

A JODRELL DEED AND THE SEALS OF THE BLACK PRINCE.

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EARWAKER, the historian of East Cheshire, notes in his account of the well-known family of Jodrell, that the first-recorded member of this line was William Jodrell, who held lands in the forest of Macclesfield in 1351.¹ He also refers to the most interesting of the early Jodrell deeds, namely, a license to leave the army, granted by the Black Prince to this same William Jodrell in December, 1355. Local historians will be glad that Colonel and Mrs. H. Ramsden-Jodrell have recently deposited the Jodrell manuscripts in the John Rylands Library, with the exception of this pass which remains at Taxal. Its intrinsic interest is great; moreover it suggests and illuminates various problems of the diplomatic and sigillography of the prince's secretariat. It has, therefore, been thought worth while to reproduce a facsimile here, with a few remarks on the Black Prince's seals. With this a photograph of a drawing of a seal is also printed. This drawing was supplied to the Jodrell family about 1870 as a complete representation of the original seal on the deed, which is much defaced. This claim is discussed later. Both are on Plate I. opposite.

The pass reads as follows:—

Sachent touz que nous le Prince de Gales avoms done conge le iour de la date de cestes a William Jauderel un de nos archers de passer en Engleterre. En tesmoignance de quele chose a ceste presente bille nous avoms fait mettre notre seal Done a Burdeux le xvi iour de decembre lan de grace m^zccclv.

Know all that we, the Prince of Wales, have given leave, on the day of the date of this instrument, to William Jauderel, one of our archers, to go to England. In witness of this we have caused our seal to be placed on this bill. Given at Bordeaux, 16th of December, in the year of grace 1355.

The Black Prince sailed for Gascony in September 1355 and spent the autumn in the famous Languedoc raid. The prosperous

¹ J. P. Earwaker, *East Cheshire*, II., 533.

Caesare tunc q' nol' de p'ncipe de g'at' h'mo d'no congo de un' de la r'ra de s'p't' a C'ar' J'nd'g'ed
Qu' de un' d'p'te de p'p't' in C'ing'it'p'o. De def'ug'it'one de m'ello s'p'te a s'p'to p'nc'io d'illo u'3 d'uomo
p'cc' m'it'p'o m'd' eod' d'ca a C'amp'one de d'p't' u'ny de d'ec'm'br' An' de g'au' d' .cccc'xix.

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PLATE I.—THE JODRELL PASS.

country side and the rich towns, for long the base from which the French crown had attempted to add Gascony to the royal domain, were now left desolate at the hand of the English marauder. In November Edward retired to Bordeaux, and there Christmas was celebrated. Shortly before, William Jodrell was given permission to leave the army, that is, after the great raid was over, but while the prince's troops were still actively engaged in conquering the Agenais. The ties between the Black Prince and his palatine earldom of Chester were close; among his knights, and, as we see here, among his archers, many a Cheshire family of later repute was represented.

The original pass described above is in some ways unique. As far as I know, no other license of the kind survives. Moreover it is written on paper, and, unlike other warrants on paper issued by the Black Prince, it has its seal remaining. As a consequence of the use of paper, the letter was not sealed and folded on the simple queue system.¹ The seal here is only a mark of authentication; as a letter patent, the pass was not, of course, fastened up. The brevity of the letter and the size of the seal were together responsible for the curious shape of the piece of paper. I have seen no other seal *plaqué*, like this, attached to documents issued by the Black Prince,² but sealing in this fashion was being revived in England about this time, perhaps in consequence of the use of paper.³ Few diplomatic points are raised by the pass. The form "sachent touz," etc., occurs in at any rate two other of the prince's letters patent, issued in Gascony, during these years,⁴ although other letters, under the prince's privy seal, often

¹ Other letters of the Black Prince have three, or occasionally six slits, which suggest that a simple queue was sometimes used even with paper.

² A letter in *Ancient Correspondence*, Vol. XL. (No. 164), written on paper after Edward was Prince of Aquitaine, has traces of wax in several places on either side. A circular marking on the face, about 2 inches in diameter, suggests the existence at one time of a seal, but it is too indistinct to argue from. Three slits appear on this letter, and there are marks of stitching all round the writing. Possibly the paper was sewn on to parchment to strengthen it.

³ See R. L. Poole, *Seals and Documents* (from the Proceedings of the British Academy, Vol. IX.).

