SOME BRITISH MEDIEVAL SEAL-MATRICES

By PHILIP NELSON

I do not propose in this paper to discuss the origin and uses of seals, since I presume that these are matters with which my readers are already sufficiently familiar; it is the intention merely to describe the various matrices in my possession, arranged in groups, in their chronological order.

The collection, which contains one hundred examples, has been formed during the course of the past few years and is notable for the number of gemmounted matrices of the thirteenth century, several of

which have not hitherto been placed on record.

These silver seals are set, save in one case, with classical intaglios dating from Roman times, the single exception being that engraved on blue glass, with an 'Agnus Dei,' a work contemporary with the mount. This class of gem-mounted seal appears to have been very popular with high ecclesiastics from 1170–1300, but seems to have been much less frequently employed by the laity.

At the same time the poorer class of the populace were using leaden matrices, for even those relatively poor required seals for the purpose of effecting the

sale or transfer of real estate.

Various heraldic and official matrices will be noticed, of the former, those of Simon de Craie and Margaret Gyfford and of the latter, those of Chaucumbe Priory, Berden Priory, Canterbury (Sede vacante), Bootham Hospital and the Grey-friars of Dunwich, are the more important, whilst the Sheriff's seals of Giffard and Harcourt are examples of a type of which but few now remain.

Seal-engraving in England reached its greatest excellence about the end of the thirteenth century, and was always artistically on a much higher plane than the contemporary art as practised on the

Continent.

In reviewing the various examples which constitute this collection, we will first consider the early group of pewter matrices, passing on to the important series of gem-mounted seals of the thirteenth century. We will then describe the more numerous seals of bronze or silver, which date from A.D. 1200–1500. In conclusion we will mention an Irish and a Scottish seal.

Inscriptions 1-82 are in Lombardic capitals: the

remainder, 83–100, except 99, are in black-letter.

PEWTER MATRICES

William de la More, c. 1200, from Bury St. Edmund's, 1867 (Evans Coll.).
 Pewter; circular, diam. 40 mm., loop handle missing.
 A lion walking to the right.

* SIGILL' WILLI DE LA MORE.

2. William son of John, c. 1200, found at Bury St. Edmund's (Evans Coll.). Pewter; circular, diam. 35 mm., loop handle missing.

A lion walking to the right. ** SIGILL' WILELMI FIL IONIS.

Robert Cappe, c. 1200, from Dunwich (Hankinson Coll.).
 Pewter; circular, diam. 31 mm., loop and scrollwork in relief on the back.
 A fleur-de-lys.

* SIGILL' · ROBERTI CAPPE.

4. William son of Ralph, c. 1220. Pewter; circular, diam. 32 mm., loop at top lost. A fleur-de-lys.

¥ SIGILL' WILLMI FILII RADVLFI BOLT.

5. Sema son of William, c. 1220, from Fornham, Suffolk, 1863 (Evans Coll.).

Pewter; circular, diam. 35 mm., with loop at the top.

A fleur-de-lys.

* s' sema [fi]L WILELMI.

6. Simon son of Robert, c. 1230 (Warren and Evans Colls.).

Pewter; circular, diam. 33 mm., loop at the top lost.

A fleur-de-lys.

¥ SIGILL': SIMONIS: FILI: ROBERTI.

7. Godfrey son of Peter, c. 1230 (Dimsdale Coll.). Pewter; circular, diam. 37 mm., loop at the top. A lion walking to the right.

sigillm godefridi filii petri. Pl. i, 1.

8. Alan the fuller, c. 1230, from Icklingham (Gwilt Coll.).

Pewter; circular, diam. 33 mm., loop at the top.
An eagle to right, head retroverted. Pl. i, 4.

SIGILL' ALANI FVLONIS.

9. William the Shepherd of Battesford, c. 1240, found at Icklingham (Gwilt Coll.). Pewter; circular, diam. 31 mm., loop and knob on the back. A cross, with small saltire in the centre, a molet in each angle.

* s'wilelmi . b'cari . d' bat. Pl. i, 5.

10. Robert, the Clerk of Debach, c. 1250, found near Woodbridge, 1870 (Baker and Evans Colls.). Pewter; circular, diam. 32 mm., with flat handle at back. A fleur-de-lys.

*s' rob'i cleri d debach. Pl. i. 3.

- II. Ralpn, c. 1250, from Wallingford (Relph Coll.).

 Pewter; pointed oval, 28×18 mm., handle a pierced loop at the base of a leaf. A fleur-de-lys.

 ⊀ SIGILLVM RADVIFI.
- 12. William Nelehom, c. 1250, from Winchester (Relph Coll.).
 Pewter; pointed shield, 30×23 mm., handle, a knob at the base of a fleur-de-lys.
 A lion's jambe.

₩ s' WILLM NELEHOM.

13. John son of Richard, c. 1250, from Ixworth, 1862 (Warren and Evans Colls.).Pewter; circular, diam. 26 mm., with loop handle at back.

A cross in front of a thin cross-crosslet.

♣ s': iohis: f': RICARD'.

- 14. Thomas Segevaus, c. 1250, from Ipswich, 1929.
 Pewter; circular, diam. 40 mm., with flat loop handle at back.
 A sex-foil with dots between the petals.
- Segevaus may be translated Sedge-valley, spear-valley or valley of victory. Pl. i, 2.
- 15. Matilda the widow, c. 1250, from London (Relph Coll.).
 Pewter; circular, diam., 28 mm., rat-tailed loop handle.
 A quatrefoil within a circle.
- *S' MATILDIS VIDVE:
- 16. Warin of Cr—, c. 1250, from Bury St. Edmund's (Warren and Evans Colls.).
 Pewter; circular, diam. 25 mm., with loop at back.
 An eight-leaved flower.

★ S': WARINO DE CR'.

17. Stephen Polves, c. 1250, from Toddington (Relph Coll.).
Pewter; circular, diam. 25 mm., handle, a pierced loop at the base of a fleur-de-lys.
A star.

★ S' STEPHI . POLVES.

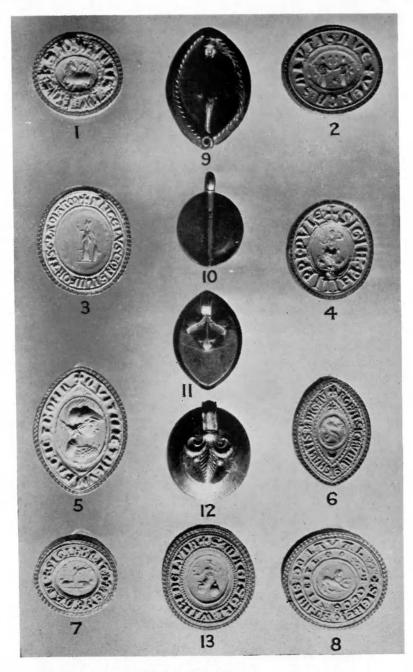
18. Peter Dine, c. 1250 (Evans Coll.).
Pewter; circular, diam. 25 mm., the back decorated with a cross in relief, with two pellets in the angles, a small projecting handle at the top.
A quatrefoil, having a pellet between each leaf.

** S' PETRI : DIME.

The Dine family held lands in Oxfordshire during the thirteenth century.



ENGLISH MEDIEVAL SEALS



ENGLISH GEM-MOUNTED SEALS

19. Alan son of Warin, c. 1250, from Bury St. Edmund's (Warren and Evans Colls.). Pewter; circular, diam. 33 mm., with loop at the back, which has raised lines round the circumference.

