satisfaction of the vow just noticed, he in 1464 took the command of an expedition into Barbary, to fight against the Turks; and on that occasion his father is said to have invested him with the *Comté* of La Roche in Ardenne and several other seignories: he returned early in the ensuing year, little having been achieved beyond the relief of Ceuta. In 1468 he distinguished himself at a tournament given on the marriage of his brother, Duke Charles, with the Lady Margaret of England. He and his illegitimate brother Baldwin commanded the vanguard of the Burgundian army at the celebrated battle of Granson in 1476, where the Duke Charles, whose rash imprudence on that occasion he and others in vain endeavoured to moderate, was totally defeated by the Swiss, with the loss of his camp, rich in plate, jewels, and tapestries, as well as in the munitions of war. Shortly after at Morat, where the Duke was again completely defeated with the loss of his camp, the Bastard had the command of the left wing; and a few months after, at Nancy, whither the Swiss had marched to assist their ally King René, Duke of Lorraine, and where Charles not only was once more totally defeated, but lost his life, the command of the centre was committed to the Bastard; and both he and his brother Baldwin were taken prisoners. Louis XI. of France, who had been long hostile to Burgundy, and had assisted King René and the Swiss, requested to have Anthony sent to him; which was done, in spite of the prisoner's remonstrances and offer of a liberal ransom. Contrary to all expectation Louis received him honourably, treated him kindly, and even induced him to enter his service. The King of France having, on the death of

Duke Charles without male issue, taken possession of Burgundy as a lapsed fief, the Bastard seems to have been content to remain in France, though his son Philip was active in the service of his cousin Mary of Burgundy. Louis gave him the *Comtés* of Grandpré, Château-Thierry, Passavant, and Chatillon-sur-Marne. This donation, according to Père Anselme, was made in July, 1476; but that seems extremely improbable. Sainte Marthe ascribes it, as most likely was the fact, to August, 1478. After the death of Louis he continued to serve France under Charles VIII., who created him a Knight of the Order of St. Michael, and granted him letters of legitimation in 1485-6. He died, it should seem, in 1504, at the age of eighty-three, and was buried at Tournehem in Artois. He married Mary, daughter and heiress of Peter de la Vieville or Vieuville in 1459, by whom he left issue a son and two daughters; but there is some reason to think she was not his first wife, though of the name or parentage of his supposed former wife, or of the time of the marriage, nothing appears to be known.<sup>4</sup> In vol. x. p. 154 of this Journal we described a remarkably fine Admiralty seal of Maximilian of Burgundy. He was great grandson of this Anthony, as is indeed there mentioned; but this will more clearly appear from the following pedigree:—



Of the seal of Anthony, the Great Bastard of Burgundy, we have given two woodcuts of the matrix, as well as one of the impression. The matrix, as has been stated, is of silver-gilt; its form and general appearance will be best learned from the woodcuts. It is preserved in the public Library at Zürich, having been part of the spoils of the Burgundian camp at Granson, which were divided by the Swiss among the several Cantons. For pointing out this interesting relic, and for obtaining permission for drawings and an impression to be made of it, the Institute is indebted to the kindness of the principal librarian, Dr. Siegfried, and of the learned President of the Antiquaries of Zürich, Dr. Keller.

As will be seen on inspection of the woodcut of the impression, it is circular, and 2 inches in diameter. The arms are those of Duke Philip, his father, differenced by a mark of illegitimacy, viz., quarterly 1. and 4. Burgundy modern; 2. per pale old Burgundy and Brabant; 3. per pale old Burgundy and Limbourg; on an inescutcheon Flanders; with, over all, a bâton sinister (the *barre de travers* mentioned by de la Marche) for a difference. The shield is ensigned with a helmet in profile, whereon is a

<sup>4</sup> After this notice of Anthony, Bastard of Burgundy, was prepared, we were reminded of a biographical memoir of him

by Mr. Planché, in the *Archæologia*, xxvii. p. 428, where some other particulars of his life are mentioned.

