

NOTE.

Owing to the illness of SIR WILLIAM HOPE at the time this Article was going to press, it had not the advantage of his corrections. The following *Corrigenda* should be noticed:—

P. 123, l. 7, for "mauve and pink" read "red and lilac."

P. 124, l. 34, for "right arms" read "eight arms."

P. 125, l. 13, for "The base" read "In base."

P. 125, l. 27, for "Bas" read "Bar."

P. 125, l. 29, before "Edward Balliol" insert "his cousin."

P. 126, l. 7, for "1536" read "1836."

A PALATINATE SEAL OF JOHN, EARL OF
WARENNE, SURREY AND STRATHERNE,
1305—1347.

BY

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AMONG the several thousand seals attached to documents in the Public Record Office (of which a card catalogue is now being made), there has lately come to light a fine example of more than ordinary interest.

This is a large double seal of John Earl of Warenne and Surrey, which, though now loose, was originally attached by plaited cords of mauve and pink silk to a deed dated 1st April 1346, granting to King Edward III the castle and town of Reigate with the manors of Dorking and Betchworth in Surrey, the castle and town of Lewes and various manors in Sussex, with certain castles and lands in Wales.

The seal is in dark green wax, and of unusually large size, being a trifle over 4 ins. in diameter, a width equalled only by the contemporary great seals of the King. The impression is also a remarkably sharp one, but about a third part of one side has unhappily been broken off and lost.

The obverse shows the earl as a man in the prime of life, bareheaded, and with long wavy hair, moustache, and short beard, seated on a throne. He is clothed in an underdress open at the neck and with tight sleeves, a long and apparently sleeveless gown reaching to the



PALATINATE SEAL OF JOHN DE WARENNE, 1346

feet, and an ample mantle held by a cord across the chest. In his outstretched right hand he holds a long-stalked flower, but the left arm, which was also extended, is broken away below the elbow. The throne is similar in form to that on the first "seal of absence" of King Edward the Third, and consists of a long seat with carved edge and panelled front, and high panelled back and ends crested with trefoils. At every corner is a tall pinnacle, the front pair rising from buttresses which stand upon a curved footboard. The flat seat is ornamented with a lattice pattern and may represent stamped leather.

The background of the enthroned figure, in allusion to the earl's surname, depicts a *warren*. Below the throne, among little oak trees, is a rabbit feeding, while two others sit in the mouths of their burrows. On the earl's right is another coney in his burrow, and a hart browsing upon a young oak. Whatever was on the left side of the earl is broken away.

The legend about the obverse, in large Lombardic capitals, seems to have been:—

† SIGILLUM : IOHANNIS : COMITIS :
WARRENIE : EM : STRATHERNIE :
EM : COMITIS : PALACII

but the first three words are gone.

The reverse of the seal shows the earl on horseback galloping at full speed to the right. He has upon him a shirt of mail, which can be seen about the neck and upon the extended right arm, but the body is covered by a long and thin sleeveless jupe, and the legs and feet clearly have defences of plate.

Over his head he has a close helm with eye and air holes in front, surmounted by his crest, which is a charboche of right arms set between a pair of short tipped and curved horns. The back of the helm is covered by a flowing mantling. Upon each shoulder is fixed an upright oblong ailette with the checkers of the earl's

arms, and his left arm is covered by a similarly checkered shield. The outstretched right arm shows the mail slit open along the inside, disclosing a tight sleeve within which seems to be girt with a strap. Possibly this served to secure a metal elbow-cop outside the mail. The lost right hand no doubt brandished a naked sword, which was secured to the earl's person by a chain hanging from its hilt to some point hidden by the shield.

The horse is entirely covered by a flowing checkered trapper, with a charboele like that of the earl's crest, fixed between the ears. The saddle is a high one, and the bridle seems to be of chain covered with leather. The base between the horse's feet is a pool, with a pair of swans and two cygnets swimming therein, and on the bank at either end is a stork or crane.

The legend on the reverse is—

[†] SIGILLUM : IOHANNIS : COMITIS
WARRENIE : ET : SVRR

but the final words are broken away.

