

broken). On the other side, a single lug on one case fits between two lugs on the other case (neither pierced). One case is fitted with a disc of glass (now broken) backed by a thin foil of lead. A white material around the inside edge of each case held the glass in place. Though this is not yet been analysed it is presumably a form of putty (Bayley *et al* 1984, 399). The 'putty' survives in both cases. The glass must have been cut to an irregular nine-sided shape as shown by the impressions in the 'putty'. The outside of the cases is decorated with a punched 'cruciform' motif. Diam. 30mm.

Discussion

The group of copper alloy mirrors are of remarkably similar form and decoration, usually about 30mm in diameter, with punched 'cruciform' motifs on each case. So close is the technique of manufacture that it has been suggested that the group derives from the same workshop, possibly in the south-east of England, or on the Continent, perhaps in the Low Countries, (Bayley *et al* 1984, 401). There are also several pewter mirrors with stamped, elaborate decoration, both hinged double cases like the copper alloy examples, and single cases with a handle (a miniature version of a larger, handled mirror; one such miniature example was excavated on the Pottergate site in Norwich). From those found in archaeological contexts, it seems likely that the mirrors date from the mid-13th century. Their purpose may have been amuletic as well as cosmetic, as some examples have magical inscription. Some were suspended as pendants by means of a chain passing through pierced lugs (perhaps attached to the catch-pin).

Bayley J. *et al* 1984 'A medieval mirror from Heybridge, Essex' *Antiquaries Journal* LXIV part II 1984 pp.399-402

14th-century seal-dies from Norfolk (Plates II-XI)

by Sue Margeson

Seal-dies brought in to the museum recently for identification have included several non-heraldic seals, used to seal personal letters. Most have animal and bird motifs, and whimsical legends often relating to secrecy. These dies were bought 'off the peg' (Rigold 1977, 324) and show how the tradition of sealing letters spread beyond the knights and clerks with their heraldic and official seals. In order to record these seal-dies for the sites and monuments record, impressions are taken in modelling clay which is then baked. Photographs of these impressions are shown below. Unless otherwise stated these seal-dies are in private possession.

A. 'Sohou' seal-dies

Sohou is a hunting-cry and is coupled with the name of the hound, or an appropriate phrase. These may be compared with a group in the British Museum (Tonnochy 1952, nos. 749-753), and with two in the Fitch Collection, Norwich Castle Museum (76.94 (176 & 197), *Catalogue of Antiquities* 1909, nos. 936 & 937).

1. From Attlebridge, co. no. 17217. Pl II. Copper alloy circular seal-die with hexagonal pierced handle. A hare with a horn astride a hound. Legend: SOHOV ROBEN. Diameter 17mm
2. From Bradwell, co. no. 17264, Copper alloy circular seal-die with hexagonal handle with trefoil suspension loop. A hare with a horn astride a hound. Legend: SOHOV ROBEN. Diameter 20mm
3. From Grimston, co. no. 3579. Copper alloy circular seal-die with hexagonal pierced handle. Hare Legend: SOHOV IE LA TROUE (Sohou I find it). Diameter 15mm
4. From (?)Horsford. Copper alloy circular seal-die with hexagonal pierced handle. A hare with a horn astride a hound. Legend: SOHOV ROBEN. Diameter 18mm
5. From Thetford. Copper alloy circular seal-die with hexagonal pierced handle. A hound. Legend: SOHOV PINOR. Diameter 18mm



Plate III



Plate II



Plate IV



Plate VI



Plate V



Plate VII



Plate IX



Plate VIII



Plate X



Plate XI

14th-century seal-dies
from Norfolk.

B. 'Lion' seal-dies

These may be compared with a group of 'lion' seal-dies in the British Museum (Tonnochy 1952, nos. 741-5).

1. From West Caister, co. no. 17950. Pl III. Silver oval seal-die with hexagonal handle with quatrefoil suspension loop. A man's head peers through bushes at a curled up lion. Legend: LE LIVN CREET CAVNT VOVS LE VEET (the lion cries when you see it). Length 22mm
2. From Roudham, co. no. 15907. Pl IV. Copper alloy circular seal-die with hexagonal pierced handle. A curled up lion. Legend: LE LIVN DORT NE LVI ENVEILET (the lion sleeps do not wake him up). Diameter 22mm
3. Thetford, co. no. 17268. Pl V. Copper alloy circular seal-die with hexagonal handle with circular suspension loop. Within a 'star of David' motif, a curled up lion. In the interstices outside the 'star of David', the legend LEVL AMVR (true love). Diameter 17mm

C. Seal-dies with legends relating to the seal

1. From Caister by-pass, co. no. 12872. Pl VI. Copper alloy circular seal-die with hexagonal handle with trefoil suspension loop. Grotesque head. Legend: PR DIVESI (a jumbled version of PRIVE SVIS: I am private). Diameter 18mm
2. From Caister by-pass, co. no. 12872. Pl VII. Copper alloy circular seal-die with hexagonal handle with quatrefoil suspension loop. Two birds drinking from a chalice or fountain. Legend: IE SV SEL BON E LEL (I am a seal good and true). Diameter 18mm
3. From Carleton Rode. Pl VIII. Copper alloy pointed oval seal-die with small loop on reverse. Two linked hands. Legend: IE SV SEL DE AMVR LEL (I am a seal of true love). Length 27mm
4. From Gooderstone, co. no. 18179. Pl IX. Copper alloy pointed oval seal-die with small loop on reverse. Bird in hand. Legend: FRANGE LEGE TEGE (Break, read, keep secret). Length 30mm
5. From Thetford, co. no. 17267. Pl X. Copper alloy oval seal-die with hexagonal handle with trefoil suspension loop. St. John in camel skin holding the Agnus Dei. Legend: SCE IOHES ORA PRO ME (St. John pray for me). Length 21mm
6. From Trowse with Newton, co. no. 15788 Norwich Castle Museum 263.980. Pl XI. Copper alloy pointed oval seal-die with small loop on reverse. Bird on a branch. Legend: FRANGE LEGE TEGE (break, read, keep secret). Length 28mm

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The Dersingham Hoard (Plate XII)

by Elizabeth M. James

A silver cup, full of coins, was uncovered in July 1984 by a mechanical digger, working on a housing development site not far from, and to the south of, the Old Hall at Dersingham.¹ The coins were found contained in the cup and therefore appeared to have been buried in it deliberately.

The cup is of sterling silver and is in the shape of a rounded cone, tapering deeply towards the bottom, where it was evidently formerly attached to some kind of footed stem. The bowl is 9cm deep and was originally about 10cm in diameter, before distortion from a circular to an elliptical shape, difficult to measure accurately. It is completely