A cross with scrolls between the limbs.

* S' ALANI · FL · WARINI—.

20. Matilda Pecock, c. 1260, from Toddington (Relph Coll.). Pewter; pointed oval, 30×21, mm., handle, rattailed pierced loop.

A long leafy-cross, with pellets in the angles.

S' MATILD PECOCK.

21. Alicia Jernihas, c. 1260, from Bury St. Edmund's, 1872 (Evans Coll.). Pewter; pointed oval, 38×24 mm., with small pointed handle at top of back, upon which within a raised oval is an open fleur-de-lys.

A long leafy cross with three pellets in the angles.

*S' ALISCIE . IERHIHAS Pl. i, 7.

22. Edward on Alg, c. 1270, from London (Relph Coll.). Pewter; circular, diam. 28 mm., handle a pierced loop on the back. A cross-fleury, within a quatrefoil, a pellet in each tressure.

S. ADWARDI FACANTA ON ALG.

The use of ON for DE, as we find on the early silver pennies, is a very unusual feature on seals.

GEM-MOUNTED MATRICES

23. John du Bois, c. 1200 (Manning, Evans and Oates Colls.). Silver; oval, 20 × 18 mm., loop handle with trefoil end. Set with a blue paste engraved with the Agnus Dei.

s' iohannis: dv: bois. Pl. ii, i.

24. Unknown, c. 1210, found at Barham Down, Kent, 1838 (Warren and Evans Colls.). Silver; oval, 26×22 mm., with a blunt rat-tailed loop handle on the back. Set with a classical gem, a sard, engraved with a standing figure of Minerva.

ANGELVS CONSILII FORTIS GLADIATOR.

John assembled his army at Barham Down in 1213 to repel the invasion of the Dauphin. Pl. ii, 3.

25. Philip Pule, c. 1218, found in North Cheshire, 1850 (Mayer and Evans Colls.).
Silver; oval, 24×20 mm., rat-tailed loop handle on back. Set with a classical gem, a carnelian, engraved with a seated figure of Cybele, with two lions at her feet.

** SIGILL · PHILIPPI · PVLE ·
The H resembles that on the first great seal of Henry III, 1218.
The Poole family resided at Poole in Wirral, Cheshire. Pl. ii, 4.

26. Unknown, c. 1220, found at Fordingbridge, c. 1850 (Rawlence, Evans and Oates Colls.).

Silver; oval, 23×20 mm., loop handle on back.

Set with a classical gem, a cornelian engraved with two figures bearing cornucopiæ, above whom are two heads vis-a-vis and below a bird.

★ verba: salvtis: ave. Pl. ii, 2.

27. Unknown, c. 1220, found Walbroke, London, 1820 (Gough and Dimsdale Colls.).
Silver-gilt; pointed oval, 32×22 mm. The handle is formed by an extended wyvern on the back within a cabled border. Set with a classical gem, a black jasper, engraved with a head of Minerva.

Above and beneath the gem are a star and a crescent. Pl. ii, 5 and 9.

¹ Ecclesiasticus xv, 1. Part of a owner was an ecclesiastic named chapter in the Office of St. John the Divine. It is possible the original

28. Robert, c. 1240, found at Diss, 1850 (Manning and Evans Colls.).

Silver; pointed oval 26×19 mm., with a loop handle on the back, terminating in three stiff trefoil leaves. Set with a classical gem, an amethyst, engraved with a sea-horse.

 \bigstar ROB'TI-SIGN ∇ : NIL: SIGNAUTIS: \mathbf{u} : DIGNV ∇ .

= Roberti signum nil signantis nisi dignum. A happy example of a Leonine hexameter. Pl. ii, 6 and II.

29. Richard de Meopham, c. 1240, found at Richborough, 1893 (Evans and Oates Colls.). Silver; oval, 20×17 mm., a loop at the top of the seal prolonged down the back as a rat-tail. Set with a classical gem, a plasma, engraved with two cocks fighting, above is a cupid bearing a wreath and behind is a meta. ¹

★ SIGILL . RIC . D'MEPEHAM. Pl. ii, 7 and 10.

Richard de Mepeham was born at Meopham, in Kent, early in the thirteenth century and it is probable that his first preferment was the Rectorship of Boughton-under-Blean, near Canterbury. Richard was evidently a keen partisan of the Baronial party, since in 1263, in company with Simon de Montford, earl of Leicester and John de Cheiham, bishop of Glasgow, he was deputed to attend the Parliament of Paris, on their behalf.

1263. 'Barones igitur Angliæ, habito consilio miserunt ad parliamentum Franciæ pro baronibus dominum Simonem comitem Leycestriæ et magistrum Johannem de Cheiham episcopum Glasconiensem et magistrum Ricardum de Mepham archidiaconum Oxoniensis, qui, in prædicto parliamento comparentes pro baronibus Angliæ (dicebant) in curia regis Franciæ non debere de factis suis respondere, sed in curia regis Angliæ per pares suos et fideles juratos debere judicari; quod eis ad ultimum fuit consessum.'—Chronicon Dover. f. 28–29.

From the above reference it will be noted that he had, in 1263, become archdeacon of Oxford.

¹ A similar scene in mosaic occurs at Pompei.

In 1272, on September 8th, Richard de Mepeham is named in connection with some land in the city of Oxford, for on that date, 'the Grey-friars obtained a plot of land adjoining to their house of Mr. Richard de Mepham.' Rotuli generalis inquisitionis comitatus

et villæ Oxon, captæ 6 et 7 Edward I (1278.).

Subsequent to the overthrow of the Montfords, at Evesham, Richard's fortunes probably suffered an eclipse, since it was not until 1273, after the death of Henry III, that he became Prebendary of Thame and Dean of Lincoln. 'Eodem anno (1272) circa Nativitatem beatæ Mariæ, obiit Willelmus de Lexinton decanus Lincolniæ; cui successit magister Ricardus de Mapham archidiaconus Oxoniæ, virconsilii et magnæ literaturæ.' In 1274 was held, May-July, the second General Council of Lyons, to which went Richard de Mepeham.

'Master Richard de Mepham, dean of Lincoln, has given like power to Robert de Gravesende until Michaelmas next (to make attorneys in his place).'

'Master Richard de Mepham, dean of Lincoln, has given like power to Thomas de Ayneus and Robert de Gravesende, until the said feast (to make attorneys in his place, as he was going to the Council of Lyons).'3

The Pope, Gregory X, desired for the purposes of the Crusade, a Grant of a tenth from all the benefices of Christendom, for the period of six years and against this proposal Richard de Mepham, almost alone, had the courage to protest and to suffer as a consequence thereof.

'Inter cæteros vero qui contradicere proposuerant erat ille magnus philosophus magister Ricardus de Mapham decanus Lincolniensis; hic papæ tradidit schedulam excusatoriam oppressiones Anglicanæ ecclesiæ continentes tum propter guerram longuinquam inter regem et subditos diu agitata duraverat, tum propter solutionem decimæ per papam regi concessæ per sex annos, dicendo in tantum oppressam quod vix adjicare posset ut resurgeret.'

In consequence of which refusal, the Pope, 'privadit

¹ Wood's City of Oxford, p. 352.

² Osney. Tib.: A.9. folio 76a. m. ii. d. (1274).

Chronicon Thomæ Wykes.

eum omni beneficio ecclesiastico et erat privatus tribus diebus et tribus noctibus.'

The place where Richard de Mepham died is not certainly known, but since his secretum was found at Richborough, it probably occurred there, the body being removed to Boughton-under-Blean for burial. The year of his death was certainly 1274 and the day and month probably October 11th, whilst his burial was November 7th.

