

A DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE  
 OF THE  
 SEALS OF THE BISHOPS OF NORWICH,

FROM

A. D. DCCCL. to the Reformation.

COMMUNICATED BY MR. T. G. BAYFIELD.

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A DOUBLE object has been had in view in submitting to the Norfolk and Norwich Archæological Society the sub-joined list of the Episcopal Seals of the Diocese. It is hoped that it may be agreeable to the members to see brought together descriptions of those already known, and that such a Catalogue, by showing at the same time what are not known, may lead the individuals who fortunately meet with the opportunity, to supply the desiderata. The principal sources from which the account has been drawn, are, the British Museum, the Deeds preserved by the Norwich and Lynn Corporations, and the pages of Blomefield's *History of Norfolk*, and Taylor's *Index Monasticus*. Where it has been necessary to make use of the writers just mentioned, reference has always been given, and the authority acknowledged. A similar Catalogue of the Seals of any other Diocese, it is believed, is nowhere to be found. Upon the use of Seals, as illustrative of history, of topography, of genealogy, of the arts, or of costume, so much has been written, and such decisive evidence has been given by the number of them engraved in the *Archæologia* and similar publications, that it would be only trespassing upon the patience of the Society here to add a single word.

## SEAL OF ETHILWALD,

BISHOP OF DUNWICH ABOUT A. D. 850.

It had long been denied that Seals were in use in England between the time of the Romans and of Edward the Confessor; and, as no certain example was known to the contrary, the conclusion was not an unreasonable one. But in 1822 this seal was found at Eye in Suffolk; and a letter from Mr. Hudson Gurney, containing a description of it, together with an account of the circumstances of its discovery and a copy of the Profession of Faith of Ethilwald, was published in the *Archæologia*, Vol. XX., p. 479. A figure of it was likewise there given.

It appears that this unique specimen of the Seals of the Saxon Prelates was dug up, about two hundred yards from the site of the Monastery at Eye, by a labourer, who gave it to the child of a workman in the employ of Mr. Fenner, then the landlord of the principal inn there. The child threw it on the fire, whence its mother rescued it, and retained it for Mr. Fenner, who had for many years been in the habit of collecting and preserving the objects of antiquity found in the vicinity of the town.

The Seal is of bronze, mitre-shaped; consisting of two rows of arches surmounted by a rude fleur-de-lis, supported by nine wolves' heads in the interstices of the arches: the eyes are formed of small garnets, of which only one remains since its being recovered from the fire.

Form circular, 1·3 in diameter. The device is a cross fleury. The legend

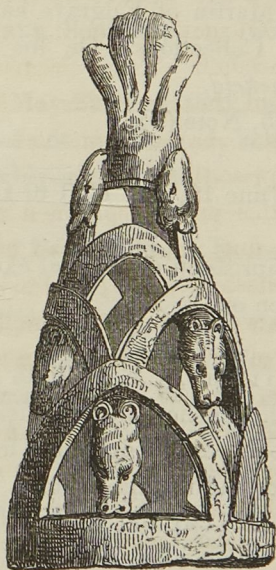
+ SIT EDILVVALDI : EP.—

within a circle of small beads.

No Seal is known of any of the other Bishops of Dunwich, or of those of North Elmham, or of Thetford: indeed, such obscurity hangs over the history of these early prelates, that

it is to be doubted whether even the names of many of them are given accurately by Blomefield, who, for instance, does not mention Ethilwald, even though his existence is clearly pointed out in the "Profession" just referred to, which still exists among the Harleian MSS. (*Cleopatra*, E 1.)

So remarkable is this seal, that, though figured in the *Archæologia*, it has been thought right to repeat the figure



on the present occasion : it may not be otherwise within the reach of many of the members of the Society ; and a list

which professes to describe all the known Episcopal Norfolk Seals, would be but too imperfect, did it not represent the most curious among them.

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SEALS OF THE BISHOPS OF NORWICH.

