

PROPERTY OF
NORFOLK & NORWICH
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY



SIGILLUM ABBATIS ET CONVENTUS DE WENDLINGE
IN NORFOLK, 1456.

Seal of Wendling Abbey.

COMMUNICATED BY

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Hon. Sec.

A BRIEF account of Wendling Abbey, Norfolk, was communicated to the Society in a previous volume of our *Papers* by the Rev. James Bulwer. The materials that are known for its history or architecture are very slight; and it is there observed that while Dugdale and Tanner and others have only recorded a few names of its abbots, "the seal is not known." (Vol. v. p. 40.)

By the kindness of Mr. C. Golding of Romford, with whose contributions to the study of the provincial coinage

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relating to the Eastern Counties our members are well acquainted, I am enabled to furnish an illustration, from an old drawing, of the Seal, an impression of which may possibly still exist among the documents belonging to the Corporation of Norwich. Mr. Golding obtained the drawing with some manuscripts of Kirkpatrick's of Norwich, and "Tom" Martin's of Palgrave, which came into his possession a few years ago. The date 1456 is probably the date of the document to which the seal was affixed; but the seal itself appears to be considerably earlier. In a memorandum accompanying his drawings of seals, Mr. Golding informs me that he has the following: "The Cōmon Seal of y^e Abbey of Wendling, 27 Edw. 3" (1353), to which is added "In Archiv. Civitaē Norwiċ."

Not much reliance can, of course, be placed on the design shewn in the Seal for recovering the architectural appearance of the abbey church. But if it was at all like the original, it would seem to have been a Norman building, with a tower and spire at the west end, and also a short tower and spire on each transept. The west front may have been of Early English or Decorated character.

If other collectors would follow the good example of Mr. Golding, and occasionally contribute isolated matters from their stores, many missing links in our county archæology would be usefully supplied.