

NOTES.

1.—SIX SEALS OF SHERIFFS OF NORTHUMBERLAND.

I exhibit to-night (30 January, 1957) six brass seal matrixes, of late eighteenth and early nineteenth century date, of Sheriffs of Northumberland. They belong to Dr. D. Smith, of 7 Osborne Villas, by whose courtesy I am able to show them.

The Society published, in *Archæologia Aeliana*, 4th Series, volumes XX and XXI, a list of these sheriffs. In the introduction to this, in volume XX, pp. 20-24, the design of their seals was traced from the fourteenth century to the present day and examples given on plate II of volume XX and plate I of volume XXI. To these the interested reader is referred. Those shewn to-night are of the latest type of seal, when aesthetic values were not thought of. They all depict a grim castle of conventional style; each one gives the sheriff's initials, with his crest above the castle, his year of office being either at the sides or beneath. They were used by the following sheriffs. (Plate IV, figs. 1-6.)

1. Ralph William Grey of Backworth—1792.
2. John Hunter of the Hermitage—1805.
3. William Clarke of Benton House—1820.
4. Sir Edward Blackett of Matfen, Bt.—1833.
5. George Silvertop of Minsteracres—1831.
6. William Limskill of Tynemouth Lodge—1806.

C. H. HUNTER BLAIR.

2.—CHANCERY SEAL OF BISHOP VAN MILDERT.

The bishops of Durham were lords of the palatinate of Durham from a very early date, and from the time of bishop Thomas of Hatfield used a great seal in Chancery.¹ This like the royal great seal was of two sides; on the *obverse* the bishop is shewn seated on his throne, vested in full *pontificalia* blessing (plate V, fig. 1); on the *reverse* he is shewn upon horseback armed cap-à-pie as knight and temporal lord of the palatinate (plate V, fig. 2). The designs on both sides varied with the passing centuries but the motive remained the same. Van Mildert died in 1836, when what remained of the palatine power of the bishops of Durham became vested in the Crown. This seal is therefore the last of the long series.² Its design follows that introduced by Bishop Cosin in 1660 which, modified in some details by Bishop Lord Crew in 1674,³ remained the design used by all the succeeding bishops until the final abolition of their temporal jurisdiction in 1836. The name and armorials were altered for each bishop but the legend on the reverse, taken from the Vulgate (Ephes. VI, 13 & 17) and first used by Bishop Cosin, remained throughout. The seal measures four inches in diameter, the impression is made on a layer of red wax placed between two pieces of thin fawn-coloured paper and has been attached to the document by two strips of parchment.

Obverse—The bishop, vested in cope and wearing a jewelled and coronetted mitre, stands beneath a triple canopy, supported by four columns; he holds a crosier in his right hand and the Bible in his left. On his right side, upon a panel, is a shield of the arms of the See of Durham,

¹ See *Durham Seals*, *Arch. Ael.* 3, vol. XIV, no. 3138 and plate 53. Bishop Richard of Bury used a chancery seal but of a different style (see *ibid.* no. 3134 and plate 53).

² For account of *The Medieval seals of the Bishop of Durham* see *Archæologia* (London) vol. LXXII and plates.

³ *The Post-Reformation Ecclesiastical seals of Durham*, *ibid.*, vol. LXXVII and plates.

azure a cross or between four lions rampant argent. (Plate V, fig. 1.)



The shield is ensigned by a jewelled mitre with coronet around it. On the bishop's left is a like shield bearing the arms of Van Mildert *gules two scythe blades saltireways argent*—also ensigned by a similar mitre. Beneath the bishop is a shield of the See of Durham impaling Van Mildert.

Legend—[SIGI] LLUM DOMINI GVLIELMI DVNELMENSIS
EPISCOPI ANNO DOM[INI 1826].

Reverse—Equestrian, riding to the dexter. The bishop in armour of seventeenth century style wears an open helm, with the coronet of an earl and three ostrich feathers as crest, his right hand brandishes a sword. Beneath the horse is a view of the city of Durham. Above and behind it is a shield of arms, ensigned by a mitre with coronet, charged with the See of Durham impaling Van Mildert. (Plate V, fig. 2.)

Legend—[PROPTEREA AC]CIPITE ARMATURAM DEI ET GALEAM
SALUTIS ASSUMITE ET GLADIVM SP[IRITIVS].

C. H. HUNTER BLAIR.

3.—EPISCOPAL SEAL OF BISHOP MALTBY.

There is not a complete series of this type of Durham episcopal seals at present known.¹ It seems however to be very probable that the type was first used by bishop lord Crew (1674-1721) and continued by his successors until quite recent times. The seal is $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches by $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches. It is impressed on a thin layer of red wax placed between two pieces of paper. Two tags of paper from the document pass

¹ For list of the seals of the Bishop of Durham see *Archæologia* (London) vols. LXXII and LXXXVII with accompanying plates. Also *Arch. Ael.*, 3rd series, vol. XV, and plates 48-56.



1



2



3



4



5



6



Fig. 7

FIGS. 1-6. SEAL MATRIXES OF SHERIFFS OF NORTHUMBERLAND.
FIG. 7. EPISCOPAL SEAL OF BISHOP MALTBY.



FIG. 1.

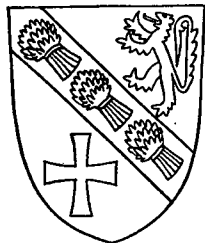


FIG. 2.

CHANCERY SEAL OF BISHOP VAN MILDERT.

Fig. 1 Obverse, Fig. 2 Reverse.

through the wax. It shows the armorial shield of the See impaling that of Maltby. The blason is—*Azure a cross or between four lions rampant—argent.—The See of Durham impaling argent on a bend between a lion rampant and a cross paty gules three garbs or—Maltby.* The shield is signed by a jewelled mitre with coronet² and ribbons.



Legend—THE SEAL. OF. EDWARD. MALTBY. D.D. BISHOP. OF DURHAM 1836.

He was bishop of Chichester 1831-35, translated to Durham 1836, resigned 1856 and died 1859. His hatchment is in the church of St. John Baptist, Egglescliffe, co. Durham.³ (Plate IV, fig. 7.)

C. H. HUNTER BLAIR.

4.—BRONZE AGE POTTERY FROM HIGH BUSTON, NORTHUMBERLAND.

Mr. J. Tait of Forest Hall kindly allowed me to inspect the fragments of a food vessel and urns described below and gave details of the provenance, as received from their original owner, who had been present when the vessels were found during the construction of the branch railway line to Shilbottle in 1926. These finds have not been recorded.

"The place of the discovery was near to Lane Cottage, High Buston, at the entrance to the railway cutting almost directly opposite to the Shilbottle signal box between Wark-

² For the use of the coronet around the mitres of the bishops of Durham see *Arch. Ael.*, 4th ser., vol. XXI, pp. 28-9.

³ *Arch. Ael.*, 4th ser., XXXII, p. 14.

worth and Alnmouth." (O.S. 1" 71/239088.) "Four large stones were so placed as to leave a cavity about 9" square which contained bones but no vessel, the whole being covered by a large flat stone on which had been placed one of the vessels upturned. Three other vessels were placed around the stones, the missing one being slightly smaller than the food vessel. The remains were in a ploughed field and covered by about one foot of soil."

Although the pots are now in fragments and a number of pieces are missing, enough remain to make possible the reconstruction of the main essentials of one food vessel and two urns or enlarged food vessels. The missing pot was presumably another food vessel.

Food Vessel (Fig. 1).

About one third of the vessel has survived. It is $5\frac{1}{4}$ "

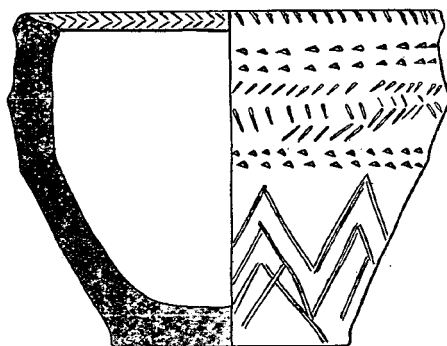


FIG. 1 ($\frac{1}{3}$).

in height and approximately $6\frac{3}{4}$ " diameter at the lips. There is a moderately wide, rather shallow "groove" placed a little above the centre of the vertical height of the vessel, which can be classed as Abercromby's type 2. For decoration above the shoulder, the finger nail and a triangular point appear to have been used; the markings below the shoulder may be the impressions of grass stems or sedges.

Urn (Fig. 2).

This urn or enlarged food vessel of Abercromby's type 7 is not complete but has been slightly over 10" in diameter

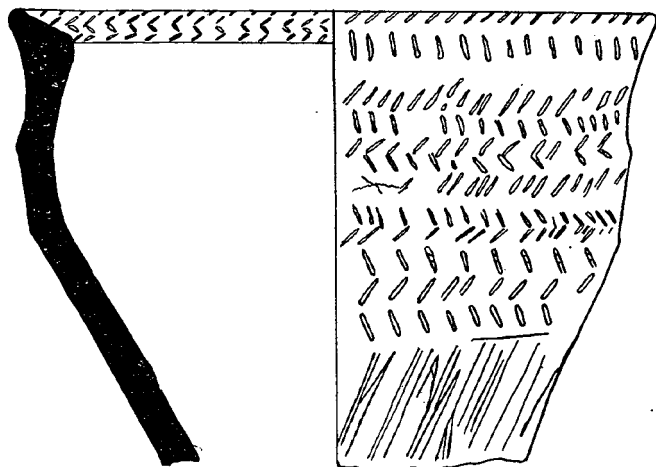


FIG. 2 (3).

at the lips. A cord seems to have been used at times in the simple chevron decoration, the impressions of which are poor.

Urn (Fig. 3).

There is only one fragment of this urn or enlarged food vessel. The diameter at the lips has been approximately $10\frac{3}{4}$ ". The relief mouldings which are formed in the shallow grooves must be presumed to have occurred around the whole circumference, there being sufficient of the urn surviving immediately below the rim to indicate a spacing of 5" between each vertical "stop". These vertical stops or mouldings, reminiscent of the stops of food vessels of type 1, have been worked up into mouldings from the wall of the urn itself and are not fresh rolls of clay applied as on the encrusted urns. The decoration on the inside of the rim and

in the top panels appears to have been done in the whipped cord technique, the remainder of the decoration by impressing cord with the thumb or finger nail, the nail marks being quite clear at the tops of many of the impressions.

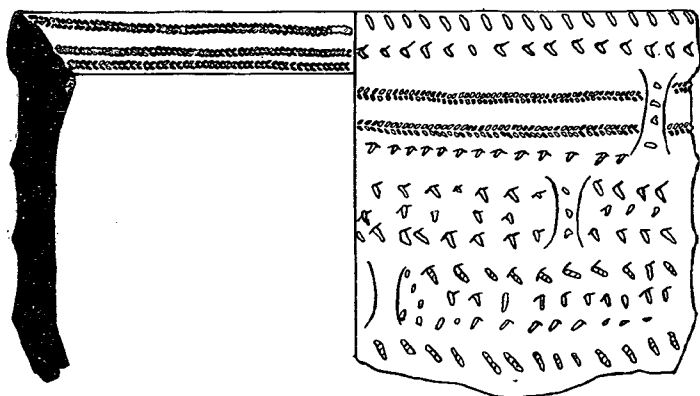


FIG. 3 (4).

Although a number of fragments of bone have survived they are too small to be identified.

GEORGE JOBEY.

5.—RECORDS OF THE RIDLEYS OF BLAGDON.

A small collection of records dating from the seventeenth to the nineteenth century have been preserved at Blagdon, where they are stored in a chest of drawers. Though the series is very incomplete and adds very little to the history of the family, it does include a number of items which are of special interest to the social and economic historian.

In the first drawer are kept eighteenth-century letter books, already worked on by Viscountess Ridley. The second drawer contains a small but interesting group of

papers relating to the coal trade. Though they do not cover a long period, they do give a very detailed record of coals led and delivered at Jesmond Staith for the use of Matthew White over the years to which they relate and they include some references to expenditure on equipment, measuring keels and "incidents" or working expenses. The three principal groups of papers are as follows:

- 1733-1745. Accounts of coals wrought for the use of various parties (owners such as Matthew White, workmen, etc.). 8 items.
- 1742-1744. Accounts of coal led and delivered at Jesmond Staith for the use of Matthew White and expenditure in connection with this trade 70 items.
- 1744-1747. Jesmond Staith Accounts (as for 1742-4) 5 items.

Only one farm account, on the other hand, has been preserved for Matthew White. This is for the year 1743 and mentions land tax, minor expenses such as repair of a gate, but does not give a detailed picture of farming activities.

The two remaining items in this drawer are papers c. 1740 relating to a case in Chancery concerning Jesmond Colliery in which the parties were Nicholas Fenwick, Richard Ridley and Matthew White esq. v. William Coulson, Thomas Ord, John Carr, gents., John Fairlam, John Hay, Richard Finley, Thomas Forster and Thomas Green, and finally a will of Richard Ridley (with probate attached) which he made on the 4th December, 1786. This refers to the land and wharf which he owned in Gateshead and Pipewellgate.

Among the deeds in the third drawer is a free and general pardon to Robert Widdrington of Plessey, Northumberland, dated 10th February, 1625 (Latin). It also contains a number of deeds which bear an economic history. There is a lease of the 25th March, 1691, from Sir Christopher

Vane and James Tillie to Nicholas Fenwick, Matthew Rice, William Gibson, John and Edmond Parmerly and John Tinkler of lead mines in the parish of Middleton in Teesdale, co. Durham, commonly called Cowgreen; a lease of the 16th July, 1691, from Sir Samuel Gerard of Buckstoop, Sussex, to William Johnson of Kibblesworth, co. Durham, Elias Nesbitt, merchant of Newcastle, Peter Bernardean of Ravensworth, gent., Francis Mascall of Framwellgate, co. Durham, and John Gill of Gateshead Park, co. Durham, of a messuage at Rockstaithes; an agreement of the 2nd October, 1691, between Matthew White of Newcastle esq., George Harrison of Newcastle, hostman, John Fuller of Felling Staithes, co. Durham, gent. and John Richardson of Whickham, co. Durham, which relates to mining operations in the manor and lordship of Whickham; and an assignment of the 1st December, 1692, from John Richardson of Whickham to Matthew White of Newcastle of the coal mines at Hollinsyde (called Crockburn Colliery on the endorsement). Two agreements of the 6th January, 1693, relate to the partition of the lead mines of Gorbut Mea in Rookehope, parish of Stanhope, co. Durham, in which William Johnson of Kibblesworth esq., Nicholas Ridley of Newcastle esq., Matthew White of Newcastle esq. and Matthew Taylor of Swallwell esq. were partners. Finally, an assignment of the 3rd February, 1693, relates to the anchorage and other advantages of the River Blyth.

The remaining deeds in this drawer relate principally to the mortgage by Sir Richard Neile of the manor of Plessey and lands in Plessey and Shotton and to the history of this estate after his death when it passed to his two daughters and co-heiresses, Margaret and Frances. In addition there are a few strays relating to the Yorkshire estate of Sir Paul and Richard Neile at Hutton and Dykeb, a tenement at St. Mary St., Portsmouth, a messuage in Madhurst, Sussex. Finally, there is a small group of deeds relating to Thomas Urwen's estate at Cambois, Bedlington, Blyth, Morpeth and Alnwick.

The fourth drawer contains several distinct series of

deeds, mainly eighteenth century, which fall into the following divisions:

Miscellaneous Deeds (3 bundles).

1. 1620-1719 Deeds relating to Northumberland—Bellasis (1621), Morpeth (1693), Hull Park, Alnwick (1704), Stannington (1716), West Hertford (1718). Also one deed relating to the parish of Holy Trinity and Stoake near Guildford (1706).
2. 1720-1733 Deeds relating to Stannington (1725), Plessey (1727), West Hertford (1728) and Bellasis (1728-1733). Also Portsmouth (1720).
3. 1751-1789 Deeds relating to Bellasis (1755-8), Blyth (1784), Bedlington (1789). Copy of will of Wm. Hepple of Bitchfield (1768). Also deed relating to Portsmouth (1751) and Wandsworth, Surrey (1782).

Ridley and White Deeds (3 bundles).

1. 1720-1727 Deeds relating to Bedlington, Cambois, Plessey, Heaton, Stannington, Byker, Blyths Nook.
2. 1729-1766 Deeds relating to Plessey and Newsham, Byker, Heaton, Blyths Nook, coal mines, Northumberland; Red Barns and other enclosures, Newcastle upon Tyne; Sleekburn, co. Durham; and Withgall, parish of Mitton, co. York. Also appointment of Thos. Davidson under sheriff of Northumberland (1756).
3. 1786-1804 Deeds relating to Bedlington coal mines, Heaton, South Blythe, North Cramlington, Plessey, Newsham, East Heddon. Declaration of trusts relating to annuities for Ridley family (1786).

Ridley and White Leases.

1716-1795 These relate to Plessey and Newhouses; waste land on west of Newcastle to Morpeth road; Shotton farm; Low Bricks farm, East Heddon; Hall's House farm at Hall's Houses; Milkup farm, Shotton edge; Brackan Hill farm, East Heddon; Pennyhill farm, Blagdon; South Blythe ropewalk, and lands at East Heddon, Plessey, Rivergreen (Pennyhill farm), South Blythe, Dent's Hole Copperas House.

Blythe Company.

1718-1762 Transfers and assignments of shares in Bedlington colliery and fishery.

Blythe Anchorage.

1752-1754 Bishop of Durham's leases of Blythe anchorage.

Bedlington Colliery.

31st July, 1776 Assignment of a lease from Henry Flower to Henry Playford.

Cambois and South Blythe.

1656 Agreement on Cambois boundaries.
1760, 1766 Two leases, relating to South Blythe.

Cambois.

30th July, 1719 Assignment of 25 shares in the manor of Cambois from Sir Biby Lake to Mr. Ridley.

Ridley and Dale Papers.

1727-1730 These relate to mortgages in the bundle of Ridley and White deeds.—See above.

Miscellaneous Papers. This bundle includes the following items:

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 1723 | Abstract of title to Plessey and Blythe colliery. |
| 1726 | Plan of Red Barns, Newcastle, by William Donkin, surveyor. |
| 1787 | Blythe house rents. |
| 1789 | East Heddon coal. |
| 1787-1792 | Case in the Exchequer—Ridley v. Wescomb (relates to a mortgage). |

Drawer 5. Deeds, mainly eighteenth and nineteenth century. 1660-1697, 1828,

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 1830, 1836 | Bellasis deeds. |
| 1848 | Abstract of title to John Forster's estate in Bellasis. |
| c. 1750-1818 | Agreements and papers relating to the purchase of Cramlington estate. |
| 1827-1874 | Cramlington leases. |
| 1812 | Cowpen Colliery deeds. |
| 15th Aug., 1814 | Draft release from J. E. W. Emmerton to Sir M. W. Ridley—Cambois. |
| 13th Mar., 1824 | Lease of coal mines in East Sleekburn. |
| 1804-1848 | Leases and releases relating to Blagdon, Bellasis and the parish of Stannington. |
| 19th Cent. | Fines and recoveries connected with title to various estates of the Riddleys. |

Papers. The most interesting are a Newburn Enclosure Act of 1816 and a report by John Buddle on Cowpen Colliery, with suggestions on its management (1836). Others are as follows:

- | | |
|------|--|
| 1800 | Papers relating to the will and estate of Matthew Forster (from whom the Riddleys acquired land at Bellasis). The two following items are also connected with the Forsters and Bellasis: |
|------|--|

- 14th June, 1843 Probate of the will of John Forster.
 1847 Death duties—estate of John Forster esq.
 1802-1814 Papers in the case of Ridley v. Wescombe
 (see also Drawer 4).
 18th Bonds and business papers, marked no. 8
 on the outside of the parcel and described
 as “of no consequence”.

Marriage Settlements and Wills.

- 1803-1871 Settlements and assignments of trust
 money. The principal settlements are:
 Matthew White Ridley and Miss Laura
 Hawkins (1803); Sarah Ridley and John
 Cookson (1837); Edith H. Ridley and A.
 G. Maynard (1873).
 1st May, 1835 Marriage settlement C. A. Monck and
 Laura Ridley.
 1835 Bond, reconveyance, release—annuity of
 Rev. Richd. Ridley.
 1862 Release from Rev. H. R. Ridley of his
 fortune.
 17th-18th Cent. A bundle labelled Papers relating to St.
 James, Barras Bridge (Newcastle), Messrs.
 Rutherfords' will. This contains the
 marriage settlement of William Jenison of
 Elswick and Mary Ellison of Newcastle
 (1675); probate copy of the will of Robert
 Rutherford of Spittle, co. Durham (19th
 Aug., 1780); probate copy of the will of
 Mary Rutherford, spinster (20th Dec.,
 1794); and other papers.

Letters.

- 1834-1835 A small bundle of letters from Sir Charles
 Monck of Belsay.
 1803-1860 Letters—business and also relating to
 settlements.

E. M. HALCROW.

6.—LAINGS OF LAINGS HILL IN ELSDON PARISH.

In early records of Elsdon parish there are three places which are often referred to as "The Hill" which were later known by the names of a family which held them. At the south end of the parish South Cresswell Lees is one of these which later became Halls Hill, the family of Hall holding a freehold there. The Hill at Colwell became Colwell Hill after the family which held a freehold there and in Woodside ward the Hill on its highest point became Laings Hill after a family which came there at the beginning of the eighteenth century. The Hill House was mentioned in a survey of the Crown lands in 1568 as in the hands of the Crown.

In 1604 the Hill is given as a customary tenancy of Bartholomew Potts paying 15s. rent and having 8 acres meadow, 10 acres arable and 40 acres of pasture and he holding it by Runnion his father. In the rental of Harbottle in 1618 it gives the Hill als. Caresleyfield with tenants at will as¹ Robert Potts ixs. *vid.* There are records in Elsdon register of Potts from the Hill until 1722.

Somewhere before 1717 Edward Laing came to the Hill as his name appears in that year as overseer and in 1719 he is granted leave to erect a pew. In an article by Mr. J. C. Hodgson in Elsdon Lairds in Vol. XXII of B.N.C. proceedings is some account of the family and in this he says they came from Scotland but gives no support to this. An entry in Edlingham parish register makes me rather doubt this. In Elsdon register Edward, son of Edward Laing of the Hill, was baptized and in 1726 we find in Edlingham register that Edward son of Edward Laing of the Hill in the parish of Elsdon was buried. There had long been Laings in Edlingham parish. In the muster-roll of 1538 Ryc Laing attended from Edlingham and Edward Laing from Bolton, also John Laing and George Laing from Yetlington in Whittingham parish. There are entries at the end of the seventeenth

¹ Roger Widdrington paying xvd. Barthol. Potts iijs. ix*d.*

century of the baptisms of three families of Laings in Edlingham register. George Laing of Bolton, 1660-1673, Edward Laing of Newtown 1674-1680, and William Laing of Newtown, 1680-1694. In 1711 William Laing of Edlingham was buried in the church and in 1724 Edward Laing then of Thirston was also buried in Edlingham church and the child Edward in 1726 is the last record for this family. As in 1694 William Laing of Newtown had a son Edward baptized at Edlingham, it looks very like as if it were he that came to the Hill before 1717 or Edward Laing who died at Thirston may have had a son Edward. Edward Laing then of St. Margarets or Upper Scheles in Alnwick parish voted for land at Thropton in 1722 and in 1748 Edward Laing of the Hill voted for these lands and in 1760 left them to his eldest son Robert. His first wife was Isabel and she died in 1729, their only son Edward dying at the age of six and was buried at Edlingham in 1726. He married secondly Mary Anderson in 1732. She was the daughter and heiress of Matthew Anderson of Birdhopecraig and they had a family of seven sons and a daughter Isabel who married Ralph Hedley 1765.

By his will in 1760 he left to his eldest son Robert a messuage and farm at Thropton. To George his son a messuage and farm at Dykehead; to his son John £350 to be paid out of the Hill, Flexridge and Walls; to his son William a messuage and farm of lands called Longcroft and Danesbank with houses in Rochester. To his son Matthew lands and farm known as Netherfield Silloans (or Blackburn) Holehouse and one half of Birdhopecraig water corn mill: To his daughter Isabella a messuage and farm called the Hillock. To his wife Mary Laing the old grey cow and the white quey that stands with her in the winter, the bay filly. All my household furniture (except the clock) is to be divided between her and my daughter Isobel. To his son Edward Laing the messuage and farm called the Hill, Flexridge and Walls in the parish of Elsdon charged with payment of £20 per annum to his wife Mary Laing.

Edward Laing died in 1761 and his wife in 1763. Edward Laing the son died in the same year and Matthew Laing died in 1767. John had also died in 1753. George Laing of Dykehead married Mary Charlton of Elsdon parish, his only surviving daughter married Edward Charters of Caistron in 1796. William Laing in 1770 married Isabel Burn of Elsdon parish. A son Thomas was born to them in 1773 at Heatherwick and Isabel Laing died in 1777-8 at Folly House. In 1780 William Laing married Mary Colwell and a daughter Isabel was born at Heatherwick in 1781. In 1800 William Laing of Cambo parish of Hartburn was buried at Elsdon aged 60 and was a chaise driver.

Robert Laing the eldest son was born in 1733. In 1758 he married Isabel daughter of Ellrington Reed of Troughend and two sons and four daughters of theirs were baptized from Birdhopecraig. In 1774 he voted for Birdhopecraig but in 1793 a meeting of his creditors was held in Newcastle when a further dividend on his estates and effects will be made. (*Newcastle Courant*, 4th September, 1793.) It was probably about this time that the connection of the family with Laings Hill was severed. In 1796 there is an entry in Elsdon register that Robert Laing of the Sills fell from his horse and perished beneath Davyshiel Mill and in 1812 Isabel Laing widow of Robert Laing of the Sills farmer, aged 72, was buried.

Robert the eldest son of Robert Laing was of Plenderleith and in 1781 he married Hannah Aitkenhead of Whitelee. They had one daughter Hannah and Hannah Laing died in 1784 and was buried at Byrness. Robert Laing married a second time, Mary Boyle, by whom he had a son Edward Laing born in 1800 and a daughter Elizabeth Boyle Laing born in 1802. In 1811 Robert Laing died at Plenderleith and was buried at Byrness by his first wife.

Elizabeth Laing the youngest daughter of Robert Laing senior, married Joseph Falder of Alnwick. Their son Roddam John Falder married his cousin Hannah Laing. In

1864 he succeeded to Roddam estates and took the name of Roddam.

I am indebted for much of the information from some notes on Elsdon lairds by the late J. C. Hodgson in B.N.C. proceedings and information supplied by Mr. W. P. Hedley.

EDWARD MILLER.

7.—A SQUARE-HEADED BROOCH FROM BENWELL.

We are indebted to Mrs. R. Ramshaw of Tynemouth for allowing an inspection and spectrographic analysis to be made of the brooch illustrated in plate VI. It was found in 1935 during road building operations to the east of the Roman fort at Benwell. So far as can be ascertained, it lay in close proximity to a glass vessel, broken and discarded by the workmen, and to the cruciform brooch already recorded by Parker Brewis in *Archæologia Aeliana*, series 4, vol. XIII, p. 117.

The brooch is five inches long, cast in bronze, and is in fine condition, the only damage being a small portion broken off from the left hand side lappet. Hinge and pin are missing, but iron rust still adheres to the two securing lugs on the back of the head plate and to the catch plate, indicating that they were both of iron.¹

It belongs to a group of square-headed brooches classified by E. T. Leeds as C2, Kenninghall II type, and can probably be dated to the seventh century A.D.² Although this type of brooch is apparently East Anglian in origin, there being a particularly fine specimen from Kenninghall, Norfolk, the majority of brooches thus classified have been found north of the Humber. Unless otherwise indicated, the

¹ The iron hinge is still in position on a similar brooch from Whitehill Point, North Shields, at present in the Black Gate Museum. *Proceedings*, ser. 2, vol. V, pp. 236 and 238.

² E. T. Leeds, *Anglo-Saxon Square Headed Brooches*, pp. 79 and 121, also *Early Anglo-Saxon Art and Archaeology*, p. 94.



SQUARE-HEADED BROOCH: BENWELL [ACTUAL SIZE].

comparisons given below are illustrated in Leeds' *Anglo-Saxon Square Headed Brooches*.

The border of the head plate is in strong relief and preserves in the design the bars and masks of the moulded knobs as they appear on some florid cruciform brooches.³ Both the bars and head plate panels are undecorated. Beaked heads facing outwards form part of the design of the two side lappets, and resemble closely those on the brooches from Staxton and Hornsea, Yorkshire. Although the boldly executed terminal mask on the foot of the brooch possesses the normal upcurled moustaches, protruding eyes, and prominent eyebrows, the side locks, either long as on the Hornsea brooch, or tightly curled as on the Staxton brooch, have not been present. Beak tipped finials spring separately from the foot of the brooch, there being no indication of the crescentic appendage which eventually develops on the Driffield, Darlington, and Whitehill Point brooches.

In workmanship and design the Benwell brooch approaches most closely to the brooches from Staxton and Hornsea.

G. JOBEY.

The brooch is made of tin bronze, and the micro-structure indicates a tin content in the region of 15-20%. Spectrographic analysis shows the presence of copper, tin, lead, zinc and silver, and although qualitative in nature, suggests a lead content of the order of 5%. Zinc and silver are present only as traces. The tin content is high and the presence of such a large proportion of lead suggests the possibility of the re-use of Roman tin alloy or pewter. On the other hand the silver is almost certainly accounted for by the normal small quantities found as impurities in lead, and possibly copper.

With such a proportion of lead, the material would be

³ e.g. the brooch from Icklingham, Suffolk. *Early Anglo-Saxon Art and Archaeology*, Plate XXII b.

free cutting, and the high tin content would give a light yellow metal which would burnish readily and retain its polish and colour quite well, eventually tarnishing to a light brown shade. The brooch would also retain its shape in view of the hardening effect of the tin.

The state of the back of the brooch suggests that it was sand-cast, and from the evidence of the marks of the smith's tool on the back of the bow it would seem that this had been forged.⁴ Extreme thinness of parts of the pattern indicates that forming the brooch by casting in a closed mould would be difficult. The fine detail is so sharp as to suggest that it has been finished by chasing, and indeed traces of the use of the chasing tool can be seen in various places.

D. MAXWELL.

8.—A COPPER-GILT CHALICE FROM HEXHAM ABBEY.

This small chalice (plate VII) was found in the precincts of Hexham Abbey about the middle of the nineteenth century. It remained in private possession until recently when it was returned to the abbey. It is made of copper gilded over, some remains of this gilt can still be seen upon it. Its dimensions are, height $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches, diameter of cup $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches, depth $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches. A beaded collar separates the cup from the stem, the rounded base with flanged lower edge is $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches in diameter.

It was submitted to the relevant department of the British Museum, whose Keeper reported that only three similar chalices are known to exist; one of silver in the museum, one of lead found in Gloucestershire which has now disappeared, and this one at Hexham. It is probably a unique example of the small chalices used with portable altars in the early days of the Christian Church in England. It is

⁴ The much more poorly made brooch from Whitehill Point also shows slight marks of forging on the back of the bow.



THE HEXHAM CHALICE.

certainly of seventh-century date, contemporary with the life of St. Cuthbert (d. 687), whose portable altar is in the Cathedral Library at Durham. This chalice was doubtless used with such a portable altar by the monks of Hexham Abbey on the numerous journeys they made to the outlying villages and hamlets of Northumbria, preaching the Gospel and administering the Sacrament.

A. G. HARDIE,
Rector of Hexham.

9.—AN ARMOUR, RAPIER AND GAUNTLET BEQUEATHED
TO THE SOCIETY BY THE LATE MR. D. WAWN.

This is a composite white half armour of the last quarter of the sixteenth century, and is of a common type of which large quantities were made, mostly in north Italy, especially in Milan and Brescia (plate VIII). Many of these Italian armours were for export as stock pattern harnesses and orders would be placed for large numbers. This type was often decorated by mass-produced etching.

The pieces are associated; being taken from various contemporary suits and differing very slightly in form and bordering. Many pieces have been recently repaired and the straps are not original.

It has the characteristic breastplate with the pronounced peascod form as in the civilian fashion of this period. There are complete arms of pauldrons, upper and lower cannons and couters, but it lacks a pair of fingered gauntlets. There are also backplate, gorget and laminated tassets. There is no decoration on the suit and the borders of the principal parts are roped in the usual manner.

The breastplate has movable gussets for the arms and there is a heavy roped border. The skirt plate is modern and carries the straps for the tassets each of nine plates and buckled on with three straps. The backplate has a sunk line

down the centre and is shaped into the culet at the bottom. The gorget has a roped rim, two lames around the neck, front and back, and two main plates with the straps for the arms. The pauldrons are built of three main plates and five lames for the upper arm, the last lame forming part of the turning joint of the upper cannon. The couters encircle the arm and have a roped ridge running round the centre. The lower cannons are of two plates, hinged, and closed with pins.

The burgonet is slightly earlier and of an elegant pointed form. The skull, with high comb, neck plate and peak, is forged in one piece. The ear plates are a restoration and a plume holder and the lining are now missing (plate VIII).

The rapier has a swept hilt with faceted oviform pommel with button. The grip is bound with copper wire. The knuckle-guard and single upward curving quillon branch into a side ring and pas d'ane and enclose a large fluted shell (plate VIII).

The blade is of hexagonal section grooved at the forte on each side and incised III (O) M (O) M (O) M (O) and a mark that resembles an orb and cross. The rapier is German of c. 1610-20, though the blade could be Spanish.¹

The mitten gauntlet is German of the third quarter of the sixteenth century. The cuff is long and pointed and shaped over the ulna bone. The back of the hand has five plates and there is a roped knuckle plate and five finger plates. The cuff and last finger plate have an embossed border. The lining and part of the thumb are missing (plate VIII).

A. C. S. DIXON.

¹ There is a rapier no. 1237 in the Wallace Collection with the M (O) M etc. mark, possibly Spanish, and the mark is also on two rapiers in the Keasby sale, 1924, no. 231, and 1925, no. 104.



FIG. 2.



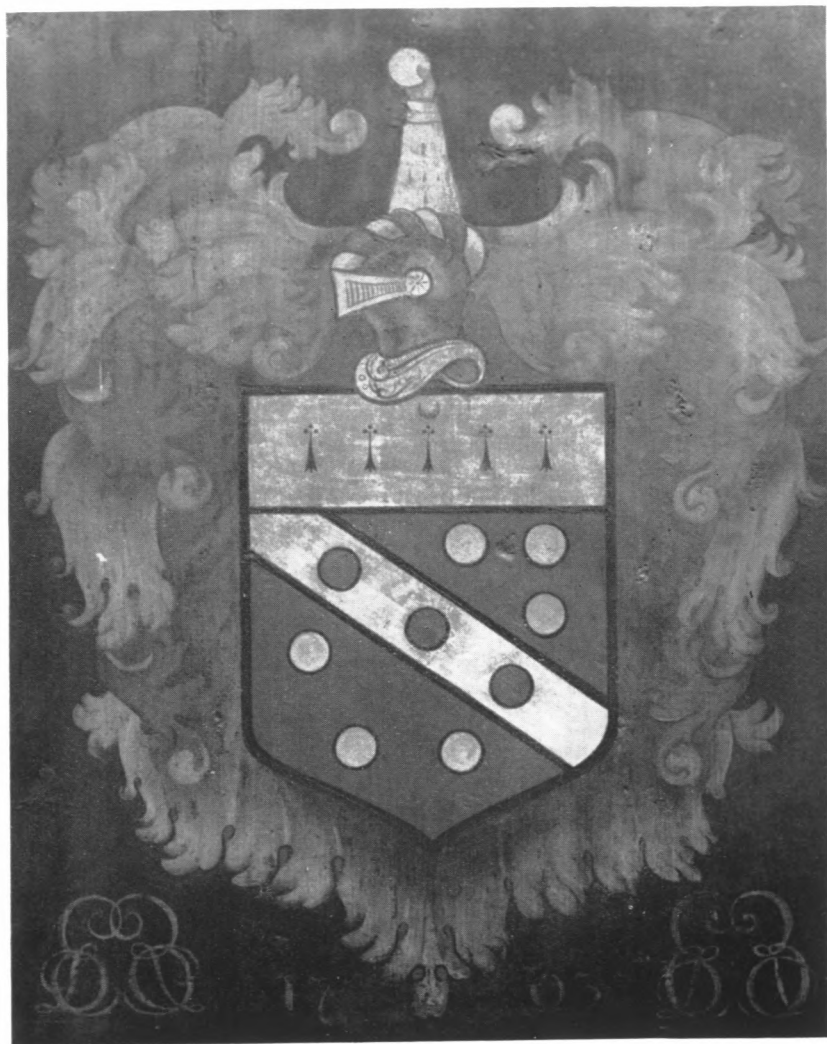
FIG. 3.



FIG. 1.

AN ARMOUR, RAPIER AND GAUNTLET.





ARMORIAL PANEL AT MIDDLE ORD.



10.—AN ARMORIAL PANEL AT MIDDLE ORD,
BERWICK UPON TWEED.

Mr. C. J. Dixon-Johnson has sent to me a description of an armorial panel in his house at Middle Ord. It bears the armorial achievement of his ancestor George Dixon of Ramshaw, Co. Durham, as confirmed to him by Richard St. George, Norroy King of Arms in 1615, who granted the crest at the same time (plate IX).

The oblong wooden panel measures five feet by three feet three inches; it is painted black within a brown frame two inches wide, inside of this is a gold border of the same width. The plain shaped shield bears the arms—*gules on a bend or between six plates three torteaux a chief erminois and a crescent for difference*. The shield is ensigned by a closed helmet facing to the dexter garnished *or and lined gules* upon this on a *wreath gules and argent* is the crest of a *cubit right arm vested erminois cuffed argent holding in the hand a roundel erminois*. Mantling *or and gules*. Below is the date in gold 1703, in each lower corner is a scroll design in gold.

The panel was therefore painted for George Dixon of Durham and Aykleheads (1665-1738), of whom there is a portrait at Middle Ord. Why it should have been painted in 1703 is not known.

C.H.H.B.

PROCEEDINGS, FIFTH SERIES, VOL. I.

CORRIGENDA.

- Page 262, line 2 of text, for "Friday in the Eve"
read "Friday on the Morrow".
- Page 266, line 30, for "Wednesday next before"
read "Wednesday next after".
- Page 385, line 3, for "Wednesday in the Eve of St. Andrew
34 Edward I (24th Nov. 1305)"
read "Wednesday on the Morrow of St. Andrew
34 Edward I (1st Dec. 1305)".