In the Rolls of VE(nit) and RE(cessit) of Lincoln Cathedral, under the year 1278 we find the Obit of Richard given as October 11th, whilst in that of the year 1471, November 7th, is recorded, these being almost certainly the respective days of his death and burial.

On September 12th, 1275, Thomas de Cantelupe, Bishop of Hereford, the Baronial Chancellor of 1265, who escaping to Paris, had abandoned Politics for Theology, granted the following Indulgence to all such as should visit the tomb of his friend Richard de

Mepham at Boughton-under-Blean.

'Inducencia. Omnibus Christi fidelibus ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, Thomas, etc., salutem, etc. Cum sit sancta ac salubris cogitacio preces fundare pro defunctis ut a peccatorum suorum nexibus mereantur absolvi, nos, de Omnipotentis Dei misericordia, gloriose Virginis Marie genetricis ejus, Beati Ethelberti Martiris et omnium Sanctorum meritis confidentes, omnibus parochianis nostris, et aliis quorum Diocesani hanc nostram Indulgenciam ratam habuerint, vere penetentibus, contritis et confessis, qui ecclesiam Beati Petri de Boctona-Archiepiscopi visitaverint et pro anima pie memorie Ricardi de Mapaham, quondam Rectoris ejusdem ecclesie, cujus corpus in ipsa ecclesia requiscit. . . . '

'Datum apud Boctona, ij Idus Septembris, anno Domini M°C°C septuagesimo quinto, Pontificatus

nostri primo.' (12.9.1275).2

It would appear that Richard de Mepham must

¹ Chronicle of Walter de Hemingborough, 1274. English Historical Society, col. 3, pp. 2-4.

² Reg. Thome de Cantelupo, Episcopi Herefordensis, Sep. 12, 1275.

have given or bequeathed property for the benefit of the residents of Boughton-under-Blean, since we find, 'Certain lands are vested in feofees, who distribute the rents to the poor of Boughton-under-Blean, who were directed, 'To pray for the souls of Master Richard de Meopham . . . and for all Christian souls.' 1

30. William of Louth, c. 1258.

Silver; oval, 24×22 mm., with a loop handle at the top, terminating in an elaborate fleur-de-lys on the back. Set with a classical gem, a sard, engraved with a seated figure of Fortune, supporting on her right hand a Victory and in her

left a spear. Beside her is a shield.

🖈 s' . magistri : willi : delvda. Pl. ii, 12 and 13.

William de Luda must have been born in Louth, Lincs., circa 1230 and it is probable from his kinsman and heir, being one William Tochet,² that his family

name was Tochet.

He began his court life as a Wardrobe-clerk, prior to 1274, in which year, in October, he became Cofferer, under Thomas Bek, which position he retained until November, 1280. In that month he was advanced to the post of Keeper, and acted in that capacity until

1200.

At an early age, though but a sub-deacon, he in 1250, was installed as Prebendary of Norton-Episcopi, Lincoln, and before 1271 as Prebendary of Neasdon, London, and was also Prebendary of Ampleforth, York. In the year 1284 he became Archdeacon of Durham, having in the preceding year, 1283, been appointed Dean of St. Martins le Grand, and these various dignities he retained until his elevation to the See of Ely in 1290.

His activities in the service of his master, Edward I, probably began prior to 1274, in which year he is

¹ Hastead, *History of Kent*.

² '... from William de Luda the manor (of Great Cotes) descended to one William, son of Nicholas Tochet, as kinsman and heir of the said

William de Luda.' De Banco Roll 348, Mich. 20 Ed. III, m. 277.

3' A corporation of officials rather than a religious house."—V. C. H. London, i, p. 599.

referred to as 'Thesaurius camere regis.' William de Luda accounted, as locum tenens, for Thomas Bek, during the period 1274–1280, 'quod idem magister Willelmus de Luda fuit coffrarius ipsius magistri Thome Beke per totum tempus quo idem Thomas fuit custos garderobe regis.' 2

In 1279 William of Louth founded the Bastide of Rhuddlan and we note the following reference in regard to his activities between March 22nd, 1282 and

November 20th, 1284.

'Compotus W. de Luda de receptis et misis in expeditione ejusdem regis in partibus Walliæ super

Lewelinum filium Griffini.'3

During William de Luda's Keepership of the Wardrobe the average income amounted to £44,745 per annum, and he was responsible for the loans effected with the Italian bankers, notably with the Riccardi of Lucca. We find in regard to this the following:—'Per manus magistri Willielmi de Luda, custodis gardrobæ nostræ, ad expensas nostras inde faciendas.' ⁴

From May, 1286-August, 1289, William of Louth was absent from England with Edward I and in the former year founded the Bastide of Cassac near Medoc. Whilst he was in France, we note the following passage in reference to him. 'Pro expensis magistri W: de Luda, thesaurarii gardrobæ, et quorundam aliorum de curia, morancium Burdigale circa necessaria domini regis ibidem facienda, et ad audiendum, compotum constabularii Burdigale, per xxviij dies, xxli. iijs, iiijd, ster.' ⁵

On his return to England in 1289 he was deputed, in association with Chancellor Burnell, William de March and others as, 'auditores querelarum' to review the conduct of the King's officials during his

absence in France.

The following extract no doubt refers to the identical matrix illustrated, Pl. ii, no. 12. 'Magister

¹ Bartholomew Cotton (R.S.), ⁴ R.G. ii, p. 336.

p. 176.

² Pipe 7. Ed. I, no. 123, m. 30.

³ Pipe 19, Ed. I, no. 136, m. 31.

⁵ Misc. Book of Excll. T. of R., vol. 201, p. 15.

Willielmus de Luda, custos gardrobæ nostræ, vobis

mittet sub sigillo suo . . . '1

In 1290 William de Luda was on May 12th elected Bishop of Ely, in which month he was ordained as deacon and on September 13th he was raised to the priesthood by John Peckham, Archbishop of Canterbury. On October 1st he was consecrated as Bishop of Ely in St. Mary's Church, and on the same day was enthroned in the Cathedral, the archbishop being assisted by seven bishops.

In 1294, the University of Cambridge submitted the dispute between Henry de Boyton, the Chancellor of the University and his adherents, and the Masters Regent in Theology, regarding the Statutes of the

University, to the judgment of the Bishop.

In 1296, de Luda acted as a Commissioner for Edward I under the mediation of the Pope, in order to arrange terms for the truce between England and France. He was accompanied by Sir Roger de Pilkyngton, who had letters of Protection 'on going beyond the seas' upon the king's service.²

He was described by the Continuator of the Chronicle of Thomas Wikes as, 'Vir magnificus et eminentis scientiæ.' He died March 27th, 1298, and was buried in Ely Cathedral, where his canopied tomb, a work of the Westminster School, though mutilated,

still survives.

31. John de la Val, c. 1275, found in St. Alban's, 1830 (Evans Coll.).

Silver; oval, 25×23 mm., with a rat-tailed loop handle on the back. Set with a classical gem, a red jasper, engraved with a lion, a bull's head between its fore-paws.

ECCE: VICIT LEO:

In two lines are:—

SIGILL IOHANNIS: DE: LAVAL. Pl. ii, 8.
A very similar gem, in a silver setting, was found,

¹ De pecunia nuncio Regis Norwegiæ liberanda xxvi, vi, 1286. p. 177. Rymer Fædera i, pt. 2, p. 667, ed. 1816.

circa 1840, at Luddesdown, Kent, which was inscribed:—

SVM LEO QVOVIS EO NON NISI VERA VEO. Collectanea Antiqua, iv, p. 73.