torce, and for a crest an owl full faced; the supporters are two griffins; and the legend, which is on a scroll showing one end on each side of the crest, is, *S' anthoine bastart de bourgoingne conte de la roche*, the words being on every occasion separated by a fleur-de-lis (probably derived from the crest of his father) instead of the usual point or points, and a fleur-de-lis also appearing on one end of the scroll. Vredius, in his *Genealogia Comitum Flandrensiū*, fo. 126, has engraved another seal of this Anthony, differing materially from the present. There the arms of his father are placed (without any mark of difference) on a wide bend, the crest is a lion's head in profile between two wings issuing out of a coronet, the supporters are a lion and a griffin, and the legend is, *S' Anthoine bastart de burgudie seigneur de beuri & de choques*; there was probably a line, indicating a contraction, over the second u in *burgudie*, and another over the u in *seigneur*. "Beuri" is so unusual a form of Beveres, that we cannot help thinking the engraver must have misread as an *i* an ordinary contraction for *es*; and "choques" might be supposed to have been some misreading of *Roques*, but it may be Choques in Artois, near Bethune. The variations in the crest and supporters are remarkable. We have not been able to ascertain whence the owl was derived. It was afterwards borne by the son, grandson, great-grandson, and other descendants of this Anthony. His father's crest was a double fleur-de-lis. His (Anthony's) mother's name was Iola or Joanna de Preles, but we cannot connect the owl with her family. The owl may be of the kind called *oiseau duc*, though why so named is unknown to us.<sup>5</sup> The occasion of this change in his armorial bearings does not appear. He had an elder illegitimate brother named Cornelius, who was called the Bastard of Burgundy, and was a great favorite of the Duke, his father. He was killed at the battle of Rupelmonde in 1452; and afterwards, De la Marche informs us, this Anthony was no longer called "Messire Anthoine," but Bastard of Burgundy, as Cornelius had been. It is not improbable that he then discontinued the arms on the seal engraved by Vredius, and took those which are on the seal under notice; which, for aught that appears, may have been borne by Cornelius. Vredius does not state to what document the seal engraved by him was attached, nor the date of it; but he mentions a document with the seal of Anthony, and only one; and therefore it is not improbable that the engraving was taken from that, and the document is dated in October, 1446; which was in the lifetime of Cornelius. A younger illegitimate brother, viz., Baldwin, also bore the arms of the Duke, his father, on a very wide bend. They appear on his seal given by Vredius, which was probably the same that was attached to a document printed by him that is dated in 1483. This looks as if the arms previously borne by Anthony had passed to him. We may here add, as further illustrative of the heraldry of illegitimacy, that another brother, John, an ecclesiastic, bore the father's arms on a very wide fess; so wide as to leave only small portions of the field visible in chief and in base. An illegitimate great grandson of Anthony bore the arms of Duke Philip on a wide chevron. In this country we find, among the various modes in which bastards have borne their father's arms, some traces of a practice not

<sup>5</sup> According to Chifflet, as quoted by Mr. Planché, the *Oiseau duc* was the crest of the ancient Dukes of Burgundy. What work of Chifflet's contains this statement is not mentioned. We find the arms and

crest in his *Insignia Gentilitia Equitum Ordinis Velleris Aurei*, but not the statement referred to. Nor can we discover that those Dukes bore an owl for a crest.

very dissimilar to the examples above mentioned. The three illegitimate sons of John of Ghent, Duke of Lancaster, by Catherine Swinford, viz. John, Henry, and Thomas Beaufort, before their legitimation bore per pale *arg.* and *az.* on a bend Lancaster, i.e., England with a label of France; the coats of Henry and Thomas, the second and third sons, having been differenced respectively by a crescent and a mullet. After the act of legitimation in 20 Rich. II., they bore France and England quarterly within a bordure compony *arg.* and *az.*, the second and third sons having added appropriate differences. Sir Roger of Clarendon, a natural son of the Black Prince, bore *or* on a bend *sa.* 3 ostrich feathers the pen of each in a scroll *arg.* Charles Somerset, created Earl of Worcester in 1514, natural son of Henry Beaufort, third Duke of Somerset, who was executed in 1463, bore his father's coat with a baton sinister *arg.*; his eldest son, Henry, Earl of Worcester, discarded the baton, and bore the Beaufort arms on a wide fess. Other examples might easily be adduced to show, if that were our object, how far from uniform was the usage as regards the manner in which illegitimate sons bore their fathers' arms in mediæval times.

In the *Tresor de Numismatique*, *Sceaux des Grands Feudataires*, pl. xvi, there is an engraving, on a slightly reduced scale, of an impression of the above described seal of the Great Bastard of Burgundy.

