ECCLESIASTICAL, MONASTIC AND LOCAL SEALS
(12TH-17TH CENT.) FROM THE HATTON WOOD MSS.
IN THE JOHN RYLANDS LIBRARY.

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The seals described below are found in a collection of deeds, charters and similar documents which was deposited in the Library in 1940 by Captain J. Hatton Wood. It was formed, mainly last century, by his great-uncle, the late Richard Henry Wood (1820-1908), an assiduous and discriminating collector of manuscripts who was for fourteen years (1868-1882) Honorary Secretary of the Chetham Society and from 1865 until his death a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries; he also acted as the latter Society’s Local Secretary for Lancashire. The general scope of the collection, which consists of some one thousand five hundred items acquired from various sources and dates from the twelfth century to the eighteenth, has been indicated elsewhere and we are concerned here only with the seals, of which it includes a comparatively large number, some of great rarity.

Of the different types which occur probably the most important will prove to be the monastic, the ecclesiastical, the local and the private. Specimens of royal seals from the early thirteenth to the nineteenth century occur, but, as is often the case in private collections, they are mostly imperfect or fragmentary and do not add anything to the information given by Wyon, Birch, Jenkinson and others. The three finest surviving examples, all unattached, are the Second Seal of Queen Elizabeth (in use 1586-1603), the Second Seal of James I (in use 1605-1625), and the Great Seal of Queen Victoria as used from her accession to May 1900. Among other specimens worthy of

¹ See the present writer’s “The Hatton Wood MSS. in the John Rylands Library”, 1940 (reprinted from the Bulletin of the John Rylands Library, Vol. XXIV).
note are the seals of the Court of Common Pleas (1502), of the County Palatine of Chester (1520), both perfect and showing fine impressions, and, for Ireland, of the Court of the Exchequer; the last-named, which is unattached, is marked on its parchment strip as being temp. Henry IV. Another important example has unfortunately survived in only a large fragment; this is a seal *ad causas* of the Admiralty Court, attached to a document of 28 November 1580, Edward, Earl of Lincoln, then being Lord High Admiral. The Statute Merchant Seals of London (1348) and Shrewsbury (1369), both with counter-seals, may also be mentioned. Private seals of equestrian, heraldic or miscellaneous design are frequent, a number of them being twelfth century. The heraldic seals, which are particularly fine and well-preserved, include those of John, son of Sir William de Pluckley (five examples, in the 1280's and 1290's), Richard de Brankescombe (1368), John Lestraunge, Lord of Knockin (1385), John de Cockerington (1386), John Cheyne (1399), John Tochet, Sire of Audley (1406), William, Lord Zouche (1430), Walter Norton of Bristol (1435) and Richard Dering of Pluckley, co. Kent (1480). An unusual seal is that of William, *dictus Conrad, arbalistrarius illustris domini Regis Anglie* (1305); in black wax, it shows a shield charged with a cross-bowman and has the legend *S' WILL'I CONRAD*. The private seal (1364) of Simon de Brusele, Master of the Hospital of St. Mary at Dover, also occurs.

In the present paper, however, attention has been concentrated on ecclesiastical, monastic and local seals, and eighteen have been selected for description on grounds of rarity or fine workmanship. A number appear to be unique. At least they are not recorded among the large collections at the British

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2. It is not recorded in Birch, *Cat. of Seals in the British Museum*, or by H. H. Brindley, *Casts of Seals . . . Exhibited in the Seal Room, National Maritime Museum, Greenwich*. Nor is it mentioned in any of Mr. Brindley’s contributions to *The Mariner’s Mirror*.
3. It was exhibited to the Society of Antiquaries in February 1873 (Proc. Soc. Ant., 2nd Ser., v. 448-449).
Museum, Public Record Office or Society of Antiquaries, nor has it been possible to trace examples of them elsewhere. Such are the seals of Simon, Bishop of Chichester (1204/1207), John Chaundler, Dean of Salisbury (1418), Walter Burstoke, Abbot of Ford, co. Devon (1396), Wymondley Priory, co. Hertford (early 13th cent.), Elias, Prior of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England (temp. Edward I) and St. Peter’s Church, Bristol (1384). A later seal (1460) of St. Peter’s Church, showing a different design, also occurs in the collection and of this apparently only one other example is extant, and that dating from the following century. In at least two other cases an original described below appears to have survived elsewhere only in a sulphur cast. Although the earlier of these, the fine seal of the Hospital of St. Thomas the Martyr, Eastbridge, Canterbury, was listed in the British Museum Catalogue of Seals, the presence of a counter-seal has not previously been noticed. In the other case the cast has remained unidentified since 1887, for Birch had insufficient information and could only catalogue it as the seal of “an uncertain religious house”; from the example in the Hatton Wood MSS., which is an original (1361), it can be shown to be the rare seal of the Fraternity of Kalendars of Bristol. Other examples catalogued in the present list, such as those of Carnerius de Neapoli, Prior of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England (1190), Melros Abbey (1539), Dryburgh Abbey (1546) and the local seals are perhaps rather better known, but even here previously recorded examples have been frequently either imperfect originals or casts, and catalogue descriptions have suffered accordingly. Four items, none of them entirely unknown, have been omitted because they are too fragmentary. These are: (a) the Later Seal of

1 I take this opportunity of thanking Mr. Francis Wormald, M.A., Mr. R. B. Pugh, M.A., and Mr. Philip Corder, M.A., for kindly checking a list forwarded to them against collections in the British Museum, Public Record Office and Society of Antiquaries, respectively, not yet recorded in print.

2 See No. 10 below, where is also a brief description of another uncommon seal of a Prior of England, that of Robert Botyller (1445), which occurs in another collection in the Library. Little seems to be known about these two Priors.

