THE CHARTER ROOM
IN THE JOHN RYLANDS LIBRARY.

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THE nucleus of the Rylands Charter Room may be said to have been formed some forty years ago by the purchase, in November 1908, of fourteen Norfolk Compotus Rolls (13th-16th cent.) which had belonged to the famous collection of Sir Thomas Phillipps at Middle Hill. Since then the Library's collection of deeds, charters, rolls and similar documents has steadily increased in numbers and broadened in scope until it comprises some thirty thousand items, among which are materials relating to almost every county in England, valuable series of Scottish and French charters, a considerable quantity of documents concerning North Wales, and records and papers from the archives of a younger branch of the Florentine family of the Medici, the whole ranging in date from the eleventh century to the twentieth. It is, not surprisingly, rich in materials for the northern counties and particularly for Lancashire, Cheshire, Derbyshire and Lincolnshire.

These collections are made available to students in two series of printed Hand-lists, corresponding to the two main divisions into which the contents of the Charter Room are divided: namely, documents acquired by gift or purchase and documents deposited on permanent or indefinite loan. It will be convenient in what is only intended to be a general survey to maintain this broad division here and, in dealing first with the former category, which comprises numerous unrelated and miscellaneous groupings of varying size and provenance, to use the printed lists as a basis for description. Three of these lists have already appeared and a fourth awaits publication.¹

Of documents acquired by gift or purchase, the first to be dealt with in print were the Nicholas Papers (14th-18th cent.),

¹ See the bibliography at the end of this paper.

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the Medici Records (11th-18th cent.), the Beaumont Charters (12th-17th cent.) and the Phillipps Charters (12th-17th cent.), all of which were arranged and described by Dr. Robert Fawtier, then Keeper of Western MSS., in a Hand-list which appeared in 1925. The first two of these four quite unrelated collections were acquired by the Library in May 1919. The Nicholas Papers had formed part of the archives of the family to which belonged Sir Edward Nicholas (d. 1669), Secretary of State to Charles I and Charles II, a selection of whose correspondence was edited by Sir George Warner for the Camden Society from an allied collection in B.M. Egerton MSS. 2533-62. Several items among the Rylands papers, including letters, relate to Sir Edward; others concern his son Sir John (d. 1704), Clerk to the Privy Council, and grandson Edward (d. 1726), Treasurer to Queen Mary, in both a public and private capacity. In addition there are many papers and accounts dealing with the Nicholas estates, including a fine series of court rolls (14th-18th cent.) for West Horsley, co. Surrey, at which place the family seat was situated. The Medici Records, at that time for the most part unknown to historians either of Florence or of the family itself, were brought to this country in 1919 by Cosimo de’ Medici, Marchese della Castellina, and his brother, the Marchese Averardo. Consisting of papal briefs, imperial decrees, mercantile records, legal documents, letters, diaries, wills and other family papers, the whole extending in date from the eleventh to the eighteenth century, attention was soon attracted and an American purchaser found. But before the transaction could be completed the Italian Government, realising what the national archives were about to lose, intervened and declared that the entire collection fell within the category of state papers and was therefore inalienable. After a right of priority had been exercised, however, the collection was again offered at Christie’s, rather depleted but still containing much of historical value. The mercantile records and certain unbound fifteenth-century letters were bought by Mr. H. Gordon Selfridge,¹ while the Library