2. SEAL of PETER DE LEKEBURNE, a personal Seal with heraldry, and the counterseal with a device. This seal, for which we are indebted to Mr. Evelyn P. Shirley, M.P., has been preserved among the muniments of Lord Willoughby de Broke, at Compton Verney, in Warwickshire. The impression, on green wax, is appended to the following document, without date, which may be assigned to the thirteenth century. It relates, as Mr. Shirley stated, to Ropsley in Lincolnshire, part of the old Willoughby possessions, and is a grant by Peter de Lekeburne to Peter de Goudinctone, of all his wood, called "Lund de Ropelley," with the ditches by which it was enclosed, also of all the land and the "Laundis," or untilled open spaces in a woodland locality.<sup>6</sup> We give this document *in extenso*.

"Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego, Petrus de Lekeburne, dedi et concessi, et hac mea presente carta confirmavi et quietum clamavi Petro de Goudinctone et heredibus suis, sive suis assignatis, totum boscum meum, cum fossatis quibus includitur, qui vocatur Lund de Ropelley, cum tota terra et omnibus Laundis infra fossata dicti Lundi inclusis, sine aliquo retenemento, pro quatuor viginti et decem libris esterlingorum quas predictus Petrus de Goudinctone michi dedit pre manibus; tenendum et habendum sibi et heredibus suis, sive suis assignatis, libere, quiete, et hereditarie, sine aliqua calumpnia mei vel heredum meorum. Et ego, Petrus de Lekeburne et heredes mei predicto Petro de Goudinctone et heredibus suis, vel suis assignatis, dictum boscum qui dicitur Lund', cum tota terra et omnibus Laundis infra fossatum dicti Lundi inclusis, simul cum dictis fossatis, contra omnes warantzabimus, et de omnibus secularibus demandis adquietabimus et defendemus. Hiis testibus, domino Johanne Guboud de Repinchale,<sup>7</sup> Domino Johanne filio Hugonis de eadem villa, Ricardo de Sohneham de eadem, Nicholas de Balinburc, Wyhoto Guboud,

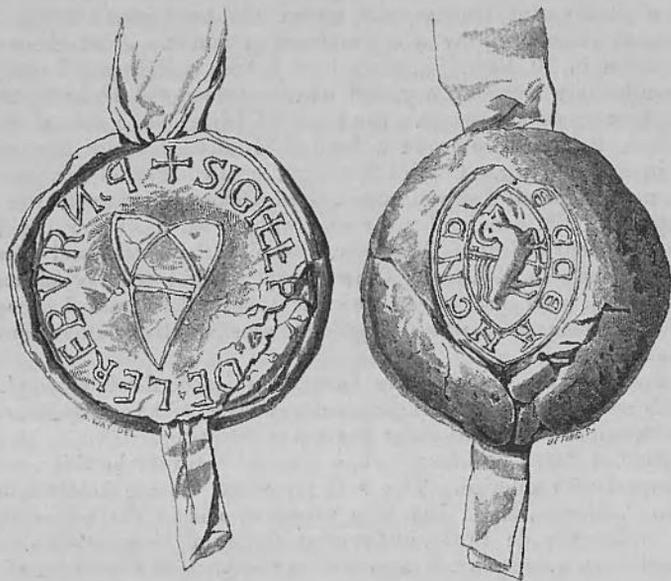
Lawnde of a wode, *Salvus*, lawnde kepare, *Salator*." Prompt. Parv. "Lande, a land or laund, a wild untilled shrubbie, or bushie plaine," Cotgrave. The word

is used by Chaucer, and also by Shakespeare: "Through the laund anon the deer will come," Henry V. part iii.

<sup>7</sup> Sir John Gobaud occurs in the Roll

Galfrido et Roberto fratribus suis, Willelmo le Bretun, Willelmo de Linc' clerico, et multis aliis."

(Endorsed in a later hand, "Lynd de Ropley.")



The seal of Peter de Lekeburne, as will be seen by the woodcut, is of circular form and very rude execution; the work is in extremely low relief; the impression has the appearance of having been produced by a matrix of lead, such as was very commonly used in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries by persons in the middle and lower ranks of society. It bears a device, doubtless intended to represent an heraldic escutcheon, very unskillfully designed and of irregular shape; the charge being, as may be conjectured, a fess with a chevron in chief. The legend reads as follows: + SIGILL' P[ETRI] DE LEKEBVRNE.; the last letter of the name is imperfect, but it was probably an E. The counterseal, of pointed-oval form, is of rather better execution; the device is the Holy Lamb with the legend, ECCE ANGN' D[E]I.