MATRICES OF SILVER OR BRONZE

32. Augustinian Canons of Chalcombe, Northants, c. 1200 (Tyssen Collection).

Bronze; pointed oval, 70×42 mm., folding handle

on back of later date.

Standing on a cloud vis-a-vis are St. Paul and St. Peter, who hold in their respective right hands, a sword and a key. Above them in a cloud is 'The Dextra Dei,' and kneeling below is a monk.

SIGILL · APOSTOLORV · PETRI · ET · PAVLI · DE ·

Chavcymba. Pl. i, 11.

Vide Proceedings S.A., 2nd Series, vol. viii, p. 37. A fragment of this seal is attached to the deed of

the surrender.

It is probable that this Priory was founded, circa A.D. 1180, by Hugh de Chacombe, its Charter was witnessed by Walkelin, Abbot of St. James, Northampton, and Alexander, Prior of Canons Ashby.

33. Unknown ecclesiastic's seal, c. 1200, found at Icklingham (Gwilt Coll.).

Bronze; pointed oval, 40 × 25 mm., with rat-tailed

loop at the back.

Seated figure of the Blessed Virgin and Child, both crowned, between crescent and star. Beneath, kneeling to the right under a cusped arch, is an ecclesiastic.

CONCIPIENS CLAVE VI'GO VENERABIL' AV'=Concipiens clave Virgo venerabilis ave. Pl. i, 8.

34. Unknown ecclesiastic's seal, c. 1200.
Bronze; pointed oval, 40×22 mm., a loop upon the upper edge. A demi-figure of the Blessed Virgin and Child, beneath is a kneeling ecclesiastic, under a triple canopy; over his head is AVE MI.

FRANGE LEGE TECTATE.

35. Unknown ecclesiastic's seal, c. 1220, from Ipswich. Bronze; pointed oval, 45×27 mm., rat-tailed loop at the back.

An ecclesiastic standing on a leafy bracket, in chasuble and albe, giving the benediction, holding a scroll, inscribed PAX. VOBIS. Pl. i, 10.

NOLO: NIMIS: QVERI: CRAS ERO: CVIVS: hERI:

36. John of Winchester, c. 1210 (Pavyer Coll.). Bronze; circular, diam. 23 mm., with rat-tailed loop handle at back. A game-cock

**S'IOHANIS: DE WINCHESTR.

It is interesting to note that a John was a moneyer at Winchester of the short-cross penny Type V^B 1205-1210. Pl. i, 9. It is possible that he was the

owner of this seal.

37. Jordan, a monk of Spalding, c. 1210, found at Dover, 1902 (Boynton Coll.).

Bronze; circular, diam. 32 mm., flat back, a loop upon the upper edge.

Seated figure of the Blessed Virgin, who holds the Child upon her left knee. At her feet, on the left, kneels Jordan in a monastic habit.

₩ S IORDANIS MOACHI SPALDINGIE. Pl. i, 6.

38. Robert, Rector of Ridlington, near Uppingham, 1217.

Bronze; oval, 25×10 mm., rat-tailed loop handle. An ecclesiastic, vested in chasuble and albe, consecrating the chalice, which stands on an altar of masonry.

** s' ROB'TI CAPELL' DE WRIDLINGTON.
Robert de Brachele was instituted Rector of Ridlington, 1217 and was succeeded in the following year by William de Muton.

39. Richard de la Bere, c. 1230.
Silver; circular, diam. 22 mm., with rat-tailed loop handle at back.
St. John Baptist, in camel's skin, holding the nimbed Agnus Dei with Resurrection Cross.

¹ Notes and Queries.

- Ys': RICARDI: DE · LA · BERE:
 The family of de la Bere resided near Cheltenham.
- 40. The first seal of Berden Priory, Essex, c. 1230 (Evans Coll. from Braughing, 1894).

 Bronze; circular, diam. 35 mm., with rat-tailed loop handle at back.

 An eagle with spread wings, looking to the right, standing on an uninscribed scroll.
- **S'COMVN CANONICOR' DE BEREDENE. Pl. iii, 3.

 This Priory was founded by Henry III, circa 1230, and was dedicated to St. John the Divine. It was served by Augustinian Canons.

 See Pro. Soc. Ant., 2nd series, vol. xv, 1895, p. 278.
- 41. Peter the shearman, c. 1230, found at Canterbury (Pavyer Coll.).

 Bronze; circular, diam. 25 mm., a loop at the back.
 A pair of blunt-ended shears.
- S' PIERRES LE TONDOVR.
- 42. John de L'Isle, c. 1230 (Dimsdale and Pavyer Colls.).

 Bronze; circular, diam. 31 mm., with rat-tailed loop handle at back.

 A hand holding a sword erect between two castles, that on the right displays a banner.
- *s' iohanis de insvla filii tome.*
- 43. Unknown, c. 1325.

 Bronze; circular, diam. 21 mm., six-sided conical handle, with pierced trefoil top, height 34 mm. St. Mary Magdalene holding 'a pot of ointment,' standing between leaf-work.
- SE MARIE MAGDALENA
- 44. Peter the bit-maker, c. 1235.
 Bronze; circular, diam. 30 mm., rat-tailed loop at the top.
 A shield bearing a mill-rind.
 S'PIERRE LE LORREMER DE SENLI.
- 45. Unknown, c. 1240, from Nottingham, 1928. Bronze; pointed oval, 30×19 mm., with flat ridged loop handle at back.

The Agnus Dei with Resurrection banner. ECCE AGNES DEI.

46. Nicholas, parson of Waddesdon, Bucks, 1243. found at Frindsbury, Kent, 1862 (Wickham and Evans Colls.)

Bronze; pointed oval, 34×20 mm., with rattailed loop handle at back. A half-figure of the Blessed Virgin with The Child, beneath Whom kneels Nicholas between the sun-star and crescent.

NICOLAI PSONE DE WOTESDOME::. Pl. iii, 2.
Nicholas became Rector of Waddesdon in 1243,
being given the benefice by Mary de Courtney,
and was succeeded by Alan Mainet.

47. Unknown ecclesiastic, c. 1250, found at Dunstable, 1881 (W. G. Smith, Evans and Oates Colls.). Bronze; pointed oval, 32×21 mm., rat-tailed loop handle on the back. St. Catherine kneeling, around whom are the flying fragments of the wheels; in front are the heads of two onlookers and beneath, under an arch, the owner of the seal, his hands joined in prayer.

* SCRIPTA · LEGE TEGENDA TEGE. Arch. Ass. xxxvii, p. 212.

48. Unknown ecclesiastic, c. 1260, found at Wilton, 1890 (Swayne Coll.).

Bronze; pointed oval, 37×24 mm., rat-tailed loop handle on the back.

Christ rising from the tomb, holding in His left hand the Resurrection cross, whilst with His right He gives His Benediction. To His left and right are the crescent moon and two stars, whilst beneath under a triple arch is a sleeping figure clad in mail, holding a sword point downwards.

★ SVRREXIT · DNS · DE SEPVLCRO:

49. Constantine of Acle, c. 1260, found at Bearsted, near Maidstone (Brewer Coll.).

Bronze; circular, diam. 29 mm., short rat-tail on back, with small loop.

Beneath an elaborate canopy is seated Constantine, who supports his chin on his right hand, before whom, on the ground, is seated a young man, who holds in his right hand a roll to which he points with his left. On either side of the canopy is fine scroll work.