I. HERBERT DE LOZINGA, A.D. 1091, to July 22, 1119.

“Mr. Thomas Martin of Palgrave hath the Seal of this Bishop among his Collections. On his Seal there are no arms at all.”—*Blomefield*.

A. B. N., p. 335, Note (x).

II. EBORARD, June 12, A.D. 1121 to 1145. He died October 12th, 1149.

Probably no impression of his seal exists: *Blomefield*, at least, had never seen one.

III. WILLIAM TURBUS, A. D. 1146, to Jan. 17, 1174.

D. 3 × 2. The Bishop in pontificalibus. The mitre is flat; and the labels extend outwards from each ear. The crozier turns inward, and is quite plain.

L. (s) WILLEL(MI DEI GRA) NORWICEN  
(SIS EPIS) COPI.

A. An impression attached to the “Profession” of Silvester, Abbot of St. Austin’s, Canterbury, A. D. 1152. — B. M., No. 85, A. D. 1151; No. 86, A. D. 1156. — L. F. C., xii. 3. — X. C. — T. I. M., p. xxxi.

IV. JOHN OF OXFORD, Dec. 14, A.D. 1175, to June 2, 1200.

D. 3 × 2. The Bishop, as usual, giving the benediction: mitre low, but pointed; crozier plain, and turned inwards.

L. IOHANNES (DEI GRA NORWICEN E)PISC(OPUS.)

A. B. M., No. 87, A. D. 1171. — X. C.

*Counter Seal.*—*D.* 3 × 1·3. The only remaining part of this seal is the upper half. It seems to be a smaller copy of the former seal; or perhaps (as in many of the seals of the Bishops of Durham) the figure seen in part may be a saint, to whom John of Oxford in base is praying.

*L.* + IOHANNES (DEI GRA NORWICEN)SIS  
EPISCOPVS.

*A.* B. M., No. 88, A. D. 1171. — X. C.

V. JOHN DE GREY, Sept. 24, A. D. 1200, to Oct. 18, 1214.

VI. PANDULF, May 29, A. D. 1222, to Sept. 16, 1226.

Blomefield does not mention any seal of either of these Bishops; and probably none exists.

VII. THOMAS DE BLUNDEVILLE, December 20, A. D. 1226, to Aug. 16, 1236.

*D.* 3·2 × 2. The Bishop giving the benediction: he stands on a bracket; and there is a faint trace of the *pectorale*,\* a trefoil ornament on the chasuble at the throat.

*L.* + THOMAS DEI GRACIA (NORWI)CENSIS  
EPISCOPVS.

*A.* B. M., No. 89, A. D. 1235. — C. H.

*Counter Seal.*—*D.* 1·5 × 1. In sinister chief, the blessed Virgin Mary and Child: in dexter base, the Bishop praying to them.

*L.* + EST THOME SIGNUM VIRGO | FAC  
HVNC TIBI DIGNVM.

*A.* B. M., No. 90, A. D. 1235. — C. H.

\* This ornament, here but slightly shown, is very distinct on the seals of Richard, Bishop of Durham, 1240; Walter, Bishop of Durham, 1249; Boniface, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1244; Richard, Bishop of Lincoln, and Roger, Prior of Christ Church, Canterbury, 1258; but it is not described in Pugin's *Ecclesiastical Ornament and Costume*, nor in any other work on the subject to which I have access.

## VIII. RALPH, A. D. 1235, to 1237.

No seal of this prelate is known.

## IX. WILLIAM DE RALEIGH, Sept. 25, 1239, to 1243.

A seal attributed to this Bishop exists in the British Museum (L. F. C., xii. 4), the date assigned to which is 1239; but, on a close inspection, it appears to be an impression from the same matrix as was used by William Turbus, (see *suprà*.) It would seem, therefore, either that this impression is incorrectly dated, or that Raleigh used the seal of his predecessor, Turbus,—a supposition which we can hardly deem admissible, when we are told that the seal of a Bishop was ordered to be defaced at his death, and so delivered by his executors to the Archbishop.\*

## X. WALTER SUFFIELD, A. D. 1244, to May 20, 1257.

*D.* 3 × 1·8. The Bishop in pontificalibus; his crozier in his left hand, and his right elevated in giving the benediction; (the only describable difference between this and the previous seal, being the addition of the trefoil ornament.) The field is diapered; and in a kind of quatrefoil on each side is a bull's head, being the emblem of St. Luke. In the exergue is a church. †

*L.* + WALTERUS MISERACIONE DI |  
VINA NORWICENSIS EPISCOPVS.