We have been unable to identify satisfactorily either the grantor, or the precise locality to which this document relates; Ropsley, a parish in Lincolnshire, in a woodland district, is situate about five miles east of Grantham. A few miles to the south, near Burton Coggles, there is found a wood called Lawn Wood, which, however, seems too remote to be the Lund named in the grant of Peter de Lekeburne. The fact, that the three principal witnesses are described as of Ripingale, a parish distant about seven miles from Ropsley, to the north of Bourne, may serve to corroborate the conclusion, that the wood known as "Lund de Ropley," was in that sylvan district of Lincolnshire. We are, moreover, informed by

of Arms, *t.* Edw. II., in the county of Lincoln. The name likewise occurs in the Roll *t.* Edw. III.

Lord Monson, whose extensive knowledge of family history and descent of property in his county has on a former occasion been kindly made available for the gratification of the Institute, that in a MS. note-book of Bishop Saunderson's he had noticed, under Ropsley, references to certain deeds showing that Peter de Lekeburne held land in that parish in 19 and 24 Edw. I.; and that in 5 Edw. III., a Peter de Lekeburne again occurs, having rights of warren in Ropsley. The family may probably have derived their name from the parish now called Legbourn, near Louth, in the north-eastern parts of Lincolnshire, with which, as Lord Monson has pointed out, Peter de Lekeburne is found to have been connected, as appears in an Inquis. post Mortem, 25 Edw. I. He held of Edmund, Earl of Lancaster, three fees, with the manor and advowson of Raithby, in the neighbourhood of Louth, and lands in Halington, Tathwell, Maltby, &c., as also in Somercotes, Sutton, and Saltfleetby, a few miles distant, near the coast.<sup>8</sup> A Peter de Lekeburne was one of the bail for William de Luda, Bishop of Ely, in 21 Edw. I.<sup>9</sup> In the Hundred Rolls Peter de Lekeburne appears as mesne lord, under Sir Robert de Ros, of lands in Repinghall (Repingale before mentioned, near Bourne), and Repingdon, in the Wapentake of Avelund in Kesteven. Lord Monson states that he possesses no pedigree of the family amongst his collections, and that he had sought in vain for any notice of the Lekeburnes or their arms in Gervase Hollis' Collections.

In addition to these brief notices, we may observe that it appears that Joan, who was the wife of a Peter de Lekeburn, gave half a mark for a writ into Lincolnshire in 31 Hen. III.; also in 35 Hen. III., Peter, son of Walter de Lekeburne and Alice his wife, had a writ of trespass into Lincolnshire.<sup>1</sup>

The Lekeburne family bore a chevron with some difference, such as crosses or cross-crosslets. We find in the Roll *t.* Edw. II., under Lincolnshire, "Sire Henri de Lekebourne, de argent, crusule de sable, a un cheveron de sable," and in the Roll *t.* Edw. III., "Monsire de Lekeborne, argent, une cheveron entre crusule sable." Peter, grantor of the "Lund de Ropelley," may have been a cadet, and have differenced his coat by enhancing the chevron, with the addition of a fess, as seen upon the rudely designed escutcheon on the seal figured above.

Mr. Shirley, to whose kindness the Institute is indebted for the accompanying woodcuts, brought this seal under our notice as an uncommon example of the use of a counterseal and device of sacred character in seals of this class and period. The pointed-oval form, moreover, accompanied by the sacred device of the Lamb, had been regarded as more properly suitable to the seal of an ecclesiastic. We have stated on former occasions, that the supposed rule, which would limit the use of that form in personal seals to those of ladies or of ecclesiastics, rests on no sufficient authority: in the present instance, however, it may not be undeserving of consideration whether Peter de Lekeburne may not have borrowed as a *secretum* the seal of William de Lincoln, *clericus*, by whose hand in all probability the grant which we have here printed had been written; it may moreover have been added to aid the authentication of that of William de Lekeburne.

WESTON S. WALFORD AND ALBERT WAY.

<sup>8</sup> Inqu. p.m. vol. i. p. 143.

<sup>9</sup> Rot. Parl. vol. i. p. 112.

<sup>1</sup> Robert's Excerpta e Rot. Finium. vol. ii. pp. 21, 117.