¹ For his portion see G. R. B. Richards, Florentine Merchants in the Age of the Medici: Letters and Documents from the Selfridge Collection of Medici Manuscripts (Harvard U.P., 1932).
The John Rylands Library purchased a number of early deeds and legal records (11th-15th cent.), some papal documents (15th-16th cent.), miscellaneous correspondence (16th-17th cent.) and an interesting series of account books (1600-1620) and receipts (1550-1760). In the following year the Beaumont Charters were acquired. Brought together by a well-known Norman scholar, the Abbé de la Rue (1751-1835), they passed into the hands of the antiquary Thomas Stapleton (1805-1849), who apparently bequeathed them to his elder brother, the 8th Baron Beaumont, for they remained for some time at Carlton Towers, co. York, the Beaumont family seat. The collection was sold in London in October 1920 and from it the Library obtained over one hundred charters of the twelfth to the seventeenth century relating to the Abbeys of Notre Dame, Saint Martin, Saint Etienne and La Sainte-Trinité in the diocese of Bayeux, of Saint André and Sainte Marguerite de Gouffern in the diocese of Séez, of La Trinité in the diocese of Rouen, and of Notre Dame in the diocese of Coutances.

Meanwhile the collection of Phillipps Charters had been steadily growing in numbers as the result of purchases made both directly at various Phillipps sales and indirectly through booksellers. To the original small group of Norfolk Comptotus Rolls mentioned above had been added between 1910 and 1914 and, with a break during the war years, in 1919 and 1920, a considerable number of medieval English charters and deeds, among which the counties of Derbyshire, Kent, Yorkshire, Huntingdonshire, Rutland, Staffordshire and Durham were most fully represented. From the same source and at different times during the same period were also acquired various papal bulls (12th-17th cent.), thirty documents (mostly 14th cent.) relating to Tournai in Belgium, and a further collection of some one hundred and fifty charters and records relating to France (12th-17th cent.), of which thirty concern various places in Aquitaine during the fourteenth century. Several individual items among the Phillipps Charters in the Library are worthy of special mention, but there is space here to refer only to two: the projected settlement for the marriage of Isabella, daughter of King Edward III, with Louis de Male, Count of Flanders, dated 13 March, 1347, and bearing the seals of, among others,
the King, Edward the Black Prince, the Earls of Suffolk, Warwick and Northampton, and Richard Talbot, Steward of the Household, and, secondly, a confirmation by Pope Adrian IV to the Abbot of Saint-Bertin, O.S.B., of a grant by Theobald, Archbishop of Canterbury and Papal Legate, of the churches of Trulegh and Chilham, co. Kent, dated 27 March 1157, with a leaden seal.