⁴ E.g. W.S. *Ancient Deeds*, No. 95 (Two letters). These, however, instead of reading "sachent touz que nous le prince de Gales," etc., read "sachent touz que nous Edouard Prince de Gales," etc.

followed the formula of the English chancery.¹ Dating by the Christian, rather than by the regnal year, was a feature of all the prince's letters issued in Gascony.²

Paper was not used to any great extent for letters as early as this. By far the larger number of the prince's letters from Gascony were on parchment, all those between 1355 and 1357 for example. Paper was, however, used more extensively in Gascony than in England.³ A privy seal letter of the Black Prince's, written after 1362, was on paper,⁴ and so was a signet letter of about the same time ;⁵ neither is dated, but both were written in Gascony. Privy and secret seal letters in England were also sometimes on paper.⁶ None of these is, however, as early as 1355, and in this respect the Jodrell pass is unique. Most of the letters issued by the king at this time were still on parchment, although there are exceptions. For example, in a bundle of documents subsidiary to the privy wardrobe accounts, ranging from 1353 to 1361, there is one solitary paper warrant.⁷ This may probably be dated 1359. Paper was more often used for registers than for letters ; the earliest of the three surviving registers of the Black Prince's letters is on paper. This was drawn up for the years 1346 and 1347 while the later registers on parchment cover the years 1351 to 1364.⁸ In generally using parchment, but occasionally using paper, the writing departments of the Black Prince were but following the custom of the king's various secretariats.

The last and most interesting point is to identify the seal used on this pass. Unfortunately we know very little about the Black Prince's

¹ The greatest number of surviving letters from Edward in Gascony are in Latin, and are letters close, but the few letters patent follow the example of those of the king in England (e.g. Exchequer Accounts, 169/2).

² His letters in England, on the other hand, were normally dated by the regnal year.

³ See J. E. T. Rogers, *History of Agriculture and Prices*, Vol. II., Preface, p. xvii.

⁴ Ancient Correspondence, XL., No. 164.

⁵ *Ibid.*, No. 144.

⁶ *Ibid.*, Nos. 145, 146, 147, 148.

⁷ Exchequer Accounts, Bundle 392, No. 15. I am indebted to Professor Tout for this reference.

⁸ Miscellaneous Books of Exchequer, Treasury of Receipt, Nos. 144, 278, 279.

seals, and still less about his secretariat and its officers. Thus the identification of this seal with others of a similar kind does not put an end to speculation ; we still do not know how many seals the prince possessed at the time, nor precisely what were the functions of each seal, to what organisations they belonged, or in whose custody they lay. For example, we have no evidence that the Black Prince possessed a great seal before he was made Prince of Aquitaine in 1362, nor are there any references to his chancellor. Yet he clearly must have had one seal, corresponding in authority, if not in name, to the great seal of the king or the seals of other magnates. To this no references can be found. But it is clear that much business fell upon the privy seal, originally a wardrobe seal, and that it soon went out of court and became an independent department under the keeper of the privy seal. Its place was taken by the secret seal, or at times by a special seal, used during absences abroad. This, however, is hardly the place to discuss these administrative developments, and, until further research has been devoted to the subject, we must be content to survey the existing seals of the Black Prince without any complete understanding of his secretarial arrangements.¹

There are some eight different seals of the Black Prince in the British Museum² and the Public Record Office. The earliest is the privy seal used while he was Duke of Cornwall but before he was Prince of Wales, that is between 1337 and 1343. The mark left by

¹ Much light is thrown upon the secretarial arrangements and general household organisation of the Black Prince in Miscellaneous Books of the Exchequer, Treasury of Receipt, Nos. 144, 278 and 279. These are registers of letters issued under the prince's privy seal. No. 144 deals with all his lands in 1346 and 1347, No. 278 with his lands in England from 1351 to 1364, No. 279 with his Cheshire lands 1351 to 1364. A fragment of a similar register dealing with Wales survives in Ancient Correspondence, LVIII., No. 35 (1354-1356). These registers are in process of being calendared and printed by the Public Record Office.