3 Cat. of Seals in the B.M., i. no. 2727.
Lanthony Priory, co. Gloucester (1537), a pointed oval of which only roughly one-third has survived. A full description is given by Birch, from a sulphur cast.\(^1\) (b) The Common Seal of the Warden and Scholars of New College, Oxford, attached to a document dated 11 September 1581, of which only a small fragment of the lower half now remains. This, again, has fortunately been described in some detail by Birch\(^2\) from a cast. (c) The First Common Seal of Bristol (1366), a large fragment in red wax, showing a fine impression. This seal is well-known.\(^3\) (d) The Third Seal of Christchurch Priory, Canterbury, fifteenth century, unattached; the left half only has survived.\(^4\)

In the descriptions below the following information has been given about each seal where possible:—

(1) A brief title. (2) The date of (a) the document to which it is attached or (b) in one case, unattached, a date based on style and external evidence. No seal here bears a date in its legend.

(3) Colour. (4) Size. If round, the diameter is given. If a pointed oval, this is indicated and both diameters are given. No other shape occurs here. (5) Condition of seal, perfect or imperfect; if the latter, an attempt is made to indicate the extent of the imperfection. (6) Condition of impression(s). Note.—It has been found convenient to indicate such particulars of a counter-seal as differ from those of the obverse under 8 (b) below.

(7) Method of attachment: (a) Pendent from a doubled strip of parchment, or from plaited silks, or (b) on a tongue. In the latter case, the length and breadth of the tongue and the length from the root to the edge of the seal are given in inches. If the seal is unattached, this is stated.

(8) Description of device(s): (a) obverse, (b) reverse or counter-seal.

\(^1\) Cat. of Seals in the B.M., i. no. 3415. \(^2\) Ibid., ii. no. 5275.

\(^3\) See, e.g., Birch, op. cit., ii. no. 4679; Pedrick, Borough Seals of the Gothic Period, pp. 47-49 and pl.; Jewitt and St. John Hope, Corporation Plate and Insignia of Office, i. 243; Archeologia, xxi. pp. 79 seqq.

\(^4\) This seal is described in, e.g., Birch, op. cit., i. nos. 1373-1378 and pl. ix; V. C. H. Kent, ii. pp. 120-121 and pl. facing p. 114.
(9) Legend(s) and border, if other than a mere line. It has not been found possible to have the exact form of all the letterings of the legends reproduced in type.

(10) A general note. The references given here do not pretend to be exhaustive.

The Hatton Wood collection has not yet been fully numbered, but the brief heading preceding each description is a sufficient finding reference.

1. Simon de Camera, Bishop of Chichester. 1204/1207.

Uncoloured wax, varnished brown. Pointed oval. c. 2¼" x 1⅛" when complete. Large fragment, consisting of most of the lower half of the seal, and a small portion (showing part of the Bishop's face, rubbed) of the obverse which has been glued into place on the parchment strip by a former owner. Fine impression.

Pendent from a doubled strip of parchment.

O. The Bishop, full length, in mass vestments, standing on a plain corbel. In his left hand a pastoral staff. [His right hand was presumably raised in benediction.]

[. . . . . . . . G]RATIA: D[. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .]

R. The lower portion of a seated figure in a flowing robe, facing front, on a carved throne; the feet, which are bare, rest on a small, projecting platform. Between them is the lower portion of what is apparently a large cross with a point in the base, held in front of the figure.

[. . . . . . . ]A: VERITAS [. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .]

Note: Attached to an undated inspeximus by Simon of a confirmation made to the Abbey of St. Michael, Tréport, by his predecessor Hilary, Bishop of Chichester (1147-1169), of the vills of Boninton' and Pleidenne [Bullingtons in Bexhill and Playden, both in Sussex], which Robert, Count of Eu, had granted them.

There is some doubt whether the half-legible letter following GRATIA in the legend on the obverse is a D or a C. When complete the reverse probably read EGO SVM VIA VERITAS ET VITA, which would fit as regards space. This legend, from John xiv. 6, was also used on the reverse of the seal of the Dean
and Chapter, the matrix of which is stated by Birch to have been probably of the thirteenth century (Birch, op. cit., i. nos. 1469-72. Engraved in Dallaway, Western Sussex, i. 37; ii. pt. i. p. 29).

No example of this seal, original or cast, appears to be recorded at the British Museum, Public Record Office, Society of Antiquaries or, as Dr. Hilda Johnstone kindly informs me, Chichester, nor has any so far been traced elsewhere. Prof. C. R. Cheney has kindly drawn my attention to Dr. Armitage Robinson's note (ap. Somerset Historical Essays, pp. 143-144) showing that Simon is correctly referred to as Simon de Camera, not, as the D.N.B. and modern writers following Matthew of Paris have called him, Simon de Wells.

2. JOHN CHAUNDLER, DEAN OF SALISBURY. 1418.

Red. Pointed oval. \(1\frac{3}{4}'' \times 1\frac{1}{2}''\) when complete. Imperfect, but lacking only a small portion at the base and on the left side. Fine impression.

On a tongue 6\(\frac{1}{4}''\) long and 4\(\frac{1}{2}''\) broad, the top being 2\(\frac{3}{8}''\) from the root.

Two canopied niches in which are the Virgin, with hands joined in prayer, and, on her left, the Son, with right hand raised in blessing and left holding a cross; each is crowned, wearing a long robe, and seated on a throne. On each side, in a niche, a standing figure; both are slightly chipped, obscuring details, but the one to the Son's left bears a sword in his left hand, held point downwards by his side. At the base of the seal an arch, the top only of which has survived; no doubt it contained the figure of the Dean in prayer.

S. [Io]his Chaund[. . . . . . . . . . . . S]ar.'

Beaded border.

Note: Attached to an order by John, Bishop of Salisbury, in respect of non-payment by William Ropkyn alias Mason of Reading of an annual rent of ten shillings bequeathed to the parish church of St. Mary, Reading, by the last Will of Ralph Bymylas: In cuius rei testimonium sigillum quo dum decanatu ecclesie nostre Sarum profuimus utebamur presentibus duximus apponendum. Dated at Salisbury, 17 November 1418.
Chaundler, who was Dean of Salisbury from 1404 to 1418, had only been elected Bishop two days earlier; he was consecrated on 12 December (see E. F. Jacob, *The Register of Henry Chichele, Archbishop of Canterbury* (1414-1443), ii. 645).

No example of this seal, original or cast, appears to be recorded at the British Museum, Public Record Office or Society of Antiquaries, nor has any as yet been traced elsewhere. Chaundler’s seal as Bishop seems to be equally rare and is mentioned in the late Bishop Wordsworth’s paper on the seals of Bishops of Salisbury (ap. *Wilts. Arch. Mag.*, xxiv. 220 seqq.) as one “still wanting to complete our series”. Cf. the device with that previously adopted by Ralph Erghum, Bishop from 1375 to 1388 (Wordsworth, *op. cit.*, pl. facing p. 230, no. 20).

3. WYMONDLEY PRIORY, Co. HERTFORD, WITH COUNTER-SEAL OF PRIOR. EARLY THIRTEENTH CENTURY.

Dark green wax. Pointed oval. $1\frac{3}{4}" \times 1"$. Perfect. Fine impression; the faces now rubbed.

Pendent from cords of plaited green, white and red silk; the ends embedded in the wax project separately at each side of the seal, not together at the base.

O. The Virgin, robed and crowned, with nimbus, seated on a throne, which is without back, her feet resting on a pedestal. In her right hand a sceptre fleury (or a lily in flower), the head of which projects over her right shoulder. On her left knee, embraced by her left arm, sits the Child, with nimbus.


R. Counter-seal. Pointed oval. $1\frac{1}{8}" \times \frac{7}{8}"$. Perfect. Fine impression. Above the seal is an indentation, caused by the handle or loop.

A profile bust with the tonsure, to the right.

*= SIGILL’ WILL’I PRIORIS DE WILEMVNDEI’, with no spacing between the words.

*Note:* Attached to a grant, early thirteenth century, made by William, the Prior, and the Canons Regular of Wymondley to Richard, chaplain and vicar of St. Peter’s Church, Arlesey
This document, a survival from the muniments of Waltham Abbey, where it was in the Alricheseya series (see F. Taylor, The Hatton Wood MSS. in the John Rylands Library, p. 6), was owned in the middle of last century by Stacey Grimaldi and while in his possession was described, together with a brief note on the seal, by John Gough Nichols in Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica, vi. (1840), p. 208.

A sulphur cast of a fifteenth century Chapter seal of Wymondley, imperfect and without counter-seal, is described by Birch, op. cit., i. no. 4379; the device shows a number of differences from the one described above. _V.C.H. Hertford_ (iv. 443), which cites Birch, dates his seal fourteenth century; it is reproduced _ibid._, iv. pl. facing page 434. A seal of similar design is mentioned by Dugdale (Monasticon, vi. 555) as “extant in the Chapter House, Westminster, attached to the Acknowledgment of Supremacy, 1534”. See also the engraving in Clutterbuck’s _History of Hertfordshire_, iii. 20, no. 6. But as yet no other example of the Hatton Wood seal described above has been encountered.

4. HOSPITAL OF ST. THOMAS THE MARTYR, EASTBRIDGE, CANTERBURY. EARLY THIRTEENTH CENTURY.

Bronze-green. Pointed oval. 3” × 2”. Perfect, save for one chipped letter in the legend on the obverse. Fine impression. Pendent from a doubled strip of parchment.

O. St. Thomas Becket, the patron Saint, wearing a low mitre with a horn at each side and vested in alb, dalmatic, chasuble with orphreys round neck and border, and a vertical strip down the front. His right hand is raised in benediction, the two fingers extending into the space reserved for the legend, where they separate the B and R of the last word. In his left hand is a plain pastoral staff, with a single coil, turned inwards, with which he is piercing the head of a knight in armour on whom he is standing. The knight, a very much smaller figure, lies on his back across the base of the seal and has his left arm extended below his body; in the hand is a sword, the point projecting between the S’ and TOME of the legend. The field is plain.
MONASTIC AND LOCAL SEALS 255


R. Counter-seal, oval. 1½" × 1". Perfect. Fair impression of the device, fine one of the legend.

Full length figure, apparently bareheaded, standing, holding a slender staff in the hand of the extended left arm. The right arm is raised outward and bent at the elbow; in the hand is what appears to be a book, or possibly a scroll, held at shoulder height. Details of the figure not clear. In the field sprigs of foliage.

* TIMETE DEVVM ET DILIGITE : with no spacing between the words.

Note: This fine seal is attached to an early thirteenth century indenture of agreement between John, the Prior, and the Convent of Christchurch, Canterbury, of the one part, and Peter, the Rector, and the Brethren of the Hospital, of the other, whereby the latter grant to the former land called Asseteghe and thirty-four and a half acres in Thanet. An endorsement shows that the charter is from the Blean series of the Priory muniments (see Taylor, op. cit., pp. 7-8). It was apparently examined by Francis Blomefield, the historian of Norfolk, as were other items in this collection, for they are marked with a distinguishing sign used by him, a cross within a circle (ibid., p. 23 and n.).

The example described by Birch (op. cit., i. no. 2863; followed by V.C.H. Kent, ii. 216) is a sulphur cast of the twelfth century seal, which had the same design; but no counter-seal is mentioned. Birch also cites (ibid., no. 2864) a sulphur cast of the fifteenth-century Common Seal, which had an entirely different device and legend. It is apparently a matrix of this later seal which St. John Hope described in 1893 as being in the possession of the City of Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery (cf. his account in Proc. Soc. Antiquaries, 2nd Ser., vol. xv, p. 18, with that of Birch); he adds that it “should properly be of the first half of the fourteenth century, but is rudely cut and of doubtful appearance”. Cf. also Duncombe
5. WALTER BURSTOKE, ABBOT OF FORD, CO. DEVON. 1396.