SIGILLYM COSTEIITINI DACCLE. Pl. iii, 5.

50. Bronze; 1 c. 1260 (Evans Coll.).
Pointed oval, 32×29 mm., flat back with small loop.

A pelican in its Piety, nest on triple leafy stems.

* SVM PELICANO DEI.

The inscription is derived from Psalm CI (Vulgate), 'Similis factus-sum pelicano solitudinis.'

51. William de la Lie, c. 1260, found at Cambridge, 1890 (Blair Coll.).

Bronze; pointed oval, 30×14 mm., rat-tailed loop handle on the back.

William, half-length, bearing a verge, beneath The Manus Dei, between two stars.

★ s' WILELMI · DE · LALIE : Pl. iii, 6.

52. Counter seal of St. John's Priory, c. 1265, found at Colchester (Evans Coll.).

Bronze; pointed oval, 33×20 mm., rat-tailed loop handle on the back.

The Agnus Dei, within a nimbus, supported by the left hand of St. John, emerging from the clouds.

Fac nos Baptista Johannes). Pl. iii, 9.
Another Leonine hexameter.

53. Bronze; c. 1270, found at Old Sarum, 1817 (Duke and Evans Colls.). Circular, diam. 22 mm., conical six-sided handle with pierced top, height 25 mm. St. Catherine crowned and veiled, holding a wheel in her left hand and a closed book in her right. She stands between two shrubs.

SAVUTA CATERIUA.

¹ Compare No. 58.

54. Simon de Craie, c. 1270, found near Mildenhall (Warren and Evans Colls.).

Bronze; circular, diam. 30 mm., rat-tailed loop

handle on the back.

A heater-shaped shield, bearing a cross engrailed. (Gules, a cross engrailed gold.)

* SIGILL' · SIMONIS · DECRAIE. Pl. iii, 7.

Sir Simon de Craie, Kent, was Constable of the castle of Rochester, January 18th, 1267, and was a commissioner in Kent and eight other counties in relation to the Dictum of Kenilworth, September 23rd, 1267, whilst he was directed to yield up the city and castle of Canterbury, December 13th of the same year.

He is named as the late Constable of Rochester Castle and as Warden of the Cinque Ports,

February 4th, 1275.

Sir Simon's indebtedness to the Exchequer was remitted by Edward I, May 22nd, 1276, whilst his lands were ordered to be surveyed and he was to retain his principal residence and three quarters of his estates, the Jews, however, were to receive the balance of his lands for discharging his debts, November 17th, 1276. He is referred to as a knight serving for Roger Bigod, Earl of Norfolk, July 1st, 1277, and two years later he acted as a juror at Canterbury, January 20th, 1279, and also in Essex in 1286.

Simon de Craie is mentioned in Testa de Neville :— Com' Kancie, Nomina eor' qui tenent foeda militaria in comitatu Kanc' & de quibus ip'i

tenent.

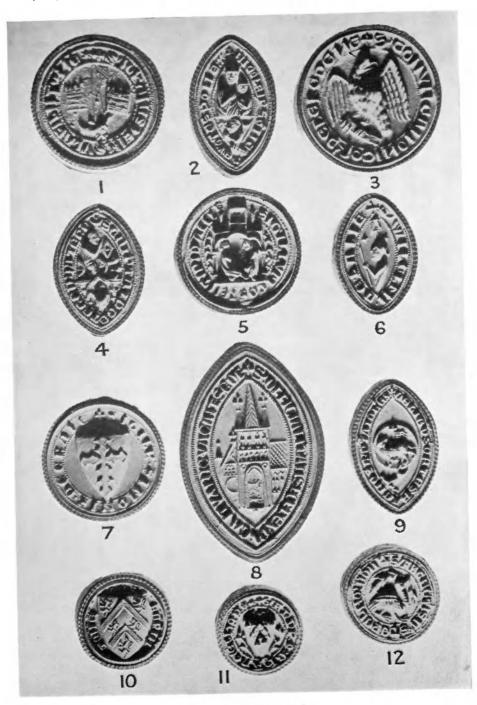
Fœda Marger' de Ripariis, Simon de Craie duo foeda in eadem de Rado fil' Nichi & ipe de

p dca Margia.

November 2nd, 1291, Sir Simon is mentioned as lord of Foot's Craie in Kent and as holding a quarter knight's fee at Ramesden, Essex, November 2nd, 1307, and a half fee at Craie and Ramesden, August 26th, 1314.

55. John Barintone, c. 1270, found at Hyde Abbey,

Winchester.



ENGLISH MEDIEVAL SEALS



ENGLISH MEDIEVAL SEALS

Silver: circular, diam. 23 mm., conical six-sided handle, with pierced quatrefoil top, height 28 mm. A heater-shaped shield bearing two chevrons and five lionceaux.

IOhs BARIN TONE. Pl. iii, 10.

The chevrons are cross-hatched as is the fess on the shield of William de Beauchamp on the Barons' Letter to the Pope, whilst the legend is in the nominative as on the seal of Richard Talebot.

John Barintone appears in 'The Hundred Rolls' of Edward I, 1274, under Kingestone, in Cam-

bridgeshire. 1

'Johes de Barinton tenz libe de dicta ana Abbatissa² [de Chateris] x acas tre & redd p ann' iiij s. dicte Abbatisse & illa tenz in capît' de dicto dno Willo [de Mortuomar'].

'Alicia le Port tenz libe de Johe de Barinton' unam acram & dimid & redd p ann' duos den'.'

56. Officiality of Canterbury, Sede Vacante, c. 1280 (Dimsdale, Tyssen and Gough Colls.).

Bronze; pointed oval, 54×34 mm., massive

moulded loop behind.

A view of Canterbury Cathedral from the SW. S' · OFFICIALITATIS ECCLE · XPI · CAITVARIE · VACANE SEDE. Pl. iii, 8.

Gentleman's Magazine, 1785, p. 972. Fig. 8,

There is an impression from this matrix in green wax, detached from MS. 613 in the collection of The Society of Antiquaries. The document is a request from the official "sede vacante," to Richard, prior of Christ Church, Canterbury, for a letter to be written to Edward III, for the arrest of William Basyngham. The letter, which is dated May 17th, 1375, is during the vacancy of the See upon the death of Archbishop Whittlesey.

Reginald the elder, c. 1280, from Salisbury. Bronze; circular, diam. 18 mm., conical six-

¹ Rotuli Hundredorum, com cant, 3 Soc. of Ants. Proc. 2nd series, vol. iv, p. 354. pp. 514, 515.

² Amicia de Cambridge, 1272-1280.

sided handle with pierced quatrefoil top, height 22 mm., a shield, a fesse between two crosses formy in chief and R between two molets in base.

† S' REGINALDI · LE · MAY.

58. John, the Tanner of Berkeley, c. 1290 (Oates Coll.). Bronze; pointed oval, 32×21 mm., rat-tailed loop handle on the back.

A Pelican in its Piety, the nest rests on a tree

s' ioh'is le tannvr de berkel'. Pl. iv, 1.

59. Margaret Gyffard, c. 1298, found at Codford, 1890 (Swayne Coll.).
Silver; circular, diam. 26 mm., conical six-sided handle with pierced trefoil top; height 27 mm.
Within an elaborate quatrefoil, upon a lozenge

are three walking lions.