The four collections mentioned above were numbered independently of each other by Dr. Fawtier under the separate headings "Beaumont Charters", "Nicholas Papers", "Medici Records", and "Phillipps Charters". In the second Handlist of documents in the possession of the Library, which was published in 1935, his successor, Dr. Moses Tyson, faced with the rather more complicated problem of dealing with two thousand miscellaneous items acquired from more than forty different sources, began the series of "Rylands Charters"; that is, he began afresh with "No. 1" and maintained a single series of running numbers throughout, while, of course, preserving original groups. Of these many groups the largest and perhaps the most important is that purchased in July 1933 from the Rev. P. G. Langdon of Orkney House, Bedford, which consists of, roughly, seven hundred charters and similar evidences dating from the early twelfth to the nineteenth century, more than two-thirds being pre-1500. This collection, apparently once the property of the Stanleys of Hooton, co. Chester, has proved a valuable addition to accessible sources for the history of that county and many of its ancient families. It is richest in Wirral deeds but items relating to many other places in Cheshire as well as in Lancashire and Flintshire also occur, together with a large number of documents concerning the families of Lancelyn of Poulton, Pulford, Meols, Bamville, and, of course, Stanley. The importance of the seals may also be mentioned. Apart from a fine series of private seals of heraldic or patterned design, among which the old county families and their branches are represented, there are also found, to give only a selection, the seals of Ranulf II (1129/39), Hugh II (temp. late Henry II) and Ranulf III (c. 1202/29), Earls of Chester; Adam de Stanford, Archdeacon of Chester (1272/74) and the
Officiality of the Archdeaconry (1384); Robert Botyller, Prior of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England (1445); Henry de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln and Constable of Chester (c. 1300); the Borough of Preston, Lancashire (1333); the Chester Exchequer Seal of the Black Prince (1349) and an example of his Privy Seal (1351). Another Cheshire group in Dr. Tyson’s list has the additional value of supplementing two important collections of family archives previously deposited in the Library by Col. and Mrs. Ramsden-Jodrell (in 1922) and R. H. G. Tatton, Esq. (in 1925), both of which will be mentioned again below; this group, presented by Lord Stanley of Alderley in April 1927, consists of over one hundred and thirty deeds dating from the thirteenth to the sixteenth century dealing with the Jodrells and their property in Yeardesley-cum-Whalley and elsewhere in the county, the Tatton lands in Northenden, and the Winningtons and their estates in and near Northwich. Rather later in date but with interesting literary associations are the three hundred and fifty deeds, grants, conveyances, rentals, wills, bonds and similar documents concerning the Salusbury family and their property in the county of Flint between 1490 and 1837, for to that family belonged Mrs. Thrale, the intimate friend of Dr. Samuel Johnson for over twenty years; a number of items have endorsements in Dr. Johnson’s hand. This collection came to the Library in January 1931 with the Thrale-Piozzi papers, which contain correspondence, private and business, and literary works, diaries and other manuscripts of Mrs. Thrale, now forming part of the Rylands English MSS. The remaining items which make up the total of two thousand dealt with in this Hand-list are too miscellaneous in character to be singled out here and we can only note that, in addition to Cheshire and Lancashire, some thirty counties are represented by documents extending in date from the time of Henry III to that of Victoria. Included are a comparatively large number of court rolls and records, bailiffs’ accounts for St. Mary’s Abbey, Winchester (1448-1449, 1522-1526), and charters relating to the Priories of Plympton, co. Devon (13th-14th cent.), Swavesey, co. Cambridge (13th-14th cent.) and Peterstone (1429) and Westacre (1478), both in co. Norfolk.
The series of Rylands Charters has been continued by the present Keeper in two further Hand-lists, dealing with some two thousand five hundred additions; the first of these appeared in 1937, the second is to be published shortly. As in the preceding case these documents were acquired from many sources and the varying size and importance of the different groups make possible only a general indication of their scope. In the published list are a number of interesting Cheshire, Derbyshire and Lancashire collections, and notably those relating to the families of Aston (16th-19th cent.) and Hadfield (14th-19th cent.) and the Rochdale and Rossendale areas (16th-19th cent.), respectively. Among numerous other items of interest as regards these counties are a small group of conveyances and similar documents respecting the Old Custom House and the New Custom House at Liverpool (early 18th-early 19th cent.) and another concerning Lancashire property of "the Hospital and Free School in Etwall and Repton", co. Derby (1746-1813). A larger group of three hundred and fifty rentals, particulars of estates and legal documents was formerly part of the miscellaneous collection known as the Clayton MSS. and relates mainly to Lincolnshire manors and property in which, among others, George Villiers, 1st Duke of Buckingham, his son George (2nd Duke), members of the Manners family (Earls of Rutland), and Sir Robert Clayton and his partner Alderman John Morris were interested; several items concern the houses, sites and lands of dissolved Lincolnshire monasteries, among these being Bardney, Barlings, Heynings, Newstead, Spalding and Tupholme. This collection, which takes its name from Sir Robert Clayton (1629-1707), M.P. for the City of London, Sheriff and Lord Mayor, and a Director of the Bank of England, ranges in date from the fourteenth to the eighteenth century, although the bulk is of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. A further section of the Clayton MSS. and a second group of Lincolnshire documents from another source are dealt with in the fourth and, as yet, unpublished Hand-list in this series. The Lincolnshire collection, which came to the Library from the archives of the Peacock family, formerly Lords of the Manor of Bottesford, extends from the fourteenth to the nineteenth
century and contains documents concerning many manors in that county, but particularly, in addition to Bottesford itself, Ashby, Messingham, Scotter and Yaddlethorpe; for Scotter there is also a valuable series of bailiffs' accounts from 1372 to 1544. The Clayton MSS. in this list, over two hundred and fifty in number, are more miscellaneous in character than those dealt with in the previous one, although they cover roughly the same period; several counties are represented, but London most fully. A smaller group relating to London, also sixteenth to eighteenth century, consists of leases and mortgages of property owned by the Coke family, of which the famous lawyer Sir Edward Coke was a member. Documents of all kinds concerning Lancashire (notably Flixton and the Rochdale, Hundersfield and Spotland areas), Cheshire and Yorkshire (mainly the North and West Ridings) are numerous, but, with two exceptions, they belong rather to scattered groups of varying size than to any more compact and inter-related units. The exceptions both relate to Cheshire. One, presented by the Earl of Stamford, comprises two long series of leases, some five hundred in all, of lands and premises in Dean Row and Styal, in Wilmslow parish, between 1656 and 1833, together with court records and suit rolls for the manor and fee of Bollen cum Norcliffe from 1647 to 1832. The other consists of records of the township of High Legh near Knutsford for the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, numbering about two hundred items; included are many Settlement and Removal Orders and Indentures of Apprenticeship and, not by any means the least important, the Accounts of the Constables (1737-1798), Overseers of the Poor (1738-1782), and Surveyors of the Highways (1738-1789) for that township. One individual charter in this Hand-list may perhaps be mentioned separately: a grant, of the late twelfth or early thirteenth century, made by Roger (III) de Montbegon to Monk Bretton Priory, co. York, of the Forest of Holcombe and pasture within certain specified bounds in Lancashire. This charter, a copy of which was entered in the Monk Bretton Cartulary (now B.M. Lansdowne MS. 405, f. 43), bears the fine equestrian seal of Roger de Montbegon; he died in 1226.
So far we have been concerned with collections actually in the possession of the Rylands, whether acquired by gift or by purchase. But in addition the Library has, for over twenty-five years, received into its charge a number of collections deposited on permanent or indefinite loan. Throughout this period attention has been drawn in the pages of the Bulletin to the disastrous traffic in and indiscriminate destruction of important sources of our national and local history which is constantly taking place and, in an effort to counteract this, the Librarian has on many occasions expressed his willingness to house in the Charter Room any collections of manuscripts, especially those relating to the north of England or in the possession of families connected with that area, which the owners are either unable or unwilling to dispose of, or for which they are no longer able to provide suitable accommodation. Not only is the safe custody of such collections undertaken, the services of the staff are also offered in caring for, arranging and making them readily accessible for purposes of reference and study, under the usual safeguards. Apart from card catalogues, Hand-lists are prepared on the lines of those already mentioned and these are either published in the printed series of such lists or are available for consultation in the Library.