*Counter Seal.*—*D.* Our Saviour on a throne; a star at each elbow; right hand raised in benediction; left hand

\* See Taylor's *Index Monasticus*, p. xxiii. Taylor quotes Pegge; but at what date did the legate Arnaldo give this order? It might not have been till after this; for in the time of Henry III. there were great abuses in Bury Abbey regarding the use of these seals.

† This is a handsome seal, and appears to be the first in the series in which there is any thing like an approach to good art. It ought, however, to be mentioned, that all the impressions I have seen of the preceding ones have been very imperfect.

removing his robe, and pointing to the wound in his side : he addresses the Bishop, who is in the exergue, kneeling and turned to the dexter, in the following words, which are engraved round the seal :

+ HOC TE TORMENTO REDI |  
MI WALTERE MEMENTO. §

A. B. M., Nos. 92, 93, A. D. 1244: Rev. Mr. Hamper.—B. N., p. 896, Nos. 184 and 185.—T. I. M., page xxxi. (an impression attached to his Will, A. D. 1256.)

XI. SIMON WALTON, Mar. 10, A. D. 1258, to Jan. 2, 1265.

D. 2.5 × The Bishop, as usual, in the act of benediction : on his right side is a star, on his left a crescent.

L. S' SIMONIS DEI GRA<sup>(CIA)</sup>  
(NO)RWICENSIS (EPI.)

A. T. I. M., p. xxxi.

*Counter Seal.*—D. Our Saviour on a throne ; right hand in benediction ; head surrounded by a nimbus. The Bishop is kneeling below.

L. + TV SIMONEM . . VNI CVI  
TRINO SERVIT ET VNI.

A. T. I. M., p. xxxi.

XII. ROGER SKERNING, Sept. 19, A. D. 1266, to Jan. 22, 1278.

D. 3.2 × 1.9. The usual figure of the Bishop ; there being a small W on the dexter, and an A on the sinister side, both crowned (?). In base, there is on each side a small figure of a monk, according to Taylor ; but, from an impres-

§ Blomefield translates this inscription,

“By this torment I have redeemed thee ;  
And therefore, Walter, now remember me ;”

but, evidently, inaccurately ; the proper version being, “Remember, Walter, that thou art redeemed by this torment.”

sion before me, I should rather believe these figures intended for our Saviour and St. Peter walking on the sea.

L.       ROGERVS DEI GRA NORWICENSIS  
          EPISCOPVS.

A. T. I. M., p. xxxi.

*Counter Seal.*—D. The Deity on a throne, holding a crucifix. The Bishop, in a monk's cowl, kneels below.

L.       DO TIBI SCINCERE FIDEI  
          MENS . . . ROGERE.

A. T. I. M., p. xxxi.

XIII. WILLIAM DE MIDDLETON, May 29, A. D. 1278, to Aug. 31, 1288.

D. 3·2 × 2. The Bishop, as usual. At each elbow is a roundel containing a human face. In base, on the dexter side, is St. John the Baptist, holding the Agnus Dei; and on the sinister, St. Lawrence, holding a gridiron.

L.       WILLELMVS DEI GRA |  
          NORWICENSIS EPS.

A. B. M., No. 95, A. D. 1278. — X. C. — B. N., p. 351. — T. I. M., p. xxxi. A. D. 1280.

*Another Seal of this Bishop.*—D. 3·1 × 1·8. The figure resembles in workmanship that of Walter Suffield. The field is diapered, and contains the letters, W. M. on either side of the Bishop, at the height of his knees: at his elbows are two quatrefoils containing busts.