** S' MARGARETI + GYFFARD ** (Sic). Pl. iv, 4.

This is probably the seal of Lady Margaret Gyffard, the second wife of John, Lord Gyffard of Brimsfield, who died in 1299. She had previously been married to Sir John Neville of Essex, by whom she had a son Hugh. By her second husband, she also had a son, John le Rych, second Baron of Brimsfield, an adherent of Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, with whom he was captured at Boroughbridge, February 17th, 1322, and was subsequently hanged at Gloucester, May, 1322. In 1302 she received from her uncle, Godfrey, Bishop of Worcester, a legacy of 'a cup, the value of 100s., and a clasp or ring, the value of 70s.'

In 12. v. 8 of Edward II (1316), we find a grant by Dame Margaret de Neville, to her son, Hugh de Neville, of soun hostel e maysouns ove le gardyn rentes et totes autrechoses apurtenauntz a le dit hostel en la ville de Loundr quest apele la sale de Plom [Leadenhall]. To this is attached a oval seal in red wax 45×31 mm., on which is Margaret, standing, a hound at her feet, upon whose robe are three walking lions and to the left and right of whom are shields, bearing respectively,

¹ Charters Duchy of Lancaster, L.S., no. 68.

three walking lions for Gyffard and a lion rampant for Nevill. Around is

S' MARGARETE DE NEVYLE.

It would thus appear that upon the death of her second husband she reverted to the name of her first.

A second document exists, a letter of Margaret de Nevill, in which she appoints an attorney to give seizin of the premises to Hugh, her son, which is sealed upon red wax with a walking lion, about which is

₩ SIGILLVM · SECRETI · G[YFF]ARDI :

The centre is clearly from a medieval gem.² Lady Margaret, subsequent to the death of her son, Sir John Gyffard, was allowed to retain Boyton for her life; she died December, 1338. The arms of Gyffard are; gules, three walking lions, silver.

60. Unknown owner, c. 1300.

Bronze; circular, diam. 16 mm. Handle resembles a chess-pawn.

An eagle displayed within a circle, surrounded

by a blank circle.

This seal has never been completed by having the owner's name (probably John) filled in. It would thus seem probable that the seal-cutters kept suitable matrices in stock, leaving the space for the owner's name blank, to be filled in later.³

- 61. Adam Baytor, c. 1300 (Evans Coll.).
 Bronze; circular, diam. 19 mm., rat-tailed loop handle on the back.
 A single masted ship.
 s' ADE BAYTOR.
- 62. Unknown, c. 1300, found at Bury St. Edmund's, 1876 (Evans and Oates Colls.).
 Bronze; circular, diam. 17 mm., six-sided conical

ARTAVT: DE DOYN also set with a contemporary intaglio, a lion.

¹ ibid, 4, no. 153.

² Compare the gold signet-ring in the Salisbury Museum, * SIGILL:

³ Compare the unfinished matrix in the Salisbury Museum.

handle, with pierced top, height 20 mm. A cock walking to the left.

* CROV ME DAI—i.e. Crow day for me.

A similar matrix occurs in the University Museum at Cambridge, Kingsford, Cambridge Seal-Matrices, Pl. ii, no. 17.

63. Andrew Changethone, c. 1300 (Evans and Oates Colls.). circular, diam. 20 mm. Silver: Eight-sided conical handle with pierced quatrefoil top; height

A heater-shaped shield of arms, a 28 mm. chevron between 3 crosslets fitchy, in the field of

the matrix are three twigs of leaf-work.

*+ s' andro : changethone. Pl. iii, 11. It is probable that the name is a variant of one of the following: Chardelowe, Shardelow, Shardelow, Schardelow, Cardelou, Scardelow, Scardelew, Cardelou, Cardelyou. The arms of the Norfolk branch, resident at Schimpling, was argent, a chevron gules between three crosslets fitchy azure (Ed. III Roll). The others bore argent, a chevron gules between three crosslets fitchy sable.

64. Joan of Ewenny, c. 1300 (Oates Coll.). Bronze; oval, 20×16 mm., six-sided conical handle with pierced quatrefoil top, height 23 mm. St. Katherine holding a wheel in her left and in her right a sword the point on the ground, in front of whom is a kneeling suppliant.

★ S' IOhAUUE · DE · EWE.

65. A member of the Abberbury or Adderbury family, c. 1300, found at Bury St. Edmund's, 1882 (Evans and Oates Colls.). Bronze; hexagonal, diam. 14 mm., tall six-sided handle at back, a loop at the top. Height 28 mm. A shield of arms, a fess embattled counter embattled. In a roll of Richard II the field is given as gold, the fess as sable.

A Sir John Adderbury, who was killed in 1347, during the siege of Calais, bore the fess on a silver

field.

66. A member of the Darrell family of Lytylcott, Co. Wilts, c. 1300 (Morris Coll.).

Bronze; oval, 22×17 mm., conical six-sided handle with pierced trefoil top, height 27 mm.

A sleeping lion with a rose-bush behind. Above is a Saracen's head, the crest of the Darrells.

- ★ IESV. SEI. DEGESE. EIOLIS. ELEL. Pl. iv, 2.

 This represents, Ie suis sel deguise et jolis et leal.

 This was found in the ruins of Malmesbury

 Abbey in 1853. Pro. S. A., Series 2nd, ii, p. 206.
- 67. Unknown, c. 1300, from Cheltenham.

 Bronze; oval, 20×16 mm., six-sided conical handle with hole at top, height 20 mm. An eagle displayed, within an interlacing lozenge and oblong.

 SVYPRIVE.
- 68. Unknown ecclesiastic's seal, c. 1300, from Winchester.
 Bronze; circular, diam. 20 mm., rat-tailed loop on the back.
 A tonsured head to right with long curling hair, within two intersecting squares.
 LEGE TEGE.
- 69. Unknown ecclesiastic, c. 1300 (Oppenheimer Coll.). Silver; oval, 21×16 mm., six-sided conical handle, with pierced trefoil top, 25 mm. high. Standing figure of the Blessed Virgin holding The Child on her left arm, on the right at her feet kneels an ecclesiastic in prayer, above is the star.

★ ME MAT' XPI COSERVA DE NECE ISTI.

A Leonine hexameter.

70. Joan, Prioress of the Benedictine Nunnery of Bungay, c. 1301 (Blair Coll.).
Silver; pointed oval, 38×24 mm., rat-tailed loop handle on the back.

St. John Baptist bearing on his left hand The Agnus Dei, whilst with his right he bestowes his benediction upon Joan, who kneels beneath an arch, her hands joined in supplication. On each side of the saint are scrolls of stiff-leaved foliage.

Antiquaries Journal, vol. iv, p. 243, Fig. 2.

71. Geoffrey Fox of Liddington, Dorset, c. 1310, found near Bath, 1878 (Evans Coll.).

Bronze; pointed oval, 38×25 mm., loop at back. A fox bearing away a cock.

★ S' GALFRIDI · FOX DE LIDITTVN.

72. Unknown, c. 1310, found at Winchester, 1930.
Bronze; circular, diam. 16 mm., six-sided conical handle, with pierced top, height 18 mm.
Head and shoulders of a man facing to the right with hands upheld in prayer.

★ IESVS MEREI. for Jesus mercy.

- 73. Robert of Perwich, near Ashbourne, c. 1310, found at Grantchester (Manning and Crisp Colls.). Silver; oval, 25×19 mm. Conical six-sided handle with pierced trefoil top, 27 mm. high. Seated figure of the crowned Blessed Virgin, holding the Child on her knee, within eight cusped tressures.
- * SIGILLY . ROBERTI . DE . PERWYCHE. Pl. iv, 3.
- 74. Unknown, c. 1315, found at Wallingford (Pavyer Coll.).

 Bronze; circular, diam. 19 mm., conical six-sided handle, with pierced trefoil top, height 28 mm. An eagle displayed.

★ : EGLE : SV : E : POI : COUV :

75. Hospital of St. Mary, Bouthum, York, c. 1315 (Powell Coll.).

Brass; pointed oval 50×30 mm., flat back, ridged handle removed.

The Madonna and Child, beneath a simple crocheted canopy. In the niche beneath is an ecclesiastic kneeling in adoration, who supports a shield, a saltire engrailed and a chief indented.

S' hospitalis beate marie de Bouthvii.

In the left field is a cross paty, the privy-mark of

the engraver. Pl. iv, 9.

This hospital, which was founded 1315–1318, by Robert de Pickering, dean of York, was for the support of six infirm priests, and was also known as in le Horsfare. It may be remarked that the patronage of the hospital in 1452 was in the hands of the descendants of Robert le Bruse, the patron while he lived, which accounts for the presence of his shield, gules, a saltire engrailed and a chief indented, silver.

These arms were borne by Sire William de Brus of Ugglebarnby, in 1322, at the battle of Boroughbridge, and it is probable that he, with Dean Pickering, provided funds for the foundation of the hospital, the site for which was obtained from the Carmelites. Upon the back of the

matrix, lightly scratched is

A Budges October

1742.

The income of the Hospital as given in Valor Ecclesiasticus, February 29th, H.8, was returned as £40 6s. 8d., and was derived from lands at 'Acastre, Kelfelde, Morby, Heworth, Knapton and Styllyngflete.'2

76. Agnes of Stepel-Mordon = Steeple-Morden, c. 1320, found at Strood, 1862 (Wickham and Evans Colls.).

Bronze; circular, diam. 23 mm. rat-tailed loop on the back, broken.

A bird carrying a branch in its beak, to right.

★ s' angnetis d' stepel mœdon. Pl. iii, 12.

77. Unknown, c. 1320, found at Bury St. Edmund's, 1868 (Evans Coll.).

Bronze; circular, diam. 20 mm., rat-tailed loop on the back.

¹ V.C.H. York's, iii, p. 345. ² Gentleman's Magazine, vol. xl, Fig. v, p. 153 (1770), and vol. lvii,

A stag's head, a cross paty-fitchy between the antlers.

★ AMOR VINCIT OMNIA.1

The arms of the Dean of Exeter are similar and the secretum of Malcolm, Earl of Lennox, 1292, bears a shield under the cross.

The legend was very popular and appeared on the brooch of the Prioress in *The Canterbury Tales*. On whiche was first ywriten a crouned A and after, AMOR VINCIT OMNIA.

- 78. Unknown, c. 1330, found near Bath, 1873 (Evans and Oates Colls.).

 Bronze; circular, diam. 19 mm., six-sided conical handle, top lost, height 19 mm.

 An owl, on a shrub, mobbed by four birds.
- 79. Unknown, c. 1330, found under the pavement of the Chapel of St. Thomas, on Old London Bridge, 1833 (Crisp Coll.).

 Bronze; circular, diam. 17 mm., six-sided conical handle with hole at top, height 21 mm.

 A leopard's mask.

▼ VCCT[o]I LEL AMOVR.

= Voici toi lel amour = Here you see true love.

80. Unknown ecclesiastic, c. 1340, from Stamford. Bronze; circular, diam. 18 mm., six-sided conical handle 30 mm. high. Within a circle ih? and around,

 \bigstar AVE \times MARIA.

81. Unknown civilian, c. 1350, from Stamford.
Bronze; oval, 25×21 mm., conical handle, plain hole at top, 19 mm. high.
A lion lying beneath a triple shrub.

* WAKE ME NO MAN.

82. William de Faryngton, c. 1360 (ffarington Coll.). Silver; circular, diam. 21 mm., six-sided conical handle with trefoil opening surmounted by a circular hole, height 37 mm.

^{1&}quot; Omnia vincit amor." Virgil, Eclog. x, 69. Chaucer, Canterbury-Tales l. 162.

A shield of arms, a chevron between three leopards' heads raysed, placed within a cusped circle between two cinquefoils.

*sigilly. will'i. de faryngton. Pl. iv, 5.

The early coat of the Faryngtons was, silver, a chevron gules between three leopards' heads

raysed sable.

At a later date we find this coat placed quarterly with gules, three cinquefoils gold, and it would appear that the cinquefoils occurring on the above seal, were incorporated in the second shield.

Attached to the seal was a vellum tag on which in the writing of Miss ffarington of Worden occurs the following, 'Miss ffarington states that she had found on the deeds relating to the Worden properties many bearing the impression of this seal from Edward III to the time of Elizabeth, none later, and that it was last used by the last Sir Henry ffaryington of ffaryngton, father of William ffarington of Worden. It came to me from Rev. Dr. ffarington, who received it from Richard of Windsor, son of Richard of Iver, son of Richard ffarington of ffarington, Proceedings S.A., 2nd series, vii, p. 75. The letters WILLI were re-engraved over IOHIS, circa 1380, on the death of Sir John Faryngton, for his son William.

83. Thomas Gyffard, c. 1380, from near Devizes, 1854 (John Ellen of Devizes and Evans Colls.). Silver; circular, diam. 29 mm., six-sided conical handle, with trefoil opening and circular hole above, height 36 mm. Shield of arms, three walking lions and a label of

three points, hanging by a strap from a two-

branched tree.

sigillum thome gyffard k

Probably a member of the family of Giffard of Boyton, whose arms were, gules, three walking lions silver.

Wilts Archaeological and Natural Hist. Mag. vol. ii, p. 291.

Archaeological Journal, xiii, p. 183.

¹ Possibly derived from the de Meles family.

84. Pascal, Abbot of St. Mary of Graces (Eastminster).

c. 1420.

Bronze; pointed oval, 64×40 mm., ridged handle extending the length of the back. The abbot, who holds his crozier and a closed book, stands beneath an elaborate triple canopy.

On the left are the royal arms, to the right the arms of the city of London and beneath the

arms of the abbey. 1

Sigillū × Paschalis × abbis × monastrij × bte × marie × de × graciis 🕊

Eastminster was founded by Edward III, March 20th, 1349, and was suppressed in 1539. The

following relates to the Abbot Paschal.

'Indentura inter religiosos viros dompnum Paschalem Abbatem Monasterii B.M. de Graciis juxta Turrim London et ejusdem loci Conventum, ex una parte, et Arnulphum Chagystey, ex parte altera, de terris in Holdesworthy Com. Devon.'2 8. Henry v (1420).

85. John Pyechall, 3 c. 1430 (Radford Coll.). Bronze gilt; circular, diam. 33 mm., six-sided conical handle with quatrefoil top with four separate piercings, having a circular hole above, height 40 mm.

A shield of arms, a fess nebuly between three eagles displayed, beneath a helm bearing a crest of a pair of antlers enclosing a pine-tree. Sup-

ported by a lion and an eagle.

sigillū: iohis: pyechale.

86. Unknown ecclesiastic, c. 1430, found at Winchester, 1930.

Silver; circular, diam. 15 mm., six-sided conical handle.

Within a quatrefoil ihc.

₩ eft ♦ via ♦ veritas ♦ et × vita × John xiv, 6.

¹ Party, dexter half, party fessewise with a leopard's mask in chief and a fleur-de-lys in base, sinister half, a crozier.

² Cart. Antiq. Brit. Mus. L.F.C.

xiv, 27.

³ An equestrian seal was used by Norman de Pesehale (Peasenhall, Suffolk), circa 1200. He is named A.D. 1205, in *Rotuli de Oblatis*, ed. Hardy, p. 300.

- 87. Bronze, c. 1430, found at Bury St. Edmunds (Evans Coll.).
 Circular, diam. 20 mm., conical six-sided handle pierced at the top.
 Sacred monogram **ihs** upon a background diapered with pellets and crosses.
- 88. The Greyfriars of Dunwich, c. 1430. This matrix in 1754 was 'in the hands of Mr. H. Tawle of Wymonham,' and later in the Tysen Coll. Pl. iv. 10. Bronze; pointed oval 58×35 mm., ridged pierced handle. Beneath a fine double canopy is St. John Baptist, in camel's skin, holding The Agnus Dei in his left hand, whilst with his right he gives his blessing to a friar who kneels in supplication and bears an ascending scroll inscribed,

S' ioh ora p me, all beneath a double canopy. sigillu gardiani fratrum minor donewycy vide Proceed. Soc. of Ants, 2nd series, vol. viii, p. 37, also illustrated Gardner's Dunwich, Pl. ii, 10, p. 43.

- 89. John Giffard, Sheriff of Hants, 1432/3.
 Bronze; circular, diam. 24 mm., conical six-sided handle, height 35 mm., with trefoil top with three separate piercings and a circular hole above. A triple-towered castle-gateway, in front of which is a shield couché, bearing ten roundels. At the sides of the lateral towers i g.
- go. The Peculiar Jurisdiction of Great Plumstead,
 c. 1440 (Evans Coll.).
 Bronze; pointed oval, 56×32 mm., ridged pierced handle.
 A bishop in chasuble and mitre, holding in his left hand his crozier, whilst he gives his blessing with his right. Beneath him is a shield of arms, a cross between two crosses paty in chief and two

sun-bursts in base.

Sigillū: officialitat': peculiar: iurisdict: de plūstede

Proceed. Soc. of Ants., 2nd series, vol. v, p. 245, and February 6th, 1896.

¹ The arms of Giffard are silver, 10 roundels gules.

91. The Hospital of St. Clement, Hoddesdon, c. 1440

(Relph Coll.).

Bronze; pointed oval, 75×50 mm., handle ridged and pierced. Under two triple-tiered canopies, are standing figures of St.Anthony and St. Eloi, the former holds a book and a Tau-cross, the latter a farrier's-hammer. Beneath the former saint is a pig, re-engraved over an anchor and beneath the latter is a horse-shoe.

Sigillum & hofpitalis & Sancti & clement & loci & de & hoddefdon & It is evident that the figure now St. Anthony was originally that of St. Clement, to whom the Hospital was first dedicated. Later, c. 1470, a second large seal was cut, on which St. Anthony with a pig at his feet and St. Eloi holding a farrier's hammer and pincers appear. The inscription reads:—

Sigillu ofpitalis Sancti antoni loci de hodftun. One might remark that in early times St. Anthony was held to protect from St. Anthony's Fire, Ignis sacer, due to Ergotism, a condition fre-

questly confused with Leprosy.

92. Drugo Barowe, c. 1440.
Bronze; circular, diam. 34 mm., hinged flaphandle, pierced with quatrefoil opening.
Shield:—quarterly 1 & 4, Barowe, 2 & 3, Twitham, with an escutcheon of pretence, on a fesse three owls?

Sigillum 🖊 drugonis 🕊 barowe Pl. iv, 11.

- 93. Matthew Bower, c. 1440 (Evans Coll.).
 Bronze; circular, diam. 22 mm., six-sided conical handle with circular hole, height 30 mm.
 Within a cusped circle, a shield of arms, Gutty de sang barry ermine and a molet for difference.
- 🖈 Sigillu 🕊 mathei 🕊 boure.
- 94. John Asshley, c. 1445, from Thelnetham, Suffolk (Warren and Evans Colls.).

 Bronze; circular, diam. 26 mm., six-sided conical handle with unpierced quatrefoil top, with circular hole above, height 37 mm.

Shield of arms, on a pale engrailed three crescents and a molet for difference. Above is a helm surmounted by a crest, a leopard's head emerging from a coronet, between 2 axes. About the achievement are sprays of foliage.

s × iohni × * asschellee * ×.

The arms of Asshley are: Azure, on a pale engrailed silver three crescents sable.

95. Maillin de le Planque, c. 1450 (Dimsdale Coll.). Bronze; circular, diam. 27 mm., no handle. A shield of arms, Billety, a lion rampant and a label of three points, supported by two lions. Above on the helm is a demi-female figure, holding in her right hand a flower.

maillin de le planque.

The arms of the de la Planche family of Bucks was argent, billety and a lion sable.

- 96. Unknown, c. 1460.
 Bronze; circular, diam. 15 mm. six-sided conical handle with circular opening at the top.

 be beneath a crown, between three leaves.
- 97. A Sheriff's Seal of the Harcourt family, c. 1491 (Tyssen Coll.).

 Bronze; circular, diam. 30 mm., semi-circular ridged handle. Pl. iv, 8.

 A castle gateway, above which is a peacock with closed wings and beneath a shield of arms, barry. It would appear that this is the seal of a member of the Harcourt family, of which two members served as sheriffs of Oxford and Berks in the latter part of the fifteenth century, viz.— William Harcourt of Cornbury in 1491, and Robert
- 98. The Official of the Archdeacon of Lewes, c. 1500, found in 1780 near Cowling Castle, Kent, at which time it belonged to a Mr. Comport (Evans Coll.). Bronze; pointed oval, 56×35 mm., ridged handle, pierced.

 A nimbed figure of St. Andrew, who holds a saltire cross in his right hand and a closed book

Harcourt of Stanton-Harcourt, in 1492.

in his left. He stands beneath an elaborate canopy.

- ** ? * officialis ** archidiaconi ** lewenfis ** * This matrix is figured in The Gentleman's Magazine, vol. lix, p. 494 (1789). In 1851 it was in the collection of Humphrey Wickham of Strood, Kent, and later in that of Sir John Evans. It has been published in The Sussex Archæological Collections, vol. v, p. 199, and in Proceedings Society of Antiquaries, second series, vol. xvi, p. 81.
- 99. John Ross of Balivat, c. 1480 (Phillips Coll.). Pewter; circular, diam. 33 mm., tall flat handle. A shield, bearing three birds' heads erased. S. IOANNIS × ROS × DE × BALIVAT ×.
- 100. Octavian, Archbishop of Armagh, 1480–1513, found at Old Buckenham, Norfolk, c. 1749 (Blackett Coll.).

 Copper; oval, 70×47 mm., weight 3½ ozs. Unpierced ridge-handle along the back.

 The archbishop, vested, holds a crozier in his left hand, whilst with his right he bestowes his blessing. He stands beneath an elaborate canopy, beneath is a winged dragon between two serpents.

 Sigillum octaviani of primatis of

hibernie Le This seal, which was exhibited in 1872, to The Kilkenny Archæological Society, by John Blackett, of Ballyne House, Co. Kilkenny, is described in Journal Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, vol. xiii, Pl., facing p. 351. See also Armstrong, Irish Seal-matrices and Seals, 1913, p. 112.

In conclusion, I desire to express my indebtedness, for much help, to Mr. H. S. Kingsford's valuable work "The Epigraphy of Medieval English Seals." 1

¹ Archæologia, vol. lxxix (1929).