Since 1921 the custody of some twenty thousand deposited documents has been accepted and, apart from a number of smaller groups, there are now twelve major collections of this nature in the Charter Room. These are dealt with here in the order in which they have been received. (1) The Mainwaring MSS. (12th-17th cent.), the first large collection to be entrusted to the Library's care, was deposited in 1921 by Sir Harry Mainwaring, Bart., late of Peover Hall, Cheshire, whose family is one of the oldest in the county. In addition to well over one thousand deeds and charters relating to the Mainwarings

1 From 1922 onwards (see Bulletin of the John Rylands Library, VI, 382, and the Notes and News section of subsequent Bulletins, e.g. vols. IX, XI, XIX, XX, XXIII). See also "Safeguarding Manuscript Sources of National and Local History", 1930, and "The Preservation of Records of National and Local History", 1933, both by Dr. Guppy (reprinted from vols. XIV and XVII). In vol. XXX, no. 1 (Oct. 1946), appeared an account of "The Work and Aims of the National Register of Archives", which has also been reprinted.
and their estates (12th-17th cent.), many rentals and court records (1425-1664) and a number of genealogical rolls (1592-1682), it includes state papers, family papers, journals, diaries, estate books, household account books and original letters, mostly of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, among which are miscellaneous papers, some dealing with his official duties, of Col. Roger Whitley, Knight Harbinger to Charles II.