² J. Moisant, *Le Prince Noir en Aquitaine*, Appendix VII., gives pictures of those seals of the prince which survive in any form in the British Museum. Moisant's descriptions are not trustworthy, for example, for Seal 3 the inscription he gives does not appear on the picture of the seal on the page opposite, nor on the actual cast. He also regards Nos. 5 and 7 as separate seals, whereas they are certainly the obverse and reverse of the prince's great seal.

the wax on the parchment, is, however, all that remains to-day, the wax itself having disappeared. This seal measured $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches in diameter, and it was certainly in use in February, 1338,¹ and July, 1340;² other undated imprints of it also survive.³ A new seal was probably made after 1343 when Edward was created Prince of Wales; traces of this survive on an undated document written after the prince's return to England from the siege of Calais, that is, sometime after the 12th October, 1347.⁴ It is slightly larger than the earlier privy seal and measures $1\frac{7}{16}$ inches. The only surviving great seal, certainly in use in 1366 and 1370 was made later than, and probably in consequence of, the grant to Edward of the Principality of Aquitaine in 1362.⁵ A fragment of a seal of 1376 cannot be identified.⁶ One small seal, of which there is only a plaster cast, undated, at the British Museum, was probably used earlier than 1362 and must have been a

¹ Ancient Correspondence, XXXIX., No. 63.

² Exchequer Accounts, Bundle 212, No. 1, now known as E101/212/1. This is a letter from Edward as Keeper of England to the Keeper of the Hanaper of the Chancery. Mr. B. Wilkinson gave me this reference.

³ E.g. Ancient Correspondence, XXXIX., No. 118, dated 4th September. This letter was issued while Edward was Keeper of England, but he held this office three times; he was appointed in July, 1338, May, 1340, and October, 1342 (*D.N.B.*). Another letter is dated only 14 Edward III. (1340-41). Ancient Correspondence, XLII., No. 32.

⁴ Ancient Correspondence, LVI., No. 25.

⁵ For a description of this see De Gray Birch, *Catalogue of Seals*, Vol. II., No. 5551, also the plaster cast of the seal, in the British Museum. For a picture see Sandford, *Genealogical History*, p. 125. This seal is described in Douët-d'Arcq, *Collection de Sceaux*, Vol. III., No. 10134, with date 29 Jan. 1366. Its diameter is here described as 95 millimetres, that is $\frac{1}{2}$ inch wider than the measurement ($3\frac{1}{2}$ ins.) given in the *Catalogue of Seals*. The seal as depicted by Sandford measures $3\frac{5}{8}$ inches. Another impression of this seal survives in E101/178/19, dated 8 Oct. 1370. In each case the inscription describes Edward as Prince of Aquitaine and Wales. The last example is described in the document which it sealed as "notre grand seal empendant".

⁶ Exchequer Miscellanea 5/29 (P.R.O. Museum, Case B, No. 29). This is a note (undated) of various vestments, etc., bequeathed to the cathedral church of Canterbury by the Black Prince. Its date presumably is 1376. A shield of arms *couché* is all that survives, and this is not enough to identify the seal. It is possibly none of the seals, later described as A, B, and C, but another one in use after 1362.

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privy or secret seal.¹ Another small seal of 1360 survives ; this was possibly a secret seal. It was appended to an undertaking on the prince's part to keep the Peace of Calais.² This letter was written at Calais on 26th October, 1360, two days after the peace had been finally agreed upon. For such a document it is likely that the prince would use the most important seal he had with him. His privy seal was by now out of court, and at the time probably in London, its habitual home during the prince's absence.³ The signet, on the other hand, still followed the prince's person, and it is hardly rash to suppose that this seal was his signet. In addition to these, there are two other rather larger seals, which are more closely concerned with our search. All these, except the great seal, are of red wax.

¹ See *Catalogue of Seals*, No. 5558, for description. An upright shield of arms is the main feature of the seal, its diameter is $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Since writing the above I have found that a good impression of this seal survives in the City of Chester Muniments Room. It is appended to a letter from the Black Prince to the Mayor and Citizens of Chester about the fee-farm of the city, given in R. Morris's *Chester During the Plantagenet and Tudor Periods*, p. 495. The letter is dated 11th Nov., 1351. Through the kindness of the Town Clerk, I have been able to examine this seal. Unfortunately the seal is not mentioned as surviving in Canon Morris's transcriptions and translations of the city charters, and the Inventory in the Chester Muniments Room describes the seal as missing. The seal and queue, at present attached to the document, are affixed by a modern paper-clip! Thus it would be rash to insist that this seal was in use in 1351, and thus to identify it with the privy seal we know to have been in use after 1347 (*Ancient Correspondence*, LVI., No. 25). There is, however, no other surviving document of the Black Prince's at Chester to which this seal could belong. Thus it is very probably the privy seal in use from 1343 to 1362. A small lion, rampant, above the coat of arms is its distinguishing feature. For a description see *Journal of the Architectural, Archaeological and Historic Society of Chester*, New Series, XVIII., 42. As the late Mr. James Hall who wrote this paper on "The Royal Charters and Grants to Chester," also compiled the Inventory, perhaps it was he who discovered this seal after the Inventory was completed.