L.       . . . . . | . . . RWI . . .

A. B. M., No. 96, A. D. 1278. (Caley's sale).

There is so much difference in the general design and execution of these two seals, that it is hardly possible to believe that they both relate to the same person, or are of the same era: of the first I have no doubt.

XIV. RALPH DE WALPOLE, March 12, A. D. 1288, to July 15, 1299.



*D.* 2.9 × 1.8. The figure of the Bishop in the act of benediction, standing on a portion of a building: at each elbow is a ducal coronet: his drapery is beautifully diapered, and his mitre richly wrought.

*L.* SIGILL' RADVLPHI |  
DEI GRA EPI NORWIC.

*A.* An impression among the Lynn Charters, attached to a deed, whereby the Bishop, with the consent of Henry, Prior of the Holy Trinity, grants to William Howard, of Wiggshall, a spare piece of land in his town of Lynn. The Cathedral Seal is attached to the same deed.

A private plate of this seal has been engraved by T. Perry.

XV. JOHN SALMON, Nov. 15, A.D. 1297, to July 6, 1325.

*D.* 2.8 × 1.8. A figure of the Bishop between two crowned female busts.

*L.* (SIG)ILL' (IOHIS D)EI | (G)RACIA  
EPI NORWIC.

*A.* B. M., No. 97, A. D. 1299: a detached impression.—  
T. I. M., p. xxxi. A. D. 1299.

*Counter Seal.*—*D.* 1.5 × 1. The Virgin and Child; and, in base, the Bishop praying in a trefoil-headed exergue.

*L.* MATER DEI MEMENTO MEI.

*A.* B. M., No. 98, A. D. 1299; the reverse of the above seal.

*Office Seal.*—*D.* 2.1 × 1.5. Our Saviour seated on a throne between two trees, in the act of benediction; below, the Bishop under a trefoil canopy praying, turned to the dexter.

*L.* DIRIGE . PONTIFICIS. |  
VITĀ . D̄S . ALME . IOHIS.

*A.* B. N., pp. 353, 893, No. 146 on the plan, with figure.—T. I. M., p. xxxi. A. D. 1300.—LYNN CHARTERS, an impression in green wax; attached to an acquittance to the Burgesses of Lynn for £140. damages awarded to him by

the Justices in Eyre, at a Sessions of Oyer and Terminer, 13 Edward II. The sum paid was £32. 11s. 0d.

There is in Mr. Turner's collection a drawing of a Seal, unfortunately without the inscription, attributed to this Bishop; in which he is represented standing, with the crozier in his right hand, without a mitre; a star being at his right elbow and a crescent at his left. But, as this is not the dress of a bishop, but of an abbot, I am not willing to assign it to him until a perfect impression can be found. At the same time it is difficult to doubt; as it is copied from a seal affixed to a Deed Poll, dated at Thorpe, on Wednesday next after the Feast of St. Lawrence, 4th Edward II., by which the Bishop grants to John Leclarer certain lands at Plumstead.

XVI. ROBERT DE BALDOCK, consecrated Aug. 11, 1325, and resigned Sept. 3rd following; therefore probably no seal of him ever existed.

XVII. WILLIAM AYERMINE, Sept. 15, A. D. 1325, to March 27, 1336.

*D.* 3 × 1·8. The effigy of a Bishop as before, but without the head.

*L.* S' WILL'I DEI . . . EPISCOPI NORWYC . .

*A.* T. I. M., p. xxxi. A. D. 1326.

*Office Seal.*—*D.* 2·3 × 1·6. A seated figure of our Saviour, raising the right hand in benediction, and holding an orb and cross in his left. Over his head is a slight canopy; and in the base, the Bishop, with mitre and crozier, kneeling to the sinister.

*L.* . . . . WIL | LEL . . . INVS ET VNVS.

*A.* An impression in the possession of the Corporation of Norwich, attached to a Patent, dated 4th May, 1335, respecting a moiety of the Church of Thurton, then vacant, of which the Master and Brethren of St. Giles' Hospital were patrons.