(2) The Jodrell MSS. (14th-18th cent.), which were deposited in the following year by Col. and Mrs. Ramsden-Jodrell of Taxal, concern the family and estates, for the most part in Cheshire and Derbyshire, of the Jodrells, who, like the Mainwarings, had long been established in the county. From time to time since 1922 some five hundred additional deeds and papers have been added to the original deposit. These are not included in Dr. Fawtier's Hand-List of Mainwaring and Jodrell MSS., which was published in 1923, but a card-catalogue* of them is available in the Library.

(3) The Clitheroe Court Rolls (1311-1825). In 1924 the Library was appointed by the Master of the Rolls, under the Law of Property (Amendment) Act, an official depository for manorial and other documents relating to Lancashire and Cheshire and as a result a number of additional collections have been entrusted to our care. One of the most important of these is that deposited by the Lords of the Honor of Clitheroe, consisting of the court records of the manors under their jurisdiction, namely, Chatburn, Worston and Pendleton, Accrington (Old and New), Tottington, Ightenhill (including Pendle), Colne and Trawden, and of the Wapentake of Blackburn, co. Lancaster. These records comprise four hundred rolls (1311-1733) and forty large folio volumes (1733-1825). (4) The Tatton MSS. (13th-18th cent.), one thousand five hundred deeds and evidences of another old Cheshire family, the Tattons of Wythenshawe, were deposited in 1925 by R. H. G. Tatton, Esq. They relate to various places in the county, but more particularly to Wythenshawe, Northenden and Macclesfield, and include many early charters, together with leases, marriage settlements, rent books, suit rolls, jury presentments and similar documents of the Tatton estates. Although individual items cannot be particularised
here, the presence of part of a roll of the Mayor's Court for Macclesfield of 6 Henry IV (1404-1405) may be noted. (5) The Lady Crutchley MSS. (12th-19th cent.), deposited in August 1926 by Lady Crutchley, consist of one thousand Derbyshire, Lancashire and Suffolk deeds and papers, roughly one-quarter dating from before 1500. Numerous court rolls, bailiffs' accounts and rentals also occur, among which the lengthy series of court rolls for Longford, co. Derby (1367-1602) and Bourn Hall in Wherstead, co. Suffolk (1275-1717) are worthy of mention. This collection also contains two fine seventeenth-century genealogical rolls, one of the family of Longford of Longford, the other of the Redich family, showing, respectively, forty-one and eighty-six emblazoned coats of arms. (6) The Pyke House Deeds (14th-18th cent.), a collection of over six hundred items relating to the Pyke House estate in co. Lancaster, deposited in 1929 on behalf of the Trustees of Mrs. Beswick Royd's Settlement. (7) The Clowes Deeds (13th-19th cent.), deposited in the Library in June 1933 on behalf of Legh Algernon Clowes, Esq., J.P., of Norbury Hall, Ashbourne, co. Derby, concern the Clowes estates, mainly in South-East Lancashire and particularly in the Manchester area. One of the features of this collection is the large number of papers and original letters of the Chatham family; Samuel Clowes, Esq., married, in 1716, Mary, sister and coheiress of Edward Chatham of Castleton, co. Lancaster. (8) British Records Association (16th-19th cent.). A collection, to which additions are constantly being made, of miscellaneous documents relating to the northern counties and, of these, mainly to Lancashire, Cheshire and Derbyshire, which has been deposited over a period of years by the British Records Association; it now totals about one thousand eight hundred items. (9) Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society (16th-19th cent.). Over seven hundred documents deposited by the Society and concerning for the most part Lancashire and Cheshire. A considerable number relate to Bretherton, Much Hoole and Atherton, all in co. Lancaster. (10) The Hatton Wood MSS. (12th-18th cent.). This valuable collection, formed by the antiquary Richard Henry Wood, Esq., F.S.A. (1820-1908) and deposited in the
Library in 1940 by Captain J. Hatton Wood, differs in nature from the other deposited collections in that it is not confined to any single family, estate or area, for the one thousand five hundred items of which it is composed have been brought together from many sources. The largest single group consists of four hundred deeds (13th-18th cent.) of the old Cheshire family of Legh of Norbury Booths Hall, roughly half being pre-1500. But by far the greater portion of the collection is made up of miscellaneous, one might almost say "hand-picked", items acquired, sometimes individually, at various sales or from other antiquaries. Among these are several charters relating to monastic houses, including Worcester Priory (12th cent.), Waltham Abbey and its Bedfordshire estates (12th-13th cent.), Sempringham Priory (12th cent.), St. Werburgh's Abbey, Chester and its holdings in Lees and Cranage (13th cent.), Christchurch, Canterbury, and the Priory lands in Kent and Suffolk (13th-14th cent.), the Abbeys of Kirkstead, Pipewell, Robertsbridge and Whalley (all four Cistercian), and the Abbeys of Fontevrault, Noyers and St. Michael, Tréport (12th-13th cent.). A number of royal charters occur both among the monastic deeds and elsewhere in the collection, the earliest dating from the reign of Henry I. Of the remaining items over two hundred, mostly pre-1500, relate to Kent and smaller groups are concerned with Gloucestershire (mainly Bristol), Lancashire, Shropshire and Lincolnshire; the rest are divided between over twenty other counties. The collection is also rich in seals of many types—royal, ecclesiastical, monastic, local and private—including a number which are either unique or of great rarity. Among these may be mentioned the seals of Simon, Bishop of Chichester (1204/1207), John Chaundler, Dean of Salisbury (1418), Walter Burstoke, Abbot of Ford, co. Devon (1396), Elias, Prior of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England (temp. Edward I), Wymondley Priory, co. Hertford (early 13th cent.), the Hospital of St. Thomas the Martyr, Eastbridge, Canterbury (early 13th cent.), the Fraternity of Kalendars of Bristol (1361), and the earlier (1384) and later (1460) seals of St. Peter's Church, Bristol. Descriptions of these and other selected examples, together with a general note on the Hatton
Wood seals, will be found in an article reprinted from the current number of the Library Bulletin. The only codex in this collection is a large folio volume of Cheshire pedigrees compiled in the early seventeenth century and illustrated with over one thousand five hundred emblazoned coats of arms; it was formerly the property of the Helsby family, to which belonged the Cheshire historian of that name.