Red wax. Pointed oval. \(1\frac{\text{a}}{\text{a}}\) \(\times \) \(1\frac{\text{a}}{\text{a}}\) when complete. Slightly imperfect at the base, but only a few letters of the legend are affected; at one time broken, it has since been carefully mended by a previous owner. Fine impression of the device; the impression of the legend is less clear, but quite legible.

Pendent from a doubled strip of parchment.

The Abbot, with partly embroidered robes, standing in an elaborately carved and canopied niche, having in his right hand a crozier, the crook turned inwards, and in his left, held at waist level, a book. On tabernacle work at each side is a shield of arms: on the dexter, three roundles, two and one (Courtenay), in chief a label of three points; on the sinister, a lion rampant.

SIGILLVM . WALTE[RI . BVRSTOJKE . ABBATIS . DE . FORDE

Note: Attached to a grant, dated 4 May 1396, by William Totereigge and his wife Mabel to Edward Blakforde, John Forde, chaplain, and others, of lands and tenements in Spearhay [in Thorncombe], co. Dorset: Et quia sigilla nostra pluribus sunt incognita, sigillum Abbatis de Forde presentibus apponi procura-vimus. The Courtenays, whose arms occur on the device, were patrons of the Abbey.

No seal of Ford Abbey, or of any of its Abbots, was known to the editors of Dugdale (see Monasticon, v. (1825), p. 377), although some twenty years later Oliver was acquainted with an example of the Common Seal, which he describes and engraves (Oliver, Monasticon Diaecesis Exoniensis (1846), p. 341 and first Supplement; see also J. H. Pring, “Memoir of Thomas Chard, D.D., Suffragan Bishop, and Last Abbot of Ford Abbey,” ap. Journal of the British Arch. Assoc., xviii. (1862), p. 198). No seal of an Abbot of Ford, however, other than the one described above, seems to be anywhere recorded. This item is known to have been offered for sale by a firm of London
booksellers in 1875 (see *Trans. Devonshire Assoc.*, x. 369), after which date all trace of it was lost until it re-appeared in the Rylands. It seems probable that it was at this sale that it was acquired by Mr. Hatton Wood.

6. **Thetford Priory, Co. Norfolk. 1432.**

Dark brown. Pointed oval. c. 3½" × 2" when complete. Imperfect; the design is almost complete, but only a portion of the legend remains. Fair impression, now much rubbed.

Pendent from a doubled strip of parchment.

The Virgin, in a flowing robe, with large nimbus, seated on a carved throne, her feet resting on a pedestal. Seated on her left knee the Child, with nimbus, embraced by her left arm. In the Child's left hand, a book, held against the body; the right hand is raised in benediction. In the Virgin's right hand [a flower]. Background diapered lozengy, a rosette in each space.


Beaded border.

*Note*: Attached to a grant of 4 May 1432, by Nicholas, the Prior, and the Convent, to John Ballys of Thetford of a parcel of land there: *nos prefati Prior et Conventus sigillum nostrum commune apposuimus.*

Cf. Birch (*op. cit.*, i. nos. 4157-4160) who lists two sulphur casts and two imperfect originals, both bronze-green, of 1467 and 1502. Dugdale (*op. cit.*, v. 148) cites Martin (*History of Thetford*, p. 157), who engraved the seal attached to the Surrender in the Augmentation Office.

7. **Abbott and Convent of Melros, Co. Roxburgh. 1539.**

Brownish-red, impressed on a large mass of uncoloured wax. Pointed oval. 2½" × 1½”. Fine impression.

Pendent from a doubled strip of parchment.

A niche, with canopy of rich tabernacle work, extending from top to base of the seal and projecting at both ends into the space reserved for the legend. Divided into two compartments: in the upper and slightly larger, against a background
of tracery, the Virgin, wearing an open crown and long robe, seated on a bench and having the Child, robed and with nimbus, standing on her right knee, and a book in her left hand, which is resting on her knee; in the lower, under a rounded and masoned arch, the Abbot, kneeling in prayer and looking upwards, his body turned three-quarters to the left, having his crozier, with a single coil, turned outwards, held between his right arm and his body, and a small "w" in the field behind him just above his feet. To the left and right of the central niche are side-niches with tall, crocketed canopies resting on masoned corbels. In the former (to the Virgin's left), St. Paul, a book in his right hand, held against his breast, and a long sword in his left, against his shoulder; in the latter, St. Peter, a key in his right hand and a book, held against his body, in his left. Each Saint, bearded and with a large nimbus, is looking upwards towards the Virgin and Child.

S' COMUNE: CAPITULI: MONASTERII: DE: MELROS.

Outer border beaded.

Note: Attached to a document of 1 July 1539: In witnes of ye quhilk thing . . . . ye commoun' sele of ye cheptour of our said abbay is is to hung [etc.].

For this seal see Stevenson and Wood, Scottish Heraldic Seals, i. (1940), p. 193, and the references there. They cite two examples of 1422 (one from Laing, Cat. of Impressions from Ancient Scottish Seals (1850), no. 1076, the other, a sulphur cast, from Birch, op. cit., iv. no. 15, 379), one of 1535, and others later in date than the one described above. The small "w" has been variously interpreted as the initial of St. Waltheof (the twelfth-century Abbot), of the Abbot at the time the seal was engraved, or of the artist.

8. ABBOT AND CONVENT OF DRYBURGH, CO. BERWICK. 1546.

Dark red, impressed deeply on a large mass of dark brown wax. Pointed oval. 2 1/16" x 1 3/4". Perfect. Fine impression.

Pendent from a doubled strip of parchment.

A full-length figure of the Abbot, front view, standing on a reticulated corbel beneath a trefoiled arch with architectural
canopy. In his left hand a plain crozier with a single coil turned outwards; his right hand is raised in benediction. In the centre of the canopy, which projects into the space reserved for the legend, a half-length figure of the Virgin with the Child on her left knee. Beneath the corbel, at the base of the seal, is a fleur-de-lis, separating the legend, as indicated below. On each side of the Abbot, at waist level, a small figure, apparently an angel, kneeling, clad in flowing draperies and turned towards him, leaning slightly backwards; the one to his left has an arm extended and in the hand a wand or, more probably, a tube (some musical instrument), the one to his right is playing what is apparently a small harp, held over the head. The remainder of the field is plain.

S. COME. ABBATIS: [fleur-de-lis] ET: 9VETVS: DE: DRIBVRGH; no bar is visible over COME or 9VETVS.

Beaded border.

Note: Attached to a document of 21 February 1546: *In witnes of ye quhilk thing . . . . . our common sele of our said abbay is to hunging [etc.].*

Birch's account of this seal (*op. cit.*, iv. no. 15,263), based on a sulphur cast from an indistinct impression of 1582, is imperfect, omitting mention of the two side figures. Stevenson and Wood (*op. cit.*, i. 177), also from a cast, describe these figures simply as monks kneeling in adoration, with no reference to the instruments they are holding, which, as with Birch, were no doubt not clearly visible on their example; they also state that the Abbot is provided with a nimbus, which is not the case in the Hatton Wood seal, and read the last word of the legend as DRIEVCH [*sic*]. It is, however, clearly DRIBVRGH, as one would expect and as given above, by Birch, and by Laing, *op. cit.*, no. 1008; the example described by Laing is, like that in the B.M. Catalogue, of 1582.

9. PRIOR OF THE HOSPITAL OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM IN ENGLAND, WITH COUNTER-SEAL OF GARNERIUS DE NEAPOLI.

White waxy paste covered with reddish-brown varnish. c. 2" in diameter, when perfect. Imperfect, the edges being

17
worn (owing to the nature of the material, "chipped" would be an inaccurate term); the device is unaffected. Fine impression, but in places the varnish has flaked off the device and, particularly, the legend.

Pendent from a doubled strip of narrow parchment; the ends embedded in the wax project separately at each side of the seal, not together at the base. (The seal, at least since 1904, has been detached from the charter, but both are kept together.)

O. A suppliant male figure, generally assumed to be the Prior, bare-headed and wearing a long robe, fastened at the waist, kneeling to the left; his hands, held at face height, are clasped in prayer and his head turned, showing almost full face, towards the spectator. Details of the features are indistinguishable owing to flaking. To the left, on a dome-shaped pedestal, a patriarchal cross of roughly the same height as the figure kneeling before it. In the field at the sides of the cross is the following inscription in three lines:—

| SAL | [V]E |
| CRVX | S[C]A |
| ARBOR | DIGNA |

The letters AR and OR of ARBOR and NA of DIGNA are conjoined and there is a bar over SCA. The remainder of the field is plain.

R. Counter-seal of Garnerius. 11/8" in diameter. Perfect. Fine impression, but now much affected by flaking. Above the seal is a deep indentation caused by the handle or loop.

Head of St. John Baptist, full face and in high relief, filling the device; long hair and beard. Details of the face are indistinguishable owing to flaking.

S' GARN PRIORIS HOSP' IER' IN ANGL'; with no spacing and the O and R of PRIORIS conjoined, giving the appearance of a Lombardic M; the bar of the N is almost horizontal, as in H.
Note: Attached to a grant, dated A.D. 1190, by Garnerius de Neapoli, Prior Fratrum Hospitalis Ierusalimit' in Anglia, and the Chapter to Turstan de Bakechild' [Bapchild] of land in Kent. This document was formerly in the Surrenden Library and while there was printed in part by Hasted, who also engraved the seal, but with a number of inaccuracies (Hist. of Kent, ii. 599). It was presumably acquired by Mr. Hatton Wood at one of the four Surrenden Sales (8 June 1858, 10 July 1861, 4 February 1863 and 13 July 1865, Puttick and Simpson; it has not been possible to consult these catalogues). He exhibited it to the Society of Antiquaries on 13 February, 1873, but the account printed in the Society's Proceedings (2nd Ser., vol. 5, pp. 445-448) contains some errors.

Garnier was Prior of the Order in England from 1185 (possibly 1184) to 1190 and in the latter part of 1190 became Master of the whole Order. An account of his seals, based, however, solely on the examples in the British Museum, will be found in (Sir) E. J. King's The Seals of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem (1932), p. 97; this may be supplemented by two valuable articles which draw on lesser-known examples from other sources, namely, "Garnier de Nablous" by J. H. Round (ap. Archaeologia, vol. 58, 1903), and "Early Charters of the Knights Hospitallers Relating to Much Woolton, near Liverpool", by Robert Gladstone, jun. (ap. Hist. Soc. Lancs. and Cheshire, N.S. 18, 1904). At least at the commencement of his period of office Garnier used the same Prior's seal as Ralph de Dive, his predecessor (cf. Harl. Ch. 43 I 38, dated 1185, with Harl. Ch. 44 H 53, dated "before 1185", and see Gladstone, pp. 88-89), without a secretum. But by 1189 (see the Aston Hall charter in Gladstone, loc. cit.), if not before, his charters bear both Prior's seal and secretum, as in the Rylands example (cf. also P.R.O. Anc. Deed 6708; Round, p. 383). Garnier's successor, Alan, used exactly the same Prior's seal and secretum in two charters of 1190, at the beginning of his period of office (B.M. Add. Ch. 7208, Cotton Ch. vii. 5; the latter is wrongly dated 1199 by the scribe, an error copied in Birch's Cat. of B.M. Seals, i. no. 4528, but corrected by Gladstone, p. 189, n. 87, and Round, p. 388). The use of Garnier's secretum by Prior Alan is particularly
interesting for the same design (the head of St. John Baptist) was adopted, either at the end of the twelfth century or the beginning of the thirteenth, for the Great Seal of the Priory and remained in use until the Reformation (see King, op. cit., p. 97, and cf. no. 10 below). Gladstone states (op. cit., p. 189, n. 89) that he was acquainted with six impressions of the private seal of Garnerius.

The legend on the obverse (the Prior's seal) of the Rylands example is imperfect, but from seals attached to B.M. Harl. Ch. 43 I 38 and St. Paul's Ch. A 28, no. 291, it has been reconstructed by Gladstone as SIGILL' PRIORIS FRATRVM HOSPITAL' [IERL'] IN ANGLIA, with some ligatures and the ATR of FRATRVM forming a monogram; for the former charter see Facsimiles of Royal and Other Charters in the British Museum, pl. xliii, and King, op. cit., frontispiece, and for the latter, Round, op. cit., pp. 383-390. The reading attempted by Delaville Le Roulx in his Mélanges Sur l'Ordre de S. Jean de Jérusalem, pt. vii, p. 3, is incorrect and his account of Garnier's seal in pt. v, pp. 9-10, is based entirely on the examples described by Birch from the British Museum collections.

10. PRIOR OF THE HOSPITAL OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM IN ENGLAND, WITH COUNTER-SEAL OF PRIOR ELIAS. TEMP. EDWARD I.

Light green wax. 1½" in diameter. Perfect. Fair impression, now much rubbed; the main features of the device on the obverse are clear but most of the legend is obliterated.

Pendent from a doubled strip of narrow parchment.

O. Head of St. John Baptist, full face and in high relief, filling the device; long hair and beard. Details of the face are not clear. On the left of the head is a star, [on the right a crescent].

[. . . . . . . . . . . . . . ] IE[. . . . . . . . . .]

In addition to the border enclosing the legend there is an inner border of widely-spaced dots or pellets.

R. Counter-seal. 1¾" in diameter. Good impression, now rather rubbed.
An upright shield of arms: apparently paly of ten (but this description is possibly incomplete, as other details may have been erased).

S' FRIS . ELIE . D[E . . . . ]ME[. . . . . . . . . . . .]., with a bar over the I of FRIS.

Beaded border.

Note: Attached to a grant by Elias de Smithtndon (?), Fratrum Hospitalis Ierosalem’ Prior humilis in Anglia, and the Chapter to Robert le Clerk of all the land which John de Templelone formerly held in the manor of Holedich’, at a yearly rent of three shillings and, on the death of Robert and his heirs, a third part of all their chattels; the seal is referred to in the sealing clause as sigillum Capituli nostri.

No other example of the above counter-seal has so far been found and the Prior himself seems equally elusive. For the use of the device of St. John Baptist’s head see the note on the seal of Garnerius de Neapoli (above, no. 9) and for thirteenth and fourteenth century seals of Priors of England bearing shields of arms see King, op. cit., pp. 107-108 and pl. xix.

The Library possesses another uncommon heraldic seal of a Prior of the Order, Fr. Robert Botyller, attached to Ryl. Ch. 1617, dated at Clerkenwell, 23 February 1444/1445, as follows: a shield of arms couché: a chevron between three combs; crest, on a helmet and ornamental mantling, a wolf’s head couped. The legend is S’ : roberti : b[ot]yll’ : prioris : ho[s]pi[t]alis : ierl[m] : in anglia. Botyller’s seal is not recorded in Birch, op. cit. or King, op. cit.

11. The Fraternity of Kalendars, Bristol. 1361.

Dark brown. Pointed oval. c. 2” × 1½” when perfect. Most of the legend is chipped away, but the design is complete. Good impression.

Pendent from a doubled strip of parchment.

Three men’s heads, with prominent side-curls, arranged in a triangle; the two which form the base are a little larger than the third which is immediately above and between them. Background of foliage.

SIGI[. . . . . . . . . . . .].
Note: Attached to an agreement made on 1 May 1361 between Thomas, Rector of the Church of St. Lawrence, Bristol, and William, Prior of the Fraternity, concerning the custody of the evidences of the Cecilia Pollard chantry in that church. For the Pollard chantry see Trans. Bristol and Glouc. Arch. Soc., viii. 232-233, and for the Kalendars, "one of the oldest Gilds in England, as well as one of the most remarkable in its objects," see the lengthy note in L. T. Smith, The Maire of Bristowe Is Kalendar (Camden Soc., N.S. 5), p. v and the references there.

Another example of this rare seal, but dating from 1466, is recorded as having been owned by Peter Le Neve (d. 1729) and in 1837, when in the possession of John Bowyer Nichols, was described by John Gough Nichols in Collect. Topographica et Genealogica, iv. 245. This also, which was in red wax, had an imperfect legend and Gough Nichols notes: "The legend was probably more perfect when Le Neve possessed the deed, as he has written [apparently an endorsement] 'Sigillum Prioratus domus Calendar Brestoll', and, again, 'Sigill. Prioris domus Kalendar Bristoll'". This is not clear. They may be merely Le Neve's own descriptions, or guesses, and could not both be a copy of the legend, which, however, must have had similar wording. The document to which the seal was attached, a release by the Prior and Fraternity of property in Bristol to the Abbey of Glastonbury, 1466, is printed ibid., pp. 244-245; in it the seal is referred to as sigillum nostrum commune, as in the Hatton Wood charter. A somewhat earlier example, attached to an indenture of 1333, is referred to briefly by Barrett (Hist. of the City of Bristol, p. 450), who suggests that the heads were probably intended for the three persons of the Trinity. But their whole appearance is against this. Gough Nichols' suggestion (op. cit., p. 245) that "they were doubtless drawn for three members of the fraternity, as in many other seals of collegiate bodies," seems more probable.

The cast described by Birch (op. cit., i. no. 2727, sulphur cast from an imperfect thirteenth century impression) as the seal of "an uncertain religious house" at Bristol would also seem to be the seal of the Fraternity; it should be added that the
representation on the device is of heads only, not, as Birch states, of busts.

12. St. Peter's Church, Bristol. 1384.

Red wax. c. 3" in diameter when complete. Imperfect, but almost the entire device has survived and probably almost the entire seal; for examination of the edges, which in a number of places are rounded and finished, and a calculation based on wax marks on the parchment strip suggest that the seal may have been without legend. Fine impression.

Pendent from a doubled strip of parchment.

A representation of St. Peter's Church, apparently South view, showing (from left to right, facing seal) porch with doorway; broach-spire with two windows in tower; and nave, with two windows, to the right of which is a doorway. Doors and windows are round-headed and roofs reticulated. The background is plain. The whole design is plain and simple, with no more decoration or detail than is indicated here.

Note: Attached to an indenture of 26 April 1384, between Thomas Veys(e)y, Rector of the Church of St. Peter, of the one part, and the Churchwardens and parishioners of the other: In cuius rei testimonium . . . . nos predicti procuratores et parochiani sigillum nostrum commune apposuimus. The counterpart of this document, which is also among the Hatton Wood MSS., bears Veys(e)y's seal.

No other example of this seal has so far been encountered. A single example of a later seal (c. 1525), with a legend and entirely different device, is cited by C. E. Boucher in "St. Peter's Church, Bristol" (ap. Trans. Bristol and Glouc. Arch. Soc., xxxii. p. 281 and pl. facing) as being the only impression of a seal of the church known to him; another example of this later seal, earlier by some sixty-five years than the one he cites, is described in no. 13 below.

Materials relating to St. Peter's, commonly reputed to be the oldest church in Bristol, are scanty, and Boucher notes (op. cit., p. 266) that "towards the closing years of the fourteenth century there seems to be reasonable grounds for believing that the old Norman church was taken down and replaced by
the Perpendicular church that we now have”. The representation described above may be the only extant guide to the appearance of this older church.

13. **St. Peter’s Church, Bristol. 1460.**

Red wax. Pointed oval. $2\frac{1}{4}” \times 1\frac{3}{8}”$. Perfect, save for a little chipping of the legend. Fine impression, with the prominences now slightly rubbed.

Pendent from a doubled strip of parchment.

St. Peter, full-length, standing, with halo and long, flowing robe. He bears in front of him, at waist level, a large cruciform church, masoned and with spire; the spire occupies the space on his left between the upper part of his figure and the border. The doors and windows are round-headed. In his right hand, held against his breast, are the keys, which occupy the space between his right shoulder and the border. The field is replenished with foliage.

Sigillum ecclē parochi[alis] sn[cti(?)] petri] bristollie:
preceded by a sprig of foliage and with a smaller sprig separating each word.

Beaded borders.

**Note:** Attached to a lease by the Rector of St. Peter’s Church, the Churchwardens and parishioners to William Clerk of Bristol and his wife Joan, 26 September 1460: *In cuius rei testimonium . . . . nos predicti Willelmus, Rector, Ricardus Webbe et Thomas Dyre, procuratores, et comparochiani ecclesie predicte sigillum commune dicte ecclesie apponi fecimus.*

Apparently only one other example of this seal is known, dated about 1525 and cited by Boucher (op. cit.); Boucher’s reading of the legend is incorrect, as he has neglected to take into account the fact that his seal is imperfect. For this and an earlier seal of the Church see no. 12 above.

14. **Privy Seal of the Mayoralty of York. [15th Cent.].**

Red wax. 2” in diameter. Perfect. Fine impression.

On a tongue $6\frac{1}{2}”$ long and, in breadth, narrowing from 1” to, at the end, $\frac{5}{8}”$; the top of the seal is $1\frac{1}{2}”$ from the root. Now unattached.
A shield of the city arms: on a cross five leopards; the field of the shield is diapered with scroll work. Between two ostrich feathers labelled and surmounted by an open coronet of three fleurs-de-lis and two triplets of pearls.

Sigil ♣ lum : * Secretum * Offici * Maioratus * Ciuitat’ Eborac.

Cabled borders.

Note: The example listed by Birch (op. cit., ii. no. 5545), a sulphur cast from a fine impression or matrix, is also dated fifteenth century. Jewitt and St. John Hope (Corporation Plate and Insignia of Office, ii. 466-467), who state that this seal is of late fourteenth century date, refer to “four lions of England” on the cross, not five as described above, by Birch (loc. cit.), Fox-Davies (The Book of Public Arms, p. 287) and Burke (General Armory, p. 1150), and shown in the engraving in Drake’s Eboracum (pl. following p. 380, fig. 3).

15. MAYORALTY OF NORTHAMPTON. 1503.

Red wax. 1½" in diameter. Perfect, save for a little chipping of the legend at the top. Fine impression.

Pendent from a doubled strip of parchment.

A triple-towered castle, masoned and embattled; round-headed portal with double doors, open. The central tower, rising from within the parapet, is larger and taller than the two outer ones; in all three is a lancet-shaped window or opening. Supported by two leopards rampant guardant. In the field above, a reticulated pattern.

[S M]AIORITATIS VILLE NORHAMTON[IE].

Beaded border.

Note: This fine seal is attached to a grant of 6 April 1503, made by Robert Buk of London, gentleman, to William Marcholl of Northampton, fuller, Joan his wife, John Wodeward and John Walker, of property in St. Giles’ Street, Northampton: Et quia sigillum meum pluribus est incognitum, ideo Sigillum Offici Maioratus ville Northampton’ predicte apponii procuravi in fidem et testimonium.

With one exception, a sulphur cast, the examples recorded by Birch (op. cit., ii. nos. 5219-5227) are imperfect or
fragmentary. In the account of the town seals in *V.C.H. Northampton* (iii. 22), which is based on Birch, it is stated that “the mayor's official seal appears to have been made early in the fourteenth century, was in use down to the last quarter of the seventeenth century and was probably destroyed when superseded”. The account in Jewitt and St. John Hope (*op. cit.*, iii. 217), is not free from error. For the arms of Northampton see *V.C.H.*, iii. 1, and *Northamptonshire Notes and Queries*, i. (1884), pp. 1-2; the note in the latter, which draws attention to certain varieties of the coat, including different arrangements of the towers, is based in part on evidence from seals among the town deeds. The Mayoralty Seal of Northampton has a striking similarity to that of Bedford, apart from the supporters (see Birch, *op. cit.*, ii. no. 4616, and the engraving in *Proc. Soc. Antiquaries*, 2nd ser., xv. 449).

16. BAILIFFS’ OFFICE OF COLCHESTER, CO. ESSEX. 1546.

Red wax. 2¼” in diameter. Perfect save for a little chipping, affecting the outer border, but only slightly. Blurred impression.

Pendent from a doubled strip of parchment.

A central hexagonal tower flanked by two smaller, circular towers on each of which is a banner, flying inwards; the upper portion of the central tower and the banners project into the space reserved for the legend. All three towers rise from within an embattled wall in which, at the base of the seal, is a round-headed doorway with the portcullis half-down, flanked by two circular turrets, on each of which is a head. Immediately above the doorway, in a carved and round-headed niche in the central tower, stands St. Helena, the Empress, the patron Saint of Colchester, wearing an open crown and long robe, a book in her right hand and in her left a large cross, almost her own height. Towers and wall are masoned.

\[\text{Sigillum : Officii : Balliuorum : ville : colcestrie : \text{\textcopyright}}\]

Outside the legend is an elaborate border (¼” wide) of, alternately, fourteen cinquefoil flowers and vesical frames, each enclosing a fleur-de-lis.
Note: Attached to a deposition made before Robert Leche and Thomas Reve, bailiffs, on 7 June 1546: In witnesse wherof to these presentes the seale of our office of Bailiffes of the towne of Colchester [etc.].

The example described by Birch (op. cit., ii. no. 4830) is a sulphur cast from the matrix (15th cent.). See also Jewitt and St. John Hope, op. cit., i. 198 and cf. the description of the Common Seal in Gale Pedrick, Borough Seals of the Gothic Period, pp. 55-58 and pl. xxxviii.

17. COMMON SEAL OF KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES, CO. SURREY. 1609.

Red wax. 2” in diameter. Perfect. Fair impression, now somewhat rubbed; in one place the wax overlaps the space reserved for the legend.

Pendent from a doubled strip of parchment.

A shield of the arms of Kingston-upon-Thames: three salmon swimming in pale; at the base a capital letter, either K or R (see below). Between three leopards rampant, within a gothic quatrefoil, cusped and pointed and with curved spandrels.

* S’ COMVNITATIS : VILLE DE KINGGESTON :
[SV]PER : TA[MIC]IAM *

Note: Attached to a bargain and sale made 15 December 1609: In witnesse wherof . . . . the said baylyffes and freemen have caused the Common Seal of the sayd towne to be fixed.

The example described in Birch (op. cit., ii. no. 5037) is a sulphur cast from the matrix. There appears to be some doubt about the initial letter at the base. Birch refers to it as a K (cf. Burke, General Armory, p. 567) but Jewitt and St. John Hope (op. cit., ii. 354) and Fox-Davies, who also cites the Seal of Surrey County Council on which the arms of Kingston-upon-Thames occur (see his Book of Public Arms, pp. 416, 762), state that it is an R. Cf. the engraving in Lewis, Topog. Dict. (7th edit.), ii. 682.

18. SECOND MAYORALTY SEAL OF COVENTRY. 1618.

Light brown wax. 2” in diameter. Perfect. Fine impression of the device; the last word of the legend is blurred.
Pendent from a doubled strip of parchment.

On a mount replenished with foliage and between two trees which project into the space reserved for the legend at the top, an elephant walking to the left and having on its back a triple-towered castle on which is a banner bearing what has been variously interpreted as (a) three scimitars in fess, handles downward (Birch), or (b) three ostrich feathers (Jewitt and St. John Hope).

Sigillum Maioratus § Ciuitatis § [Covenant].

Note: Attached to a bargain and sale made by the Mayor, Bailiffs and Commonalty to John Saunders of Coventry, dated 4 February 1617/1618: *In cuius rei . . . . testimonium huic presenti scripto nos prefati Maior [etc.] Sigillum Communem civitatis predicti apposuimus.*

The example catalogued by Birch (*op. cit.*, ii. no. 4847), injured by pressure and slipped, is also attached to a document dated 1618. Jewitt and St. John Hope (*op. cit.*, ii. 390) differ from him in stating that the banner is charged with three ostrich feathers, adding, “this seal, with its ‘banner of peace’ of Edward, Prince of Wales, probably dates from his charter of 1363, granting the town to the mayor, bailiffs, and commonalty, with leave to enclose it with a wall.” It is not clear from the Hatton Wood seal whether the representation is of three scimitars or three ostrich feathers, but if the latter is the case the feathers are labelled. Jewitt and St. John Hope also read ‘Maioritatis’ in the legend; in the example described above the word is clearly ‘Maioratus’, as stated by Birch. See also the engraving in Lewis, *op. cit.*, i. 705.