## XVIII. THOMAS DE HEMENHALE, April 5, A. D. 1337.

Removed to Worcester before he was consecrated: he had consequently no seal.

## XIX. ANTONY DE BEC, April 7, A. D. 1337, to Dec. 19, 1343.

*D.* 3 × 1·9. The Bishop in the act of benediction, standing under a canopy; on each side of him a portion of the cathedral. In the exergue is a shield of his arms; *gules*, a cross moline within a bordure engrailed, *argent*. This is the first episcopal seal of this diocese bearing arms.

*L.* + SIGILLV̄: ANTONII: DEI: GRA: EPI:  
NORWYCEN<sup>o</sup>.

*A.* B. N., pp. 359, 893, No. 147, with figure on plan.—An impression in green wax, attached to a deed relating to the churches of Riston and Fordham, Oct. 24, 1342, and 6 Consec. — T. I. M., p. xxxi.

An impression in green wax is attached by a cord of white hemp to a deed in the possession of the Charity Trustees, appropriating the Church of Mundham to the Hospital of St. Giles, dated June 30, 1340, Consec. 4.

## XX. WILLIAM BATEMAN, Jan. 23, A. D. 1343, to Jan. 6, 1353 or 1354.

*D.* The Bishop under a canopy, representing a portion of a sacred building, which is continued on each side of him. Over his head is a quatrefoil, containing the Trinity, and in base his arms: *Sable*, a crescent *ermine*, in a bordure engrailed *argent*.\*

*L.* SIGILLV̄. WILLELMI | DEI GRA EPI  
NORWICEN.

*A.* Seal of red wax, in a case of yellow, affixed to an in-

\* These arms are still borne by Trinity Hall, Cambridge, which he founded, and in the lodge of which his effigy yet remains, standing on a pedestal, bareheaded, but holding his mitre in his hands.

strument relating to the Church of Frenze, May 13, A. D. 1352, Consec. 9.—B. M., No. 99, A. D. 1351.—H. C., 431, 22.—T. I. M., p. xxxi.

*Office Seal.*—*D.* 2.5 × 1.6. An arch rising into an ogee canopy of tabernacle work, in the best style of late decorated architecture, containing the Father Almighty seated, supporting the crucified Son, the common representation of the Trinity. On each side is an escutcheon, the dexter one charged with the arms of the see: *Azure*, three mitres *or*; the sinister with those of Bateman, as on his other seal. In base, the Bishop is kneeling to the dexter, his crozier in his hand.

*L.* S' O(FFICII) WILL'I D | EI GRACIA (EPI)  
 . . . NOR)WICENSIS

*A.* B. M., No. 100, A. D. 1354 (a detached impression.)

XXI. THOMAS PERCY, April 15, A. D. 1355, to Aug. 8, 1369.

*D.* 3.4 × 2.1. A poorly designed figure of the Bishop, standing, as in the preceding, under a gorgeous architectural canopy, enriched with a shield on either side of him, bearing his own arms: *Or*, a lion rampant *azure*, armed and langued *gules*, within a bordure engrailed of the first.

*L.* Sigillu : thome : dei : gra : | norwicensis : episcopi :

*A.* An impression attached to a discharge of three Chaplains in the Chapel of the Bishop's Palace, dated March 28, A. D. 1368, Consec. 13.—Another, dated March 25, A. D. 1356, 30 Edward III.—B. M., No. 101, A. D. 1366.—C. C., xxiii. 15.—T. I. M., p. xxxi.—A fine impression also exists among the deeds in the possession of Sir Thomas Hare, Bart. attached to a grant to the Abbot of Ramsey, dated 1361.