Of the twelve major groups in the Charter Room to which reference has already been made two large, allied collections still remain to be noticed, numbering over ten thousand charters, title-deeds, family papers and similar evidences and covering the period from the thirteenth to the twentieth century. Even were their scope and size no obstacle to an adequate summary, they have been acquired so recently that a detailed examination has not yet been possible and the necessarily brief account which follows cannot pretend to do justice to them. Both have been entrusted to the care of the Library by the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres and both, it may be stated without exaggeration, are of first-rate importance, relating as they do to the history and estates of the House of Lindsay, one of the most famous of Scottish families, the head of which, by reason of the Earldom of Crawford, created in 1398, is the premier Earl. These collections are the Haigh Muniments of the Lindsays and the Scottish Muniments formerly preserved at Haigh Hall. (11) The Haigh Muniments (13th-20th cent.) comprise about six thousand items and are arranged in thirty-three large boxes, lettered as follows, the figures in brackets indicating the number of boxes: A, Adlington and Worthington (one); B, Aspull (seven); C, Bellingham (one); D, Blackrod (four); E, Haigh (eleven); F, London, Manchester, Preston, Blackburn, Upholland (one); G, Wales (two); H, Wigan (three); K, Miscellaneous (two); Unmarked, 19th century Colliery Accounts (one). The connection of the Lindsays with Lancashire dates from the year 1780 when Alexander, the then Earl of Balcarres, married his cousin-german Elizabeth Dalrymple, the heiress of the Bradshaighs of Haigh,