John de Warenne was the posthumous son of William de Warenne, only son and heir apparent of John de Warenne, Earl of Surrey, and of Joan his wife, daughter of Robert de Vere, Earl of Oxford. He was born in 1286, and in 1305 succeeded his grandfather as Earl of Surrey and Sussex. In 1306 he received the honour of knighthood, and the same year married Joan, daughter of Henry, count of Bas, by the Lady Eleanor, daughter of King Edward I. He was created Earl of Stratherne in 1333 by Edward Balliol. As Stratherne was then a county palatine in Scotland, earl John was able to assume the title he bears on his seal of *Comes Palacii*.¹

¹ In his will dated 24th June, 1347, the earl styles himself—

Johan Counte de Warenne de Surrey et de Stratherne
Seigneur de Bromfeld et de Yal ;

but in the deed to which the seal belongs simply Earl of Surrey.
(See Appendix.)

There can also be little doubt that, on account of this last dignity, he caused to be engraved the remarkable seal under notice. And its close resemblance to the great seals of the King is due to the earl's quasi-regal jurisdiction in a county palatine. It likewise has for parallel the palatinate seals used by the bishops of Durham down to 1536. The earliest of these is the seal of Thomas of Hatfield, 1345 to 1381, and is a double one, having on the obverse the bishop enthroned, and on the reverse the bishop in full armour galloping along on his charger.

Since earl John's seal was in all probability engraved in 1333, it is the earliest of known palatinate seals, and as the impression in the Public Record Office was attached to a deed of 1346, the earl no doubt continued to use it until his death on 30th June, 1347.

It is much to be hoped that other impressions may be brought to light of so noteworthy a seal.

APPENDIX.

RECORD OFFICE, ANCIENT DEEDS A. S. 244.

Sciant presentes et futuri quod nos Johannes de Warennia Comes Surr' dedimus concessimus reddidimus quietumclamauimus et hac presenti carta nostra confirmauimus pro nobis et heredibus nostris domino nostro domino Edwardo Regi Anglie et francie Castrum et villam de Reygate, Maneria de Dorkyng', et Bechesworth' cum pertinentiis in Comitatu Surr', Castrum et villam de Lewes, Maneria de Cokefeld' Cleyton' Dychenyng', Mechyng' Pecham Brightelmeston' Rotyngden' Houndeden', Northese Rademelde Kymere Middelton', Alyngton' Worth' et Pycoumbe, ac villas de Iford' Pydyngshowe et Seford' cum pertinentiis suis in Comitatu Sussex', necnon omnia alia Maneria hameletta terras et tenementa nostra cum pertinentiis in Comitatus predictis, ac eciam Castra de Dynasbran et de Castro leonis ac terras de Bromfeld' yale et Wrightlesham cum pertinentiis suis in Wallia videlicet quequid habemus in Comitatus predictis et Wallia in dominicis dominiis et seruiciis sine ullo retenemento, Habenda et tenenda eidem domino nostro Regi heredibus et assignatis suis cum feodis Militum Aduocacionibus ecclesiarum Capellarum Abbatiarum Prioratum Hospitalium et aliarum domorum religiosarum,

homagiis et aliis seruiciis libere tenencium villanis cum eorum villenagiis et sequelis Warennis Chaciis parcis boscis viuariis stagnis Mariscis piscariis pascuis pasturis hundredis libertatibus, regalibus et aliis quibuscumque ad predicta Castra villas Maneria hameletta terras et tenementa spectantibus sine reclamacione nostra seu heredum nostrorum imperpetuum. Et nos predictus Comes et heredes nostri omnia Castra villas Maneria hameletta terras et tenementa predicta cum feodis aduocacionibus et omnibus aliis pertinenciis suis predictis eidem domino nostro Regi heredibus et assignatis suis contra omnes gentes Warantizabimus et defendemus imperpetuum In cuius rei testimonium presentibus sigillum nostrum apposimus Hiis testibus Bartholomeo de Burgherssh'. Thoma de Bradestan Johanne Darcy le fitz Johanne de Monte Gomery Thoma de Holand' Rogero de Bello Campo Edmundo Trussel Johanne Vynter Magistro Johanne de Thoresby Canonico lincolnie Rogero de Dorkyng' Canonico lichefeld' et aliis Data apud Caneford' primo die Aprilis Anno domini Millesimo Trescentesimo quadragésimo sexto regni vero dicti domini Regis videlicet Anglie vicesimo et francie septimo.

[*Endorsed*] la chartre du feffement du Counte de Garrenn' faite au Roi des terres en Surr' Sussex' et Gales double.

[*and in a later hand*] Johannes Comes Warrennæ 20 E : 3 : Regi quieta clamantia.