² Described in *Catalogue of Seals*, No. 5555. See *Additional Charters*, No. 11308. Also see Douët-d'Arcq, *Collection de Sceaux*, Vol. III., No. 10132. This describes the same seal, appended to a precisely similar document, surviving in the French Archives Nationales. Diameter of Seal $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches.

³ Letters under the privy seal were issued from London throughout 1360. Two of these are dated Oct. 13 and Oct. 16. The privy seal accompanied Edward to Sandwich in the autumn of 1359, but on his departure for Calais returned to London (*Misc. Books Ex.*, T.R., Nos. 278 and 279).

The two remaining seals are similar in size and were probably in use concurrently for a time. One of these appears in two slightly different forms at different dates. For convenience I shall call these two A and B, and the remaining seal C.¹ There is a cast of the first, A, in the British Museum, the date given for it in the *Catalogue of Seals* is 1340,² the second, B, has a similar cast for which the date is given as 1360.³ The latter also appears on documents written in London in July and August, 1362.⁴ See Plate II. opposite.

A and B both depict the prince's shield of arms *couché*, that is, the arms of France (ancient) and England quarterly, with a label of three points. Above this is a "helmet and chapeau turned up, ermine" upon which stands the crest, a lion of England with tail extended. On either side is an ostrich feather,⁵ and the whole is surrounded by an elaborately carved gothic panel.⁶ There are minute differences in the helmet, but more noticeable is the position of the shield. In B it is lying across the margin of the seal, thus occupying a portion of the space often taken up by the inscription. In A the shield is clear of this marginal edge, and there is therefore more room for lettering. Consequently it is not surprising to find A reading "Seal of Edward,

¹ The measurements vary a little. A and B, slightly dissimilar seals of the same pattern, are generally given as 2 inches (see *Catalogue of Seals*), while C was rather smaller ($1\frac{1}{8}$ inches). Sandford's drawing of A measures $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches.

² For description see *Catalogue of Seals*, No. 5554. There is a picture of this in Sandford, *Genealogical History*, p. 125.

³ *Catalogue of Seals*, Nos. 5552 and 5553.

⁴ See Diplomatic Documents 1106 and 1107. A description in Douët-d'Arcq, *Collection de Sceaux*, Vol. III., No. 10133, might be applied to either A or B as it is incomplete. This seal measures 55 millimetres, that is, slightly more than the 2 inches of the A and B casts. But the document is dated London, 13 August, 1362, which makes it pretty certain that the seal is B, not A, which only occurs in 1350.

⁵ The ostrich feather appears in a similar position on the seal of John, Duke of Bedford in 1413. See *Durham Seals* by William Greenwell and C. Hunter Blair, No. 3066. The whole design of this seal is very similar to A and B.

⁶ For a technical description of details see *Catalogue of Seals*. Here it is only necessary to note general features of similarity or dissimilarity. In the catalogue, however (No. 5554), A is described as having a beaded border and B (No. 5552) as not. In a surviving impression in the Public Record Office, which is certainly the same seal as 5552 or B, it also has quite clearly a beaded border. Sandford's picture of A omits the beaded border.



PLATE II.—SEAL B.

eldest son of the king of England and France, Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall and Earl of Chester," while B omits any mention of France and describes the prince as "eldest son of the king of England".¹ In B the ostrich plumes bend outwards slightly more; in A, on the other hand, the plumes are labelled. The position of the standing lion is different in each case; also the lion of B certainly has a label of three points round its neck, while in A the mane may, or may not, hide a similar label.² The tail of the lion in B is short, ending on a level with his feet, while in A the tail extends as far as the tassel of the chapeau. The tracery of A is less elaborate than that of B. These distinctions, clear enough on a complete seal, make identification from fragments difficult.

It is impossible to determine exactly which seals these are. The earlier (A) survives only in a cast, and in Sandford's drawing, and from such unproductive sources it would be rash to assume it was the prince's privy seal in 1350. It is large for a privy seal (the diameter is 2 inches); on the other hand the wax is red, a sign of a household seal. Of the later seal B we know rather more. It was probably made after the signing of the Treaty of Calais in October, 1360, as we can guess from the omission of the description of Edward III. as king of France.³ Moreover, we fortunately find the later seal appended to a document. This is an acknowledgment by the Black Prince of the terms by which he was to hold Aquitaine, and a recitation of the grant to him;⁴ it is very formal in wording. The seal is attached by green and blue cords in the fashion of charters and the more solemn letters patent of the king's chancery. The document was issued at Westminster on 19th July, 1362 (the day of the grant of Aquitaine to the prince), "by witness of our seal used before we were Prince of Aquitaine". The same seal appears also on 13th August, 1362.⁵ The assumption from this is that it was the prince's most important seal, though whether it can be called his great or his privy seal, is still

¹ Probably the alteration in design was a necessary consequence of the Treaty of Calais of 1360. From 1360 to 1369 Edward III. omitted the title "king of France" in his descriptions of himself.

² In Sandford's drawing the label is clear.

³ *Supra*, note 1.

⁴ Given in *Foedera*, VI., 388 (1727 edition).

⁵ *Supra*, note 1.

perhaps a problem.¹ It was later superseded by another seal necessitated by the grant of Aquitaine ; this probably was the great seal of which we know.² It cannot be discovered without further evidence whether A was continuously in use from 1350 to 1360, but, if so, it was probably kept in England the whole time, for we know that another seal was normally used when the prince was in Gascony during this period. B was in use between the autumn of 1360 and August, 1362, roughly.

Many examples survive of the remaining seal (C), though many are only fragments. This seal is very slightly smaller than A or B, and is similar in design.³ Instead, however, of ostrich plumes on either side of the helmet and chapeau, there are flowers and leaves branching inwards from the encircling panel. The inscription is the same as that of A, the lion has a label of three points round its neck, and the tail is short as in B. See Plate III. opposite. This seal appears frequently during 1356 and 1357,⁴ and twice in 1358.⁵ The British Museum

¹ There is little trace in the Black Prince's Registers or elsewhere that he possessed a chancery in the normally accepted sense before 1362. See p. . Even his most important letters were given by the privy seal. The only reference to a chancellor occurs in Nov. 1362, that is, some months after Edward became Prince of Aquitaine.

² *Supra*, p. 110, and note 5.

³ See *Catalogue of Seals*, No. 5557, which describes it as 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ inches, that is $\frac{1}{8}$ inch smaller than Nos. 5552 and 5554 (that is B and A).

⁴ See Exchequer Accounts (E.101) 171/5; 172/1; 169/2; 171/4 File 2; 172/3; 171/4 File 1, part 3. These are references to bundles of documents subsidiary to the accounts of the Constable of Bordeaux. Some of the letters are printed in Moisant, *Le Prince Noir en Aquitaine*, Appendix II.

⁵ See Diplomatic Documents, 1632, and W.S. Ancient Deeds 95. Caution is needed in dating these, as they are dated by the Christian year, which, however, was then reckoned as beginning on 25th March. Therefore W.S. Ancient Deeds 95, which is dated 20 Mar., 1357, was really issued in 1358, according to our mode of reckoning. Similarly a letter dated 6 Jan. 1355 was really issued in January, 1356 (E101/169/2). This method of dating from the Feast of the Annunciation was in general use by the fourteenth century in the English lands in France. See R. L. Poole, *The Beginning of the Year in the Middle Ages*, p. 22 (from the Proceedings of the British Academy, Vol. X.). The Black Prince's clerks clearly began the year at Lady Day, as is proved by Diplomatic Documents of the Exchequer, 1632, printed in *Facsimiles of National Manuscripts*, Part I, No. XXVIII. This is an undertaking from the Prince to pay certain Gascon lords a sum of money at certain fixed terms, namely at Michaelmas in the

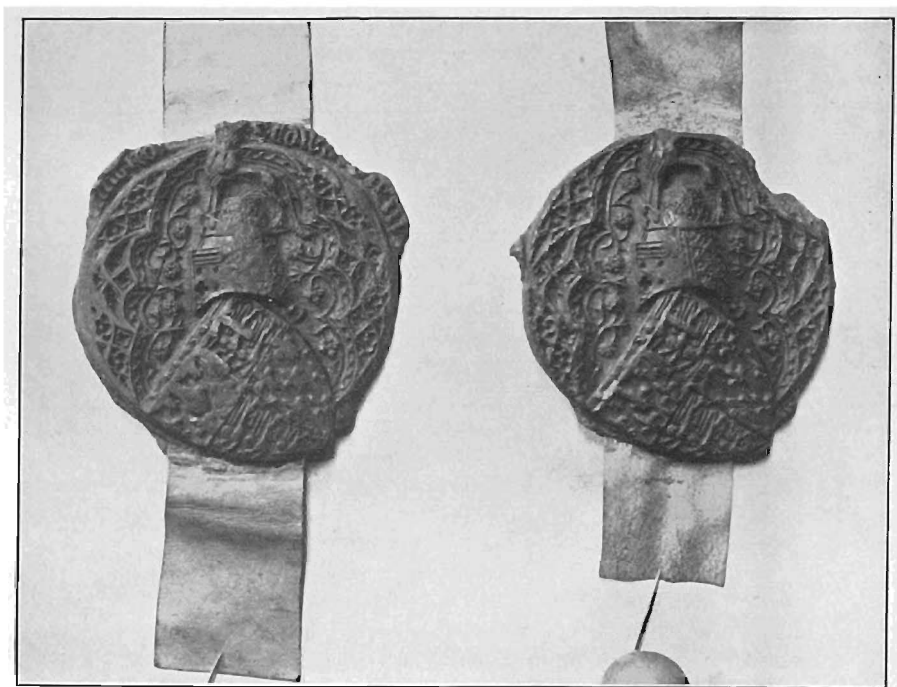


PLATE III.—SFAL C.

cast is dated 1361, but I have found no other evidence of its existence from 1358-1361. Every letter under this seal was issued in Gascony.

In September, 1355, the Prince of Wales left Plymouth for Bordeaux. Till 11th July letters under his privy seal are dated from London or Poplar, on 26th July onwards from Plympton or Plymouth till the first week in September when the prince sailed.¹ After that letters of privy seal were given at Westminster. The keeper of the privy seal at the time was Richard Wolveston, and he was clearly in London with the privy seal during a large part of the expedition to Aquitaine.² Thus the seal which was used in Gascony was not the normal privy seal, which was still regularly used in England. Edward returned to England on 4th May, 1357, landing at Plymouth.³ His privy seal letters continued to be issued in London till 8th May, but letters of 12th May and 20th May were given at Salisbury and Winchester respectively,⁴ which shows that when Edward was in England

same and the succeeding year. The deed was given at Bordeaux on the 12th February, 1357. The date 1357 is suspect from the modern standard of dating, if the year started in March. Later additions to the document say that the first instalment was paid "at the first term prescribed for payment . . . as appears in the pell of the 14th day of November of the 32nd year of the king's reign". The year 32 Edward III., by exchequer reckoning, began at Michaelmas, 1358. Therefore it is clear that the original agreement must have been drawn up in the February preceding, which we should describe as February, 1358, but which was then described as February 1357. The letters printed by Moisant in Appendix II of *Le Prince Noir en Aquitaine* are professedly arranged in chronological order, but those at the beginning dated January, 1356, should really come later under 1357.

¹ A letter of 6th September from Plymouth was warranted "by the prince himself on board his ship in the port of Plymouth on his departure for Gascony"; Misc. Books Exch., T.R., 278, p. 92. He sailed from Plymouth on 8th September (*D.N.B.*) or 9th September (*Le Prince Noir en Aquitaine*, p. 31).

² Wolveston was acting as keeper from 1st June, 1355; he was appointed on 30th June, and was still acting in December, 1356, and probably in July, 1357. I do not know his successor; possibly he continued to act for much longer. See the Misc. Books Exch., T.R., 278 and 279.

³ *D.N.B.* Moisant thinks that he landed at Sandwich (*Le Prince Noir en Aquitaine*, p. 63), but the statements of Villani and Froissart, whose authority he cites, cannot be accepted in face of the information given by more reliable chroniclers.

⁴ Misc. Books Ex., T.R., 279. The places where these letters were given effectively proves that Edward was travelling from Plymouth to London, not from Sandwich.

his privy seal still itinerated with him. The seal C appears frequently on letters from Gascony during the absence of the prince's, that is till April, 1357. But even after his return two letters were issued from Gascony under it. Perhaps the seal was left behind to complete any business connected with Edward's visit, or perhaps amidst the divers methods of dating which may have been used, we interpret the dates of these two wrongly.¹

Before Edward left England arrangements were made for the administration of his lands during his absences and for vesting him with the requisite authority on his arrival in Gascony.² Amongst these preparations were the making of a special seal for use in Gascony, and it is recorded that John Greenwich, the goldsmith, received £4 17s. 1d. in payment for a seal "weighing thirty-seven shillings and a penny".³ During the next two years one seal was frequently used by the prince in Gascony and never elsewhere. It is therefore pretty certain that the two are identical. In this case the seal (C) used in Gascony was not the privy seal; it was, however, a household, not a great seal, for the wax used was red. Sometimes this seal was called the privy seal,⁴ but more often "the seal".⁵ The latter description was always given in the donatory clause of letters issued in Gascony. Sometimes later on it was referred to as "the seal he (the prince) used in Gascony". Its authority was certainly co-equal with that of the seal used previously in England; witness an order to the Justice and Chamberlain of Chester to execute mandates under it in the same way that they had carried out earlier warrants from the prince under the seal he had used in England.⁶ But the seal used in England during the prince's absence was possibly regarded with greater veneration there, for letters originally given in Gascony and making grants in

¹ Diplomatic Documents, 1682, and W.S. Ancient Deeds 95. The latter contains two letters; in one the date is almost impossible to read. See footnote 5, p. 114.

² See Misc. Books Ex., T.R., No. 278, p. 88. Also *Calendar of Patent Rolls*, 1355, p. 264.

³ Misc. Books Ex., T.R., 278, p. 97. This money was paid in the prince's chamber on 14th June, 1355.

⁴ Letters at Westminster under the privy seal were issued for example "by letter of warrant under the privy seal which came from Gascony".

⁵ For example "be it remembered that this letter was dated in England by command of Sir John of Wingfield although the seal was then in Gascony".

⁶ Misc. Books Ex., T.R., 279, p. 135.

England, were frequently reissued by some English authority, either by the prince's secretarial department at Westminster or by a local chamberlain such as the chamberlain of Chester.

The Jodrell pass was issued at Bordeaux in December, 1355, that is, during the period when the seal we have called C was in use. The most noticeable feature of the fragments of the Jodrell's seal remaining, is the shield *couché*, but it is clear that flowers and leaves, not ostrich plumes, filled the spaces on either side of the central helmet and lion. Thus the seal is clearly identical with C. I have been unable to trace the drawing with which the seal was earlier identified.¹ The drawing is inaccurate if it is intended to be of the seal C, for example, the position of the lion is slightly different, the tail is waving aloft, the tassel of the chapeau is too long. The inscription on the drawing is similar in wording, but dissimilar in contraction and placing to that of the real seal. The drawing in fact cannot be identified with any known seal of the prince's. Moreover, it is some $\frac{1}{12}$ of an inch larger in diameter than the seal on the pass, and its evidence can therefore be disregarded.

The seal on the Jodrell pass is the earliest example of this seal for use in Gascony. The next surviving is on a letter dated January, 1356,² one month later than the pass to William Jodrell. The latter, however, is on parchment, and the seal is affixed by a simple queue; the former is the only example of this seal *plagué*, and of its use on a paper warrant.

¹ This is described as "a facsimile of the Black Prince's seal to an original pass, taken Feb. 1870 from a copy in Randle Holmes' Folio, 1688". Three books of "The Academy of Armory" by Randle Holmes were printed in one volume in 1688, but lack of funds prevented the publication of the fourth book. This, however, was printed by the Roxburgh Club in 1905. Neither of these volumes contains a drawing of the Prince's seal.

² E101/171/5.

NOTE ON THE ILLUSTRATIONS.

Plate I. is a reduced reproduction of the Jodrell pass in the possession of the Jodrell family, photographed in the studio of the John Rylands Library, and published with the permission of Colonel and Mrs. H. Ramsden-Jodrell. Plates II. and III. are photographed by Messrs. Monger and Marchant, and issued by the permission of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records. Plate II. comes from Diplomatic Documents of the Exchequer, No. 1106; and Plate III. from W.S. Ancient Deeds, No. 95. The latter represents two different examples of the same seal.