near Wigan; his son, James, twenty-fourth Earl of Crawford, was summoned to the House of Lords in 1826 as Baron Wigan of Haigh Hall. (12) The Scottish Muniments (early 14th-19th cent.), estimated to number between four and five thousand individual items, are contained in twenty-six large boxes, twenty-two marked with a starred letter of the alphabet, from A to T (there are two each for E, F and H, and J is not used), and four additional ones. The basic arrangement is that of peerage titles and estates, within which each successive holder occurs chronologically, in many cases not only with the charters, deeds, accounts, estate papers and other legal documents relating to his title and lands but also, from the sixteenth century, with personal and miscellaneous papers, and private and business correspondence. Thus, among the earlier boxes are found muniments of the Earldom of Crawford in the regular succession from David, the first Earl (14th cent.), to George, the twenty-second Earl (18th cent.), and similarly elsewhere in the collection for the titles of Lindsay, Balcarres and Carnock and various individual baronies (such as Crawford, Edzell, Menmuir, Glenesk, Finhaven), together with many subsidiary groupings for miscellaneous baronies and estates; separate boxes are devoted to evidences relating to the Lords Spynie and to the Leuchars estate. Among the many early documents which occur are a number of royal charters, the first in date being a grant by Robert, King of Scotland, in 1317. A number of additional groups relate to various Countesses of Crawford and other ladies of the family, the largest single one consisting of miscellaneous papers, legal, personal and testamentary, of Catherine Campbell (d. 1578), grand-daughter of Archibald, second Earl of Argyll, and wife of David, ninth Earl of Crawford. In addition to the main line, two boxes contain title-deeds and similar evidences of (a) other Lindsay families from the fifteenth to the eighteenth century, including the Lindsays of Aikenhatt, Balgavies, Broadland, Kinnettles and Vayne, and (b) other Scottish families from the fourteenth to the eighteenth century, among which are those of Campbell, Grahame, Ogilvie, Scrymgeour, Lyon, Forbes, Ramsay and Erskine. Included also are a considerable number of certified transcripts of and
extracts from original documents, mainly fourteenth to seventeenth century, in both public collections and private muniment chests; among these, to cite only one example, are several bundles respecting claims to the Dukedom of Montrose. The whole collection is one of great importance and should prove a mine of information to both the historian and the genealogist; to assist him in his search the latter will find many genealogical papers and inventories, as well as a box of peerage papers.

One other aspect of the Charter Room may be mentioned here. At various points in the above survey reference has been made to seals, of which the Library has a large collection, mostly attached to their relevant documents, although a few are loose. There can be little doubt that a catalogue of seals in the Charter Room would be of great assistance both to the local historian and to the student of sigillography in general, for a number of rare examples occur. But so far it has been necessary to concentrate mainly on the storing, arranging and cataloguing of the documents themselves, although the presence of a seal is noted in the descriptions given in the Library Hand-lists. Certain selected items, however, have been described more fully in two recent articles, one dealing with Cheshire seals (12th-17th cent.) and the other with some outstanding examples for the same period which are found among the Hatton Wood MSS. Both are listed in the following bibliography, in which are brought together all Library Hand-lists, printed and manuscript, and similar guides to the contents of the Charter Room.

A. Documents owned by the Library:


Vol. 4. By F. Taylor [awaiting publication].

B. Deposited Documents:


Index of Haigh Muniments. By F. H. Wright, 1936. [Typewritten; accompanied the Collection.]

Inventory of Scottish Muniments at Haigh. 2 vols. [n.d.]. [Typewritten; accompanied the Collection.]

C. Seals:
