

XI.—SEALS OF RICHARD BARNES, BISHOP OF DURHAM—1577-87.

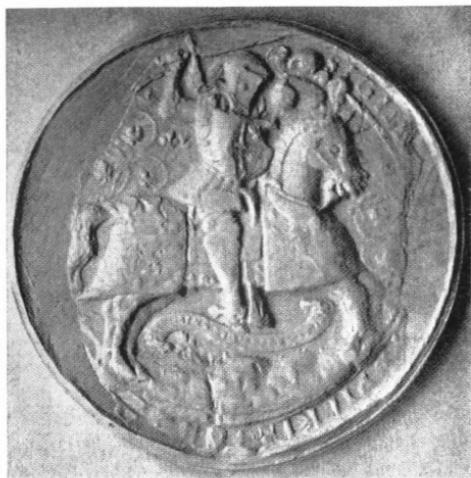
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An imperfect impression of the chancery seal of bishop Barnes has recently been given to this Society. It is well to have this as no example of this type of seal is at present known between that of Tunstall (1530-59) and Matthew (1595-1606), except only for a cast of the equestrian reverse of Pilkington's (1561-76). The reverse of Barnes' seal is the same as Pilkington's (plate XLII, fig. 1), except for the necessary alteration in the legend. It continues the traditional motive begun by bishop Hatfield (1345-8) and continued until the end of the bishops' palatinate power. The only significant change is that from the time of Pilkington onwards the coronetted mitre disappears from the helmet.

Obverse (plate XLII, fig. 2). The bearded figure of the bishop seated on a throne of classical design, wearing a doctor's cap, a cape fastened over his shoulders, with a voluminous gown beneath. His right hand holds the Bible in front. Beneath him is a shield of arms bearing the arms of the cathedral church of Durham impaling the quartered arms of Barnes I and IV *quarterly or and vert on a fess sable three stars or* II and III *azure on a bend argent a bear passant sable with a naked body in his jaws on a chief argent three roses gules*. The dexter side of the seal is destroyed but it probably bore the arms of the church of Durham as on the seal of Barnes' successor bishop James. The sinister, also partly destroyed, bears the quartered shield of the bishop as blasoned above. The legend is destroyed except for BARNES in Roman capitals.

This seal typifies the changes that took place at Durham,

as elsewhere at the Reformation. Just as the cathedral church was despoiled of its images and other ornaments and the tomb of St. Cuthbert rifled and destroyed, so on this seal the gracious figure of Our Lady with the child Christ and the protecting figures of the great Durham saints, Cuthbert and Oswald the King, which appeared on pre-reformation seals, have gone. The bishop sits alone protected only by his armorial shields, he wears no episcopal vestments, no mitre is on his head and no crosier is in his hand. The Bible held in his left hand is the only sign, except the legend, that he is a consecrated bishop, his right hand rests on his knee and is no longer raised in blessing as it appears on all bishops' seals from St. Calais to Tunstall. Bishop Barnes used only two other seals, so far as at present known, namely that of his ecclesiastical chancellor and his seal *ad causas*. These, with other past reformation seals, are described and illustrated in *Arch. Aeliana*, 4th ser., vol. XXVI, pp. 73ff. and plate II, figs. 6 and 7. I have illustrated them again on plate XLIII, figs. 3 and 4, in order to bring together all bishop Barnes' seals as they seem important, being the earliest known which illustrate the changes brought about by the Reformation. The reader is referred to the above named volume for their full description. Accounts of all the known seals of the bishops of Durham appeared in *Arch. Aeliana*, 3rd ser., vol. XIV, nos. 3108-3170, and in *Archæologia* (Lond.), volumes LXXII and LXXVII.



1.



2.



3.



4.

1. Reverse of Chancery seal of bishop Pilkington.
2. Obverse of Chancery seal of bishop Barnes.
3. Bishop Barnes' seal of the Chancery office.
4. Bishop Barnes' seal *ad causas ecclicas*.