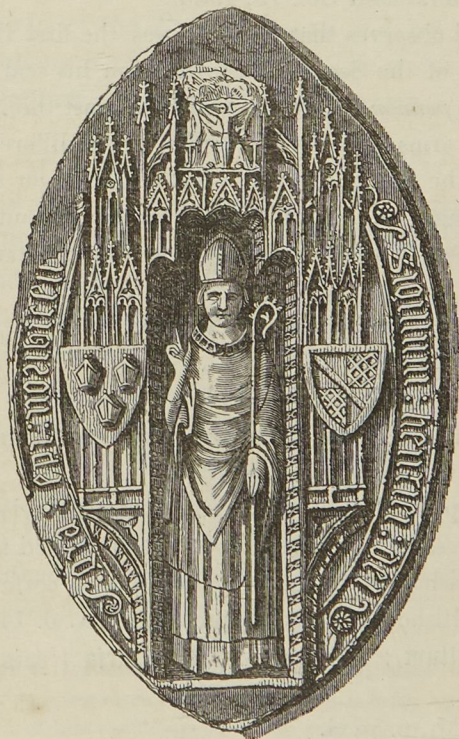
THOMAS, titular Archbishop of Nazareth, was suffragan to this Bishop; appointed A. D. 1355.

Blomefield, p. 365, says that he had seen the seal of this latter, and that it appeared to him he was a Bedingfield; the arms of that family being under his effigy.

XXII. HENRY SPENCER, July 12, A. D. 1370, to Aug. 23, 1406.

D. 3·6 × 2·1. The figure of the Bishop on this seal is, in point of execution, the reverse of the last, being finely executed. He is standing, as in that, under a canopy of the most beautiful architectural character and workmanship, of the latest decorated period. In a niche above is the Trinity: on the dexter side of the prelate are the arms of the See; and on the sinister those of his family, Quarterly, *argent* and *azure*; on each of the *azure* quarters a fret, *or*; over the *argent* a bend *gules*, within a bordure *gules* charged with mitres *argent*.

L. ✕ Sigillum : henrici : dei : | gra : epi :  
norwicensis.



A. An impression attached to a decision between the Prior and Convent of Binham and Richard the Rector of Eggefield, 2 Kal. Maii, A. D. 1378. — B. M., No. 102, A. D. 1370. — A. O. — T. I. M., p. xxxi.

*Office Seal.*—D.  $3 \times 1.8$ . The Trinity under a canopy of much the same character as that in the Bishop's larger Seal, but far less rich: above, in niches, are the Virgin and Child with two angels; and in base, the Bishop kneeling, turned to the sinister, between two coats of arms, as on the Seal last described.

L. henrico : munus : celi : det : trinus :  
et : unus.

A. B. M., No. 103, A. D. 1398.—X. C.—T. I. M., p. xxxi.—An impression in the possession of George Carthew Esq., Dereham, dated Oct. 19, 1385.

Blomefield observes that Spencer was the first Bishop who put the arms of the See and his own upon his seal; and that he bore on a *pennon*, when he warred against the Anti Pope, his paternal arms in a bordure *gules*, as the difference of the youngest of the family. I have selected the larger seal of this Bishop for engraving, considering it the most beautiful in the Norwich series, of which we have impressions extant.

XXIII. ALEXANDER DE TOTYNGTON, Oct. 23, A. D. 1407, to April 28, 1413.

D.  $4 \times "$  A beautiful Seal. "The effigy as usual: the Trinity above: the Episcopal arms on the *right* side, and those of the Priory on the other."

The description, here copied verbatim from Taylor, is taken from an impression of red wax upon green, affixed to a decree of the Archbishop of Canterbury, concerning certain matters between the Bishop and his Chapter, dated A. D. 1411.

L. Sigillum : alexandri : dei : gracia : episcopi :  
norwicensis :

A. T. I. M., p. xxxi.

## XXIV. RICHARD COURTNEY, A. D. 1413, to Sept. 15, 1415.

Of the Seal of this Bishop nothing more is known than what we learn from Blomefield, that he "bore on it his family arms: *or*, three torteaux and a file of three points *azure*, on each label of which three torteaux." This Taylor repeats, adding the date, A. D. 1413.

A. B. N., p. 374.—T. I. M., p. xxxi.

## XXV. JOHN WAKERYNG, A. D. 1416, to Easter Monday, 1425.

"A. D. 1416. The Trinity, as in the preceding devices. The Virgin Mary with the infant Jesus and Angels in niches above; beneath, in a canopy on the right hand, the Bishop giving benediction;\* and, on the left, the figure of some other personage. At the base is the Bishop kneeling, between a shield of the Episcopal arms and his own device, a pelican vulning her breast, proper. The circumscription is,

"Sigillum = Johannis = dei = gracia = epi =  
norwicensis =" Taylor.

A. T. I. M., p. xxxi.

"*Lesser Seal*," or *Office Seal*.—"The Trinity beneath an arch: the Bishop is kneeling at the base; his device on the left, remainder defaced.

"Sigillu = iohis = dei = gra = . . . ."—Taylor.

A. An impression dated "die prox. ante Fest. S. Barnabe, A. D. 1418."—T. I. M., p. xxxi.

The arms which were borne by him, and which do still exist in the gate of the Palace, and in the Cloisters of St. Giles' Hospital; and which did exist until about a week since (March 18, 1847) in a doorway leading to the Jail-yard of Norwich Cathedral, were *argent*, three hawks' lures *sable*, and a crescent *gules* for difference.

\* This figure is probably intended to represent some sainted Bishop; Bishop Wakering being represented in base, and it being highly improbable that two figures of him should appear on the same seal.

XXVI. WILLIAM ALNWICK, August 18, A. D. 1426, to Sept. 19, 1436.

No Seal of this Bishop is known.

XXVII. THOMAS BROWNE, Feb. 15, A. D. 1437, to Dec. 6, 1445.

Taylor, upon whom I am here again obliged to rely, states that he has seen the Episcopal Seal of this prelate "appendant to an indenture between the Bishop and the Mayor and Citizens of Norwich, dated Mar. 10, 1443, 21 Hy. VI., concerning the mills on the Wensum;" and he says: "The design is nearly similar to that of Bishop Wakering. The Private Arms\* are not perfectly distinct, but differing from his customary device."

L. Sigillu : thome : dei : gra : norwicen : epi :

A. T. I. M., p. xxxi.

XXVIII. JOHN STANBERY, A. D. 1445.

No seal known: he was never consecrated, his election having been set aside by the Pope; but he was made Bishop of Bangor, and afterwards of Hereford.

XXIX. WALTER LYHERT, Feb. 27, A. D. 1446, to May 24, 1472.

Blomefield describes three seals used by this Bishop, of which the first and second were in his own collection; and I feel I cannot do better than use his words.

D. "His Episcopal Seal is oblong: in the midst, under the entrance of the church, is a representation of the Trinity.

\* According to Blomefield, these arms were one of the two following coats, both which are said to have been borne by the Bishop at different times.—*Arg.* Three martlets in pale *sable*; between two flaunches of the second, each charged with a lion passant of the field.

*Az.* on a chevron *or*, between three martlets *argent*, as many martlets *sable*; on a chief *gules* a rose between two trunks of trees erased *or*.



The *Father* sits on his throne, holding our *Saviour* on the cross, with a *Dove* in his bosom. On the right hand stands the *Prior*, with a book in one hand, and the pastoral staff, which he used on principal holydays to bear before the Bishop to the high altar, in the other. Opposite to him is a *Monk* in his habit.\* At top is the *Virgin* sitting on a throne, with our *Saviour* in one hand, and a sceptre in the other. At the bottom is the *Bishop* himself, on his knees, with his pastoral staff, praying to the *Trinity*. On the right hand are the arms of his See, and on his left his paternal coat, *viz.*—HART or LYHART, *arg.* a bull passant, *sable*, armed and unguled, *or*, in a bordure, *sable*, besanté. In the middle of the chief part of the bordure, a mitre, *or.*"

L. . . . . gracia . . . . . ensis epi

*Lesser Seal.*—"Of the same form, but much smaller, with only the like representation of the Trinity, and at the base two shields, containing the arms of the See and of the Bishop, as before.

*Private Seal, or Secretum.*—"About the bigness of a sixpence, with his rebus of a hart lying on the waters."

A. B. N., p. 382.—T. I. M., pp. xxxi. xxxii.

XXX. JAMES GOLDWELL, Oct. 4, A. D. 1472, to Feb. 15, 1498.

D. "A representation of the Trinity like the last, with his arms, *azure*, a chief, *or*; over all a lion rampant, *argent.*"—*Taylor*.

A. T. I. M., p. xxxii.

XXXI. THOMAS JAN, July 24, A. D. 1499, to Sept. 1500.

D. "In composition resembling the last: under the canopy, on the right hand of the Trinity, is St. Paul; and on

\* *Taylor*, in describing these two figures, considers the former as "St. James habited as a pilgrim, with the hat, staff, and scrip, and with a glory about his head;" and the latter as "another saint, imperfect."

the left stands St. Peter: at the base, within a niche, the Bishop is kneeling. The Episcopal arms in a shield are on his right; and another shield bearing a basket with fruit between three mitres on his left hand. The Seal is thus circumscribed:

L. ÷ S = thome = jan = permissiōe = dibina =  
norwicens = epi =

A. "A deed dated March 1499, Consec. 1, from the palace at Norwich."—T. I. M. p. xxxii.

XXXII. RICHARD NYKKE, April 17, A. D. 1500, to Jan. 14, 1535.

D. 3·3 × 2·1. A canopy, in the upper part of which are the blessed Virgin Mary and Child. In the centre compartment is the usual figure of the Trinity: the side compartments are of three stories, in each of the two lower of which is an Angel inclined in the act of adoration. In base, is a figure of the Bishop seen in front, kneeling between the arms of the See and his own. Or, on a chevron between three leopards' heads caboshed *gules*, a cinquefoil of the field.

L. Sigill : Ricardi : nykke :  
permissoe : dia : epi : norwic :

A. An impression A. D. 1500.—Another attached to an instrument dated "in hospicio nro juxta Charing Crosse, May 10, 1514, et Consec. 13." Another, A. D. 1535.—T. I. M., p. xxxii.—A fourth, and very perfect impression I have seen appended to a deed dated 1531, in the possession of the Corporation of Lynn, whereby the Bishop grants forty days' indulgence to all those who shall offer their prayers at the Altar of St. Giles or St. Julian, in the chapel of St. James at Lynn, on certain holy days, or who shall assist in supporting and repairing the said altar and its ornaments.

I think Taylor is rather lavish of his praise on this seal; as the tabernacle work is neither rich nor abundant. The figures in the side compartments, which he describes as "evil

spirits in cages," cannot possibly be intended for such; for on one of them may be detected the coronet with one cross, usually worn by angels on seals; and it is scarcely probable that any artist would put the Virgin and the Trinity in such company. Similar figures occur on the seal of Thos. Arundel, Archbishop of Canterbury, at Wymondham.

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LIST OF REFERENCES.

- B. M., British Museum. The numbers refer to Mr. Doubleday's Catalogue; and it is presumed they are the same as those attached to the collection of the Museum.
- C. C., Cottonian Charters.
- H. C., Harleian Charters.
- L. F. C., Lord Frederick Campbell's Charters.
- A. O., Augmentation Office.
- C. H., Chapter House, Westminster.
- X. C., Canterbury Cathedral.
- B. N., Blomefield's History of Norwich, fol. 1745.
- T. I. M., Taylor's Index Monasticus. 1821.
- A., Authority.
- D., Dimension and Device. The size of the Seals is expressed in inches and decimals; the first number being the long and the second the short diameter.
- L., Legend.
- An upright line in the middle of a legend, implies that the portion preceding is on the sinister, and that following on the dexter side of the Seal.
- All the seals are pointed ellipses, unless otherwise expressed.
- Where part of a legend is in smaller type and within brackets, it implies that such letters are lost from that individual impression from which the description was taken, and that the deficiencies are supplied by analogy or from other impressions.